ANDREW MARR:
Well you may have noticed the name Jim Murphy cropped up in that interview. Fuelled by Irn-Bru, the shadow cabinet minister toured a hundred cities in a hundred days during the referendum campaign arguing for Scotland to stay in the UK. Now he’s thrown his hat into the ring in the contest to be Scottish Labour Leader. Mr Murphy joins me now from Glasgow. Welcome to you. Good morning.

JIM MURPHY:
Good morning.

ANDREW MARR:
Now you heard Alex Salmond there, not particularly apologetic about the tone of the campaign. Do you think that what he was saying was quite fair – grown-up politicians should accept the insults, the occasional egg perhaps even, and not complain too much?

JIM MURPHY:
Well I enjoyed the referendum campaign. It was a fantastic, passionate debate that people who are not normally engaged in politics got involved in. Of course people took it far too far and I couldn’t care whether people throw eggs at me. People have thrown a lot worse at me during my political career and certainly before I got involved in politics. Growing up on a Glasgow housing scheme people threw an awful lot worse than eggs at me. But the fact was that’s just a dry cleaning bill. I couldn’t care less about that. What was more worrying for a lot of people was the fact that there seemed to be during the referendum a sense on the streets that nationalists want to deal in the streets and the streets belong to them; and people like me who wanted to make a counter argument for a patriotic case for no thanks, we weren’t allowed to make that case in the way in which crowds gathered at locations in which I was organising my meeting, orchestrated on occasion by the local Yes campaign, I don’t think was a great advert for politics. But I’m not one to dwell on that. I want to look at that as part of the past and take the energy of the referendum and all those people who got involved in the referendum campaign, for the first time they ever got involved in politics – take that energy and direct it towards not having another referendum, but some of the problems that Scotland still has about homelessness …

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Well if I can turn to …

JIM MURPHY:

(over) … and the number of people who are out of work or people who are relying on food banks. I don’t think there’s anything in Scotland that Scotland cannot solve here if we take that energy we had on September 18th and keep it involved in politics.

ANDREW MARR:

Well let’s turn to one aspect of contemporary politics, which is the Labour Party’s position in Scotland. Would you accept that you’re in deep, dire trouble in Scotland?

JIM MURPHY:

I think we’ve got a lot of work to do. I accept that. I said that yesterday and I say again this morning that I want to apologise to the people of Scotland because they spoke twice in 2007 and in 2011 in those two Scottish elections and we didn’t listen,
we didn’t get it, and I do want to apologise because too many people thought in the past that we just weren’t up to the job of governing in Scotland. Now it wasn’t our ideals that were out of kilter with Scots because they still voted for us to be the UK government and run so many of our big cities here, in Scotland, but it was just a case that they had a perception. And from where they were sitting, I don’t think they were wrong – that on occasion we just weren’t good enough north of the border when it came to those elections – and that has to change.

ANDREW MARR:
And now you’ve had these two terrible opinion polls and a haemorrhage of people moving from the Labour Party to the SNP. Really whoever leads the Scottish Labour Party is going to have Ed Miliband’s hopes of getting into No. 10 as part of the job description, aren’t they?

JIM MURPHY:
Well first of all, course, I listened to Alex Salmond’s reflections on this and Alec of course is soon to be yesterday’s man because the sun is setting on his career and it’s time for a new generation of my age and younger to be more involved and get involved in shaping Scotland’s destiny. And what he said earlier seems to be a sense that in a couple of weeks’ time he’ll announce that he’s going back to Westminster yet again for the third time and if I was Nicola Sturgeon I would be a bit worried that she’s going to have a back street driver looking over and directing her from the House of Commons in that sense. But there’s a lesson there also for the Scottish Labour …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) But …

JIM MURPHY:
(over) … for the Scottish Labour … for the Scottish Labour Party.

ANDREW MARR:
Yeah.

JIM MURPHY:
I know that what we’ve got to do is roll up our sleeves, work harder, stay united as a party and come up with a vision for the country because parties that turn in on themselves … Think of the football analogy. If a football team tackles its own players in public and takes on its players in public, it very quickly starts to play in an empty football stadium without any supporters. And there’s a lesson in that football analogy for the Labour Party …

**ANDREW MARR:**
*(over)* Is this …

**JIM MURPHY:**
*(over)* … and all the political parties as we watch the Tory Party tear itself apart, but I’m confident Ed Miliband’s Labour Party won’t do that sort of thing.

**ANDREW MARR:**
Well Ed Miliband though depends upon you or somebody else stopping the haemorrhage of support. You’ve only got a few months to go to the General Election campaign. You’re in a dire position in the polls. It’s too late already, isn’t it?

**JIM MURPHY:**
No I don’t think it is and I’m glad you reminded your viewers there are three candidates in this contest …

**ANDREW MARR:**
Indeed.

**JIM MURPHY:**
... and I’m sure you’ll get a chance to interview Neil Findlay and Sarah Boyack as well who are both excellent candidates. But …

**ANDREW MARR:**
That’s very gentlemanly of you. *(laughs)*

**JIM MURPHY:**
Well the time for seeing your opponents or your enemies inside your own party is over here in Scotland. We can’t do that sort of politics anymore. We’ve got an enormous challenge. We want to reconnect with the people of Scotland and we’ve got to use all of the talents that we have in the Scottish Labour Party, in the Scottish Trade Union Movement to improve the Scottish Labour Party. For me, it’s a sense of more power for Scotland, for power for the Scottish Party and more power for the Scottish Parliament, more prosperity in the country. Because politicians quite often debate how you spend the money. That’s right that we do that, but we have to talk about how we raise the money and then, thirdly, how do we drive out poverty that’s generational in far too many families? Those are the sorts of things that we should be doing. I think if we do that across the UK as we’re doing and here in Scotland, I think we’ve a real chance of holding every constituency that we currently hold here in Scotland and returning Labour MPs in each of those seats.

ANDREW MARR:
Really? I meanwhile, of course, you are a Westminster MP and a lot of people will say how could you possibly lead the Scottish Labour Party in Scotland when you’re not even a member of the Holyrood Parliament, when you’re not able to face Nicola Sturgeon across the despatch box, ask her questions, respond to her? You’d have to be in the Strangers’ gallery watching from a distance. But if you have a by-election, that’s probably a by-election at the moment the Labour Party can’t win in Scotland.

JIM MURPHY:
Well I’m going to try and … Andrew, I hope you don’t mind if I say I’m going to try and get one election at a time. There are three candidates and obviously I’m going to try and get through this election and be successful in the Scottish Labour Party’s election, but …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) But surely part of your pitch …

JIM MURPHY:
(over) I hope you don’t mind … I hope Alec …
ANDREW MARR:
(over) … is an answer to that question, isn’t it?

JIM MURPHY:
(over) … I hope Alec doesn’t mind that … Alex Salmond doesn’t mind I’m going to take a wee leaf out of his book for once, which is that of course he was the leader of the party when he was at Westminster. Alec has been in Westminster, then Holyrood, then Westminster, then Holyrood. In a couple of weeks’ time, we’re going to hear an announcement that he’s going back to Westminster to be Nicola Sturgeon’s back street … back street driver. So that’s …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) But a lot of people …

JIM MURPHY:
(over) … that’s just the way that politics has been. I’m determined to be in the Scottish Parliament in 2016, to be Labour’s candidate for 2016 as First Minister, if not …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) But not before?

JIM MURPHY:
(over) … if not before. But I’m going to talk about that of course after the election in the Labour Party and the Trade Union Movement here in Scotland, but I’m determined to do that.

ANDREW MARR:
(over) It’s just that you say one election at a time, but a lot of people are going to be looking at you inside the Labour Party and asking that same question before they decide whether to vote for you or not. Are you going to try to get into the Scottish Parliament and lead the Scottish Labour Party in the Scottish Parliament as the Scottish Labour Party Leader before the General Election – yes or no?
JIM MURPHY:
Well I’m going to try and get in the Scottish Parliament by 2016. If an earlier opportunity arises, then of course that would be of great interest as well. But the main thing is to get through this process through November and December, to try and lead the Scottish Labour Party – lead it back to a sense of pride and passion and belief, restore its self-confidence, and also give a sense to the people of Scotland that the Scottish Labour Party is a party that reflects the ambition of our great country; that they themselves can vote for the Scottish Labour Party again …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Okay.

JIM MURPHY:
(over) … with that sense of pride and passion. We’ve got a long way to go …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Okay fina…

JIM MURPHY:
(over) … and I’m confident that we can do it.

ANDREW MARR:
Finally, Jim Murphy, are you going to stand for the Westminster Parliament at the next General Election or not?

JIM MURPHY:
Well that’s the same question with a different form of words …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) A very straightforward question.

JIM MURPHY:
It’s a very straightforward question.
ANDREW MARR:
People have a right to know, don’t they?

JIM MURPHY:
Of course, it’s a very straightforward answer. It’s that I’m going to concentrate on one election at a time and I’ll make that clear to the electorate in East Renfrewshire of course and make it clear to them first. But it’s one election at a time. Look it’d be arrogant, wouldn’t it Andrew, to say when …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) It wouldn’t be arrogant to answer the question.

JIM MURPHY:
(over) No it would be arrogant to … it would be arrogant to say when I win, I will do this. There’s a lot of work to do. There are three great candidates in this contest and it’s got to be a great advert for the Scottish Labour Party. Listening to the political debate in Scotland in recent weeks, it’s as if the referendum result had turned out on a Yes vote. It was a two-horse race. It wasn’t even close, there were two million people and more that voted No in the referendum, and yet the horse that lost that two-horse race has spent the last 6 weeks parading round the winning enclosure at the race track …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Alright …

JIM MURPHY:
(over) … and doing a lap of honour. The fact is that if I am contrite about Labour’s mistakes in the past in 2011 …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Well that’s a metaphor which …

JIM MURPHY:
… then the SN… But surely the SNP have to show a degree of modesty for the fact that we lost the referendum?

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Well that’s a metaphor which Alex Salmond as a horse racing man would appreciate, I’m sure. Jim Murphy from Glasgow, thank you very much indeed for joining us today.

JIM MURPHY:

Thank you.

INTERVIEW ENDS