

"no matter who you voted for, the government got in"

Editorial. "Today is the first day of the rest of your life".

So what does the future hold in store?

Since our ilk has so often been (incorrectly) described as doomwatchers, let's for a moment play the futurologists game and pursue to their most pessimistic conclusion some recent national and international developments.

Suppose that this coming winter produces more industrial unrest, strikes power failures, wage claims, widening disillusion, and ensuing bankruptcies. If such problems convinced foreign investors (recycled oil money in particular) that we were an unsound depository for their funds who could blame them? Can you imagine the consequences of such funds being withdrawn in quantity? The pound would collapse, our currency would not buy raw materials or foodstuffs. Such goods already on the high seas would probably be diverted elsewhere. Our debilitated industry would be unable to produce goods with which to barter. Mass unemployment, impossible food shortages, inevitable starvation and possible riots and food raids would lead to a coalition government and martial law.

Yet where would that get us? In an island of 56 million people we import over 50% of our food and possibly 80% of raw materials for manufacture and re-export. Six weeks stocks of basic foodstuffs (estimated government stock piles) will not prevent people from turning on their neighbours for long. To prevent fighting and foraging and looting across the nation would be an impossible task for our police and armed forces even if they were all recalled (look at Northern Ireland where they're already having a practice)

Just what is the solution? Thousands of our own people have already been persuaded possibly by some 6th. sense, that there is none and have emigrated. Now the favourite countries have put up the shutters. Perhaps our new military supremo; for surely one will be appointed. will be forced to take over, forinstance. Eire to obtain food to reduce the ever increasing deaths from starvation. On the other hand perhaps he will seek to surrender our sovereignty to some rich self sustaining country who has need of our oil, coal, industry, (All be it worn out) - e.g. a new Union of Islamic States, or Nigeria, or South America, or even the U.S.A. ?

An extremists viewpoint ? Yes. Frightening ? Yes. Completely impossible ? - Who knows?

But for sure "Today is the first day of the rest of your life". So what are you doing about it?

ORGANISERS CONFERENCE. Postponed due to election now RE-CONVENED for Saturday 9.11.74

Venue : Gilmour Hall, Bedford St. North. LIVERPOOL (See sketch map.)

Programme : 09.30 - Arrival & Registration. 14.00 - Session.
10.00 - Session. 15.00 - Break for tea.
11.00 - Coffee break. 15.15 - Session.
11.15 - Session. 17.00 - Close.

- Agenda : 1. Funds, subscriptions and voting rights.
- 2. Updating of Manifesto - Interim reports from working groups.
- 3. Election of N.E.C. Member responsible for fund raising.
- 4. PEOPLE's objectives and strategy now, short, medium and long term.
- 5. To agree an action programme.
- 6. Address by Ian Brown, Campaign Co-ordinator in the "Australian" party (Down under eco/Survivalists.) - If still available.
- 7. Establishing regular regional meetings.
- 8. Date and venue of next 2 regional meetings.
- 9. A.O.B.

Attendance: Primarily intended for area and local group organisers and isolated individual members, but all members are welcome to attend. If you have a point of view and a voice then come along.

Cost : The costs of holding the meeting will be shared equally by all those attending. Including mailing to date, hire of halls, etc. They at present amount to approx. £24.00

Overnight

Accom. : Variety of Hotels close by. (Some e.g. Trust House & Grand Met. now offer special low weekend rates e.g. £2.50/person/night B.&B.) Sleeping bag floorspace available via Peter Murray.

Food &

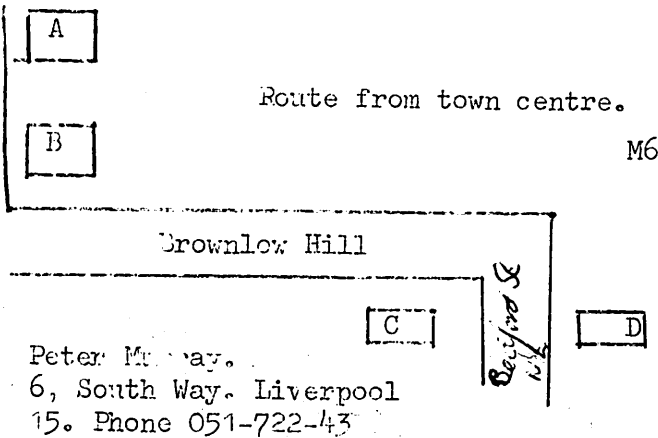
Drink : Cafe within 1/2 hour Hall, restaurants 10 mins walk.

Bookings

: None required, however it would be most helpful to organisers if you could advise them how many from your group are likely to attend. Write or phone Peter Murray.

Mailing

: There will be no further mailings or advice re this conference.



- A = Lime St. Station.
- B = Adelphi Hotel.
- C = R.C. Cathedral.
- D = Gilmour Hall.

NOT TO SCALE.

GENERAL ELECTION. (October 10th. 1974. Results and comments.

Elizabeth Davenport (Birmingham Northfield)	359	Ben Percy-Davis (People & Agra.)	
Norma Russell (Leeds East)	327	(Hornchurch.)	797
Lesley Whittaker (Coventry North West)	313	Len Sampson (People & Agra. Romf)	200

Clive Lord (Leeds N.W.) unfortunately had to withdraw through lack of funds. However he got coverage as a prospective candidate - Well done Clive!

A total of 12 candidates stood at the two 1974 elections on an explicit no-growth platform, 6 PEOPLE and one independent in Feb., and 3 PEOPLE and 2 others (People @ Agrarian) in Oct. The average poll was 551. We have done an exhaustive survey of the others, but believe this is bettered among the parties which did not actually gain seats only by the National Front, with an average poll of approx. 1,300 over the 2 elections. However, the average poll of our 3 candidates not competing with Lib'erals in February was 1,570. Two possible explanations come to mind. One is that the missing 1,000 votes per constituency were merely protest votes. There is some evidence that this happened to the Liberal and Plaid Cymru where the latter was clearly not going to win, but the appearance of the Liberal for the first time in Oct. had no effect on the Communists.

The other explanation is that there are anything upto 1,000 votes per constituency who already see things ecologically even without personal contact, but who believes that the Liberals will shortly become the "no-growth" party.

If correct - this has some unfortunate implications. The Liberals have nothing to gain by adopting an ecological platform, and possibly a great deal to lose, since there is evidence that at least 85% of the population is clearly against our viewpoint at this stage, quite apart from the fact that a substantial section of the Liberal party, led by

John Pandoe, would not have it at any price. Thus they have no option but to hamper our efforts to publicise the positive possibilities of a stable economy.

It is growing. Not counting the large number of people contacting area and local organisers and others who come to us through individual social contact from Mid June to

mid-September, there were 100 UK enquiries to the Secretary, mostly for PEOPLE, but a few (about 6 or 7) were for Movement for Survival. Over the same period 17 new members enrolled direct through National Secretary. Also during the same period Clive Lord dealt with over 35 overseas enquiries, all but 5 from the U.S.A., and all for "Movement". All received our basic handout literature. One has already replied (from Maine U.S.A.) stating an intention to find out if there was any interest in his area. U.S.A. enquiries are given half a dozen or so of the nearest addresses with a suggestion that they might like to correspond. (They are also asked for donations).

N.E.C. Notes.

1. ALW reported a nil response from circulation of the manifesto to the media. CHL said that in future he would be more favourably disposed towards the press conference suggested at the last meeting by KMB.
2. ALW reported that correspondence with the United Democratic party had been suspended pending the election. Now to be re-opened.
3. Contact and hopefully discussions are being pursued with other like minded groups including the Young Liberals (Anyone with suggestions or who can help please contact Peter Allen)
4. ALW reported that £40 had been donated following a local Coventry appeal, in addition to £35 nationally. Donations from areas not fielding candidates including Geoff Cooper (Cambridge), Robin Burton (Stockport) and Cherry Durrant (Godmanchester). PMA reported that Norma Russell's campaign in Leeds had been supported by a £20 pledge from Liverpool. No support had been received from any of the three groups thought to be the most active i.e. Ipswich, Portsmouth, &c. London. It was pointed out the PMA, KMB, AMW and ALW were all currently considerably out of pocket on the election. CRL suggested that the situation should be publicised in the newsletter, after ascertaining Elizabeth Davenport's situation which was assumed to be similar.
5. Any member who would like to attend an N.E.C. meeting should contact CRL.
6. CRL reported that Rod Fielding of Todmorden, West Yorks, was attempting to launch a magazine in the near future the "New Earth Times" and that PEOPLE would be welcome to regular free space in it.

MANIFESTO REVISION. - FOREIGN POLICY WORKING GROUP.

The question of membership of the E.E.C. is critical in the formulation of PEOPLE foreign policy. PEOPLE has declared its opposition to membership in its manifesto, but the foreign policy working group feel that this question should be explored further before a rigid stand is taken. Any one who is interested in this question and who wishes to take part in the working groups investigation and discussion is requested to write to: Damon Thompson, 2, Elm Row, Edingburgh EH74AA

WELCOME : to Trevor Phillips; Betty Garcia and Mary Reed. Trevor and Betty have just joined us on a part time voluntary basis. Trevor after completing a Business Course at Salford Poly. and Betty upon retiring from 20 years sales experience with B.E.A. Their combined experience and enthusiasm is already proving of real benefit to us. They'll both no doubt, be in contact with you soon. Mary Reed has been giving us valuable secretarial help in the evenings and weekends in addition to her support during the election. Thank you, Mary.

PUBLICATIONS. "Good Earth" a bi-monthly newspaper being published by the Bromsgrove branch of the Conservation Society, 18, Cofon Lake Rd, Rednal, BIRMINGHAM B45 8PL. "Towards Survival" a monthly journal of environmental and survivalist ideas, economics, policies, and politics. Subscription £1.20 for 6 months. Towards Survival, 79, Sutton Ave. Eastern Grn. COVENTRY. "AETHER" an ecology/survival publication printed by Aberdeen Peoples Press, 10, Rubislaw Den South. Aberdeen.

- X MANIFESTO. now available min. price 50p each (£5 if you can afford it). Send for your copies to Lesley Whittaker., 69 Hertford St, Coventry. (+5p for post and package).
- X SUBSCRIPTIONS. Have you paid your annual sub for 1974? Area/Local groups £1 per member. Isolated members £1.50 each. Please remit to National Treasurer.
- X NEWS. Your news for inclusion in this newsletter.

X NAMES AND ADDRESSES. (N.E.C.)

CHAIRMAN - A.M. (Tony) WHITTAKER, 69, Hertford St. Coventry 22586 (Office)
 SECRETARY - C.R. (Clive) LORD, 44, Upper Batley Low Lane, Batley Yorks. Bat. 472267
 TREASURER - L. (Lesley) WHITTAKER, 69 Hertford St. COVENTRY
 POLICY REVISION - P.M. (Peter) ALLEN, 16 West Park Rd. Leeds 8 664669
 STRATEGY - K.M. (Michael) Benfield, New Buildings Trinity St. COVENTRY 22448 (Office)

- X EXTRA COPIES OF THE NEWSLETTER available for you to circulate to all members of your group and others interested (Your local press?) @ cost price 6p each from me (Ed)

LEAFLETS. How useful and helpful it would be if we had a library of leaflets to draw on for propaganda, election and other campaigns and handouts at other functions. Peter Allen has recently produced 2 and we already have the "Battle of Britain" type. (Copies from CRL Can you organise the production and printing of a specific leaflet? Something which you feel strongly about or have the "know how" to handle. For example subjects which we badly need literature on are: - Population, (Possibly Hampshire group).
 Waste recycling & your Rates.
 Agriculture.
 Energy use.

Perhaps your group could devise one and get it printed and paid for as a project . Contact Peter Allen with your ideas (to avoid duplication) and for advice. One last word Keep it short and simple.

PUBLICITY or lack of it. Lesley Whittaker spent 2 hours one evening, 5 hours the following day, and 2 hours the day after doing nothing but telephoning Press, Radio and T.V. about PEOPLE and it's manifesto. The result? Nothing. What do all of you at grass roots level suggest? You criticise your Officers for failing to look for publicity, largely because there has been none or at least, very little , very little. It is in fact the case that the lack of result is not due to lack of effort. What then ?

It is time that you joined in the fight for publicity. Please send constructive suggestions with names and telephone numbers if its essential that one particular Officer (e.g. the Chairman) deal with a certain call.

Otherwise, arrange whatever you can yourself. We shall be happy to arrange for someone to be present where-ever is necessary if you simply let us know. Please send details to Michael Benfield. Ben Percy-Davis recently found himself "shut up" on an I.T.V. forum programme (London) when he tried to say he represented a new party; even though Conservatives, Labour etc were made known. In typical Ben fashion he "took to the streets", told the people he'd been forced to talk to them from the gutter and eventually got press coverage for this. Where there's a will' there's a way - Well done Ben.

STOP PRESS.: The Ecologist and New Scientist have just given us good write ups. B.B.C.1 (T.V.) are putting out a 1/2 hour programme on November 19th. which includes Lesley Whittaker putting forward our viewpoints (Although unfortunately she's had to agree not to plug PEOPLE)

CLIVE LORD (Nat. Sec.) writes : Feedback from Area Organisers (Coupled with I regret to say a great deal of lack of it) suggests that most are daunted by the title and the duties which go with it, let alone the fall off of interest which each one experiences at some stage. Whilst there are quite a number of activities we would like to see taking place, the basic minimum requirement is simply to contact all enquiries in your area, and to enable everyone who wishes to participate in a national political party to do so in whatever way is appropriate. It is also vital to build up a network od such volunteers ready for the time when our ideas do become fashionable . We have clues that some members are wondering whether toe Liberals are better placed to achieve our purposes. Will anyone who feels this, way please come to the Liverpool meeting on the 9th. November. Strategy is the most important item on the agenda.

HOW TO DO IT. Is there a need for us to run our own "talk in" sessions on topics which can be usefull to members, agents, candidates, and others in trying to promote our cause? For instance : Public speaking, Communications, Press and Publicity, Speech writing, Fund raising, Orgar'ation. (Meeting Groups) Handling interviews (T.V. Radio) Your comments & suggestions please to CRL.

ISOLATED MEMBERS. If you feel or are in fact all alone out there let CRL know, he'll check who's closest to you and organise a meeting to start a group.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS. Please let CRL and myself know immediately of any new addresses. Your own or other members - we may be out of touch. POSTERS. A limited number of posters (22 x18) are available. They read: YOUR FUTURE : Join a NEW PARTY PEOPLE Its common sense. If you would like some for meetings, hose or other display contact Michael Benfield. Price 10p each and 5p P&P.

Questionnaire. To assist N.E.C. and provide pre-information for the Organisers Conference on Nov. 9th. YOUR co-operation in completing and returning the following BY RETURN would be appreciated.

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Name : Group: No. in group:

1. Please state why you were unable to field candidates at the last General Election.
2. Please state why you were unable to help support/finance other candidates.
3. Please state what you consider should be our current : Objectives.&Strategy overleaf.
4. State any matters which you would like to be raised at the Organisers Conference:

5. Will you be attending Yes/no. If so how many? If not state reasons:

6. Do you wish to continue receiving this newsletter Yes/no. How many copies .

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO CLIVE LORD 44, UPPER BATLEY LOW LANE. BATLEY YORKS. WF170AP.