

CLASS and NATION

Treasury secretary Harriet Baldwin was interviewed recently talking about the Single Market. After some apocalyptic warning of Osborne had been rejected, it was her turn to blind us with economic science.

It was most instructive.

The interviewer, Andrew Neil, wanted to know how Osborne could be so sure of his figures.

She explained proudly that at the Treasury they use something called the 'Vector auto-regression model', which measures standard shock and severe shock - but deliberately omits a neutral or more optimistic scenario.

She admitted the method was not scientific but subjective - based on the 'judgement of model user' - in the Remain case assuming disaster.

'How did they know [Armageddon was round the corner]?' Andrew Neil asked.

'Because the Single Market was the Gold Standard - best in world, and we have membership and access'. She sounded cross, that the infallibility of the Single Market should be questioned.

'But how do you know?' Andrew Neil persisted.

'All other scenarios (Norwegian, Swiss, WTO models) are worse for trade'.

'But how do you know?'

'We know that', she insisted!

So there we have it - we know because we know - that is how the Treasury operates in this EU debate.

The Treasury's analysis is not underpinned by data evidence. **Underlying data** won't come out till a day or two before referendum, but already no-one could give a fig. More people trust their **pub landlord** on the economy.

Wetherspoons boss Tim Martin issued his 900 pubs with beer mats picturing the lofty perma-tanned Lagarde of the IMF and Osborne practically kissing. The coaster addresses Lagarde: "We at Wetherspoons, sincerely respect and admire the French people and your country, but note that you are about to stand trial in France for your part in authorising a 400 million euro payment by the French State to...a supporter of your political party.... Why should we trust the IMF? Yours sincerely, Tim Martin".

A brilliant message straight to the working man and woman that gets to the heart of the **corruption** of the EU!

So the warnings and threats of Cameron and his cronies in high places haven't made a

blind bit of difference. Most of us have nothing to lose, economic shock or no shock.

So - only a matter of days **to go to that historic vote. Brexit has forged ahead at 53%. Over a third of the SNP can no longer see the point of dependence on the EU for farming and fishing policy and say they will vote to leave. Win or lose, great change is afoot.**

Meeting the voters in this cross-party campaign is an antidote to depression - hearing the views of people not afflicted with Stockholm Syndrome - (taking on the mentality of their EU captors) - spontaneous human beings rather than politically institutionalised robots.

The referendum has given us permission to 'bang on about Europe', and there is a huge appetite for it. Denied a referendum on a succession of EU Treaties, forced to bottle opinions up, the country is now fizzing with argument - on the doorstep, in the pub, on public transport and battle buses, at street stalls, in packed church halls and on marches, and perhaps most of all on **social media** - a torrent of opinion, much of it surprisingly well-informed.

The only shock jocks are Cameron's army, IMF etc, the proxies for Merkel, Juncker and the rest. (Although the Polish minister Donald Tusk sees the danger and is belatedly trying to rein in their europhilia. **More than half of Italians** polled are also for getting out. **Europe is rife with referendums** critical of various aspects of the EU. Many countries are reimposing borders).

The EU has long been a taboo subject - critics hounded out of union meetings - undoubtedly into the arms of UKIP. We have tried for decades to demonstrate to our unions and parliament - with concrete examples derived from experience - how the EU is bad for workers, its directives an attack on our industries, trades and professions.

Union executives have not listened to their members. Now the members are not listening to them. **The RMT, Aslef and the Bakers' Union** are leading the way with their joint statement for LEAVE. Labour never listened, so lost Scotland and the North - the industrial working class. Now we see in that party a descent into idealism and utopianism - workers mis-led into hoping the EU can be reformed from within.

Out on the stump - with mainly **Tory Vote Leave** - the talk is all about two classes battling it out.

What a turnaround and what an indictment of what should be leading organs of our class.

We are asking - are you for an independent country with decision making once more in our hands - or are you for **dependency** on an anti-British, anti-working class EU

imposing its laws on us?

The fact is - **Britain doesn't need the EU.**

Britain is different. Free thinking. We have never liked being dictated to. '**A laborious country**' (Juncker) We take it as a compliment that we are such hard work in the European Parliament.

We were the first - in the C17th - to show Europe how to get rid of despots. This referendum has echoes of the pamphleteering, balladeering frenzy of street activity that went on before, during and after the **Cromwellian period** (Oliver that is). It is no accident that Cromwell country - East Anglia - is most ardent in its support for Leave. The descendants of those regicides in England - now the Eurostar and Easyjet generation - still possess a **strong sense of identity** and may prove the backbone of Brexit. No singing of Frere Jacques for their parents - rather it was 'Up yours, Delors'.

Since introduction of the Common Fisheries Policy (1973), and more recently since 2001 this obstinate little island, with **7,700 miles of coastline**, has tried to defend its ports. There are hundreds of them, but the 43 main seaports were largely privatised under Thatcher. It is often implied that privatisation - of rail for example - is the primary aim of the EU. But a new directive shows that the **EU today is more openly ambitious than that.**

On 8 March this year, after 15 years of resistance by British port authorities, the European Parliament passed the revised **Port Services Regulation** aimed at removing national oversight of Europe's state-controlled ports and blunting their competitive edge - in the interest of 'fairness'. The regulation shows that even privately managed assets are to be subordinated to EU control - and can never be renationalised - just a foretaste of what is proposed under TTIP.

Recent events - **Europol** warning of 3000-5000 terrorists trying to get into Europe, **migrants being trafficked** to Kent and Sussex, Dorset and Devon - and East Anglia, with all its inlets and hidden creeks - historically a smugglers' paradise - show how vital it is to **take back control of our coast**. Migrants are especially vulnerable to **hypothermia** in northern waters compared with the Med. But our Border Force has been cut - it has lost its aerial surveillance - and is using just 3 vessels operating out of Portsmouth.

Illegal immigration and economic migration is the number one issue with voters.

They are not racist - they are **class conscious**. They will bang on about immigration, but

they will say of Cameron and Osborne and their class: 'they think we're stupid - that we're not fit to wipe the shit off their boots'. That's class.

People want facts. To those who demand **CERTAINTY** in this referendum we can say for certain that if Britain votes to Remain, free movement will cause even more uncontrolled migration. Border control - in the sense of controlling who comes in, not just checking on an EU passport - will be impossible, and **wages and pensions will continue to fall as a result. This is by design.**

Unions marched blindfold under the banner 'Britain Needs a Pay Rise'. The latest ONS figures show 4 out of 5 new jobs went to EU migrants in 2015. There are 2.2 million currently working in UK, including a quarter of a million Romanians and Bulgarians.

They are not joining unions or questioning wages. Why should they, if the minimum wage here is 3 times that back home? 8 years after the financial crash British wages have risen by only 2%. Such a huge pool of cheap labour makes it hard to negotiate upwards.

Migrants can hop over, obtain the European health insurance card from the NHS, use it for medical treatment back home and charge the NHS. No records are kept. Government has known since at least 2015.

2 June was designated '**Save Our Curry Day**', with many restaurants taking part. This is because UK legislation to bring down immigration figures discriminates in favour of EU workers (as EU law says it must) and against the RoW (rest of the world). One of the results of this is a shortage of skilled Bangladeshi chefs in Britain to make authentic curry - an important part of British culture!

The impact on the Eurozone itself is more severe. Half the youth of Greece and Spain are on the dole - if that exists any more. Riots have spread to France. Reform of labour law is required by the EU - (they call it 'flexicurity'). Greeks are buying guns (in plentiful supply via the Balkans), neo-nazi parties are on the rise.

And Corbyn calls migration simply 'disconcerting'. And repeats the myths about losing workers' rights and about students prevented from travelling and studying in Europe if we come out.

Every single ill effect of migration and the economics of migration is denied by the Labour and the TUC - even the textbook connection between supply and the price of labour. The TUC has no position independent of EU-funded research and reports.

We must vote LEAVE to get some common sense and brains back into our unions. To control who comes in, for our security, and so that we can organise effectively again, and plan for future housing, transport, schools and hospitals.

Here are some **more evidence-based certainties**, ignored by the TUC, if we stay IN:

From 24 June:

*The EU will accelerate steps to identify as a new nation, the **United States of Europe**. It already occupies a single seat at world level where there should be 28. A notice in the European Commission building reads: **Europe - your country.**

And it has acquired all the other trappings of statehood - eurocrats are increasingly open about aims.

"A Europe of nations is a relic of the past" - Guy Verhofstadt former Belgian PM and leader of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe 2010 EP

"The time of the homogenous nation state is over" - Herman Van Rompuy, former Belgian PM and President of the European Council 2009-14. 2010

What is it with these Belgians?

"We need a political federation with the Commission as government" - Viviane Reding, EC 2013

She's a Luxembourger - same thing.

If the vote is for REMAIN:

*The EU will feel justified in plans - held back until after our referendum, but leaked - to develop its own **German-led army and drag us into war**. Pravda reported on this last year. We have long been told this was the aim. Now EU troops are to be stationed in the Baltic states. Under terms of the Lisbon Treaty the EU takes control of our police and armed forces at the end of March next year. Conscription could be a step nearer by 24 June. Cameron has **reneged on a promise to keep us out of this**. (European Defence Agency).

* **Ever closer union will be unavoidable, and Britain will eventually come under pressure to adopt the euro**. No matter what spin Cameron puts on his failed reform deal, it has **no legal status**. His return from Brussels was just another Chamberlain moment. As outlined in the **Five Presidents Report on deepening monetary, fiscal and political union** - also held back until after 23 June - steps will be taken to achieve further integration by 2025 and **sterling** will not be permitted a competitive advantage.

Contrary to the terms of the Lisbon Treaty, bailouts are to be made the responsibility of all 28 member states, not just the Eurozone. Other areas of integration include labour markets, social security, insolvency law, and taxation, announced just the other week, as though to taunt us. Plans are in the pipeline for EU National Insurance numbers.

Each crisis, economic or political, ratchets up the powers of the EU. That's how it works. Without Britain to complete the set, the Eurozone will always be a work in progress. They desperately need to keep us in. We can expect more panic-stricken interventions from Brussels in the days ahead. Angela Merkel already popped up - she was expected, just not quite so soon.

It is certain that - if we stay in -

*Britain will continue to be **outvoted in the Council of Ministers**. Remain argues that being in enables us to influence decisions. Since abolition of the national veto and the introduction of majority voting (QMV), the UK has voted against over 70 proposals and been outvoted over 70 times. Opt outs have no lasting value - they last for a while and are then struck down.

***EU law will continue to set aside UK law, the ultimate test of sovereignty.**

Remember how the European Court of Justice ruled that under the Common Fisheries Policy Britain's 1988 Merchant Shipping Act should be overruled. Britain was forced to give up most of its quotas. A vote to LEAVE would mean we could start to **rebuild our fishing industry**. Our Supreme Court could take back its authority in general. And the **culture of dependency on EU law by British workers will be forced to end**. That means a return to struggle, or go under.

Inside the EU:

***A reformed, democratised Europe free of mind-numbing bureaucracy** will be harder, not easier, to achieve. In fact it will be impossible. The EU is institutionally set up under Treaty to be **incapable of reform. It is hard-wired to be undemocratic, in the hands of unelected technocrats rather than politicians**. It seizes every opportunity to make more laws and regulations. Attempts to amend directives only confer more power on the Commission, to make yet more rules. And so it goes on....like the proverbial snowball.

Before the Lisbon Treaty the EU was not supposed to have competence for housing, but under Lisbon it can use tools such as **Charter of Fundamental Rights** to get round this. Most people think housing is still the competence of national and local governments, but **Social Housing** has come under the EU since 2004. **New rules have to be implemented by mid-2016 - to promote competition and support the free market**. We may well ask what has that to do with provision of housing? But look around London, and we see why housing policy matters to the capitalist class.

Corbyn's idea, announced under duress, for a 'migrant impact fund' [tried before] is unlikely to work as it hardly passes the test of discrimination against EU nationals. EU law forbids us to favour our own people, either nationally or locally.

Democracy is not an academic question.

The EU has blatantly flouted its own Treaties. The ongoing Greek bailouts are a case in point. Article 125 of the EU Treaty says 'The Union shall not be liable for...central governments...or public undertakings of any Member State'.

Merkel said 'We have a Treaty under which there is no possibility of paying to bail out states' (2010)

Lagarde - then French finance minister - said 'We violated all the rules because we wanted to close ranks and really rescue the euro zone. The Treaty of Lisbon was very straightforward. No bailouts'.

Their disregard for their own constitution is shameless - and does not bode well for the future.

Treaty change is supposed to trigger referendums, but what do these cynics care about that?

When **Denmark** said no to the Maastricht Treaty in 1992 she was made to vote again. **Ireland** said no to both the Nice and Lisbon Treaties: they were made to vote again.

France and the Netherlands said no to the EU Constitution (the forerunner of Lisbon) and were ignored. **The Greek people** said they didn't want a bailout and were ignored. Recently **the Netherlands** voted no to EU expansion into Ukraine. Their vote is being ignored. What does this tell us about Britain's relationship if there is a Brexit?

The only reform is to get out of this lunatic asylum [where the lunatics are not even in charge]. It is **authoritarian and dangerous**.

Another - and better - Europe is possible - but only if we leave.

EU is a failing project which will drag Britain down with it. If we stay in:

***Britain's trade and industry, services, and quality of life will decline inexorably.**

TTIP (TransAtlantic Trade and Investment Partnership) and TiSA (Trade in Services Agreement) - that is, a **framework for transnational capital to operate in, giving unprecedented power of global capital over workers and nations**, will forge ahead. Our right to negotiate our own trade deals - a key element of our sovereignty - was surrendered to EU Commission when we joined the club.

The Remain camp praise the **Single Market, but it is an outmoded system** which stands in the way of Britain's success as a C21st trading nation. Just 6% of British firms export to EU, but all have to comply with single market regulations, administered by people with no interest in Britain.

Exemption for small firms is unlawful under EU rules. It is no surprise that in general **big firms trading only with the EU, are for Remain, small ones trading with the rest of the world are for Leave.**

If we stay in, we will pay more, not less, for goods. The 1973 Common External Tariff forced Britain into an EU-facing direction away from RoW to **protect European agriculture, manufacturing** so we pay above world prices. [World average tariff rates are 1.9%].

We have a trade deficit with the EU, and it has been confirmed by lawyers that the 53 trade deals with the rest of the world negotiated on our behalf by the EU would stand as British trade deals after Brexit.

But in fact there is **no need for trade deals**. We already trade without, under Global Free Trade - with China, the USA, and the rest of the world. We already accept mutual regulations. **China** is not in the EU but exported around £300bn of goods to the EU last year. **New Zealand** freed itself of trade deal regulations and its economy revived.

Economist Patrick Minford [erstwhile adviser to Thatcher] slated Remain calculations put forward by Alistair Darling as fraudulent.

Geographical proximity was a factor in the early days of the EU, but not now, in the **internet age, and with the rise of new English speaking populations such as India.**

Brexit would boost manufacturing and innovation, and create jobs.

Hundreds of business leaders have testified to that.

The Remain view of the Single Market is predicated on EU as it is now - and remaining static. But what will it look like in 10 years time? Decline is accelerating. Relative to

global economy EU GDP has fallen from 30% to 17% (IMF figs) since 1980. From 36% since 1973.

Iceland, Norway and Switzerland are emphatically against membership based on the EU they see today.

If we really want to know what the Single Market does for us, look at **Tata Steel** - tariffs against dumping under 20% across EU (cf 44% US). **Inflated energy prices** due to EU legislation. Steel 50% more expensive in UK than rest of Europe.

EU Competition Rules prohibit forcing British companies to buy British steel and provide an excuse not to take steel under state control. There has been no attempt to do this one obvious thing, even on a temporary basis. Turncoat business secretary Sajid Javid went on holiday knowing Tata was about to sell out.

And the union response - take whatever deal is on the table - is not equal to the urgency of the situation - this is about the **collapse of the bedrock of manufacturing**. The pro-EU position of Unite and most of the unions demonstrates the corrosive effect of EU membership, which encourages workers to abdicate responsibility for their own industries.

However much Remain may try to cherry-pick, the EU comes as a package, aimed at destroying the collective rights of unions, and the ability of governments to renationalise, should they wish. Even legal opinion calls it a disaster. Yet EU-protected Frances O'Grady thinks it's enough to smile sweetly as she repeats the lying mantra "The EU protects our rights at work". Well, tell that to the steelworkers. It doesn't protect the most important right of all - the **right to work**.

There have been some optimistic noises about Port Talbot in recent days. But we shouldn't trust anything that looks like a U-turn - whether on steel, schools, TTIP, housing, trade union law (dirty little deal struck there) Turkey, Greek debt, or anything else, until after the referendum. They'll say anything to get a Remain vote.

The only way to save British steel is to vote LEAVE.

Culture is always left to the end, but in some ways it is the most revealing window on to the **soul-lessness of the EU**. Under Lisbon, it is a 'Community Shared Competency'. Its projects are harnessed to the yawn-inducing **EU obsessions** of diversity, dialogue, sustainability, and consensus building. There is also the Creative Europe support programme - integrating refugees into Europe.

EU-funding involves a binding contract to raise match-funding. To those who are worried about losing their funding, we say: It's our money, but their policy decisions - as expressed in Article 167, where it is laid down that:

- note - '**on a proposal from the European Commission**' (because that's the government isn't it?)

cultural heritage of - note- 'European significance' shall be brought to the fore.

The creative industries are exhorted to '**concentrate on topics with a clear EU added value**',

'to reinforce the link between the Council and its rotating Presidencies'. How exciting is

that?

And last but not least - teachers take note - '**promote reading to develop a European identity**'

The EU has expressed its disappointment at UK resistance to working in this tedious eurocentric way. After all, the nature of art is to be subversive and messy.

Nevertheless, the question was raised at SERTUC - are the arts too British? And unions representing the arts have voted to remain.

We say LEAVE the EU to **set artists and teachers free.**

We are in a fight for the **emancipation of our class and the liberation of Britain**

There can be no going back to business as usual.

This fight is for democracy - putting the working class back in the ascendant - for re-industrialising along modern lines - for inspiration, innovation, trading, planning, peace, and progress.

There is no progressive case for EU membership.

Win or lose, this will be a lesson learned.

On 24 June let battle commence to rebuild Britain - to start the process of re-fashioning our nation as a nation of workers for workers!

LEAVE the EU!