

The likelihood that this is a very happy Labour governm...

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The Labour Party conference has begun. It must be agony for those newly promoted to high ministerial posts. Recently granted status as Privy Councillors, and so newly adorned with the title of 'Right Honourable', those holding Cabinet office must have spent years dreaming of what they might do when finally given the opportunity to exercise power. Now, they have discovered the reality.

Firstly, they are required to do media rounds defending the near impossible actions of Keir Starmer.

Secondly, they have to explain, as if they really mean it, that the purpose of a Labour government is to punish those who are weakest within our society.

Thirdly, instead of delivering the programmes that they longed to create, they now discover that their only task is to cut the already miserable agenda that their Tory predecessors put in place. Any initiative that costs more than a pack of photocopier paper will not get the approval of Rachel Reeves.

The net consequence is that being a Cabinet minister must now be about as much fun as being an accountant in a failing company shortly before the liquidators move in.

Despite this, the possessors of shiny new red boxes are required to say that Keir Starmer will recover his popularity, which is reportedly now lower than that of Rishi Sunak.

It is also demanded that they explain that cuts are the necessary precursors of growth, even though no one on earth believes that.

And, they must now suffer the indignity of speculation on whether they bought their own new suit for conference, or not.

This is, as should be obvious, a position that none of them ever wanted to find themselves in, and the fact that they are the subjects of so much discomfort is almost entirely the fault of Keir Starmer and Rachel Reeves. Every single one of them is aware

of that. In that case, there is an obvious question to ask, which is for how long will they put up with this?

Starmer and Reeves appear to belong to that school of management that should have disappeared long ago, which believed that ritual humiliation is a valid form of motivation. It isn't, and it never was. It is, however, a rich source of resentment. That must already exist. It can only grow. The likelihood that this is a very happy Labour government is very low indeed.