

## **Coalition Update: 11-17 October**

### **NHS Reform Bill in the Lords**

**Health and social care bill: decision time for Lib Dems** (*Guardian*, 11 October)

The Guardian warns of the potentially catastrophic effect on the Lib Dems and their political fortunes if they acquiesce in the face of Andrew Lansley's NHS reforms in the House of Lords.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/oct/11/health-social-care-bill-editorial>

**Labour is turning the Lords into a chamber of horrors** (*Telegraph*, 11 October)

Benedict Brogan claims that the Lords has become an increasingly fractious and oppositional institution, as Labour peers react strongly to the Coalition's policies, and Lib Dems – many of whom are ex-SDP figures – waver. One interesting side effect of this trend may be to hasten Clegg's plans for Lords reform, once apparently destined for the long grass.

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/benedictbrogan/100110203/labour-is-turning-the-lords-into-a-chamber-of-horrors/>

### **Personnel changes at the centre**

**Goodbye to GOD** (*Economist*, 15 October)

Article suggesting that Gus O'Donnell's departure as Cabinet Secretary and his replacement by Jeremy Heywood will hasten Cameron's plans to 'transform the Leviathan of the modern British state into machinery that is more disposed to distribute power than hoard it.'

<http://www.economist.com/node/21532319>

### **Lib Dem special advisers**

**Spad numbers on the rise and rise** (*FT Westminster Blog*, 12 October)

News that six more Spads are to be recruited to assist the Lib Dems in their work, bringing the total number to around 80, despite Coalition pledges to cut the number of Spads.

<http://blogs.ft.com/westminster/2011/10/spad-numbers-on-the-rise-and-rise/#axzz1b52Yfj7W>

**Conservative Ministers furious about Lib Dem appointments** (*Conservative Home*, 12 October)

Paul Goodman writes of the anger on the Conservative frontbench about the alleged hiring of 8 new Spads for the Lib Dems, and of the likelihood of more Tory Spads being hired soon.

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/thetorydiary/2011/10/new-libdem-special-advisers-but-no-conservatives-are-being-appointed.html>

### **Liam Fox and the mini-reshuffle**

**This was a sad loss, but a necessary one** (*Telegraph*, 14 October)

The Telegraph notes that the resignation of Liam Fox – 'the most influential Thatcherite in the Government' – will 'alter the balance of power in the Cabinet'; Atlanticist, free-market, pro-business Tories will feel increasingly under-represented in the government of the 'Macmillanite' Cameron.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/telegraph-view/8827351/This-was-a-sad-loss-but-a-necessary-one.html>

### **How will the Right cope without Liam Fox?** (*Telegraph*, 15 October)

Tim Montgomerie analyses the impact of Fox's resignation on the Conservative party's ideological balance, and notes the gradual emergence of a (nascent) Osbornite grouping in the Cabinet, as evidenced by Justine Greening's rise.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/conservative/8829338/How-will-the-Right-cope-without-Liam-Fox.html>

### **Why 'badly wounded' Fox remains a problem for Cameron** (*New Statesman Blog*, 15 October)

Jon Bernstein claims that Fox may well slot into a leading position amongst backbench Tory right-wingers already disenchanted with the Coalition and the 'Liberal nonsense' which influences its direction and cause trouble for the government.

<http://www.newstatesman.com/blogs/the-staggers/2011/10/fox-cameron-government-bone>

### **Lobbying links put pressure on coalition** (*Guardian*, 16 October)

The Fox and Werrity scandal has led to calls for greater openness in ministers' dealings with lobbyists, and for the introduction of a register of lobbyists, spearheaded by Clegg and the Lib Dems, in line with the Coalition's Programme for Government.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/oct/16/lobbying-links-coalition>

## **Women and the Coalition**

### **David Cameron urged to abandon 'hideous' plans to cut maternity rights** (*Guardian*, 16 October)

The Equalities minister Lynne Featherstone launches an attack on the venture capitalist Adrian Beecroft who was asked by Cameron to examine how businesses can escape excessive regulation, claiming his findings will call for the scaling back of maternity rights, despite Cameron's pledge to oversee a family-friendly government.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/oct/16/maternity-rights-featherstone-david-cameron?INTCMP=ILCNETTXT3487>

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Are The Lib Dems Missing The Point Of Their Time In Government?** (*Dale & Co.*, 12 October)

Chris Bowers argues that the Lib Dems should not restrict themselves in the Coalition to either quietly moderating Conservative excesses, or loudly denouncing un-Liberal policies, but should take the opportunity provided by the economic crisis to press for a fundamentally revised vision of economic growth for the future – the Yellows playing the part of the Greens in government.

<http://www.iaindale.com/posts/are-the-lib-dems-missing-the-point-of-their-time-in-government>

### **After the Coalition: Cameronism fleshed out** (*Total Politics*, 13 October)

Review of the latest book to be published on Conservatism and the ideological future of the party, contrasted favourably with the Blue Book and its 'undisguised nostalgia' for the 1980s.

<http://www.totalpolitics.com/blog/261462/after-the-coalition-cameronism-fleshed-out.thtml>

**Conservative weaknesses exposed** (*Total Politics*, 13 October)

Charlotte Henry contrasts the Lib Dems who, in the wake of conference season, are on a 'mature path to the liberal centre', with the Conservatives who lurched from farce ('catgate') to scandal (Liam Fox) with alarming rapidity, and now seem to be 'desperately trying to appease their right wing's eurosceptic fetish'.

<http://www.totalpolitics.com/blog/261457/conservative-weaknesses-exposed.html>

**Why conference season is showing us up** (*Lib Dem Voice*, 15 October)

Blog post arguing much the opposite – the Lib Dem membership's desperation to congratulate themselves when they stopped a Tory policy, and tendency to engage in intermittent Tory-bashing revealed a lack of maturity which stood in contrast to the more professional approach to inter-party relations seen at the Conservative conference.

<http://www.libdemvoice.org/opinion-why-conference-season-is-showing-us-up-25584.html>

**Scottish boundary review hits coalition MPs** (*FT Westminster Blog*, 12 October)

Under the proposed constituency boundary changes, Scotland could lose 7 MPs, with the Coalition parties coming off particularly badly.

<http://blogs.ft.com/westminster/2011/10/scottish-boundary-review/#axzz1ahrsSolZ>