

The King's Speech: a half-baked hotchpotch that deliv...

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I was at a graduation yesterday, and so missed much of the King's Speech.

To be honest, I missed nothing of consequence.

There is to be a review on child poverty, but no intention to find the money to end the two child poverty cap, which renders any such review meaningless.

There was the announcement of two new private equity funds to slush money to the City. They are called GB Energy and the National Wealth Fund, but they are nothing of the sort. And even Labour cannot explain what it is about.

Rail nationalisation costs nothing, and simply means the end of franchising. That's effectively already happened.

There was nothing on water, except some token gesture penalties for water companies directors. Is that really all they think is required.

it was the same for the environment. Given GB Energy is just an investment fund there was nothing positive to say.

The minor electoral reforms Labour had committed to look to have been abandoned. The Lords is staying.

The workplace reforms are welcome, but pretty feeble.

Social reform was missed, altogether, for all practical purposes.

Some of the leasehold reforms are welcome, but it seems they do not go nearly far enough.

Some Bills, like smoking, football reform, and audit reform pick up work the Tories said they would do. They are hardly Labour issues.

There was no mention of how to actually address backlogs in tackling crime.

That was because the economic agenda is designed to deliver austerity.

And the Lords Spiritual (Women) Act 2015 (extension) Bill will ensure more remain bishops sit in the Lords when they should be gone for good.

There was nothing for Scotland, or Wales. There was for English regions.

In summary, this is a hotch-potch of minor commitments which add up to something considerably less than a vision published by a government that does not believe it has the power to manage the country, the economy, or our future. Half-baked, in two words. And all of it predicated on growth that Rachel Reeves and the Bank of England are guaranteeing cannot happen.

This is going to end in tears.