

Letter from the Chairman

AMONGST a sea of troubles, with the barometer, in terms of public interest, falling and no sign of the storm abating there is just one bright spot on the political horizon. Sailing serenely in that one bright spot is the Freedom Association's very own, well found and copper-bottomed Better Off Out campaign.

In the stateroom on board the good ship BETTER OFF OUT, in the personage of former House of Commons Speaker, Lord Weatherill, is one of the most widely respected, honourable and admired figures to have held high office in recent times. On the bridge, in Philip Davies MP, Douglas Carswell MP and Philip Hollobone MP we have cool, calm and collected watch-keepers steering a steady course towards the safe haven which all on board wish that we had never left. These three, in particular, have nailed their colours firmly to the mast and are joined by fellow MPs, TFA Council Member Christopher Chope OBE, David Davies, Austin Mitchell, Richard Shepherd, Bob Spink and Sir Nicholas and Lady Winterton.

Wishing our ship *bon voyage* and God speed are world famous author, Frederick Forsyth CBE, whose proud boast is only to back campaigns that can succeed; Lord Stoddart of Swindon, long-standing Chairman of the Campaign for an Independent Britain and tireless opponent of EU totalitarianism; former Surgeon General of the Armed Forces, Air Marshal Sir John Baird KBE, DL, who knows that this is a battle that we must at all costs win; TFA veteran and former Director General of Intelligence, at the Ministry of Defence, Vice-Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly KBE, CB, DL and a host of other dedicated patriots from all walks of public and private life. At the very top of the muster list are Centre for Policy Studies Director, Ruth Lea, formerly Head of the Policy Unit at the Institute of Directors; fellow TFA Council Member Patrick Minford CBE, PhD, Professor of Applied Economics at the Cardiff Business School and the widely respected journalist, Tom Utley, formerly leader writer and columnist at the *Daily Telegraph* and now leader writer and columnist at the *Daily Mail*, without whose support our ship could not have been so successfully launched - we

are for ever in their debt.

If I might at this stage cease the nautical metaphor, I would like all our readers to know that Better Off Out is an idea whose time has come. The demand for the Better Off Out leaflets has been phenomenal, the response to them has been amazing and several of the leafleteers who have gone door-to-door distributing them have called in to say that never before in their experience has a leaflet been so well received and so widely welcomed.

For two days last month your Hon. Chairman, together with *Freedom Today* Editor, Simon Richards, Organising Secretary, Vicki Stevens, and Campaign Manager, Mark Wallace, manned a stall at the West Midlands Show. The response from passers-by was overwhelmingly in favour of the Better Off Out message. It is a popular message but, more to the

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point, it is the right message and one that the Europhiles simply cannot refute. Their generalised and unquantifiable statements are no answer to our verifiable facts. Their failure to come up with any sort of cost/benefit analysis to support their glib assertions makes a mockery of their losing cause and their continual

reluctance to put their case in open and public debate demonstrates the paucity of their argument.

Our campaign is perceived - quite rightly - to be cross-party. The terms in which it is couched and the calibre of the people that support it are making it easy for members of all political parties - and of none - to join us. Even those who might otherwise prefer to sit on the fence can see the logic of our case and are beginning to realise that the 'bus they were always afraid of missing - the one that was always going in the direction of Brussels - is the 'bus which is, after all, heading back to Westminster.

The fast approaching moment at which the Labour government surrenders the veto on Justice and Home Affairs with the inevitable consequence that the British system of criminal justice will be superseded by Corpus Juris must surely be the point at which the British Conservative Party abandons its commitment to maintaining Britain's membership of the EU - if not, then we'd best start counting the lifejackets aboard the good ship BETTER OFF OUT because it will literally be every man for himself and devil take the hindmost!

Christopher Gill

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The new BETTER OFF OUT banner had its first outing at Shrewsbury's West Mid Show on 24th and 25th June, when thousands of leaflets were handed out.