

ANDREW MARR SHOW
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PAUL NUTTALL

AM: Are you serious that you can take out Labour seats in large numbers in the north of England?

PN: Yes, I am. Because the Labour Party in its current guise led by Jeremy Corbyn seems to be interested in the issues which swirl around the Islington dinner party. I don't believe that they represent working people any more. And I think we can go into these communities, talk about the issues that matter to working people: crime, social mobility, controlling immigration, and we can become the patriotic voice of working people.

AM: And do you think that you can do well enough, because UKIP has had a long history of getting lots and lots of votes, accumulating large numbers of people voting, but without getting the MPs?

PN: Yes, I mean, undoubtedly the electoral system in the past has worked against us. What we've got to do now is target sensibly, drill down in these local communities, and under my leadership I intend to use council halls and council chambers as the gateway to Westminster, and you'll see a lot more UKIP councillors working hard in their communities. We're going into these Labour areas, knocking on doors and ensuring we're talking about the things that matter to those people.

AM: Now, you've said right at the beginning of your leadership that you are a very different kind of leader from Nigel Farage. So what is the difference?

PN: Well, everyone who knows the pair of us within the party knows that we're completely different people, we have different relationships with people. I'm not from any faction within the party. I'm the only –

AM: Clearly you sound different and you look different and all of that, but in terms of your policies and your approach to politics what's the difference?

PN: Well, in many ways we're similar, okay. I mean, Nigel was my political mentor for many years. I was his deputy for six years. But you know, my real focus is making UKIP that patriotic voice of working people.

AM: Why can you reach these working people in a way that he couldn't?

PN: Well, look, Nigel took us from zero per cent in the opinion polls to get four million votes at the general election and delivering us Brexit. You know, his legacy is immense. I've got big shoes to fill. I intend to do it. And you know, my background, I think, plays into the fact that I can go into these Labour communities. I'm a comprehensive schoolboy. You know, I come from a working class family in a working class area in Bootle, and I think we've got fantastic opportunities.

AM: On the other hand, you're a man of the Right not a man of the Left. And those are traditionally Labour Socialist voters, and when they hear your views about privatising the NHS, for instance, they are going to be horrified.

PN: Well, let me make it perfectly clear, I mean, I stood on a manifesto in 2015, a UKIP manifesto which I believe was the best manifesto out of any of the political parties, which ensured that we put three billion a year into the NHS and kept it public.

AM: That's the policy at the time. But you yourself said – 2011 – 'I would argue that the very existence of the NHS, the very existence of the NHS, stifles competition and as competition creates quality and choice improvements are restricted. Therefore I believe as long as the NHS is the sacred cow of British politics the longer the British people will suffer with a second-rate health service.' You want to privatise the NHS.

PN: Firstly, nothing should be a sacred cow in British politics. All things should be up for debate. But in certain areas, like procurement for example, I think the NHS could do better because in certain areas the NHS is paying 30 per cent over the odds for certain drugs. If you brought in a private company you could hire and fire on (AM: But you're) .. the British people.

AM: You're not talking about procurement there, you're talking about privatising of the NHS. Which for a lot of Labour voters is anathema.

PN: Under my leadership UKIP will be committed to keeping the NHS in public hand and free at the point of delivery.

AM: Let me remind you of what you said at the famous hustings in 2011.

(archive insert, PN: Privatisation Okay, the NHS is a hangover from days gone by unfortunately, or fortunately shall we say we are becoming an older population and quite frankly I would like to see more free market introduced into the NHS... Let's all face reality here this is where it has to go we are an aging population.)

AM: That's the reality. I'm sorry about the camerawork, it wasn't a BBC crew, as you can tell. Nevertheless it's quite clear you want to privatise the NHS.

PN: Look –

AM: Well, do you did. Unless you've changed your views

PN: Hang on. You know, I made it clear we are an ageing population, we're a growing population as well. At some point in this century, years on, we may well have to have a debate how we fund the NHS in this country. But I want to make it clear, under my leadership UKIP will be committed to putting more money into the NHS, but onto the front line, into nurses, into doctors, into midwives. Because it cannot be right – let me finish – it cannot be right that in England today 51 per cent of people who work for the NHS are not clinically qualified.

AM: You're sounding like you're now massaging the sacred cow. Have you changed your views?

PN: No, I think that everything in politics should be up for debate. Nothing should be parked, because if you don't debate things, things never improve.

AM: And one day it might go private?

PN: Well, maybe at some point, in years to come, within this century we'll have to have this debate, but it won't be under my leadership in UKIP.

AM: Okay, let's talk about welfare. Again, a lot of people are very concerned about cuts to universal credit. Would you reverse the cuts to universal credit?

PN: I probably would not reverse the cuts. I think the welfare budget in this country is –

AM: It's too high.

PN: Well, I think so. And we need to do something. It cannot be right that we have 1.7 million people in Britain today who are unemployed. 600,000 of them are between 18 and 24. And this goes back to the key issue of immigration actually, because last week we allowed – the figures came out that we allowed this year a city the size of Newcastle-upon-Tyne to come to this country. That is insane when you've got 1.7 million people unemployed. What we need to do is to get our own people back into work first before we bring people in to do other jobs.

AM: Your views on immigration won't be a terrible surprise to most people, I suspect. But you've also expressed quite strong views on social policies. You want to bring back hanging for child killers, for instance. And you want to cut the abortion limits. In both cases you want a referendum, is that right?

PN: Hang on. They are my personal views. For example, on the issue of child killers, if there was a referendum tomorrow and that was on the table, I would vote in favour. There's other people in UKIP who would vote differently. That is not going to be UKIP policy, it's a personal view.

AM: Would you like a referendum on that?

PN: UKIP's policy has always been that if, say, ten per cent of people sign a petition in a small timeframe it would trigger referendums. It works in Switzerland, it can work in this country as well. It's called direct democracy.

AM: Alright, you'll have seen the story in the newspapers today that you have a PhD from Liverpool Hope University.

PN: No, and I've never claimed I have got a PhD.

AM: It's on your website.

PN: It's not on my website, it's on a LinkedIn page that wasn't put up by us, and we don't know where it's come from, okay. So I've never claimed that at all ever.

AM: Did you ever play professional football for Tranmere Rovers?

PN: I played for five years for Tranmere Rovers as a schoolboy and a youth team player. I've never claimed that I've been a professional. It was one press release in 2010 put out by a press officer who knows nothing about football.

AM: You had a very over-enthusiastic researcher. Do you still have that enthusiastic researcher?

PN: Well, I don't know where that comment has come from. That was to do with the Daily Mail story today which said that I had PhD from Liverpool Hope. I've never claimed – and in fact actually if you listen to interviews –

AM: Nothing to do with you.

PN: It's nothing to do with me, and if you listen to interviews I've given over the past five years, I've always spoken about wanting to finish my PhD which I started in 2004.

AM: Final very quick question, if I may. Do you think the way things are coming out of the papers at the moment, the Conservatives are going to betray the Brexit vote?

PN: I think we're on a slippery slope. I think what David Davis said last week when he spoke about paying a membership fee indicates that the Conservatives are thinking about keeping us the single market, the Norway option, which means we won't be able to control our borders, we will have to pay a membership fee, we can't sign our own free trade deals, and we will have to comply with EU regulations and directives. That's not –

AM: That's not what you want.

PN: That's not what people voted for on June 23rd. They voted for a clean Brexit.

AM: Paul Nuttall thank you very much indeed for talking to us.
(ends)