

The Lib Dems' stance on immigrants is their most dishonest (and dangerous) policy yet

A key part of the Lib Dems appeal is their claim to be the party of moderation and honesty. The fact is that Nick Clegg's party conceal many of their core policies from their election literature as they pretend to be a 'third way' between Labour and the Tories but **the Liberal Democrat manifesto represents a huge blow to Britain's social cohesion and national identity.**

On perhaps the most important issue that British society faces, the Lib Dems are anything but moderate, reasonable or straight. **On the question of immigration, the chief concern of many voters after more than a decade of Labour's disastrous open-door policy, Clegg and his party are ideological extremists.**

Hard as it may be to believe, **the Lib Dems are even more determined than Labour to dismantle our borders.** The Liberal Democrat leader continually boasts about his 'honesty', but by far the most dishonest moment in the first 'Leaders' Debate' recently shown on ITV was when Clegg talked tough about immigration. With frightening hypocrisy, he spoke of a crackdown and more rigorous frontier controls, while also accusing Brown of presiding over 'chaos'.

But Clegg's words were hollow. **For in its advocacy of an extraordinarily lenient policy on migration, his party's manifesto represents a huge blow to Britain's social cohesion and national identity.** For too long already under Labour, immigration has been out of control, with 5.4 million people settling here since 1997.

During recent years the annual number of arrivals has been running at more than 500,000, and that doesn't include the countless number of illegal immigrants. Even in 2009, after all Labour's noisy rhetoric about new restrictions, the immigrant total was still 518,000.

Never in our history has this nation been through such a dramatic demographic change, and the trend is speeding up. No fewer than a quarter of all births in Britain are to foreign-born mothers, with the figure rising to an astonishing 55 per cent in London. Any politician who cared about the future of our country would be calling for action to reverse this destructive pattern. **But the Lib Dems, while cynically adopting a populist posture on the campaign trail, are dogmatic enthusiasts for more uncontrolled immigration.**

They are like the worst sort of earnest student radicals, clinging to policies wholly out of tune with the public mood. **For the Lib Dems want to institute a full amnesty for illegal immigrants living in Britain, meaning such law-breakers could work, demand benefits and gain British citizenship.**

Using the language of sophistry, the Lib Dems' manifesto asserts that this would not only boost our economy by turning illegals into taxpayers, but also free up the police to concentrate on real crimes.

But such claims insult the intelligence. **The truth is that, once granted, an amnesty would act as a magnet for migrants from all over the world, as others would quickly realise that they would almost certainly be treated with the same welcoming leniency if they were to come here illegally.**

Human trafficking would rocket. Relatives of illegals, from spouses to distant uncles, would pour into the country. The Government admits that it 'doesn't have a clue' how many illegal migrants there are in Britain, but reliable estimates point to at least 750,000. **If an amnesty were implemented, that number could be more than trebled by the subsequent, completely legal arrival of all their dependants. An amnesty would stretch our overly generous welfare system to breaking point.**

The great myth of the pro-immigration lobby is to pretend that newcomers have been the engine of economic prosperity. True, many have made a wonderful contribution to this country. **But the fact is that any economic gains have been outweighed by the colossal costs to the public sector in housing, education, healthcare and social security. As a host of authoritative studies shows, migrants are more likely to be in receipt of benefits than the British-born population.**

It is one of the reasons why our public finances have sunk into massive deficits during a period of unprecedented immigration. **Moreover, there is a terrible injustice about an amnesty, in that it both makes a mockery of the law by rewarding criminals and is grossly unfair on those who settled here legally.**

And the modern history of the western world is that amnesties do not work. Since 1980, Italy has had 20 of them and Spain six, **as a result of which immigration in both countries has soared.** Similarly, the U.S. instituted an amnesty in 1986 when the number of illegals stood at 3.5 million. Today, that figure is thought to have reached 20 million. Far from serving as a symbol of decency, an amnesty represents a surrender to illegality. **Such a move is a sign that a country has given up trying to maintain its borders.**

But that is the entire thrust of the Lib Dems' policy. **This is a party that no longer believes in the integrity of the United Kingdom. An 'EU-wide asylum system' is called for in the party's manifesto - meaning we have to surrender some of our border controls to bureaucrats in Brussels.**

In the same undemocratic vein, **the Lib Dems want to take power away from the Home Office and set up an 'Independent Agency For Asylum',** as if Britain were not already drowning in state bureaucracy. At least the Home Secretary is answerable to Parliament and the electorate.

This quango, no doubt packed with the politically correct brigade, will be a