



Cameron's Trade Union bill is Mont Pelerin Society fascism

By Gabrielle Peut

UK Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservative Party government is preparing an extraordinary assault against the British Trade Union movement and the Labour Party, not seen since the days of Margaret Thatcher. Cameron's Trade Union Bill, now before the House of Lords, will strangle the right to protest; heavily circumscribe the already limited freedom of workers to take industrial action; allow employers to replace striking workers with agency labour; criminalise picketing; and strip away over £6 million of union funding to the Labour Party. First introduced in July 2015, at its second reading in September the House of Commons passed the Trade Union Bill by a mere 33 votes—indicating that virtually all the minor parties sided with Labour against it, underscoring the widespread rejection of this draconian legislation; as of this writing the House of Lords is now debating amendments.

However, the opposition to this Bill from the unions and the Labour Party, while genuine, has been weakened by their inability to truly understand who their mortal enemy is, and to rip the mask off. Such a weakness has consequences, because if this bill is not defeated—that is, not just amended, but defeated—it will break the back of the last institutionalised resistance to mass austerity and privatisations, and consolidate the UK as a Crown-controlled, City of London financial dictatorship.

As documented below (and in this week's *Australian Almanac*), it is the overtly fascist apparatus of economic think tanks and lobby groups, operating under the umbrella of the Mont Pelerin Society (MPS)—the creation of the Crown/City of London elite—which is behind this Trade Union Bill, as it has been behind every economic “reform” since Margaret Thatcher. The reforms from Thatcher onwards have cumulatively ripped power (and wealth) away from the government and British voters and concentrated that power and wealth in the banks and financial houses of the City of London. The MPS organised parallel operations all over the world: in the 1990s the Citizens Electoral Council, publisher of the *AAS*, exposed its steering hand in the economic reforms which ripped through Australia and New Zealand beginning in the 1980s¹. Until those CEC reports put the MPS under a spotlight, its network had operated globally for decades in relative secrecy; crucially, the CEC also exposed that the financial backing for the MPS “revolution”, as it is called, came from a source that few Britons dare to look at—the British Monarchy!

Mont Pelerin Society in Britain

As documented in the *Australian Almanac*, the MPS formed in Switzerland in 1947; although they would howl in denial, the collection of European aristocrats and “Austrian School” economists, including the venerated Friedrich von Hayek, who attended that founding meeting committed, in essence, to revive the discredited corporatist fascism of Mussolini, only recently defeated in WWII (indeed, at least one of the aristocrats had sponsored the early rise of the Nazi Party²). *This group plotted a completely free market economy—without trade restrictions, unions or welfare—that would be enforced by the full power of the state.* The crucial early funding for the global operation that commenced at Mont Pelerin was

provided by City of London financier Harley Drayton, who managed the British Royal family's personal fortune. Although keen to cover it up, the British Royals too were ardent supporters of fascism and Nazi eugenics (in 1961 Prince Philip, former Dutch Nazi Prince Bernhard and leading eugenicist Julian Huxley founded the World Wildlife Fund to promote eugenics by another name—conservation). Drayton's largesse bespoke the British Crown and City of London's big plans for this new organisation.

In 1955 MPS member Antony Fisher, and Major William Oliver Smedley, established a stronghold for the MPS in London called the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA). Fisher and Smedley both despised Britain's post-WWII Labour government under Prime Minister Clement Atlee, who had implemented “dirigist” economic measures in the UK, some of which were influenced by the success of Labour movements around the world, including in Australia. Atlee had nationalised the Bank of England; rapidly expanded Britain's economy achieving almost full-employment; established a publicly funded health care system, the National Health Service, which provided health care to all free of charge; and nationalised 20 per cent of the economy, including civil aviation, coal mining, the railways, canals, communications, electricity and gas utilities, and more.

The success of Atlee's reforms defined a new post-war “settlement”, or consensus, in British politics between Labour and the Conservatives, which lasted for the next three decades. However, the emergence of the MPS in this period represented the bitter resistance of an elite cabal in the Crown/City of London establishment which was determined to crush this development (precisely the resistance that new Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn confronts today).

Antony Fisher emerged to lead that resistance. As the IEA's Gerald Frost noted in a memorial to Fisher, during the 1940s Fisher penned strident attacks on Atlee in a number of articles for publications and newspapers, which slammed “the fallacy of state planning, the perverse effects of government intervention in the economy and the harmful consequences of agricultural subsidies”. Fisher had read an article in the April 1945 edition of *Readers Digest* about Friedrich von Hayek—who is a god to MPS followers—which included a summary of Hayek's *The Road to Serfdom*.

After devouring Hayek's work, Fisher went to see Hayek in 1947 at his office at the London School of Economics; Fisher recorded in his memoirs that Hayek recruited him to the strategy of spreading fascist economics through a network of MPS-type think tanks: “It was for me a fateful meeting. Hayek warned against wasting time—as I was then tempted—by taking up a political career. He explained his view that the decisive influence in the battle of ideas and policy was wielded by intellectuals whom he characterised as the ‘second-hand dealer in ideas’.... If I shared the view that better ideas were not getting a fair hearing, his counsel was that I should join with others in forming a scholarly research organisation to supply intellectuals in universities, schools, journalism and broadcasting with authoritative studies of the economic theory of markets and its application to practical affairs”.

With funding and personnel provided by Harley Drayton, Fisher and Smedley founded the IEA in 1955 to masquerade as such a “scholarly research organisation”, as Hayek

1. www.cecaust.com.au/stopcrownplot

2. Max von Thurn and Taxis funded the Thule Society—see *Australian Almanac*.

had suggested, but to actually function as an ideologically motivated PR operation. This deception was intentional, Smedley wrote:

“Imperative that we should give no indication in our literature that we are working to educate the Public along certain lines which might be interpreted as having a political bias. In other words, if we said openly that we were re-teaching the economics of the free-market, it might enable our enemies to question the charitableness of our motives. That is why the first draft (of the Institute’s aims) is written in rather cagey terms.”

Thus Fisher and Smedley set in train the events that would see the MPS take back control of British politics for the Crown and City of London, with one intention: to reverse and destroy the Atlee government’s tremendous reforms by dictating, ironically under the label of the “free market”, a fascist economic formula of mass privatisations, financial deregulation, and Nazi austerity.

Fisher handed over control of the IEA in 1957 to Ralph Harris, a fellow of the British Eugenics Society, whom he had recruited to Hayek’s strategy of conquest-by-think tank in 1949. Fisher went on to establish some 150 think tanks globally, including the entire apparatus of right-wing foundations which dictate US politics and economic policy, such as the Heritage Foundation, as well as the network of similar think tanks in Australia and New Zealand, the most influential of which is the Centre for Independent Studies. All of these organisations are copies of the IEA and fronts for the MPS. Through his efforts, Fisher probably did more than any other individual to entrench the fascist ideology of the MPS in Britain and globally.



MPS member Sir Antony Fisher started the Institute of Economic Affairs, which directed Thatcher’s economic program. Under Thatcher’s gaze Fisher’s daughter Linda Whetstone announced that program at the Tory Party’s 1978 conference.

Meanwhile Ralph Harris cultivated relationships at home that would bring about their “glorious revolution” of rabid “free market economies” and “liberalism”. One crucial such relationship was with his fellow eugenicist Sir Keith Joseph, the son of a Lord Mayor of the City of London (who is also the head of the City of London Corporation—the centre of British financial power; Keith Joseph was himself an Alderman of the City of London). A Tory member of parliament, throughout the

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IEA’s banking wunderkind is Cameron’s chief union buster

The minister responsible for the Trade Union Bill in the Cameron government is the Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills. Javid is a City of London-Wall Street high-flyer: starting out at Chase Manhattan Bank in 1994, he was the youngest vice-president in that bank’s history at age 25. He joined Deutsche Bank in London in 1997, becoming managing director from 2004-09, and global head of the “Emerging Markets Structuring” division from 2005-09, in which roles he oversaw the Bank’s trade in Collateralised Debt Obligations (CDO) derivatives and other toxic products that would trigger the 2008 Global Financial Crisis. Claiming he left banking in 2009 (just as Deutsche’s losses were becoming apparent) to “give something back to politics”, Javid’s first appointment in the new Cameron government was to the banking-sensitive position of financial secretary to the Treasury!

Javid is open about his ties and loyalty to the MPS apparatus, specifically the main British front for the MPS, the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), of which he has been a member since his student days (Javid doesn’t say whether his IEA membership greased his spectacular rise in banking). At the 60th anniversary dinner of the IEA on 18 June 2015, a month before he introduced the Trade Union Bill into Parliament, Javid eulogised the history of the IEA, and its impact on Britain and his own life.

“Let me start by congratulating the Institute of Economic Affairs on its 60th birthday,” he said. “For 60 years now you’ve been thinking the unthinkable ... winning hearts and minds and influencing governments from Westminster to Washington to Warsaw and everywhere in between.

“...After leaving the RAF a young Sir Antony Fisher was set on a career in politics. But Friedrich Hayek told him that if he really wanted to change the world he should forget

about becoming an MP ... and start a think tank instead. I don’t know if that means I’m in the wrong job! But I do know that we should all be very grateful for Hayek’s intervention. Because the think-tank Sir Antony established would go on to play a huge and important role in political and economic history.”

Javid continued, “When I was born, the IEA was already a teenager. By the time I joined, as a student down in Exeter, it was well into middle age ... and was probably one of the most influential think tanks anywhere in the Western World. The Institute’s work really resonated with me, taking the theories of the economists I admired ... Hayek, Friedman, and Minford ... and showing how easily and practically they could be applied in the real world. It both reflected and deeply influenced my views, helping to develop the economic and political philosophy that guides me to this day.

“And its back story spoke to me too, showing that you don’t have to be fabulously wealthy to think capitalism is a good thing. Like Ralph Harris I’m a working class kid who grew up on an inner-city estate. Like Ralph Harris I saw firsthand the realities of poverty. And,” he concluded, “like Ralph Harris, I have never been in any doubt that free enterprise is the best way to bring prosperity to as many people as possible. *That the free market can solve not just economic problems, but social ones too.*”

Javid’s sentiment is a fraud. By praising Ralph Harris who, like Keith Joseph, was committed to eugenics, his declaration that the free market can solve social problems is in fact an ominous threat. Like the rest of the Cameron government’s Nazi austerity policies, and Thatcherism previously, his Trade Union bill will further eviscerate and kill the poor and vulnerable whom Joseph condemned in 1974 as a “threat” to Britain’s “human stock”.

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1960s Joseph worked with the IEA sporadically, but by 1974, anxious to begin a think tank himself, he asked Ralph Harris for instruction and help, which led him to establish the Centre for Policy Studies (CPS). Joseph's main parliamentary collaborator, and vice-chairman of the CPS, was the rising Conservative Party star, the Member for Finchley, Margaret Thatcher. Joseph set up the CPS to achieve a very specific political objective: "My aim was to convert the Tory Party", he later explained.

Thatcherism

Through Joseph and Thatcher, the MPS and its IEA/CPS spawn would radically change the future of the UK. Thatcher later attributed her success to Joseph and the CPS: "I could not have become leader of the opposition, or achieved what I did as prime minister, without Keith", who she called "my closest political friend". Initially Joseph, not Thatcher, was on track to be the next leader of the Conservative Party, but he was forced to stand aside following the political uproar over a 19 October 1974 speech that betrayed his Nazi eugenics attitude to the poor. Joseph's central theme was that the poor, whom he called "the lower orders", left to proliferating to excess, were leading Britain to degeneration. Joseph argued that "a high and rising proportion of children are being born to mothers least fitted to bring children into the world and to bring them up. They are born to mothers who were first pregnant in adolescence in social classes four and five ... Some are of low intelligence, most of low educational attainment ... *The balance of our population, our human stock is threatened*", he raved. The Nazi philosophy of Joseph's message was clear, but it was not an aberration—this was the defining attitude of the British Royals and European aristocracy behind the MPS.

Margaret Thatcher had been an admirer of MPS guru Friedrich von Hayek since she read *The Road to Serfdom* in her undergraduate days at Oxford University. Thatcher's memorial website says: "... it became part of her enduring outlook. In fact one can argue that few books influenced her more deeply at any point in her life." (Her love of Hayek led to him being appointed a Member of the Order of the Companions of Honour in 1984 by Queen Elizabeth II, on Thatcher's advice, for his "services to the study of economics".) When she won the leadership of the Conservative Party in 1975, under Joseph's guidance she turned to the IEA to create the policies for a future government; the IEA arranged a meeting between Hayek and Thatcher.

The Conservative Party's 1978 National Conference, themed "The Next Government", unveiled the fascist privatisation, union busting and Nazi austerity agenda that came to be known as Thatcherism. The conference was chaired by Linda Whetstone, the daughter of IEA founder Antony Fisher. With Thatcher watching intently behind the podium, Whetstone announced the chilling new program for Britain:

"We cannot, as Sir Keith Joseph said, reduce unemployment. It is not in the power of the government to reduce unemployment and we cannot promise it to the electorate ... We can create a climate for employment, and I believe that we can only do this by undoing the damage which has been done by years of legislation ... Too much legislation, which we must start undoing *however unpalatable it may be*.... The next Conservative government must not pander or protect certain sectors. *Let's not go out of our way to help* small businesses, agriculture, the unions, coloured people, women ..."

Whetstone concluded, "I may be what people call a right wing Conservative, but I believe we cannot help those people who cannot help themselves at the moment, because we cannot afford to do it. We cannot give them the choice in education, we cannot give them the choice in health care, that

some of us may be able to afford, and we cannot do it because we insist on trying to help different groups on trying to legislate against things all the time...."

Like a Nuremberg rally, as Whetstone was finishing her speech the band started up and the conference attendees leapt to their feet singing God Save the Queen, applauding raucously!

Crushing the UK's trade unions became the cornerstone of the Thatcher/IEA agenda. Stripping union's of power allowed her to charge ahead with mass privatisations, including of gas and electricity, British airways, and Britain's telecommunications. Massive job losses followed, which collapsed union numbers. From around 13 million members in 1979, union membership now hovers around six million.

The clear winner from Thatcherism is the City of London financial centre, into which wealth and political power has become concentrated on a scale perhaps not seen since the height of the East India Company in the 18th century. At their annual Margaret Thatcher lecture in 2013, the Centre for Policy Studies boasted that the City of London Corporation has had a "long and successful history of working with CPS".

In fighting Cameron's Trade Union Bill, Labour and the unions are actually not fighting for their own interests, but against fascism, which has turned the UK into a corporate state controlled by the Crown-City of London Establishment (Book Review, p. 20). It is time they took the gloves off, named this Nazi apparatus, and recruited the British people to their just cause.

Cameron's fascist cabal

David Cameron's Conservative government is dominated by a cabal, including Cameron himself, which unashamedly represents the ideology of the IEA and the CPS. Cameron's campaign strategist, who was also Thatcher's campaign strategist, is CPS chairman Lord Maurice Saatchi, who has close business ties with the City of London Corporation. Cameron's Director of Strategy is Steve Hilton, a trustee of the Policy Exchange (PX) think tank (below), who is married to Rachel Whetstone, the daughter of IEA trustee Linda Whetstone and granddaughter of Sir Antony Fisher; previously with Google, Whetstone is now an executive with Uber. Known as the Tory power couple, it is said that Hilton and Whetstone's political connections were crucial to Cameron's rise to the top of the party.

The Guardian's political editor Patrick Wintour called Hilton's Policy Exchange "the most influential think tank in Britain", while the *Evening Standard's* Joe Murphy called it "the intellectual boot camp of the Tory modernisers". Cameron has said that "without Policy Exchange there would be no Conservative revolution". The operatives at PX are the "modernisers" for Cameron's Conservatives "as the Institute of Economic Affairs built the intellectual foundations for Thatcherism in Britain", *The Guardian's* Andy Beckett wrote on 28 September 2008. Beckett named some of the PX personnel who drew up the strategy for Cameron's first moves in government: "Michael Gove, the shadow schools secretary, British neoconservative and another important ally of the Tory leader, was the think tank's founding chairman. Francis Maude, the shadow cabinet office minister and influential Tory 'moderniser', was also one of the think tank's founders." The other key founding member and former director of PX is Nicholas Boles, the Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Schools Minister and one of the presenters of Cameron's Trade Union Bill.