

We could be in for some very dangerous politics this au...

Published: January 13, 2026, 3:54 am

The [Guardian reports](#) this morning that:

Rishi Sunak is being urged by senior Conservatives to go for a spring election next year, with the plan said to be “gaining traction” among campaign strategists who believe it may be their best chance to stem losses.

The most interesting single phrase there refers to the stemming of losses, which is the best that the Tories might hope for now.

My suspicion is, however, that this is the backbench view of when to go to the country. No one is more concerned than the backbencher about stemming losses. The frontbencher knows the inevitability of this happening but at least has the comfort that their former ministerial role might provide them with an opportunity to earn a living after expulsion from the Commons. The backbencher has no such comfort, with unemployment a realistic prospect for many of them.

The point that both front and backbenchers have in common is that they know that the losses are coming. What really interests me, in that case, is how much harm they will seek to cause before leaving office since they now know, as Keir Starmer made clear over the weekend, that Labour is to be the Tory party continuation party once in office.

One suggestion doing the rounds is that the Tories will abolish inheritance tax before leaving. I think that is entirely plausible.

I also suspect that they will lift the two-child benefit cap, just to make Keir Starmer look stupid for having committed to keep it.

But most especially what they will try to do is spook Labour spending plans. So they might, for example, say they will cut income tax by at least 1p in the pound from April 2025 onwards.

Serious cuts in the corporation tax rate might also be on the cards from the same date.

And watch out for stamp duty reforms - with potentially massively and supposedly permanent threshold increases, also from 2025.

The 45p highest income tax rate might also go.

This will be Trussonomics on steroids, to be passed by a party that knows it will not be required to manage government budgets with these cuts in place whilst giving itself all the fun of watching Labour squirm as it either aims to do so (most likely, right now) or has to say why it will, after all, have to increase taxes on those best able to pay so soon after the Tories have said they will cut them.

Such an approach from the Tories would be stupid. It might even be called juvenile. But that is exactly what I would expect of them. The trouble is that I cannot expect a mature response from Labour - including a blanket commitment to reverse all such measures when it is very apparent after this weekend that there is no Tory measure that the Labour leadership now seems to think worth reversing.

We could be in for some very dangerous politics this autumn as Tories play very silly games knowing that they are heading for electoral oblivion.