

Coalition Update: 16-22 August

The week of distinctiveness?

General

Nick Clegg: The Biography published today - is it worth reading? (*Lib Dem Voice*, 20 August)
Vince Cable put on record his disagreement with Clegg's initial approach in the summer of 2010 of playing down any differences of view between the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats in coalition.

<http://www.libdemvoice.org/nick-clegg-the-biography-published-today-is-it-worth-reading-25052.html>

The riots

Why did you do it? Rioters to be asked their views on disorder (*Independent*, 17 August)

While the Tories want to punish offenders, the Lib Dems are adopting a more conciliatory approach

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/why-did-you-do-it-rioters-to-be-asked-their-views-on-disorder-2338861.html>

The Liberal Democrats

Lib Dems signal opposition to curbs on social media networks (*Guardian*, 16 August)

Amendment tabled for autumn conference urges party to oppose additional powers for police or government to restrict access to internet or social media

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/aug/16/lib-dems-opposition-curbs-social-media-networks>

Tories' reaction to riots 'bonkers', say Liberal Democrat MPs (*Guardian*, 17 August)

Comments from Lib Dems reveal deep concerns over David Cameron's uncompromising law and order agenda

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/aug/16/tories-riots-bonkers-liberal-democrat>

This Is Nick Clegg's Big Opportunity (*Dale & Co*, 19 August)

Chris Bowers, biographer of Nick Clegg, believes that now is the time for Nick Clegg to take control, and help introduce "restorative justice".

<http://www.iaindale.com/posts/this-is-nick-cleggs-big-opportunity>

Sir Menzies Campbell warns against human rights changes (*BBC News*, 21 August)

Former Liberal Democrat leader Sir Menzies Campbell has warned the prime minister against "watering down" the UK's commitment to human rights.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-14606104>

The Conservatives

It took a riot (*Nick Robinson's Blog*, 16 August)

David Cameron's advisers used to worry that few voters could identify his mission in politics beyond deficit reduction or "the cuts".

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-14526254>

On social justice, the coalition is reasonableness personified (*Guardian*, 17 August)

The right has moved in significant ways. If the left can move too, these ideas on tax and family breakdown could work

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/aug/17/social-justice-coalition-reasonableness-personified>

Don't The Conservatives Want To Be The Party Of Law And Order? (*Dale & Co*, 19 August)

Dan Hodges reckons the Conservatives have failed to capitalise on the London riots.

<http://www.iaindale.com/posts/dont-the-conservatives-want-to-be-the-party-of-law-and-order>

The Economy

Eric Pickles: 'I want families to keep their money. Raising tax for middle class is wrong' (*Telegraph*, 19 August)

Eric Pickles argues for abolition of the 50p rate for income tax, rejects Lib Dems' mansion tax idea

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/property/8712670/Eric-Pickles-I-want-families-to-keep-their-money.-Raising-tax-for-middle-class-is-wrong.html>

So what do we do now, chancellor? (*Guardian*, 21 August)

Vince Cable: "Within the coalition there is a common approach, but there is a difference of emphasis. On the Tory side, the emphasis is that the fundamental problem is the deficit: there is a crisis of public finance. Sort that problem out and the other long-term structural problems will resolve themselves. The other view – which is my view – is that is important, it is absolutely important, but the other issues, about the finance sector, the property markets, the lack of balance in our economy, are much more fundamentally important."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/aug/21/so-what-do-we-do-now-chancellor>

Miscellaneous

It's hard to believe Cameron's words will match his actions (*Telegraph*, 16 August)

Paul Goodman: the measures needed to halt Britain's 'moral collapse' would destroy this Government

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/8705194/Its-hard-to-believe-Camerons-words-will-match-his-actions.html>

Full-length interview with IDS (*Spectator*, 17 August)

Haven't the LibDems already frustrated his families agenda? "You can't generalise on this," he says. "There are some Liberal Democrats who are very strong. There are lots of Conservatives who don't necessarily agree with the emphasis on family and marriage.

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/coffeehouse/7175138/web-exclusive-fulllength-interview-with-ids.thtml>

70 Tory MPs set to join new group to fight EU integration (*Telegraph*, 20 August)

Up to 70 Conservative MPs are to join a new group dedicated to "reversing the process" of closer European Union integration in a move likely to place fresh strain on the coalition.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/conservative/8713221/70-Tory-MPs-set-to-join-new-group-to-fight-EU-integration.html>