

Coalition Update: 8-14 November

Managing Parliament

A little local difficulty in the whips office (*Conservativehome*, 9 November)

Paul Goodman examines the growing difficulties in running a whipping operation in the current Parliament, claiming it is more problematic than ever before. Goodman claims Number 10 doesn't "listen" to its whips,

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/thetorydiary/2011/11/by-paul-goodman-commons-whips-have-existed-since-roughly-the-time-of-the-first-reform-act-never-in-the-scores-of-years-that.html>

Maintaining Separate Identities

Rethink on managing coalition after Nick Clegg rejects No.10 report (*Guardian*, 8 November)

Nicholas Watt claims that "there is a growing feeling among ministers that the differentiation strategy needs to be toned down somewhat" following the Lib Dem reaction to the Beecroft report.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/wintour-and-watt/2011/nov/08/liberal-conservative-coalition-nickclegg>

Nick Clegg has blocked Beecroft's main recommendation (*Telegraph*, 8 November)

Benedict Brogan blogs that too much differentiation will leave the coalition looking "fractious".

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/benedictbrogan/100116340/nick-clegg-has-blocked-beecrofts-main-recommendation/>

The Role of the Civil Service

Theresa May is still standing. But her fight over borders is not done yet (*Telegraph*, 8 November)

James Kirkup blogs that Theresa May's decision to blame civil servants for the UKBA's current problems resonates with a government and Tory party that has a negative view of civil servants. He claims blaming officials is the Number 10 credo.

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/jameskirkup/100116270/theresa-may-is-still-standing-but-her-fight-over-borders-is-not-over/>

Will we ever be happy with the civil service? (*TotalPolitics*, 8 November)

Holly Smith discusses the role of the civil service ahead of a fresh attempt at reform.

<http://www.totalpolitics.com/blog/272042/will-we-ever-be-happy-with-the-civil-service.shtml>

Home Office curse hits search for God's replacement (*Channel 4*, 11 November)

Michael Crick discusses the problems David Cameron is having in seeking a new head of the civil service following his decision to separate that role from that of the Cabinet Secretary. He claims that recent problems at the Home Office may affect David Cameron's desire to appoint Dame Helen Ghosh.

<http://blogs.channel4.com/michael-crick-on-politics/home-office-curse-hits-search-for-gods-replacement/382>

Policy Differences

Cameron 's anger at claim of Osborne rift (*FT*, 8 November)

Stories have emerged that Steve Hilton is at odds with George Osborne after the latter supposedly refused to support the former's drive to cut regulations.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/308fccbe-0a3b-11e1-92b5-00144feabdc0,Authorised=false.html?i_location=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ft.com%2Fcms%2Fs%2F0%2F308fccbe-0a3b-11e1-92b5-00144feabdc0.html&i_referer=http%3A%2F%2Fconservativehome.blogs.com%2Ffrontpage%2F2011%2F11%2Fnewslinks-for-wednesday-9th-november-2011.html#ixzz1dC1ebUCI

Returning EU powers to Britain is not a priority (*Telegraph*, 9 November)

Nick Clegg has called Conservative colleagues fearful of a two-speed Europe "melodramatic". He also called repatriation of powers "a huge distraction".

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/8880235/Nick-Clegg-returning-EU-powers-to-Britain-is-not-priority.html>

That's the way to do it! (*LibDemVoice*, 9 November)

An analysis of how Lib Dem politicians worked to influence the drafting of the Localism Bill.

http://www.libdemvoice.org/?p=25853&utm_source=tweet&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=twitter

Nick 'Heineken' Clegg's love of Europe is good diplomacy but suicidal politics (*New Statesman*, 10 November)

Rafael Behr claims that the Europeanism of Nick Clegg is "politically suicidal".

<http://www.newstatesman.com/uk-politics/2011/11/european-clegg-lib-times-party>

Internal Party Dissent

How David Cameron (and Hitler) silenced the Tory faithful (*Mail*, 14 November)

Andrew Pierce claims that the Conservative Spring Forum has been cancelled in order to protect David Cameron from internal party dissent over matters such as the strength of the Lib Dems in government.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-2061095/How-David-Cameron-Hitler-silenced-Tory-faithful.html>

Party Mergers and Defections

Powys Lib Dem Councillor defects to Conservatives (*Conservativehome*, 10 November)

A Lib Dem councillor in Powys has defected from an Independents/Lib Dem coalition to join the Conservatives. In Norfolk, a Lib Dem councillor has also left the Lib Dems due to their EU policies.

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/localgovernment/2011/11/powys-lib-dem-councillor-defects-to-conservatives.html>

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/localgovernment/2011/11/another-norfolk-lib-dem-county-councillor-defects-to-conservatives.html>

UUP leader rejects Tory merger plan (*Belfast Telegraph*, 10 November)

The leader of the Ulster Unionists has rejected a Conservative offer of a merger.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/uup-leader-rejects-tory-merger-plan-16075725.html?>