

VOTE FOR PATERSON

(Liberal & People party Candidate)

OUR MAIN POLICIES

POPULATION

A stabilised and ultimately reduced population is essential. The sustainable level of population for Great Britain, even on an optimistic assessment, is 45 million for self-sufficiency. PEOPLE will promote the ideal family size as one or a maximum of two children.

In view of the problem, immigration control will be necessary, and emigration will be encouraged by grants.

ECONOMY

The aim is a steady-state economy based on stock rather than flow. PEOPLE will develop community-based industry. VAT rates will be adjusted to achieve ecologically and socially desirable ends.

EMPLOYMENT

A Task Force will be set up to provide work for those who might otherwise be unwillingly unemployed. Its purpose will be to clear derelict land, canals and so on. A change to decentralized labour-intensive industry will lead eventually to full employment.

PEOPLE will make more facilities for re-training later in life available.

RESOURCES

The aim for energy is to make each building as nearly self-sufficient as it can be. Economic criteria will be widened to incorporate resource management and social and environmental considerations.

PEOPLE believes that agriculture is of primary importance, and that the survival of this country depends on it. The first priority is to change the emphasis of farming subsidies and grants to those which encourage the restoration and maintenance of land in good heart. Productivity will be measured primarily per acre, and to this end our policies will favour labour-intensive methods and smaller farm unit size.

Stricter anti-pollution measures will be introduced and enforced. A tax incentive will be given to produce long-life goods, and for production methods which enable easy re-cycling. Methane gas production will be undertaken from sewage.

TRANSPORT

The emphasis must move from individual to public transport, and from road to rail, canal and sea.

SOCIAL WELFARE AND TAXATION

If the necessary ecological policies were grafted on to the present system they would cause some hardship at first. This can be avoided by a National Income payable to everyone. It would replace all existing welfare benefits and tax allowances. Associated with this, tax could be nil on small incomes, rising to 100% at a level to be decided. Anyone working 2 days a week would be better off than someone working one, and so on, avoiding the old division between being in or out of work, and removing the low income "poverty trap".

This is not a complete list of our policies. Our full Manifesto can be obtained, price 50p from:

National Chairman:
A. M. Whittaker,
69 Hertford St., Coventry CV1 1LB

National Secretary:
C. R. Lord,
44 Upper Batley Low Lane,
Batley, West Yorkshire WF12 0AP

PEOPLE

Growing numbers now realize that mankind must learn to live within the Earth's resources, as a part of Nature not its master, and are wondering how this can be done before we destroy the life-support systems of "Spaceship Earth".

WHY PEOPLE?

PEOPLE is a political party which proposes a transition to a "steady-state" economy, believing that from now on economic growth can only create more problems than it solves. The ultimate objective is a stable society which people will find preferable to our present one in many ways once its limitations have been accepted. But whether we like it or not, we must plan for an economic and social system which does not depend on ever-increasing consumption, or we risk it happening sooner or later as an accident. Already we are struggling with serious inflation caused by excessive demand for limited commodities. The other parties will simply react in panic to crises they could and should have foreseen. In the meantime they are playing sand-castles with thresholds, subsidies, etc. etc...

A NEW OUTLOOK ON LIFE

Our policies are based on a totally new approach to life. For instance, if fewer jobs are available during the next few years (we believe this is inevitable), those who are content with bare subsistence needs and do not compete for employment will be welcome. Meanwhile those who want to "get on in life" must do so without using up more and more precious resources. It is scarcity, not willingness to work which will for a time set the limits to our prosperity.

There will still be work to do, especially on the land, and after a time jobs will begin to increase again. PEOPLE believes that everyone should be expected to serve the community in some way so as to feel that they are a part of it, but economic security cannot be tied to this service since at first it may only average a few months each year. Some congenial, useful jobs will be created, but the mindless drudgery of mass-production will no longer be necessary. Unemployment as we understand it need not exist at all. On the other hand extravagance or irresponsibility will become a much more serious matter than it is in the "throw-away" society.

We shall aim at a society in which basic needs are met, but satisfactions will have to be found in ways other than from material possessions. Such as? That is up to you. You will have more leisure time for household improvements, for sport, or whatever gives you the greatest sense of satisfaction and self-respect. There will be plenty of scope for initiative and enterprise for the "little" man - corner shopkeepers, craftsmen and repairers of all kinds. Goods will be built to last rather than to trade in. There will be more buses and laundrettes, but fewer private cars and washing-machines. Pollution, traffic congestion and inflation will all ease simply because people stop expecting the moon. Above all, the personal and social needs and wellbeing of people can at last take priority over the "need" for new roads, or more exports, or whatever.