

Funding the Future

Starmer's already given up

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Having been away for a long weekend - and, as usual, having kept the blog going despite supposedly being on holiday - I am now back and catching up with things. My apologies to all those who had to wait some time for moderation.

Late this morning, I did have time to post some quick reactions to what Keir Starmer had been saying. I wrote this Twitter thread:

 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy ...

There is literally no need at all for Labour to deliver a painful budget in October. There is a massive capacity to increase taxes on wealth. If Labour wanted to borrow they could. And there are people who want good work.

11:52 AM · Aug 27, 2024 · 125.4K Views



 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 6h ...
So, the 'pain' is all about Starmer & Reeves' choice to deliver hardcore neoliberal dogma and not meet people's needs.



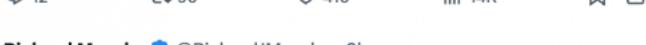
 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 6h ...
Starmer is worse than the Tories. They at least admitted to their pleasure at imposing austerity. He pretends he has no choice but do it when that's completely untrue. He's choosing to undertax wealth, under deliver services, and over deliver misery.



 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 6h ...
I knew Labour would be bad, but they're already plumbing depths in their determination to appease wealth, the City and far-right economic dogmatists that I could not have imagined.



 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 6h ...
They are, quite emphatically, LINO - Labour In Name Only.



 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 6h ...
And who will pay for this? Children in poverty. Many pensioners. Those dependent on public services. Anyone in education. Business, because the economy will not flourish. Pretty much all of us then. And Labour seemingly just doesn't care.



I then followed that with this Tweet:

 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 6h ...
Labour is not making tough decisions. That would require that it stand up to those demanding austerity. They aren't doing that. They're making the easy decisions instead. We're left with making the tough choices because they won't.
55 749 1.7K 39K

And finally, this one:

 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 6h ...
If Labour didn't want to make the tough decisions that it keeps complaining are being demanded of them why did they want to be in government?
73 278 810 25K

If my frustration shows, so be it. It needs to do so. Starmer and Reeves are an utter disgrace to the whole history of the labour movement, social democratic thinking and the people who so recently elected them in good faith, thinking they might deliver something better than the Tories.

I have summarised how I feel in this final thread, posted this evening:

 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 6s ...
This is what Starmer did, in effect, say today:
"I am so sorry we cannot govern. That's the Tories' fault. There's nothing we can do about it. So we are going to do exactly what they did, except it may be worse."
6:58 PM · Aug 27, 2024
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 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 6s ...
Few prime ministers have abrogated their responsibility or declared their incompetence so openly. But, having given him credit for admitting that, there is nothing else Starmer said or did that can in any way be considered to be the action of a responsible prime minister.
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 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 5s ...
Is it already possible that Starmer might be a worse prime minister than Sunak, May and Cameron, or even Johnson and Truss? It cannot be ruled out if he carries on like this.
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I am not sure there is a lot to add.