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Explication d'un texte extrait du programme

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Explication de texte

Heath, Edward, Leader's Speech at the Conservative Party Conference, Blackpool, October 13th, 1973.

Source:

<http://www.britishpoliticalspeech.org/speech-archive.htm?speech=120>.

Explication de faits de langue

Le candidat proposera une analyse linguistique des segments soulignés dans le texte.

[...] I know that more and more trade unionists all over the country, and their leaders with whom I have had so many hours of talks, are now beginning to understand the real meaning of the policies we have been pursuing. It has not been an easy time for us. Trade unionists have suffered, like everyone else, from the rise in world prices, yet in the ten months since we introduced our counter-inflation policy the days lost through strikes are less than a quarter of those lost in the ten months that went before—less than a quarter. That is a much more orderly development of our economy and of our labour relations.

I believe that we are now seeing a fresh climate developing in industry. There is a new understanding that there are better ways to resolve problems than by calling a strike. Today the trade unionists come regularly to Downing Street, as do the employers, to tell us their views, to argue their case. They do not come in the heat of a crisis. They come in a calm atmosphere to discuss future policy. This has not been wasted time, for we have taken account of their views and suggestions in the counter-inflation policy. Too often in the past a strike was the only way for a union to make its views known. Those days are past. Our talks in Downing Street are held regularly before there is a dispute. They have had more influence on policy than any number of demonstrations or strikes.

We recognise the contribution that the leaders of the trade union movement have to make to our policies. Surely a strike can now become a weapon of only the very last resort instead of being the first thing that comes into somebody's head. But we also recognise the contribution that ordinary men and women have to make in the running of the businesses in which they work. If employers fail to talk to their employees or, worse, do not listen to the views of their employees, they cannot really be surprised if their industrial relations are not as good as they might be. This is, however, neither a sensible nor a civilised way to run industry. Employers—and all the good employers recognise this and have long done so—have a duty to give their employees a much bigger say in the decisions that affect their everyday life.

We shall soon be publishing our proposals and our ideas for extending and improving participation in industry. It will demonstrate once again our belief that co-operation is a better policy than conflict.

Mr. President, I would like to take your mind back to the last Conference speech I made before the election of 1970. I told you then that we were setting out to fight for higher living standards, and those we have achieved; to fight for a better deal for those in need, and that has been ably fulfilled; to fight for a strong Britain with influence in the world,

and I have described to you how we are bringing it about; to fight not for a narrow, sectional or class interest but for all the people in this country.

45 That is what I said in 1969 and a little more than three months later my colleagues and I met and decided on the priorities necessary to carry this out. We announced a programme that was published on the front page of every national newspaper. It was headlined as a five-star plan.

Tax cuts was the first—brought about by the Chancellor.

The reform of industrial relations brought about by Robert Carr.

50 The new pensions for the over-80s, more help for those in need—brought about by Keith Joseph.

Action to deal with crime—brought about by Reggie Maudling and Robert Carr.

New legislation on immigration and stricter control—brought about by Reggie Maudling and implemented by Robert Carr.

55 Those were the five points—that was the five-star plan—which appeared the morning after our meeting. That meeting was at Selsdon Park. That was what was really laid down at that conference. That is the reality, not the myth of Selsdon Park.

60 Do not forget—and do not let our opponents forget—that we carried out all this against a background of six years of socialism which squandered the skills, stunted the enterprise and drained the nation of energy and achievement. What we had to do when we took office was to reverse the dreary deflation and stagnation of those years. [...]