The best reaction to Miliband's speech that I've read i...

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The best reaction to Miliband's speech that I have read comes from Gregor Gall, professor of industrial relations at the University of Bradford, writing in the Guardian:

Miliband is trying to solve a political problem with an administrative solution. If he wants to go back to the days when Labour was a mass party with substantial roots in working-class communities, he needs to recognise that this existed primarily because Labour was then a social democratic party which reformed the capitalist system. This was not revolution but it did mean that people's life chances were not determined by the market.

There is no way that a mass of citizens, union members or not, will flock back to supporting Labour — much less join and become active members — until its politics fundamentally change in this direction. This is why the maelstrom that Falkirk has unleashed is not about candidate selection or even candidate composition. Rather, it is about political values.

Labour must adopt the politics of hope and ambition to make citizens' lives better through regulating the processes and outcomes of the market. This was the lesson of Blairism: membership dramatically increased up to and after 1997 when Blair entered Downing Street. But it did not take long for it and party activism to go into reverse as it became clear that Blairism was not about radical social change but holding political power.

That's pretty close to what I have been seeking to say.

This is not an admin issue. This is really about politics. Can Labour entice 3 million to join with its current policies? I don't think it has a hope.

It will keep Lord Sainsbury's money, but that's not the point. It's the union members that matter - and right now Labour is selling them short on too many economic fronts.

I welcome the idea of mass based parties. But that requires politics for the masses when right now most of it is for the 1%. And that's the real issue here. Admin can't

change that. Only political will can achieve that goal.