Could Honesty Be The Best Policy?

It's that time of year again. No not Christmas, although that's coming up soon too. Even more important, some would say, although bereft of any great special offers, is Budget day and that's today as you will know unless you have been asleep, off-line or just avoiding all contact with the outside and online world over the last few weeks.

Cue our Chancellor - spreadsheet Phil, to you and I - standing on the steps of number 11 Droning Street... sorry Downing Street, red briefcase in hand stuffed with those papers he has been working on; the ones with all the answers to our economic woes and setting out our plans for getting out of the financial mire the country has got itself into.  I say the country because of course it’s never the politicians running it. They were either left a financial mess and huge deficit by those they took over from, or their idea of how well our economy is doing is way different from the opposing party and those thick... sorry ‘think’ tanks that spew out words of wisdom, or doom and gloom depending on you state of mind at the time.

If there is one political policy that would make me change my allegiance to a cause it's honesty. Is it too much to ask for this quality in our elected reprehensibles...sorry representatives. It seems that to admit you may be wrong, or your policy could be wrong, or that the party in opposition may just have come up with a better idea and maybe we should work together an give it a go, is a fate worse than death itself. It seems it's better to just carry on regardless even if you are making a complete mess of the country and heaping on untold misery to sections of the population - I would use the term ‘electorate’ but that only applies when you looking for votes.

Why admit anything when you can easily find statistics from somewhere (usually thin air, or from somewhere in the past when things were even worse) to show that we have never had it so good. The term 'it' of course covers a multitude of possibilities, as does the statistics. They can, suitably abridged or doctored, be made to show anything and normally are.

The sad fact is that if that our elected politicians set aside their political vendettas and tried really hard to work together then there is no doubt that homelessness, poverty, tax evasion, health care, social deprivation and most other woes could be, if not resolved, then surely properly addressed and their negative impact reduced. It's a challenge but if we can make such huge leaps in other aspects of our lives, technology, medicine, to name but a few, then surely we have the means and the brains to address these others.

We have the answers, or at least the means to find them. We just continue to face each other off, skirt around them and make the usual political statements about ideals that never solve anything.

We already know how; the why doesn't matter. Just do it!!

 Tom Kelly

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