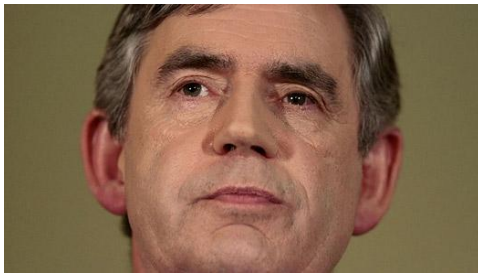


Stand, Fight, Win, Serve



This afternoon Gordon Brown delivered a strong but undynamic speech which repeated much of Labour's long-held mantra of serving the many, not the few.

The biggest cheer of the afternoon came when the Party looked back, rather than forward, as Brown reeled off a list of Labour achievements to thunderous applause.

But any hope that this was how the speech would carry on was quickly dashed, as it steadily ran out of sparkle, re-treading familiar rhetoric on education and the NHS. At times, it was as though he was repeating himself on these subjects, leading to stilted applause from the assembled delegates. They only came to life when Brown praised the work of the armed forces, with conference giving the troops a standing ovation. Aside from that, the biggest cheer came from two huge u-turns; on ID cards (no compulsory cards and restrictions on data on biometric passports); and on 24 hour drinking (allowing local authorities more power to curb problem areas and forcing some pubs and clubs to do more on security and cleaning.)

As expected, there was a heavy emphasis on anti-social behaviour and 'chaotic' families. Brown announced plans to effectively section young teenage mothers to give them support. He touched on the MPs expenses scandal, saying he would bring in new laws to allow constituencies to recall their MP if they were found to have acted inappropriately, though there was no detail on the scope of this.

Further constitutional reform was pledged with the full abolition of the hereditary rights in the House of Lords. The biggest surprise of the conference was not the heavily trailed announcement on televised election debates, but on a referendum to change the electoral system for General Elections. A legacy move, if ever there was one, and also one which might be rather good for the Labour Party.

After criticism within the Cabinet about his inability to communicate his role within the G20 on the global financial crisis, Brown spelt out for the first time what his action on the banks meant to the normal voter. He said that as a result of his actions, they had 'not lost a penny' of their savings. He also strongly attacked the Conservatives, isolating them as the only Party in the West which was opposed to the global reform package which was implemented following the London Summit.

Brown concluded by again taking the fight to Cameron; where would he make the cuts in public services which Labour would maintain - and how would Cameron explain police or hospital cuts to the voters? All fine of course, but no detail on how he would maintain these services whilst halving the deficit in four years.

Insight Special has talked to two Ministers following the speech. One said 'it was not a disaster, but people are not as interested in constitutional reform as the PM - he should recognise this'. Another said 'it showed Brown speaks with a passion on the issues he cares the most about, on health and the other public services - he looked more comfortable taking the fight to the Tories than in recent months'.

It was a competent speech by a man who will never be dynamic or have the celebrity appeal of Tony Blair and as such, it will be enough to take him through to the next election. But are delegates suddenly of the view that they can win the next election? No. But after this and Lord Mandelson's show stopping performance yesterday, they are leaving Brighton more eager to take the fight to David Cameron.

Gordon Brown's Speech

- Labour took the correct course of action throughout the financial crisis and Brown claimed the Conservatives were consistently wrong
- Conservatives will damage traditional values by giving tax breaks to the rich, taking money away from the NHS and reducing the Home Office budget, leading to rising crime
- Mr Brown made the statement that it was time for the Labour Party to fight, they have brought in many impressive legislative changes and they can continue to do so

Labour Policies – IN

- **Banker's Bonuses:** legislation will be introduced to intervene on bankers' bonuses and negligent bankers will be disqualified from holding posts in banks
- **Young people** - 100,000 new jobs will be created, along with 10,000 internships in co-operation with the FSB. EMA will also be extended.
- **Pensions:** Labour will restore the earnings link for the basic state pension
- **Social Care Services** will be made a reality through the bringing together of the NHs and local care provision into a new National Care Service
- **MPs** will face more public scrutiny as constituents are given the power to recall their MP where wrong-doing takes place
- Labour's next manifesto will promise a referendum on the **Alternative Voting system**
- **The House of Lords** will become a fully elected second chamber next year

Labour Policies – OUT

- **Scrapping Compulsory ID Cards:** Labour announced that they would be reducing the information British citizens have to give for biometric passports and there will be no compulsory ID cards for British citizens
- **U turn on 24 hour drinking:** Labour will give local authorities the power to ban 24 hour drinking throughout a community in the interests of local people.