



The Week that was

This week Employment Minister Chris Grayling urged firms to employ teenager Brits over experienced and older foreigner workers. This is indeed very interesting; how many companies would be ready to employ less experienced staff if they could fill their vacancies with experienced individuals. It seems that the minister is forgetting that private sector companies are not there for public benefit but their *raison d'etre* is to maximise their profits.

Once-upon-a time charities would have been in a position to take this action but with a dearth of contracts and an emphasis on payment by results plus the difficult financial crisis means that all incorporated companies – whether charity or private – need to employ the best person for the job in order to ensure that they achieve the best result. Mmmm? This sounds like British jobs for British workers... I wonder who else said that?

The pay of senior staff in (Russell Group) universities has doubled in less than a decade to over £300k for university chancellors, this is at a time when universities are been asked to do more to encourage students from poorer backgrounds to attend universities. We also see that The Children' Society has warned that families may be better off reducing the number of hours they work because the new benefits system will adversely affect them. In the future I can see the beginning of a vicious cycle where poverty begets poverty to the extent that those from poorer backgrounds cannot afford to go to university because tuition fees have gone up to £9,000 per annum, housing costs have soured, jobs are in short supply, employers are employing foreign workers, only part-time jobs are available, crime has gone up, there's rioting and disorder, charities are closing, mental health conditions and work limiting conditions are ignored..... **that's strange!! It's happening now!!** Why is this all happening? It is happening because the Coalition Government is made up of multi-millionaires who do not understand the pain and the uncertainty that families and individuals are experiencing and it's happening because the Labour Party left the country in a terrible mess and still cannot bring itself to apologise to the British people. We surely need new politics for new times....

Have a great weekend

Floyd

Opposition Position

Despite official figures this week revealing that employment levels had actually increased, the Labour Party took the opportunity to criticise the Coalition Government's employment strategy. Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary Liam Byrne seemed to miss the point that the increase in workers was the result of part time work. Instead Mr Byrne criticised the background of the Government stating ***"Last month's budget should have taken big and bold action to get Britain back to work. Instead we got a hand-out for millionaires, and a slap down for anyone on tax credits"***.

Head line of the week

The Times, 18/04/2012

“Employers can’t get enough of material girls in a material world” – How older women have fared the best in the job market since the start of the recession.