THE ANDREW MARR SHOW

OCTOBER 6th 2013

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SOFA CHAT WITH:

THERESA MAY AND NIGEL FARAGE

ANDREW MARR: One thing that I will throw into the pot is what Michael Heseltine said just the other day. He said ‘of course UKIP are all racists, we all know that’. Were you surprised? Were you hurt by that?

NIGEL FARAGE: He is just an out of touch old dinosaur. He is the man that would still want to have us in the Euro, he can’t bear the thought there’s even a Eurosceptic party in this country. Frankly, the more he insults us, the more he insults many of his own supporters, because Conservative people, voters know, UKIP is not racist, but it is about standing up for the country.

ANDREW MARR: Theresa May, as a politician of the centre right, do you think actually UKIP has done in your cause, quite a lot of good. I mean it’s gingered up the Conservatives in a way that perhaps wouldn’t have happened without a party to the right of your party.

THERESA MAY: No, I think what the Conservative Party is doing is absolutely right, they’re looking ahead to what we can offer people at the next General Election. We want obviously to get back with a majority government, so that we can put in to place the various changes that we’re committed to like the scrapping on the Human Rights Act and various other commitments that are Conservative commitments.

ANDREW MARR: Would you pull us out of the European Court of Human Rights. I asked the Prime Minister and he seemed to say yes, probably, was his ... I summarise but ....
THERESA MAY: What I think is absolutely right is we need to look at the relationship we have with the European Court and the European Convention. That work is being led by my colleague, Chris Grayling at the moment and if it takes pulling out of the European Convention to sort out our Human Rights laws, then you know, that should be on the table.

NIGEL FARAGE: But that’s fine, but we can’t do that and stay a member of the European Union. The two are completely linked. You know that, yet we’ve never had that conversation. Are you saying we can leave that and stay part of the European Union?

THERESA MAY: What I’m saying Nigel is that we need to take a sensible approach in looking at how we sort out our relationship with the European Court and with the European Convention.

NIGEL FARAGE: Well, they’ve become one of the same thing.

THERESA MAY: And that’s what ... (interjection)

NIGEL FARAGE: They’ve become one of the same thing. You know, the Commission, the European Commission are perfectly clear, you cannot be an EU member if you withdraw from the auspices to the Court.

ANDREW MARR: Okay, that stone worked quite well. One more little pebble in to the pond which is the Adam Afriyie amendment to bring the referendum forward to 2014. Do you think that’s a goer, looking at the numbers and thinking about your Party?

THERESA MAY: I think Adam has got it wrong. I think what we need to do is to be negotiating that settlement with the European Union and then put to the British people the Europe of the future and not the Europe of the past and give them that opportunity to say whether to be in or out.

ANDREW MARR: Is this a fleebite or a real threat do you think, getting this vote through?

THERESA MAY: I think what is crucial is that we have at the next election a Conservative Party that will be offering people that renegotiation, a new settlement with Europe, looking to the future and then putting that to the British people in an ‘in’ or ‘out’ referendum and what the amendment
possibly could do, as James Wharton himself with putting the referendum Bill through parliament has said, is it could actually jeopardise that Bill.

ANDREW MARR: When do you think we’re going to see the renegotiated plan of David Cameron… (interjection)

NIGEL FARAGE: Well, there is no serious renegotiation on offer. Indeed Mr Barroso, the Commission President said that this week. This is merely a tactic, to kick the issue in the long grass, beyond the next election. And what’s going to shock the Tories is when Ed Miliband makes the same pledge for a referendum, which he will.

BOTH TOGETHERE

THERESA MAY: This is a serious renegotiation and then a referendum, for the British people to make their decision.

ANDREW MARR: On this note of genial consensus, we’ve run out of time. Thank you both very much indeed.

END OF SOFA DISCUSSION