

“What good does it do to be able to eat at a lunch counter if you can't buy a hamburger?”

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Dr. Martin Luther King, 1965

And, 50 years later:

“What good does it do to have one trillion pounds of oil and gas off your West coast and still have food banks?”

August 2015:

This is a profound question that is simply not asked nor answered by the Scottish parliament nor by the SNP leadership.

It is however, airing in conversations across Scotland.

Why after 40 years of North Sea oil wealth extraction and decades of the “Barnett formula” are people still unable to feed their families in Scotland? Why, with this super-abundance of wealth, are there more food banks than ever? Why is one in five Scottish children currently born into poverty?

Why is this not the case in South-East England?

Divergence into economic theory or inane babble from University professors, petty minded mouthpieces at the Financial Times or Nobel prize winners could ensue, but the truth is more simple.

We Scots permitted our wealth to be siphoned from our macro-economy, including oil, and this will continue indefinitely as we are a devolved colony and not an independent nation.

Nation states simply do not let others (Westminster) dictate how much wealth is taxed and returned (Barnett formula) to support their people and provide stability and growth.

This is an anachronism in the modern world, just like devolution.

Devolution and it's bastard cousin the Barnett formula are systems designed to keep Scots arguing and provide a contrivance for “talking heads” to banter numbers and lie to us.

These Unionist devised systems keep the Scots poor, our children hungry and keep many frightened ***and will*** prevent our potential from ever being reached.

Little else matters when hunger is your companion.

“What good does it do to have one trillion pounds of oil and gas off your West coast and still have food banks?”

Why in 2014 did the Scottish Parliament allow oil companies to begin exploring West coast gas and oil reserves estimated at over 1 trillion pounds *before independence*? For a few jobs? Could Holyrood have not waited until all revenues and taxation levels are set by a free Scottish parliament?

How much benefit has Scotland accrued from 40 years of 'jobs' in the North East oil fields? Little to none.

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Unlike Norway where its oil/gas wealth has been managed for the people for forty years, Scots have willingly – through lack of action, sanctioned the use of their wealth to fund everything from Westminster's wars to white elephant projects like HS2.

The Chilcot reports ghostly absence and no branch lines into Scotland are testament to that.

So, our 56 SNP MPs sit in the meetings and committees in Westminster, and their hearts and voices are caring ones. For all the poor, all the disabled, enlightened and driven.

And yet, they can't *buy that hamburger*. Like the Black American in the mid sixties, they are seen and not heard.

Westminster provides a framework via General “UK” elections and through Scottish Parliamentary elections where our “vote” supposedly influences the lives of Scots for their betterment.

The unfortunate truth is we're being hoodwinked by the world's best snake-oil salesman. The Westminster system.

We can order as many burgers as we like in Scotland, the menu is now extensive, full of vows and promises, they even try new garnishes like FFA.

But in the end the order will arrive late and cold, if at all.

Independence lets you write your *own* menu and order the burger the way *you* like it.

And, it will arrive as ordered, most times!