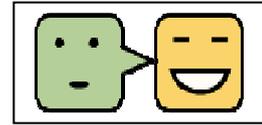




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Speaking Tips #54 – An all-purpose political speech!

2011-10-25 (published by Graig Brown 29 September 2011 in The Daily Mail)

Great to be here in... Great place, great people. And that's what makes this country truly great. Not only great people. But great places too. Great places like this! With great people like you!

(APPLAUS)

But now let me say this. I need to say this because this is not only something that is worth saying. It's something that needs saying. And yes, it is also something that needs to be said. And that's why I say this to you now. Some things need saying and we must never stop saying what needs to be said!

(APPLAUS)

Well I'm sorry, I'm not the sort of guy who stops saying what needs to be said. I'm not that sort of guy because I truly believe that there are some things you've just got to say. And that is why I will never stop saying what needs to be said. Let me tell you frankly. This country faces tough decisions. Times are not easy. Never have been. Never will be. People are worried. And rightly so. Now is not the time for the same old answers. People need to know where I stand. It may not make me popular. But I'm not in the business of courting popularity. So -frankly and fearlessly- let me tell you where I stand. I stand behind the ordinary, decent, hard-working people of this great country of ours!

(APPLAUS)

There is a clear choice facing our country. Do we go backwards – or do we go forwards? Do we look to the great possibilities of the future – or do we get mired down in the mistakes of the past? I have to tell you frankly. I didn't come into politics in order to get mired down in the mistakes of the past. I came into politics because I believed in standing up for what is right. The very old. The very young. The middle-aged. Couples. Single parents. Schoolkids. Toddlers. All of them, human beings like ourselves!

(APPLAUS)

Let me tell you a little bit about myself. My instincts. My values. My beliefs. These are what I hold dear. My parents were truly marvelous people. When my mother gave birth to me, I was just a baby. But she fed me. And she clothed me. She watched me grow. And she made me what I am today. It can't have been easy. But she did it because she believed in doing it. And for that, I thank her. From the bottom of my heart.

(TEARS, APPLAUS)

Let's face it. This party has much to be proud of. Jobs. The economy. Taxes. Law and order. Foreign affairs. The environment. But let's face it. There were some things we didn't get right. The environment. Foreign affairs. Law and order. Taxes. The economy. Job. Let us never be afraid to apologise, for these, our great failures and achievements!

(APPLAUS)

You know, I've learnt a lot since you elected me as your leader. And, as your leader, what I have learnt, above all, is a lesson. It's a lesson I have learnt as your leader, and that, I will continue to learn as your leader. And let me say this. The lesson I have learnt as your leader is that there will always be lessons to learn!

(APPLAUS)

Regrets? I've had a few. But then again too few to mention. I did what I had to do and saw it through without exemption. I planned each charted course. Each careful step along the byway. But more, much more than this.

I did it – my way!

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