

# **SOME ISSUES THAT I THINK MUST BE TACKLED BEFORE THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.**

## **1. The NHS.**

**Restoration, not Reorganisation. No creeping capitalism.**

## **2. Refugees.**

We have yet to acknowledge the part played by successive U.K. governments colluding with the USA to create the refugee problem by illegally intervening in other countries. And we totally ignore how much more other countries such as Greece and Lebanon have done by comparison with us.

We must acknowledge our guilt and the poverty of our response to the problem.

## **3. Re-nationalisation has to become a priority.**

The evidence that capitalist greed is incapable of delivering public service is obvious. But how to organise it? I remember a miner being interviewed on this. He said that they thought nationalisation would mean that the experience of the workers would be acknowledged and made use of. Instead they simply exchanged a private boss for a public boss, the National Coal Board.

## **4. Apartheid and genocide must be opposed.**

At present both major parties support them.

## **5. The right to protest has to be retained.**

Why do we call ourselves a democracy if dissent is suppressed?

## **6. Julian Assange must NOT be extradited.**

What price a 'free press'?

## **7. Current regulations about voter identity must be removed.**

They had no justification whatever.

## **8. Proportional Representation.**

Does First Past the Post provide us with a truly representative government?

## **9. Politicians pretending to be Churchill.**

Johnson, Sunak and Starmer prefer to fly to Ukraine waving sabres than to stay at home and address real social issues.

Meanwhile, here are some relevant things we might like to take into account.

**CHARTER 88.** Remember that?

The **JENKINS REPORT** on proportional representation. How about that?

88 was inspired by Charter 77 in Czechoslovakia as a response to Thatcher's victory in the 87 general election. There was a widespread feeling that we needed constitutional reform. Proportional Representation was among its proposals.

The JENKINS REPORT on proportional representation had the support and encouragement of Blair. It was published the year after Blair obtained power under the old First Past The Post system. The idea was to have a referendum on the subject. Blair first decided to postpone a referendum and then, it seemed to me, forgot all about it. He was apparently happy having won under the old system.

Looking back I remember a time of increasing dissatisfaction with "No such thing as society" Thatcher and an expectation that the next Labour Government would sweep away all those policies based upon possessive individualism.

We were going to live in an inclusive country.

Yes, well!

We are talking about thirty five years ago. People born then are now well grown up. Under Blair they certainly experienced active government, all that target-setting and inspection. Plus, of course, the illegal invasion of other countries underpinned by lies.

Under Cameron we got Small Government and a DIY Society. Plus, of course because he had to have HIS war, the destructive attack upon Libya and (shush, keep quiet about it) attacks upon Syria creating an even bigger refugee problem.

As we approach a General Election is it not time for CHARTER 23?

One thing that we can be sure of is that neither of the leaders of our two big political parties will give us one. Pledges and Principles and Promises galore, but nothing that will seriously close the gap between the greedy and the poor and create a more inclusive society.

**Cliff Jones, 11th. July 2023.**

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