

The Labour Party spin machine is now fully operational with the third come-back of that true son of all left wing socialists Baron Mandelson of Foy and Hartepool, plus the rumours, not denied, that a certain Alastair Campbell, having made his money writing and talking, is also in the fold to make a further contribution to the erosion of our democratic process. For Blair, now a multi-millionaire, no such invitation from Cowdenbeath's finest; well not yet anyway.

Poor old Alex Salmond fell for it like a novice in the recent Glenrothes by-election and as someone who knows and visits this area quite often, had Labour lost this seat then quite frankly their merchants of spin might as well have all packed-in, gone home and counted their money. But they did not and even fooled hapless Alex with the result, knowing full-well they had won days before, while he, foolishly, was busy trumpeting an SNP victory that never came.

The main trick of the campaign and somebody told me this a few weeks ago, was for Labour to concentrate on local issues and this they apparently did to the letter. They attacked the policies of ruling SNP who went down the wrong road completely. Local politics, pavement politics, Labour behaved as though they were the opposition and it worked.

It cannot work in England and that is their problem, but they will have a good try. Pretending they are the radical alternative, locally be ready for more tirades from history about the Conservative Party. But truth not fantasy politics must prevail. It is in 2009 when we are heading for a nasty recession, Labour has run Sunderland for nearly 40 years and the country for almost 12 years, Nationally they had plenty time to make provision for this, yet local activists are stuck in the past and totally oblivious to the mistakes their Party has made.

So for those in the Labour Party who may be tempted to try this on, you are the Majority Party in Sunderland and it is your Government in power nationally. Your leader, Brown, was Chancellor for most of this time. He knew exactly what was going on and he acted accordingly. He spent our money, he watched Northern Rock, Bradford and Bingley and all Banks operate as they did and he did nothing. His actions now are to rescue a mess of which he himself was a contributor.

The recession will occur while Labour runs this country, no-one else from another Party in a by-gone age. Labour should face up to it, stop making excuses and blaming everyone but themselves. Labour demanded all the praise when the going was good, so it should not then always hide for cover behind America and the Global economy when the wheels come off. That is the politics of self-deception and spin, the politics of those who are unable to admit they may just have got it badly wrong, the politics of Gordon Brown.

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