

Coalition Update: 4-10 October

No. 10 Operations

Time for David Cameron to take a long hard look at No. 10 (*Telegraph*, 6 October)

Benedict Brogan claims Number Ten is "not working as it should", with instinctive Conservatives in conflict with those who want to win votes through strategic action and policy decided by focus group.

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/benedictbrogan/100109451/time-for-david-cameron-to-take-a-long-hard-look-at-no10/>

Promoting Government unity

Why the Tories are refusing to goad their Lib Dem partners (*FT*, 4 October)

Jim Pickard contrasts the Conservative politeness to the Lib Dems with the latter's attitude to their partners. One Tory called it being "magnanimous in victory".

http://blogs.ft.com/westminster/2011/10/why-the-tories-are-refusing-to-knock-the-lib-dems/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ft%2Fwestminster+%28Westminster+Blog%29&utm_content=Google+Reader#axzz1Zp8THXdB

Ministers told not to goad Lib Dems (*Independent*, 5 October)

Conservative ministers were told not to make anti-Lib Dem noises at conference.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/ministers-told-not-to-goad-lib-dems-2365626.html?>

Demonstrating Separate Identities

Tory mob becoming restless (*Epolitix*, 4 October)

Conference saw party members complaining about the coalition, with Tim Montgomerie calling for David Cameron to outline what a Conservative government should look like.

http://www.epolitix.com/1832-blog/blog-post/newsarticle/tory-mob-becoming-restless/?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

Tories need a long term relationship with liberalism (*TotalPolitics*, 5 October)

Blog claiming that key Conservative policies are disliked by the public and that the party needs to be more liberal. It proposes a permanent union of the coalition parties.

<http://www.totalpolitics.com/blog/260852/tories-need-a-long-term-relationship-with-liberalism.thtml>

Policy Differences

The Cabinet cat-flap continues (*Spectator*, 6 October)

Fraser Nelson claims that the "cat flap" shows that, despite government pushing the Conservatives to the right, the Lib Dems are not the only brake on Tory "radicalism". He also says government divisions are minor, compared to the "wets"/"dries" period.

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/coffeehouse/7291898/the-cabinet-catflap-continues.thtml>

Who won the battle for health at the party conference (*MHP blog*, 6 October)

An assessment of the battles fought at conference by government on the issue of health reform.

<http://www.mhpc.com/blog/who-won-battle-health-party-conferences>

Lib Dems demand crisis talks (*Mail*, 7 October)

Lib Dems have expressed concern about claims by George Osborne that he intends to alter the government's policy on climate change.

<http://chapman.dailymail.co.uk/2011/10/lib-dems-demand-crisis-talks-over-tory-u-turn-on-climate-change.html>

The Next Election

It's all about winning an overall majority... (*Conservativehome*, 4 October)

Anthony Browne discusses how various factors, such as coalition, affect the Tory political strategy to win re-election.

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/thecolumnists/2011/10/anthony-browne-its-all-about-2015.html>

David Davis looks beyond coalition with Blue book of Tory policy ideas (*Guardian*, 4 October)

David Davis has edited a book proposing a purely Conservative agenda as the key to electoral success.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/oct/03/david-davis-tory-blue-book?>

Possible Cabinet Casualties

Ken Clarke talks uncommon sense (*Independent*, 9 October)

John Rentoul claims that Ken Clarke's position in the government causes more problems for David Cameron than being in coalition.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/john-rentoul/john-rentoul-ken-clarke-talks-uncommon-sense-2367785.html>

Why Cameron wants to save Fox (*Conservativehome*, 10 October)

A discussion on the position of Liam Fox within the coalition and why David Cameron sees his inclusion in the Cabinet as essential, despite the trouble he can cause.

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/thetorydiary/2011/10/why-cameron-wants-to-save-fox.html>

Internal Lib Dem Dynamics

Clegg and the Orange Bookers (*Conservativehome*, 10 October)

A profile of the Orange Book movement, claiming that its dominance of the Lib Dems is crucial to maintaining the coalition.

http://conservativehome.blogs.com/the_right_list/2011/10/8100-the-orange-bookers-theright100.html

Miscellaneous

No more Mr. Nice Guy (*Economist*, 8 October)

The Economist reviews the Tory conference, noting that even in private the Lib Dems are fine with the austerity policies, whilst Tory dissenters lack a strong leading voice.

<http://www.economist.com/node/21531480>

They are all Eurosceptics now (*Independent*, 10 October)

Mary-Ann Sieghart claims government ministers have similar attitudes on Europe, with Lib Dem ministers soured by experience of the role of Brussels in UK governance and Human Rights arguments useful for "displacement".

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/mary-ann-sieghart/mary-ann-sieghart-they-are-all-eurosceptics-now-2368143.html>