



# Glasgow University Conservatives

As much as my fellow Conservatives and I are quite excited that this 'New' Labour experiment will come to an end in the upcoming months, it is with great trepidation that we look at solving our worst economic crisis since the great depression and once again bail out our economy that like every other time it has been controlled by a Labour government has been decimated. Our deficit is gargantuan and our government is borrowing one pound for every four it spends. Indeed at the time of writing this article it is reported that for the first time in this country's recorded history the government is having to borrow to cover its own spending. With scant regard to the future generations that will inherit their debt this Labour administration is in the bunker refusing to face reality. You don't have to be a Cameroon to agree with our David Cameron's conclusion that we really cannot afford to go on like this.

What is the solution you may ask? Well whilst other countries in similar situations such as Ireland have announced massive cuts in public sector spending in order to tighten its belt we seem to be getting conflicting messages from the gray suits within the politburo at Downing Street. On the one hand we have the Chancellor speaking of a £57 billion deficit reduction programme through a combination of tax rises and public spending cuts and who is on record admitting that the latter is essential to reduce this country's deficit and thus put it on the road to economic growth. Indeed in a statement that will have Harriet Harman and her class warriors reaching for their sandals the Chancellor has scoffed, quite rightly, at public sector workers being paid more for 'the same jobs as were being done 10 years ago for rather less'.

You may be thinking Mr. Charisma is on the right lines. Any sensible person would. Well Gordon Brown doesn't. He is advocating a 0.8% increase in public expenditure, funded by borrowing, thus increasing the deficit that we need to reduce to save our broken economy. It truly defies belief. Don't take my word for it however. Richard Branson has joined a group of twenty leading economists in arguing that most of our deficit reduction could and should come from a cut in

public spending. Failure to do this they argue would lead to higher long term interest rates, currency instability and put in doubt our economic recovery.

But in fairness to this Labour government, can you blame them for refusing to listen to sound economic advice? After all, facing a kicking at the next election they seem more interested in appealing to Harman's acolytes by promising unrealistic public expenditure commitments that not even the Lib Dems could dream of, knowing full well that a Tory government, once again, will be left holding the baby. The good news is that we know what needs to be done. We value our public services and want them to be of the highest quality, but realise that throwing money at things won't necessarily make them better. Removing waste and providing more control and money for our frontline services is what is imperative. But most importantly we have to start supporting the sector that will be the focal point for any recovery- the private sector. In the recent Scottish budget, Conservatives secured an economic recovery plan, including support for hard pressed businesses and action to protect jobs and employment. Those are progressive aims achieved by Conservative means and this is the only way our economy can get back on track- not increasing public spending but supporting those sectors of the economy best suited to getting us out of Labour's mess.

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