



PRESS RELEASES

01.04.16 - Vote "NO" to EU says Scargill - The Socialist Case for Leaving the European Union

Socialist Labour Party Leader Arthur Scargill, speaking in South Yorkshire, outlined the case from the left for British withdrawal.

"Britain's membership of the EU had virtually destroyed our major industries - the latest victim being British Steel - while devastating the NHS, starving education and virtually eliminating council housing. The policy and austerity measures of EU directives have destroyed jobs and communities, spreading hardship and poverty ever wider yet the banks received a multi-billion pound bailout. Britain's loss of sovereignty is such that unless we leave the European Union the crisis, both economic and social, will get worse".

Mr Scargill lambasted the free movement of both labour *and* capital, which have resulted in the destruction of British Industry, zero-hours contracts, unemployment, homelessness and poverty not seen in Britain since the 1930s. He said: "What is needed is a policy in line with the economic principles that prevailed for a short period after 1945: we need import controls and subsidies to stop imports including goods produced in intolerable conditions by slave and child labour".

He continued: "Immigrants, particularly from former British colonies, and asylumseekers in need of refuge are not the cause of the economic crisis and the massive population increase in Britain. Last year, for example, the number of immigrants and asylum seekers entering Britain was only 250,000 whilst 350,000 British citizens emigrated - in other words a net outflow of 100,000. However in the same year, the free movement of labour - a fundamental principle enshrined in Article 45 of the EU Treaty - resulted in over 550,000 citizens from amongst the 30 countries permitted to do so by the EU entering the UK 'freely'. It is this free movement of labour which has created a crisis both economic and social - and political.

He slammed the Labour Party leadership, both past and present, for its policy of remaining in the EU and working for "improvements". "The current Labour Party leadership's policy is a betrayal of socialist principle and a betrayal of all those in the Labour and Trades Union Movement who campaigned in 1975 for a 'No' vote. I was centrally involved, along with Tony Benn, in that campaign".

"In the forthcoming referendum, the people of Britain are going to have to decide whether we continue to surrender our sovereignty and become part of a United States of Europe - or whether we get out of this European Union hell and get back into the world.

I call upon everyone on 23 June to vote 'NO' and restore Britain to the British people."