

## Reeves and Starmer: maintainers of the status quo

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The Sunday Times posted this on Twitter overnight:

<https://twitter.com/thetimes/status/1677932051792625664?s=61&t=fQEnD35XLiGihXL T1M1wyA>

My sources suggest that this is likely to be true. There seems to be a rift a mile wide between Miliband and his successor but one right now. That is not personal - although if Starmer feels overshadowed by Miliband he should be as Ed now seems to have all the gravitas and skill he needed when leader, but lacked back then. Instead it is ideological. As someone close to the scene put it to me, Ed Miliband is now the most left wing member of the shadow cabinet, by some way.

I stress, I do not think Ed Miliband that left wing.

I do think Ed Miliband is doing something Labour as a whole should be engaged in, which is the creation of new economic and policy thinking about the issues we now face as a country.

Doing so he will come up against Starmer and Reeves. I noted this not long ago on Twitter, having noted what Reeves said on the Sophy Ridge programme:

<https://twitter.com/richardjmurphy/status/1677948689912823808?s=61&t=fQEnD35XLiGihXLT1M1wyA>

Reeves is telling us to toe the line. We must accept the 'wisdom' of the powers that be. Ours is not to protest. Instead, we must suffer our fates. And we should do so, unquestioningly. We are plebs, after all.

And this is the attitude of a prospective Labour Chancellor who questions whether we can afford to save the planet because it is instead better to crush the well-being of millions with unnecessary interest rate rises.

Reeves says she and Starmer are as one on issues. I suspect that for now that is true. It

is deeply dangerous that such a reactionary pair are in that position and are described as the Opposition when it is so apparent that their goal is perpetuation of the status quo.