

Farewell Sir Keir Starmer MP

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Sir Keir Starmer is to leave the House of Commons, resigning on the first day after the summer recess and opening the possibility of a very difficult by-election for Labour in his Holborn and St Pancras constituency, where the Greens have a very strong level of support, and Andrew Feinstein ran him a close thing in the last general election.

Let me relish the idea of Labour losing the seat of the former Prime Minister for a moment....

Now let me also say a few kind words about Sir Keir, his career, and his future in the House of Lords, the prospect of which he did not close down by saying that it was only his time in the Commons that he had brought to a close....

I struggled, but there are no such kind words to find. What is there to say about a man who lied his way to the leadership of the Labour Party, and then reneged on every promise he made?

What is there to say of a man who accused his predecessor of antisemitism, and then used his own Zionism to push out of the party so many whose natural political home was in it, as well as so many Jews who could not tolerate his positions on Palestine, the West Bank, and much more?

What also is there to say of a man who arrived in Downing Street without a clue as to what to do, and then proved that he never formed one thereafter, when the country was crying out for change, which was the banner under which he was elected, but the need for which he never understood?

What, too, is there to say of a man whose only achievement is to have moved Labour so far to the right that it cannot in any meaningful way now be considered a party of the left?

I struggled to answer any of these questions, but all I can say is that even Ramsay MacDonald did not sell out as badly as this.

Labour had poor leaders before Keir Starmer, but none as treacherous as him, a man who so clearly took office for what seems to be the sole purpose of advancing the interests of Israel ahead of those of the country that he was meant to govern.

My sincere hope is that Starmer will not be rewarded with a seat in the House of Lords, but I rather strongly suspect that is exactly where he is now headed. Burnham does, after all, want to set the precedent for his own eventual progression.