

Funding the Future

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As [the FT has reported](#):

Rachel Reeves has vowed to “invest, invest, invest” as she prepares to ramp up borrowing to fund a multibillion-pound capital programme at this month’s Budget.

If so, she should have been saying so on 6 July. But she wasn't, so I don't really believe her. She talked about bashing pensioners instead, supposedly to wow jittery financial markets, as if the winter fuel allowance made the slightest bit of difference to them.

She's still living in fear of markets, again, according to the FT

But the UK chancellor also sought to assure jittery markets, telling the Financial Times she would install “guardrails” and was not in “a race to get money out of the door”. “It’s about making prudent, sensible investments in the long term and we need guardrails around that,” she said.

So, that's carbon capture then rather than really investing to make a change, because as I tweeted yesterday:

 Richard Murphy 
@RichardJMurphy

...

Investment in carbon capture and storage is not an investment in the green economy. It's an investment in perpetuating the fossil fuel economy. Don't be fooled by [@UKLabour](#) and its desire to support big oil and carbon based industry. They're burning your future.

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Someone needs to tell Reeves three things.

First, she sets the agenda now. Markets don't.

Second, climate change is real.

Third, we won't beat it by balancing the budget.

The trouble is she doesn't believe she's in charge; she does believe in fossil fuels, and she does think that balancing the budget is all she has to do to deliver everlasting peace on Earth.

How someone quite so wrong got to be in her position of power is a discussion that is ongoing on this blog. Right now, let's just note that she is, like Starmer, continuing to get almost every decision and every announcement that she makes wrong.

The odd mistake is forgivable, of course. We all make them. Continual misjudgment is something else. That comes from incompetence, seriously misplaced thinking, or both. I think it's both.