

Coalition Update: 20-26 September

Managing the Government

The Tory right declares war on Whitehall (*New Statesman*, 23 September)

Rafael Behr discusses the "arm wrestle" over the Open Public Services White Paper.
<http://www.newstatesman.com/blogs/the-staggers/2011/09/civil-service-public-report?>

Promoting a Separate Identity

Nick Clegg's pandering to his base is out of political necessity... (*Conservativehome*, 20 September)

Anthony Browne claims that Nick Clegg attacks the Tories for political reasons, not out of conviction.

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/thecolumnists/2011/09/anthony-browne-nick-cleggs-pandering-to-his-base-is-out-of-political-necessity-rather-than-genuine-c.html>

Baroness Williams warns Chris Huhne to stop bashing the Tories (*Telegraph*, 20 September)

Shirley Williams claims that Lib Dems are wrong to attack the Tories, calling it "unhelpful".

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/liberaldemocrats/8777729/Baroness-Williams-of-Crosby-warns-Chris-Huhne-to-stop-bashing-the-Tories.html>

The significant part of Tim Farron's speech (*LibDemVoice*, 20 September)

Mark Pack highlights Tim Farron's defence of ministers unable to speak their mind, defending their behind the scenes influence.

http://www.libdemvoice.org/?p=25320&utm_source=tweet&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=twitter

Left Watch (*Conservativehome*, 20 September)

Tim Montgomerie claims Chris Huhne's attack on the Tories was motivated not by his desire to give his party a clearer identity, but his pitch to succeed Nick Clegg.

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/leftwatch/2011/09/huhne-has-already-compared-us-to-goebbels-now-were-as-bad-as-sarah-palin.html>

Is fierce tribalism undermining the coalition? (*TotalPolitics*, 21 September)

Hannah Breeze claims that forging a separate identity does not make childish attacks on your coalition partners sensible or seemly.

<http://www.totalpolitics.com/blog/259067/is-fierce-tribalism-undermining-the-coalition.thtml>

What Clegg failed to mention (*Spectator*, 21 September)

David Blackburn criticises Nick Clegg for failing to mention the government's flagship education and welfare policies, despite the former being supported in opposition.

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/coffeehouse/7256808/what-clegg-failed-to-mentioned.thtml>

Now Cameron faces a new dilemma (*Independent*, 22 September)

Steve Richards discusses how Lib Dem attempts to show they are making a difference cause David Cameron problems.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/steve-richards/steve-richards-now-cameron-faces-a-new-dilemma-2358604.html>

The Balance of the Coalition

A party that doesn't realise the power at its disposal (*Independent*, 20 September)

Steve Richards claims that the Lib Dems do not recognise or wield their true power within the coalition.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/steve-richards/steve-richards-a-party-that-doesnt-realise-the-power-at-its-disposal-2357526.html>

Lib Dems eye bigger role at Home Office in reshuffle (*Times*, September 21) **££**

Lib Dems feel exposed on law and order, and so are pitching for a beefed up position in the Home Office after the next reshuffle.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article3170235.ece>

Time to show junior just who is in charge (*Mail*, 21 September)

The Mail's leader column claims the Lib Dems have used their power to frustrate the Tories or pursue a "fringe agenda".

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-2040269/Lib-Dem-Conference-2011-Time-David-Cameron-showed-Nick-Clegg-whos-charge.html>

Policy Differences

Cameron and Clegg clash over Palestinian recognition (*Times*, 21 September) **££**

Nick Clegg and David Cameron are reportedly at odds on statehood for Palestine.

<http://www.timesplus.co.uk/tto/news/?login=false&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.thetimes.co.uk%2Ftto%2Fnews%2Fworld%2Fmiddleeast%2Farticle3169157.ece>

Future Coalitions?

Nick Clegg needs another hung parliament or faces oblivion (*Guardian*, 21 September)

Jonathan Freedland claims that the Lib Dems can only survive as a party in the event of continual hung parliaments, which he does not deem likely.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/sep/21/nick-clegg-liberal-democrat-conference>

A long unhappy marriage (*Economist*, 24 September)

The Economist claims the coalition could last ten years.

<http://www.economist.com/node/21530109>

Managing Parliament

What do you think the Government's Commons majority is? (*Ballots and Bullets*, 21 September)

Philip Cowley and Mark Stuart discusses the true size of the Government's Parliamentary majority.

<http://nottspolitics.org/2011/09/21/what-do-you-think-the-government%E2%80%99s-commons-majority-is/>

The Role and Practices of Special Advisers

Michael Gove faces questions over department's use of private email (*Guardian*, 20 September)

The Information Commissioner is investigating information policy at the DfE following reports that special advisers there are using private email accounts to discuss government policy.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/sep/20/michael-gove-department-private-email>

Spads seen as vital to government (FT, 21 September)

A discussion of the "essential" role of special advisers.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/cc8c721e-e454-11e0-b4e9-00144feabdc0.html#axzz1YZyDJJdl>

Forming a Coalition

Nick Clegg's conference speech was vain, self-satisfied and downright honest (Telegraph, 21 September)

John McTernan claims that no other Liberal leader since the war could have formed a coalition with the Conservatives and that a confidence and supply arrangement would have been more appropriate.

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/johnmcternan1/100106419/nick-cleggs-conference-speech-was-vain-self-satisfied-and-downright-dishonest/>

Rebellions

Tory grassroots rebel against HS2 (Telegraph, 25 September)

David Cameron is to face opposition to HS2 at his party conference next week.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/road-and-rail-transport/8786447/Tory-grassroots-rebel-against-HS2-plans.html>

Miscellaneous

Gallows Humour (Economist, 24 September)

Bagehot reviews the Lib Dem conference.

<http://www.economist.com/node/21530101>

What Lib Dem members think... (LibDemVoice, 24 September)

A LibDemVoice poll of members sees Cameron far more popular than Miliband, for a variety of reasons.

http://www.libdemvoice.org/?p=25386&utm_source=tweet&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=twitter