



**Essays by ex-Politicians. This week,** Aneurin Bevan steps out of his coffin to comment on the state of British politics in 2001.

**Frankly, I'm getting rather worried about today's politicians.** There seems to be no bite any more on the part of the Left, no desire to make things better, much like Goebbels in the old song - 'no balls at all'. There seems to have been some concerted effort to distance themselves from what the Party used to stand for. I've been watching the whole thing with a growing dismay for the last few years.

**"What's the point of sitting there in the House, mouthing the same rubbish over and over again, without achieving anything?"**

I read this week that that washout Blair has managed to stitch together some form of contract with the bloody Liberal Democrats, of all people. Better them than those other vermin, but **in my day we didn't worry about tactical voting schemes** and all that rubbish. We were too busy getting some work done. Can you imagine anyone trying to set up a Welfare State in this day and age? They'd be out of the Millbank front doors before they could mention the words "social security".

When they're not failing to provide an opposition to Tory attacks (although I suppose it's somewhat difficult to oppose nothing), they spend the rest of their time destroying anything worthwhile that we, their erstwhile predecessors, put in place to safeguard those who need safeguarding. **The modern Labour party is a party of focus groups and demographics**, where Worcester Woman and Mondeo Man are the most important people in the country. The poor and oppressed are going to vote for them anyway. Why not ignore them and go for the full house?

When the Government introduced NHS charges in 1951, I resigned in protest. Many of my contemporaries made similar gestures for similar causes. So what causes Ministerial resignations now? Dodgy buggers caught with their pants down (figuratively speaking, of course). And even then, half of them get MI5 to cover up the whole thing. It's harder to get rid of them than Foot and Mouth.

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There's no fire in these people any more. What's the point of sitting there in the House, mouthing the same rubbish over and over again, without achieving anything? They're all firmly rooted to the middle. They're not even left-wing anymore. Oh no, just Centre-left. Can't possibly risk pissing off anybody at all, can they - got to please them all, all of the time. Well, there may be trouble ahead if this carries on.

**We know what happens to people who stay in the middle of the road.  
They get run over.**

(next week: Otto Von Bismarcke)

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