

Funding the Future

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I have listened to Gary Stevenson's latest video, issued this weekend, to which I provide a link below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rAb_p5DCC3E?si=kK134HRju4T-hn7Q

Several things stood out for me in what he had to say.

The first was that he now admits that a wealth tax is not the only way in which inequality in our society can be tackled and that, in practice, other taxes on income, gain and profits arising from wealth can also have a role.

This has not been Gary's position to date, and I warmly welcome the change of heart because I think it is necessary and because it makes the prospect of effecting change very much higher.

It also creates a much stronger common ground between us because we both absolutely agree that inequality is the fundamental cause of many of our problems in the UK and that government action to tackle this is essential, with taxation being by far the most effective tool available for this purpose.

The second welcome change is that Gary is thinking more broadly about what people might do to bring about change. He is doing this at the same time as my own thinking about the way in which I might write my videos has been changing. Having studied quite a number of specialist content creators and their advice on how to script the most effective videos, it is apparent that any video needs to end with a call to action. I am now going to include these in many more of my videos, and it is clear that Gary is as well.

If more than 90% of the people in the UK are going to be afflicted by the curse of inequality that Labour is willingly seeking to impose on this country, then it is very obvious that as many people as possible must begin to protest in any way that they can

so that their voices are heard in opposing what Labour is seeking to do. It seems we also agree on that.

Harnessing the energy of the people that mainstream neoliberal politics and economics deliberately set out to harm is the only way that, in the end, change will happen. There is no other way it can. So, beginning that process and discussing how it can be advanced is vital. We are in agreement.

Finally, Gary discussed the failure of left-of-centre think tanks to even comprehend the issue of inequality, mainly because most of the people working in them are just too personally comfortable to ever think that such an issue matters. They prefer to focus on green issues or things like identity politics instead - which might matter to them because of their privilege, but which ignores the fact that for a majority of people, the issue of surviving in an economy set up to make that as hard as possible is their most significant issue of concern.

It so happens that this was the issue that I have spent a lot of time [considering in the last week](#) - precisely because I witnessed an NGO spectacularly failing for this reason last week and probably wasting considerable resources as a result, all of which caused me considerable concern and even stress. I still do not feel able to write objectively about that as yet, but I will. The abysmal failure of the left and its think tanks is too significant an issue to ignore, however uncomfortable it will make some and however unpopular it might make me for saying so. Gary tackled this at about 12 minutes in. I will be doing so soon.