

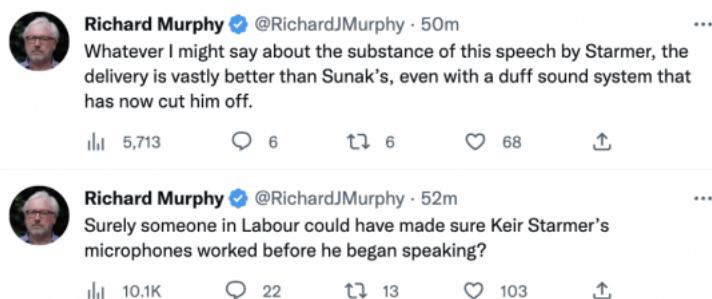
Funding the Future

Starmer's big idea is to deny responsibility for Labour...

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I watched Keir Starmer give his 'vision speech' this morning.

My initial reactions were tweeted as follows:



Richard Murphy  @RichardJMurphy · 50m

Whatever I might say about the substance of this speech by Starmer, the delivery is vastly better than Sunak's, even with a duff sound system that has now cut him off.

...
5,713 6 68

Richard Murphy  @RichardJMurphy · 52m

Surely someone in Labour could have made sure Keir Starmer's microphones worked before he began speaking?

...
10.1K 22 13 103

The sound quality throughout this broadcast was dire: Labour really has to get the basics right.

That said: Starmer beat Sunak hands down on presentation.

Content was another issue. On this I noted the following as the speech progressed:



Richard Murphy  @RichardJMurphy · 45m

So far Starmer is only doing what he is saying is wrong with Westminster politics - he is analysing the problem and has not offered one solution as yet. More of the same, then.

...
5,455 7 19 88

Richard Murphy  @RichardJMurphy · 43m

Starmer says there will be a fair pay settlement for all care workers under Labour. He does not say what fair means. This means nothing.

...
5,510 4 26 100

Richard Murphy  @RichardJMurphy · 37m

Labour is going to end 'sticking plaster politics' without apparently spending any more money. The explanation in the green context just does not add up even if I welcome him talking green issues, unlike Sunak

...
4,918 19 65

Richard Murphy  @RichardJMurphy · 32m

Starmer keeps saying he can't spend his way out of the Tory mess. But when that mess was created by not spending enough what is the logic in that?

...
7,274 30 83 274

Bluntly the speech was virtually devoid of content, excepting his one big idea, which was around devolution. The premise of this was however worrying. As I noted before he got to the issue:

 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 45m

Starmer keeps talking about Britain. Has he forgotten Northern Ireland?
Why?

7,273 13 17 80 

 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 44m

It would seem that Starmer is actually using Britain as a metaphor for England because devolution of powers is ignored in this speech.

5,256 5 29 102 

I should perhaps have added 'existing' before devolution in that second tweet.

As I also noted:

 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 39m

Keir Starmer's big idea is to give power away from Westminster so he cannot be blamed when things go wrong when Labour is in power. This is best described as the politics of irresponsibility.

5,994 15 27 105 

I summarised this saying:

 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 31m

I really hoped Starmer would convince me he had a plan this morning. But the promise is to spend no more and pass the blame for failure with the resulting diminished budgets to local government - which is what the Tories have done. There is no vision here.

6,016 15 69 189 

Indisputably this was a better speech than Sunak's, but there were massive issues, ;like these:

 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 34m

Gary Gibbon from [@Channel4News](#) asks Starmer if he is not spending more is he really talking about more private sector delivery - implying privatisation - and the answer appears to be that this is the plan. He says more state spending is not the answer, so it must be.

4,634 14 42 97 

 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 36m

Starmer has no answer to the question 'what will you actually do to make things better?' He says more doctors and nurses, but without promises on pay and conditions this is meaningless.

5,187 9 51 158 

 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 31m

Starmer is asked if 2% is too small a pay settlement for nurses and he will not answer the question. Frankly, that's pathetic. Saying 'talk' is not enough.

4,396 3 41 165 

In summary, I posted this:

 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 29m
The absolute implication of this speech is that Starmer completely believes that government budgets must be run like those of a household. As long as he thinks like that there is no question to which Labour can be the answer.
...

6,348 17 97 263 

The presentation was vastly better than Sunak's.

And maybe there was a little more substance.

But was this a vision for a government? It fell very, very far short of that.

I will have more to say on what that vision should be soon, I hope.