

Speech delivered by Mr Rami Ranger, General Secretary of the British Asian Conservative Link on the 9th September 04 at the Reception held in honour of the Rt. Hon. Michael Howard QC MP-Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition Party.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have gathered this evening to honour our Leader whose job it is to stop Britain from becoming a socialist republic.

We all remember those days when the Unions ruled the country. Britain was considered the sick man of Europe and who can forget the winter of discontent. Thanks to Mrs. Thatcher, the country was saved and we instead became the most prosperous country in Europe. As the saying goes, a leopard cannot change its spots and this Labour Government is systematically trying to take us back to the bad old days. This time cunningly in measured doses, so that we do not get sudden jolts and instead, get lulled into a false sense of security.

We are now working harder, paying higher taxes, yet our standard of living is declining. Public services are deteriorating day by day. Either we are becoming immune to the pain or we are beginning to resign ourselves to this fate. Either way, it goes against the spirit on which this great country is based. We must challenge wrongdoing, wherever we find it.

We all know that we are getting deeper and deeper into debt. We are now told that the country is in debt to the tune of trillions of pounds and every Briton owes approximately £17,000.00 and the amount is growing.

What kind of Government would encourage people to spend what they haven't got? Does this mean that we will continue to pay even after our death? How can we accept a Government which punishes success, envies prosperity and taxes ambition?

Now the plans are that we will have a 50-50 society where you will keep 50 and the government will keep 50. This is one way of making us all equal. Income tax 50% for when we are alive, and Inheritance tax 50% for when we are dead. This is Labour's fair deal for Britain.

In order to demonstrate how dangerous the policies of the present Government are, I have brought two cans of Air Fresheners – they are identical to look at from the outside but with totally different effects. One will pour water over your dreams, while the other will fly with your aspirations. Now you can make up your minds which one is for you. Similarly, Conservative and Labour policies differ in their effect.

Ladies and gentlemen, I urge you to unite and see the back of this Government which is hell bent on making us a nation of mediocrity.

Britain has always led the world in terms of invention, innovation, and social justice. We can only ensure social justice when we are a prosperous nation and this Government is not going to make us prosperous but equal in poverty. We are indebted to Michael for helping us reclaim our country from those who are not only tinkering with our way of life, but also with our institutions.

Let's ask ourselves a simple question. How can we win elections? Winning is very simple. We need a good leader who can unite and motivate us all and has a proven track record of Public Office. Luckily, we have all these qualities in Michael and more. Please show me another person in Britain who can match Michael's credentials?

Secondly, we need good policies. You all know that, our policies are so good that by stealing them, Old Labour has become New Labour, but not quite the real thing.

Thirdly, we must present our policies in such a way that the electorate can understand what their effect will be and how Britain will be better off with them.

Our local Associations must also select the right candidate for their area. They must put the interest of the Country and Party above their personal preferences. History is littered with constituencies where the Associations have not returned a winning candidate for years and instead accept that theirs is a safe Labour seat. Recent results have shown that there is no such thing as a safe Labour seat if we do our homework right. Elections are won when the other side loses and this time we must make the other side lose.

No matter how smart we are, no matter how smart our policies are, if we are not going to exercise our right by voting then we are literally giving victory on a plate to the other side, and then we have no one to blame but ourselves.

I will now ask our Chairman, Mr Ranbir Suri, to formally welcome our guest of honour.

Thank you