**Next steps in Britain’s fight for freedom**

It’s quite tricky agreeing in long advance to speak at a public meeting in a situation of extreme volatility, and agreeing a title like this. As brave Labour MP Kate Hoey said a while back, hold on to your hats, it’s going to be a white knuckle ride. Well, it is, and the situation may well have changed by the end of the meeting.

Although, in spite of the chaos, fundamentally nothing has changed. It’s looking unlikely we’ll escape yet another so-called extension. We still haven’t left, and the opposition has become ever more both hysterical and coldly calculating at the same time, stopping at nothing to prevent the decision of the 17.4 million from being carried out. And now they’re clear that they mean stopping Brexit completely.

I’m going to lay out some ideas about future steps and look forward to your contributions

So what must we do?

1. **Parliament.**

This would be a good step: throw the MPs out of parliament and lock the doors.

Here’s a history lesson for those ultra-sensitive MPs who get so upset by straightforward language in Parliament.

It’s April 20th 1653. Cromwell is berating the Long Parliament (which had sat since 1640)

“It is high time for me to put an end to your sitting in this place, which you have dishonoured by your contempt of all virtue, and defiled by your practice of all vice; ye are a factious crew, and enemies to all good government; ye are a pack of mercenary wretches, and would like Esau sell your country for a mess of pottage, and like Judas betray your God for a few pieces of silver.

. . . Is there a man amongst you that has the least care for the good of the Commonwealth?

Ye sordid prostitutes have you not defil’d this sacred place. . . Ye are grown intolerably odious to the whole nation. . . So, take away that shining bauble and lock up the doors.

In the name of God go!”

Today’s MPs would probably demand the word “prostitutes” be replaced by “sex workers”. Though I expect sex workers would find the comparison with MPs insulting.

Back to 2019, and here’s a quick summation of what MPs in this long parliament and before, who now demand respect from the people, have done to earn it. It seemed to start well:-

* LibDems called for an in/out referendum on membership of the EU in their 2010 election manifesto
* 2015 new Cameron government proposed EU referendum to parliament. MPs voted for 2nd reading by 544 to 53
* Having called a referendum Cameron committed to honouring the outcome by implementing it.

* After the June 2016 vote all main parties committed to honouring the decision
* In February 2017 MPs voted to trigger Article 50 by a massive majority of 384. Article 50 informed the EU, under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (Lisbon Treaty), we would leave the EU whether or not we had a Withdrawal Agreement in place. The clock started to tick.
* At the 2017 general election MPs from the main parties stood on a manifesto of honouring the vote.

Then they set about denying democracy:

* Since the 2017 election 1 in 10 MPs have changed party affiliation (some more than once). Many have said their voters support their decision – although none have been keen to actually find out if this is true by resigning as an MP. So their constituents are denied representation by the party they voted for, and its 2017 election manifesto.
* Parliament failed to allow us to leave on March 29. PM May asked EU for extension. Kindly granted until October 31st.
* BJ elected to leadership of Tory party by large majority, on platform of Brexit by 31st October deal or no deal. All hell broke loose. He became the devil incarnate. Apparently saying we’ll actually leave has become an imprisonable offence.
* LibDems have abandoned pretence of honouring the vote or even 2nd referendum – now Bollocks to Brexit. Chaos in Laboour Party. There’s much use of the word Democracy to mean MPs doing what they like in contempt of the clear will of the people.
* Extensive attacks on Leave side – you will know about this. BJ must be destroyed!

* Squalid court case including utterly discredited ex PM Major, leading to the Supreme Court’s blatant overthrowing of the High Court decision that it is wrong for a court to interfere in political decisions. Unanimous. The Supreme Court thus morphed into political court, a mirror of the European Court of Justice.
* Parliament passed the shameful Benn Act – otherwise known as the Benndover Act – surrendering the government’s room to negotiate with the EU.
* There is now no pretence of honour among MPs. As Geoffrey Cox, the attorney general, said in a magnificent Cromwellian speech on 25 Sept: “This parliament is a disgrace! It has no moral right to sit on these green benches”, calling it too cowardly to face the electorate given the reality that it wants us prevent us from leaving at all.

The reality is that Parliament has set its face against the people. So now it’s time for the people to respond in kind, by setting our face against Parliament.

Only if a foreign power tries to rule over it can Parliament claim sovereignty on behalf of the people, when fighting for independence. In fact it has blatantly failed to carry out this responsibility since we joined the EU in 1973, nodding through laws passed by a foreign court into British law.

The people alone are sovereign. They have expressed their will in the biggest democratic vote in our history, to leave the EU. Parliament now stands nakedly fighting for that foreign power in the form of the European Union and its law court which claims the right to rule over us and enforce that rule. Parliament now sees its task as to prevent us from breaking free.

In over three years it seems that overall the proportions of Leavers and Remainers have not changed – although some have clearly swopped sides, or become doubtful. Now parliament and its allies try to terrorise and terrify us with fear of leaving on our terms. The language is hysterical: crash out, over a cliff edge, chaos, catastrophe. Rubbish.

**B. Will a General Election be a good step towards freedom?**

What will change with a general election? There will be one, in spite of the blockers who fear the wrath of the electorate.

This party has never believed in the probity and honesty of Parliament when it comes to its claim to uphold democracy. Representing the people comes down to “Vote for us every five years, then we ignore you and do what we want.”

But clearly in this situation we must use every tool at hand to gain our freedom, and a general election can’t be ignored.

We don’t yet know the circumstances, but it’s clear we must organise to find a way to vote for Brexit. Brexiteers are even now preparing this work, analysing constituency by constituency, candidate by candidate – to work out the best way to use your vote. This is difficult when many candidates will pay lip service to Brexit while being content to sign up with a new version of May’s withdrawal deal – Brexit in Name Only.

Johnson looked promising (as did May at one time) with his “no ifs, no buts”, but might be satisfied now with a version of May’s dreadful Withdrawal Agreement as long there are tweaks to the Irish backstop. And even the Spartans – 28 Tory MPs who voted against May’s deal on all three occasions – are wobbling. Brexit Pledge is clear – but doesn’t look very near what is being mooted now.

We don’t know what the outcome will be. Will any politician get us out?

And after an election, whatever happens, then what? This parliament is dead. But the next one? Will we forgive and forget the shambles, the plots, the treachery, and allow this to happen again? Parliamentarians show utter contempt for the electorate. And once we vote for them, they will toddle off back to Westminster for five years until they have to be forced to take some notice of us again.

We voted to take control, for the people, not parliament, to take control – how can that happen in practice? A General Election will be a distraction – an unavoidable one - from the central task.

It’s not just this Parliament that’s rotten to the core. Will we, as we have so often done, sit back put our trust in politicians to do what we demand? They have only ever followed our instructions when they have been impossible to avoid, and even then as soon as we’ve settled back down to leave them to get on with it, they’ve reneged. Parliament is rightly described as “Where democracy goes to die” We should vow – Never Again!

So only we the people can force Britain out of the EU, and we’ll have to deal with Parliament, for there will be lots more problems to tackle. In fact, when we finally leave the EU, the even more difficult times will begin. The EU and its masters the transnational corporations won’t say “Oh well, never mind,” and leave us alone . They need the EU. It’s central to their business model, and they’ll keep fighting for it.

We’ll have to face that. But we’ll have gained our freedom from the EU, and be able to tackle our problems ourselves, in our own country, with our own people.

But make no mistake. Even if we manage to leave without the EU’s rotten deal, unless we stand strong that will simply be a prelude to a new try for a May-type deal after we’ve left.

**C. What are our next steps?**

1. Change our thinking. Abandon any trust in politicians. We might have to choose one rather than another in the short term – but never trust!

1. Keep alive the reality of the people’s voice. Most didn’t like BJ but generally said would probably vote for him because he’s likely to get it done. They want to wear us down, tire us out. Many remain voters are now saying just do it! Cannot let up – we must apply more and more pressure. The Leavers groups around the country are going out to leaflet, talk to people, point out the truth of what the EU really means. It’s within reach. Farage said “We’ve nearly got it, I can almost smell it!”
2. Spread the truth about the EU. There is so much ammunition, and not only in Workers! Here are just some EU-friendly Times headlines in past 2 years alone:
* “Ghost towns of Latvia” – about emptying out of countries due to freedom of movement, to get higher wages (and for workers there to find wages driven down or jobs not offered at all)
* “Macron parades desire for European army”. Bastille day parade – EU ministers, with British contingent and other nations as part of European Intervention Inittative. Macron declared the theme of the parade was “the construction of a Europe of defence” – an EU army and an EU foreign policy superstructure, an end to governments determining their own.
* “Paris and Berlin hail new era of integration” – Jan 19 – Macron and Merkel announced twinning pact, forming “eurodistricts” on borders with merged water, electricity, public transport, hospitals, environmental projects. Regarded as petri dish for the integration of the EU
* “EU trade deal leaves bitter taste for Spain” – about a trade deal signed with SA enabling it to freely import its oranges into EU has caused the Spanish orange harvest to lie largely unpicked on the ground in Valencia.
* “Italy told to rip up budget over euro crisis risk” – obvious
* “Reporter investigating EU fraud raped and murdered” – Young Bulgarian woman working for website Bivol. Website Bivol owner had been warned off. Earlier, a reporter investigating same issue shot dead in Slovakia.
* “European judges let MEPs hide expenses.” Surprise surprise! ECJ backed EU Parl’s refusal to account for annual allowances.

And so on and on.

Spread the word – much of this information has fallen out of memory since the referendum campaign. Yes, we need to fight again – not the campaign of 2016 but the ideas within it.

For instance, remind ourselves:

* How the Commission is chosen – the horse trading among the EU elite which came up with Ursula Von der Leyon.
* How parliament operates – can’t bring forward legislation, can’t amend legislation, can’t repeal legislation.
* 4th rail package – about opening up publicly owned/managed railways to competition. Infringement notices to enforce rules, or fines. Ireland.
* Switzerland – trade agreement enforced without permission to check posted workers. Sanctions imposed as if a hostile state.
* Money we pay and will continue to pay – 1 billion euros a month if extension again. If stay, we’ll lose rebate, likely have to join Schengen, euro – have to bail it out when it crashes as widespread predicted.
* If we remain, we could have to bail out a failing euro, even join it. We would have to sign up fully to the EU military project of one army, and lose control of our defence and foreign policies. We could have to join Schengen and be told who will be sent into our country. We would lose our fishing rights.
1. **Benefits of leaving.**

* When the enemy say how wonderful the EU is for Britain, leaving aside its inaccuracy , they carefully refer only to the past. The future doesn’t bear examination. The euro is facing a crisis, economies of countries like Germany and France are in trouble, rebellious members such as Italy and Hungary are on the warpath.

The EU is in decline. In1973 when we joined, 38% of world economy was in EU, now 16%. Prediction is that 90% will be outside EU in 30 years time.

* Planning. Spread the benefits of leaving – what we will be able to do – massive opportunities from freedom. The future is bright for the young.

Opportunities – reskilling our population, entirely new types of jobs, jobs available here instead of being advertised first abroad, wages improving. Stop the scandal of stealing doctors and nurses from abroad while failing to train our own workers.

Beginning of taking control – won’t come all at once but will be able to enforce our will, what we want our country to be – new vision for the people. A real stake in government. Need good planning. (How exercise it?)

* Labour Brexiteer Graham Stringer told a story recently about how when the EU Commission proposed a European Constitution, he and John McDonnell and Austin Mitchell called within the LP to press for a referendum. They were told that their research found that in the list of priorities of their voters the EU came 12th, so no. The proposal was tweaked and lost its name of Constitution, becoming the Lisbon Treaty, and was duly pushed through.

 Now the polling of voters asking to rank priorities finds 80% put Brexit at number 1, among both leave and remain voters.

It is the number one issue, before we can deal with other issues. Whatever happens this week, this month, or next year, it won’t go away.

LP ridiculous shopping list, avoiding it. Most of the list not allowed within EU membership, for instance renationalisation of the railways.

* We can be free to control our own trade.

What is wrong with free trade deals like Mercosur (rejected now by Austria), TTIP etc.

There was large opposition to the EU-US free trade deal TTIP. Why do so many seem to think we need a free trade deal with the EU. We can trade freely – companies can trade freely, suiting their products to the market they want to sell to, and others can do the same to sell to us. We can decide for the first time in over 40 years what we need to produce and make and what we want to buy.

We can determine our own rules on animal welfare – banning live exports if we wish. We can opt for locally produced food, cut road and air mails. We can deal with our own pollution – cities, roads, air, water.

We need planning by those who understand, who work in the sectors, not being ordered to do what they know is destructive nonsense. Read the analyses from Fishing for Leave for clarity about how to organise fishing once we leave.

Many in this room are working very hard indeed for Brexit to succeed. Contribute?

**Conclusion**

We can’t predict the future when we Leave. But we know we want independence – we voted for it.

 To move forward, above all we must change our thinking about what needs to be done – only self-reliance, depending on ourselves as the intelligent, capable, resourceful British people, will enable us to progress and improve our country for our own benefit.

We can decide for ourselves what this means – there’ll be lots of disagreements and lively debate. Our criterion must be what does independence mean, for this or that sector? Take up the challenge – do you want to live in an independent country or not?

Make every effort to enforce our will, if we are to achieve the freedom we demand.