

Not for the first time in recent years, as a lifelong Conservative, I find myself amazed at the reactionary measures being suggested by a Labour Minister. That is why I fully support the stance of Mike Tansey and his organisation, (Echo 8th Feb), over the ridiculous idea put forward by the Housing Minister, Caroline Flint, that out-of-work tenants living in social housing should be made to sign "commitment contracts" when getting a tenancy, agreeing to actively seek employment. Had that been suggested by a Conservative say 20 years ago, Comrades Brown, Straw, Harman and Mullin would have had the red flags out, singing The Internationale all the way down Fawcett Street.

Of all the many crackpot ideas put forward by New Labour since 1997 this must rank as one of the most prominent. The idea is flawed, the interpretation a matter of opinion and the implementation practically impossible. It just could not work. What on earth would happen to a family with children evicted under this scheme? It is quite appalling the more you think about it. Many of us currently have had, or still do, relatives and friends living in council, (social), housing, some during difficult times of their lives. The thought of them being flung out of their homes due to some crazy scheme dreamt up by a Labour Minister is a total insult.

The leadership of the present Labour Government is now fully occupied by hypocrits, starting from the top down. They still attempt to occupy the moral high ground because of their past grounding when the Party had some principles, but these are long-gone. Now they suggest throwing people, the ones whom their Party was created to represent, onto the streets. The Labour Party is now really very shallow indeed.

I would be more than interested in hearing the views of Chris Mullin MP about this suggestion by his Minister from his Party. And no history lessons please; we are in 2008 and it is a Labour idea, something the fair-minded voters of Sunderland might like to bear in mind in future elections.

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