

Resistance

THE CREEPING EURO-STATE



Taken outside the London Fabian Society conference in January. Jenny Sleep set up an imaginative demo to expose New Labour's stealthy regionalism to the public.

Former Heath aide Sir Roy Denman died recently. He told an **American** audience: *"The essential difficulty is that no British government has ever been frank with its people about Europe"* then admitted that 'the European adventure' was about the federation of Europe.¹

In 2005, the main parties conspired to ensure that 'Europe' was not an election issue - the Labour manifesto reassured that they would put the EU Constitution to the people in a referendum.

PLEDGES ALREADY BROKEN...

However Foreign Secretary Jack Straw won't commit to a referendum on a different Treaty, and 'Europe Minister' Doug Alexander refused to rule out French plans to adopt large parts of the EU Constitution without a referendum.²

It also pledges that in pursuing 'defence co-operation', it would not compromise our national ability to act independently. Various Booker columns have shown (e.g.) how we depend on EU countries for explosives missile and sonar technology, after signing a treaty (2000) committing to European Defence procurement.³

The local government workers strike on 28.3.06 was reported as the largest since the 1920s General Strike. It was a protest at plans to cut their pension rights - Local Government Minister Phil Woolas said their pensions entitlement would be scrapped from 1.10.06 to comply with European laws. Yet the manifesto also promised to keep control of 'key national areas' such as social security.^{4,5}

EU President Barroso has announced that the Commission will present its plans for the EU Constitution in May. However, Poland's new President Kaczynski opposes *both* attempts to revive it *and* Polish Euro entry!⁶

The federalist European People's Party (which David Cameron seems to have difficulty leaving) passed a resolution that the election in Belarus "*clearly violated international democratic standards*". Obviously EPP leaders' refusal to accept Dutch and French referendums doesn't...⁷



**NEW TREATY
NEW DANGER**
Watch out for a propaganda initiative to 'Sell Europe to the citizens' first

AN ACT OF BETRAYAL...

The Identity Cards Act is now law, after a sudden 'deal' ended months of Lords resistance. It sets up the issue of ID cards with passports from 2010. Conservatives talked of an obligation to allow a Labour manifesto pledge under the 'Salisbury Convention'. However the manifesto strictly committed only to compulsory ID cards for longer-term UK visitors.

Shadow Home Secretary David Davis felt that 'not having ID cards before the next General Election' was worth having and vowed to repeal the Act.⁸ However he can guarantee neither the Election date nor the result.

FUNDING 'NEEDY' BUREAUCRATS

One reason for the UK's extra £208m EU contributions - on top of the 63% rise agreed in 2005! - is to bolster the pension fund of the corruption-ridden EU.² Our government throws its hands up in horror at domestic benefit fraud of about £20m a year, as "*it takes resources away from those most in need and is unfair to the millions of honest citizens who fund these services and benefits through tax and NI payments*".⁹

Campaigners have been busy debating whether ID cards have been **officially** mandated by the EU; there are strong grounds for suspicion, although on balance the wording in Directives etc. is inconclusive. The Mail on Sunday (26.3.06) claimed a leaked document links the launch of ID cards to EU passport changes in 2009, but the connection is loose.



A 'YELLOW AND BLUE-PRINT'?

However the Daily Mail (22.1.97) reported a proposal from 'Pro Euro' Conservative MEP John Stevens - that a combined ID card-bank card was necessary for the success of the single currency (which at least matches New Labour for hype). It would be a driving licence, passport and social security document, too.

A recent Home Office webpage notes: "*The ID card will eventually replace the range of documents currently used for [getting public services and benefits] making life simpler both for claimants and those responsible for checking their claims*".

As passports and driving licences can be used to get 'services' such as consular support and taking a driving test, this would fit the bill.

If it replaced the benefits payment cashcard or an 'Oyster' type travelcard its payment capability would make it a sort of bank card.

If the ID card was a 'smart' driving licence, under current rules it would have to have the **EU flag** on it.

The Home Office spin is truly sickening on the 'benefits' of ID cards - one is 'easier access to the Internet'; at least for buying things. However we recall reports that the EU wanted to ban anonymous use of the Internet - something that 'whistleblowers' would definitely find useful.

But given that the Government is gradually creating **dependence** upon the Internet (such as forcing small businesses to file returns on it) this could be used to make life very tricky for anyone refusing the card?

HOME TRUTHS: The Home Office is 'high' to lecture us on fraud and population control when it can't produce proper accounts or doesn't even know who is in the country.

As for its creeping **compulsion** towards ID cards, contrast this with its recent high profile radio ad campaigns over 'consent'/rape and forced marriages - 'No' means 'No'?



A CALL TO ARMS

We don't publish to chronicle the decline of Britain! We seek **action**. - firm action! You can help us 'keep Europe an issue' - every column inch of bad publicity is a big step towards winning back our country.

● **EU Budget Contributions** (from 2007). A Parliament vote¹⁰ on the final deal looks likely for May-June. Blair got off the hook with his sellout just before Christmas - but there will be no hiding place this time round!!

Increased EU contributions come at a time when 7,000 health service workers have lost their jobs.

Gordon Brown has recently scrapped the £200 a year Council Tax discount for pensioners and while freezing (no pun intended) their winter fuel allowance- a 40% cut in real terms.¹¹

The saintly Chancellor's raids on our pension funds was a blow to people of all ages. Britain's top 100 companies' pensions schemes now have a black hole of £75bn - roughly our planned gross EU contribution for 2007-13.¹²

The Taxpayers' Alliance now has a separate EU section in its 'Bumper Book of Waste' and is monitoring EU waste and corruption closely.¹³

● **The Case for Sovereignty.** Our opposition to the EU is not just based on money - the waste of our money is a mere **consequence** of sovereignty compromised. Another (well-meaning) campaign seeks to halt payments to the EU "at least until we can be sure that public money is protected from fraud..." is in danger of giving the **wrong impression** - we should be as strongly opposed to participating in the supra-national EU even if there was zero fraud in the EU budget..

● **Positive Alternatives to the EU.** A recent mailing from another group exposes the stealthy threat of the EU Constitution, and asks readers to tick an 'alternative to the EU'.

UKIP's founder Dr Sked got it spot-on when he said that the alternative was simply **not to be in the EU**.

There are as many 'visions' of an independent Britain as readers, and we prefer to talk of a **range** of alternatives and let people choose.

The mailing concerned mentions four options: The Commonwealth, North America Free Trade Area (NAFTA), European Free Trade Area (EFTA), and European Economic Area (EEA).

- It is quite possible to be in *both* **EFTA** and the **Commonwealth** - Britain was before 1973.
- The **EEA** must be regarded as a cut-down EU - Norway is a member, and although it controls its own fish, it must obey 2/3 of EU legislation, policed by the European Court.
- **NAFTA** also has implications for sovereignty; it is not just a free-trade area like EFTA.

Care should also be taken in looking at other institutions such as the **Council of Europe** (COE), supported by Winston Churchill in 1949.



Unlike the supra-national EU, the Council of Europe focuses on inter-governmental co-operation.

Some Tory and DUP MPs sit in a 'European Democratic Group' which rejects a United States of Europe and views Europe as a continent of nation states. It recognises the primacy of the nation and its parliament as the source of legitimate government.

However, many continental delegates are part of federalist-leaning groups and see the COE as an opportunity to promote European integration.

Former EU Commission President¹⁴ Jacque Delors saw the COE as a type of waiting room for grooming newly independent nations for the EU.

In 1989, the COE resolved to:

- Foster awareness of European cultural identity and enhance it.
- Seek 'common or convergent responses' to the challenges confronting modern European society (and at the same time 'reinforce democracy!!!).

Former Russian leader Gorbachev even called for creating 'a European legal space'.

Regardless of whether David Cameron's MEPs leave the EPP-ED group, co-operation between 'Conservatives' and federalists will continue. The German-government aided **Konrad Adenauer Foundation** organises Parliamentarians' meetings, including at the Italian resort of Cadenabbia. A Foundation publication¹⁵ from Sept 2005 contains some very interesting thoughts from German Chancellor Angela Merkel....



The Lady's not for turning... Angela Merkel is a leading light in the EPP and wants the EU Constitution revived.

Mrs Merkel claimed that Britain's Conservatives share 'similar views' on economic, financial, social, foreign and defence policies, and even on the 'essential questions of European policy' with her federalist CDU party!

Contributor Norbert Lammert notes of their meetings: "...*German and British participants embrace each other enthusiastically... proclaiming that their concept of modern conservatism is the true core of the new Europe*".

Kenneth Clarke's 'Democracy Taskforce' is out to 'restore trust in politics' (gasp!). It had its first public meeting in Manchester, and more have been planned.

We must also stir awareness of the '**Legislative and Regulatory Reform Bill**' that New Labour wants to use to bypass votes in Parliament!

On 13.4.06, Shadow Solicitor General Jon Djanogly claimed a 'Government climb-down' over L&RR safeguards, but admitted that the details weren't yet available! Amazingly, on 25.2.06, the Evening Standard reported a 'climb-down' by the Minister, Jim Murphy.

See www.saveparliament.org.uk and be **very vocal** in getting the issue publicity.



Patriotic feeling over the Queen's 80th birthday and the World Cup - a good time to use the press to put the case for having a real post-EU democracy.

- 1 International Herald Tribune, 14.10.98
- 2 Open Europe Bulletin, 31.3.06
- 3 S.Telegraph, 28.8.05
- 4 BBC Online, 30.3.06
- 5 'Britain Forward not Back'
- 6 European Foundation Digest 31.3.06
- 7 EPP Congress, 30.3.06
- 8 www.conservatives.com
- 9 www.identitycards.gov.uk
- 10 Open Europe Bulletin, 13.4.06
- 11 Telegraph, 24.3.06
- 12 Mail, 15.2.06
- 13 TPA Bulletin, 31.3.06
- 14 The Council of Europe 1989-1999, Denis Huber, www.coe.int
- 15 Set of essays - German British Relations and "the Spirit of Cadenabbia". www.newalliance.org.uk/torycdu.htm

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