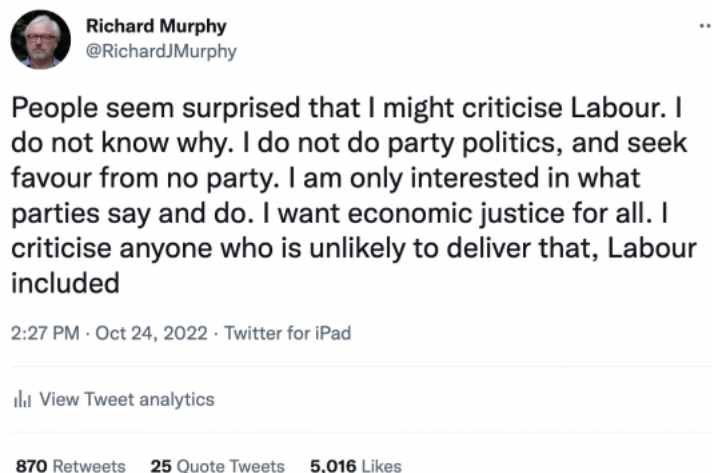


I do political economy, not party politics

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I criticised Labour in a thread I wrote yesterday. I made it clear that in my opinion its neoliberalism was a danger to the country. It might be better than the Tories on many issues, but candidly by not much right now so wedded is it to the austerity narrative that it, alongside the Tories, promotes to appease the country's financiers.

This upset some Labour supporters on Twitter. For a brief period I saw my follower numbers fall. Then I posted this:



Whether in direct response or not I do not know, but overall the day saw me enjoy more than 1,000 net new Twitter followers, and that is always exceptional.

The point is more important though. I will not do party politics with its implicit requirement that I follow a leader come what may, even if I am quite sure that the party leadership in question is wrong. The whole point of this blog and my other work is to speak truth to power, in the process seeking economic justice for those who are currently denied it.

I do not care if I upset political parties when making the case for what I think is possible for those I most care about. Last week I most definitely upset the SNP. This week it

might be Labour. Most weeks it is the Tories. And that does not mean I support the rest.

Instead it means that I think there are better policy options available than most political parties now choose. Why most? Because most are neoliberal and so think themselves beholden to markets.

That, I think is a fundamental error on their parts, because what that really means is that they think of themselves as beholden to those with wealth who dominate those markets through the exercise of their financial power.

I believe it the job of progressive politics to address the inequality implicit in the current relationships of financial power within the UK. No one can do that by appeasing markets. That means appeasing markets has to be contrary to the purpose of progressive politics. It's hardly rocket science to reach that conclusion, and yet it appears to escape most who think themselves politically progressive.

I will continue to criticise Labour and others who do not seek to deliver progressive politics in the interests of most in this country. That's my job when writing this blog. Until someone stops me, that is what I will do.