ANDREW MARR:
Now “it’s been a difficult week for the government” is a phrase we should probably ban. But it really has been this time. With the news that the economy had slipped back into recession competing with the latest revelations from the Leveson Inquiry coming on top of a Conservative funding scandal, panic at the petrol pumps, and a budget which I think it’s fair to say was not universally acclaimed, the Prime Minister might be feeling rather battle scarred as he prepares his party to face the voters at this week’s local elections. Well David Cameron joins me now. Good morning.

DAVID CAMERON:
Good morning.

ANDREW MARR:
Let’s start with the Murdoch story and the revelations about that. Could I ask one particular thing? We’ll get onto the general picture in a moment, but there’s been some confusion as to whether you yourself discussed the BSkyB bid with James Murdoch at Rebekah Brooks’ party. Can you tell us if that happened or not?

DAVID CAMERON:
Yes, I can, and obviously I’ll be explaining all this to the Leveson Inquiry. I mean what I’ve always said is I never had any inappropriate conversations with anyone about this, not least because I’d completely recused myself, taken myself out of any decision making about this important deal. What I recall at that dinner is that it came a couple of days after the business secretary had had to resign from this part of his job effectively because he had been recorded saying he wanted to destroy Rupert Murdoch and his company. And what I recall saying, although I can’t remember every detail of a conversation, is saying something like clearly that was unacceptable, it was embarrassing for the government, embarrassing, and you know to be clear that from now on this whole issue would be dealt with impartially, properly, in the correct way. But obviously I had nothing to do with it; I’d recused myself from it. That’s what I recall.

**ANDREW MARR:**

*(over)* Do you find …

**DAVID CAMERON:**

*(over)* I’ll settle that out at the Leveson Inquiry …

**ANDREW MARR:**

Sure.

**DAVID CAMERON:**

… but, as I say, it’s difficult to remember every detail …

**ANDREW MARR:**

Sure.

**DAVID CAMERON:**

… but something along those lines.

**ANDREW MARR:**

And do you find it embarrassing in retrospect that you were at Rebekah Brooks’
Christmas party in the first place?

DAVID CAMERON:
Well clearly you know with all that’s been written and said about it, yes of course you know one might do things differently. But what I’d say is this; that let’s go to the big picture, we might as well. I mean let’s be frank, you had it from Helena Kennedy on that sofa there. The thing that people are asking really is was there some big deal, some big agreement between me and Rupert Murdoch or James Murdoch that in return for their support for the Conservative Party, I would somehow help their business interests or allow this merger to go through. I mean that is not true. Rupert Murdoch said it under oath at the Leveson Inquiry, James Murdoch said it under oath, I will say it under oath. Look, I did want …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Well …

DAVID CAMERON:
(over) Let me be clear.

ANDREW MARR:
Okay.

DAVID CAMERON:
I wanted the support of as many newspapers and as many television commentators for the Conservative Party because I wanted to take the country in a different direction.

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Wanted a turnaround. We understand that, we understand that.

DAVID CAMERON:
And also when it comes to the Murdoch newspapers, I was trying to convince a set of newspapers, who largely had Centre Right Conservative views anyway, that they would be better off with a Conservative Party running the country in the way that we would. So you know there’s no great mystery here. That’s what I was trying to do.
ANDREW MARR:
Okay, can I just sort of analyse that a little bit more …

DAVID CAMERON:
Sure.

ANDREW MARR:
… because everybody understands the moment when the Murdoch stable moved to support you was a huge moment. I mean we know how angry and upset Gordon Brown was - a big, big political moment and of enormous importance to you. We also know that Rupert Murdoch wanted a series of things. He was very hostile to Ofcom, and after he had made that switch, you made a speech saying that if you got into power, as a Conservative government you would clip Ofcom’s wings in effect; and he also wanted to take over BSkyB, an enormously lucrative deal for him. And the problem that your government has, I’d suggest, is that the texts and the emails that have come out between Jeremy Hunt’s people and Rupert Murdoch’s people are so friendly that it beggars belief that the government wasn’t tilted one way.

DAVID CAMERON:
I don’t accept that. My views on media policy, a lot of them were formed because I worked for an ITV company for seven and a half years. I’ve always believed actually in a strong BBC with the licence fee funding it. That is not a view that you find in many Murdoch newspapers, but that’s my view. That is my party’s policy, that’s my government’s policy. On the issue of Ofcom, yes I did think it had become too big. I thought the people running it were paid too much money. I did think, going back to my time in television when we had the Independent Television Commission, I think the focus of a competition authority and a regulatory authority ought to be on those things rather than policymaking, and so that was my view. Sometimes I agree with Rupert Murdoch about things. Lots of times, I violently disagree. His papers endlessly attacked me over my opposition to 42 day detention for suspects …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Okay, but would you agree …
DAVID CAMERON:
… so you know I just want to really be clear because people watching this need to know that the positions I reach are because I believe them, I think they’re right for our country. That’s the platform I stand on.

ANDREW MARR:
And you …

DAVID CAMERON:
I do not do things, to you know change my policies to suit this proprietor or that proprietor. That is not the way I work and I will say that under oath just as they’ve said it under oath.

ANDREW MARR:
And can we be absolutely clear that if there was a grand deal of the kind that you have said there wasn’t, that would actually be corrupt, that would be a terrible thing?

DAVID CAMERON:
Of course, it would be absolutely wrong for there to be any sort of deal and there wasn’t. Look, if there had been … Right, let’s assume there had been. Would I have appointed Vince Cable, a Liberal Democrat with quite a track record of not being particularly keen on News Corporation and Rupert Murdoch, to the job of running competition policy? Of course not. So the whole thing I think falls down. There was no grand deal. Did I spend time trying to win over newspaper proprietors, including the Daily Mail, the Daily Telegraph? Yes. Did I spend time with the Guardian and the Independent trying to persuade them I didn’t have a tail and horns? Yes. Did I spend a lot of time with the BBC with political editors, people actually who are watched by millions of people on the television every night …

ANDREW MARR:
Sure.

DAVID CAMERON:
… to try and convince them that I had the right policies, the right plans, the right personality? Yes, I did.

ANDREW MARR:
(over) But when …

DAVID CAMERON:
(over) That is what politicians have to do. Have we all got too close? Yes. Do we spend too much time on this short-term news management agenda? Yes, we do. Should we try and have a better relationship where we fight the daily fire fight with the media, but we focus on the long-term change our economy needs, our society needs? Yes. And if that comes out of Leveson, great.

ANDREW MARR:
Would it be a great thing if you stopped seeing editors and proprietors privately, just stopped it?

DAVID CAMERON:
Well personally I’d be quite happy if I didn’t have to see nearly as many journalists and proprietors as I do. I think the answer is the …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) You don’t need them actually.

DAVID CAMERON:
(over) You do. Actually you know what, you do. I am trying to communicate my vision for this country and the things we need to do: how are we going to get our economy moving, how do we help hardworking people who feel they get a bad deal from too many governments for too long? Do you need to get your message across? Yes of course you do, and that’s why I spend a lot of time talking to them. I think the answer is transparency. You can now see which political editors, which editors, which proprietors I see, whether publicly or privately. It’s all made public. And actually since coming into government, I’ve also tried to have a slightly better distance in terms of news management and all the rest of it. It’s difficult. We live in a 24 hour
media news world …

**ANDREW MARR:**
(over) Right, well let’s just …

**DAVID CAMERON:**
… where you know you’re permanently under pressure to try and deal with those issues.

**ANDREW MARR:**
I understand that. Let’s just, if you don’t mind, go through a little bit of the detail of all this. Do you know how many meetings now that you did have with Rupert Murdoch because there’s been confusion about that?

**DAVID CAMERON:**
Yes I do and they’re all set out in the disclosures I’ve made. And if you actually look at what Rupert Murdoch said last week …

**ANDREW MARR:**
(over) So no more than you said before?

**DAVID CAMERON:**
Well he set out in his evidence to the inquiry and then those had to be corrected because I think there were some mistakes. And there were also some things put down as possible meetings. What I can say, Andrew, is my officials have been through my diary in the greatest possible detail. And the thing about a Prime Minister’s diary - it’s not just the things you think you’re going to do that day. You can also go back and it’s been logged exactly what you did do. So I’m as certain as I can be that I’ve got them right.

**ANDREW MARR:**
Okay.

**DAVID CAMERON:**
But I’m not embarrassed …

**ANDREW MARR:**
Okay.

**DAVID CAMERON:**
… about having these meetings because, as I say, I’ve been trying to communicate, get across what the government’s doing, what I believe in, the things we need to do for our country. And, frankly, you have to deal with the media in order to do that.

**ANDREW MARR:**
If you’re not embarrassed about that, how do you feel when you see these texts and emails going across saying … tipping off Rupert Mur…

**DAVID CAMERON:**
*(over)* Now that was wrong, there’s absolutely no doubt about that. You know the contact between the special adviser in the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and News International, that was too close, too frequent, inappropriate, and that’s why the special adviser resigned and that was the right thing to do.

**ANDREW MARR:**
*(over)* But it is inconceivable to many people that that level of incredibly important political contact would be going on without Jeremy Hunt knowing about it and approving it.

**DAVID CAMERON:**
Well this must be properly investigated and I think …

**ANDREW MARR:**
*(over)* It should be investigated …

**DAVID CAMERON:**
Yes, yes absolutely, and it will be.
ANDREW MARR:
… by a parliamentary inquiry …

DAVID CAMERON:
Well …

ANDREW MARR:
… not through the Leveson process. Leveson himself has said he’s got nothing to do with ministerial codes of conduct.

DAVID CAMERON:
I think we need to be absolutely clear that the ministerial code is for me, the behaviour of ministers is for me if ministers have behaved badly, broken the ministerial code, it is my responsibility either to ask Alex Allan’s advice about what should happen or to take action myself and say they can’t remain in the government. I don’t duck my responsibilities for one second …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) So what are you going to do about this?

DAVID CAMERON:
(over) … and if that has happened, then I will act. But - and this is the big but - what is the best way of getting the information about what actually happened? And I don’t believe there is any better process than an inquiry led by a judge where people give evidence under oath, and that is why, after consulting the cabinet secretary, I thought it would not be right to set up some sort of parallel investigation. But people should be absolutely clear if any information …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Well can I just come back to, can I come back to you on that specific point?

DAVID CAMERON:
Okay, yeah.
ANDREW MARR:
Because first of all the Leveson Inquiry isn’t going to report until the autumn.

DAVID CAMERON:
I’m not saying we have to wait till then. I’m saying …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) So you don’t have to wait for the report. You just have to look at the evidence.

DAVID CAMERON:
(over) The inquiry’s underway. Jeremy Hunt and others, everyone’s preparing their evidence for that inquiry - evidence they will give under oath. They’ll be questioned under oath and if information arises that paints a different picture from the one that we’ve heard, then obviously I know my responsibilities towards the ministerial code, towards how ministers behave, and I would act. The question that’s been asked in the last few days is literally should you set up a parallel inquiry that would duplicate what Leveson is doing? I don’t think that would be right.

ANDREW MARR:
Well the actual code itself doesn’t say that the Prime Minister, if there is an allegation of this kind, might or should or perhaps will. It says you absolutely will report this to the Alex Allan process and allow that to happen.

DAVID CAMERON:
(over) That’s if there’s …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Now it does say will. I mean on the face of it, you have to let this happen.

DAVID CAMERON:
No but I don’t … As things stand, I don’t believe Jeremy Hunt breached the ministerial code. If evidence comes out through this exhaustive inquiry where you’re giving evidence under oath, if he did breach the ministerial code then clearly that’s a
different issue and I would act. So I couldn’t be clearer about it. I’m not trying to
duck any of my responsibilities. I’m absolutely clear about the standards that
ministers have to live up to. I’m very clear about my role. I consulted the cabinet
secretary about what was right. Lord Justice Leveson himself has quite rightly said
that people should allow his inquiry to take its course, but I’m responsible for the
code of conduct, for ministers’ behaviour, and I will act properly in doing that.

ANDREW MARR:
And if it comes out (as it seems to) that people like Rebekah Brooks and so on are
going to put all of their emails and all of their private correspondence into the public
domain relating to this, will you do the same?

DAVID CAMERON:
I will do what I’m asked to by the inquiry. I think it’s very important everyone is very
transparent, very open. The aim of all this is to get to the bottom of what happened.
And I’ve said very clearly to you the idea there was some grand bargain between me
and Rupert Murdoch, that is not true. Was there too much closeness in the relationship
that has led to this sort of short-term media agenda? Yes I think there is. And I think
we need to find ways and frankly it’s an opportunity for all politicians … It's not as if
… You know if you actually look at how many meetings I had with Rupert Murdoch
since becoming Prime Minister - many fewer than Tony Blair, many fewer than
Gordon Brown. The problem of the relationship between media and politics has been
going on in our country for a long time. We’ve got the opportunity as a coalition
government with a judge led inquiry whose terms were agreed by all three party
leaders, we’ve got the opportunity to get it to a much, much better place. And in all
that, let’s remember it’s not just about newspapers; it’s also about the BBC and ITV
as well - both of whom are vigorous lobbyists.

ANDREW MARR:
Sure.

DAVID CAMERON:
Some of the toughest lobbying I’ve had is BBC executives on the licence fee, on
regulation and all the rest of it. So this issue of how we deal with these things, this is
an opportunity not to be missed.

ANDREW MARR:
And in retrospect, Jeremy Hunt is a very popular man in the House of Commons, as we heard earlier on. He’s a friend of yours. He was a big cheerleader for the Murdoch empire beforehand. He spent a lot of time with them over in the States and so on. In retrospect, was it a great idea to put him in charge as a quasi-judicial figure over this process?

DAVID CAMERON:
Well I think it was the right answer. You have to remember the problem we had, which is the business secretary, who does an excellent job, I admire his work, but on this issue he had said he wanted to destroy a British company.

ANDREW MARR:
(over) But having …

DAVID CAMERON:
(over) Hang on, hang on, I’m going to answer the question.

ANDREW MARR:
(over) … having tilted one way …

DAVID CAMERON:
(over) Okay, I’m going to answer the question.

ANDREW MARR:
(over) … weren’t you tilting the other way?

DAVID CAMERON:
So he couldn’t continue with that part of his responsibilities. I had as Prime Minister to decide what to do. I also consulted the cabinet secretary, and the most sensible, logical move was to take that part of responsibilities of the Business Department and give it to the Culture, Media and Sport Department. I asked the cabinet secretary if
that was appropriate. He said that it was. He consulted the Cabinet Office lawyers to make sure that anything Jeremy Hunt had said publicly in the past didn’t make it impossible for him to do the job. And so that was the decision that was reached. So I mean I think again you know the question is …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) But the consensus … I’m sorry …

DAVID CAMERON:
(over) … did I act properly in that? I believe absolutely I did.

ANDREW MARR:
The consensus across most of the papers and among many of your own backbenchers and leading Conservatives is that Jeremy Hunt really has not much future in this particular job. Are you standing a hundred per cent behind him today?

DAVID CAMERON:
I think he does a good job. I think he’s a good Culture, Media and Sport Secretary. I think he’s doing an excellent job on the Olympics. And, frankly, I do think in this …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) So you think he can survive?

DAVID CAMERON:
I think people deserve to have these things looked into properly. We’ve got to have a sense of natural justice where people can explain their actions, all the information comes out. And you know if someone’s breached the ministerial code badly and have behaved badly, they can’t stay in the government but they should be able …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) What about …

DAVID CAMERON:
(over) … to defend themselves. And this is look …
ANDREW MARR:
(over) Okay, can we just carry it on specifically, on the specific here?

DAVID CAMERON:
(over) No, but it comes to this whole thing about short-term and long-term.

ANDREW MARR:
Sure, I completely understand.

DAVID CAMERON:
You know often it would be much easier to sack someone the first time the papers complain about them. I had this exactly with Liam Fox.

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Well let’s not go back to Liam Fox. But …

DAVID CAMERON:
(over) You’ve got to try and make a bit of space, so you can get to the truth about what people are saying.

ANDREW MARR:
Well I mean Jeremy Hunt did say that he had published all the relevant correspondence between his department and News International. And then it came out through the Leveson Inquiry that there were all these emails and contacts with Adam Smith.

DAVID CAMERON:
To be fair, he’d explained that specific point in the House of Commons, answering that question, so I don’t think that is an issue. There’s also the issue in the papers about whether him and his permanent secretary are saying slightly different things.

ANDREW MARR:
Yes there are.
DAVID CAMERON:
I don’t think … I don’t actually think they are. The permanent secretary said that he
was content and aware for the contact to be made. But look again …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) But content is not the same thing as actively saying yes, this is a good way to
deal with it. He didn’t say that and Jeremy Hunt gave the impression that that’s what
had happened.

DAVID CAMERON:
I think saying that your permanent secretary is content, I think that is the important
point. But let me be clear, I’m not content with the way all this was done. That is why
Jeremy … (AM tries to interject) - hold on, let me answer - the cabinet secretary has
written to all departments - asked to by me - to make sure that we put in place proper
processes and follow the correct procedures for all these sorts of contacts because
clearly what was happening between the special adviser and News International was
wrong.

ANDREW MARR:
Given that the minister is in charge of his special adviser and that is what the
ministerial code says, why are you content with Jeremy Hunt’s behaviour in that
regard?

DAVID CAMERON:
Well look, I …

ANDREW MARR:
He is responsible for this.

DAVID CAMERON:
Yes of course, but the special adviser acted inappropriately. The special adviser has
resigned. I don’t think it would be right to …
ANDREW MARR:
(over) Critics say that’s sacking the staff.

DAVID CAMERON:
Well I don’t think it would be right in every circumstance if a special adviser gets something wrong to automatically sack the minister. I don’t think that would be right. That’s not an approach previous governments have taken, that’s not the approach I take. But again …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) So you think the special adviser was going off entirely on his own bat without reference to the minister, having these extremely friendly contacts in the middle of this process with News International and nobody else knew about it?

DAVID CAMERON:
Well all this will be revealed through the Leveson Inquiry process because all the contact between the minister and the special adviser, all of that is going to be laid bare. So you know the accusation … Let’s look again at the sort of big picture. The accusation is that we’re not getting to the bottom of what Jeremy Hunt did and did not know. Not true. There’s a judge led inquiry with people giving evidence under oath. That is far tougher than anything the Civil Service could arrange for me if I so asked. So there is absolutely no question that the information will be somehow buried. And second, the accusation is are you going to take responsibility for the minister’s behaviour and the ministerial code? Yes absolutely, I will. As this information comes out, if it does come out, I will act.

ANDREW MARR:
And if it’s clear through that Leveson process that we haven’t heard every single shred of information people are interested in, you will have another inquiry? You will go to Alex Allan at that point and say okay?

DAVID CAMERON:
The point about … Yes, the point about Alex Allan is that is to judge … to give me advice about whether the ministerial code …
ANDREW MARR:

(over) Is breached.

DAVID CAMERON:

... has been breached. The key thing we’re talking about here is a process. What’s the best way of finding out the information? I can’t think of a way …

ANDREW MARR:

Okay.

DAVID CAMERON:

... that’s better than a judge and giving evidence under oath and the rest of it.

ANDREW MARR:

Let’s turn to the economy. What is Plan B?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well what we’ve got to do is we’ve got to strain every sinew to make sure we get our economy growing and we get people back to work and we get ourselves out of the mess that we were left by the last government. The figures this week were you know extremely disappointing - that you know the economy didn’t grow in the first three months of this year. But I tell you what we absolutely mustn’t do and that is throw away our plans for dealing with the debt, dealing with the deficit, making sure public spending is properly reduced in the appropriate areas …

ANDREW MARR:

Okay.

DAVID CAMERON:

... because if we did that what we’d lose is the …

ANDREW MARR:

(over) No, no, I … the triple A rating and all the rest of it.
DAVID CAMERON:
(over) But the low interest rates we have, the low interest rates we have are absolutely vital to recovery. But …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Let’s put that off the table. So you’re not going to do that. But, nonetheless, I mean you said and the Chancellor said that you know we were going to have much stronger growth by now. We were going to have growth, never mind stronger growth. You know you were very, very optimistic about what would happen in the private sector pouring in to take up the slack. All of those things haven’t happened and so …

DAVID CAMERON:
(over) But hold on a second …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) … sorry … as between totally changing direction on your austerity plan and just chugging on when it seems to a lot of people that the policy isn’t working, there must be something else surely?

DAVID CAMERON:
Well let me just challenge one part of what you’ve said, which is what’s actually happening in our economy is a very difficult, very painstaking process of rebalancing our economy because the old model of growth - all about financial services, all about the South of England, all about debt in our banks and houses and government - that model is broken. We can’t pump it back up again.

ANDREW MARR:
Sure.

DAVID CAMERON:
And what’s actually happening in our economy, although not as fast as I’d like, is the private sector is growing. We’ve created 600,000 net private sector jobs since the
election. Manufacturing investment has increased. Exports to some of our fastest
growing markets like China and India are up you know 40, 50, 60 per cent. Now it’s
not going fast enough …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) But … Sorry the kind of thing you could do possibly, if you weren’t leading a
col�ion - I’d be interested in your views on this - is be even more ruthless on aspects
of government spending to get money to allow you to push infrastructure spending -
more roads, more railways; the kind of relatively short-term but job creating things
that many of your critics suggest you ought to be doing more of.

DAVID CAMERON:
Well I think we will look at all of those areas. I mean one of the things … You know
this is the biggest issue for the government. This is the biggest issue for the country.
This is the thing that drives me - is getting our economy moving, getting jobs for
hardworking people, and making sure that when people work hard and do the right
thing they get rewarded. That’s what actually I get out of bed to do every day. Now I
think we need to look at all of the areas - how we get our banks lending, how we
make sure the money goes into infrastructure, how we make it easier for businesses to
employ people, how we boost our exports, how we make sure that manufacturing and
the rebalancing in our economy takes place. All of those things are on the table. And
of course the figures were disappointing, but if you look at what’s happening in
manufacturing - our car industry with new plants being built by Jaguar Land Rover,
massive expansion at Nissan, steel making’s returned to Teeside - you know there is a
rebalancing taking place. It’s just not fast enough.

ANDREW MARR:
(over) I come back to the central … Sure. And I come back to the central question
then, which is what are you going to do to change things?

DAVID CAMERON:
You redouble all our efforts to make sure that whether it’s bank lending, whether it’s
the manufacturing industry, whether it’s regional policy, whether it’s enterprise zones,
whether it’s our work programme that is helping millions of people with training -
make sure all of those things are delivering. If you think, I mean ask me what I actually do all day, what I’m doing increasingly is meetings where I just go through the programmes that we set out - whether it is boosting the housing market, whether it’s getting infrastructure investment, whether it’s improving our export performance - and making sure the government is actually delivering the things that it said it would do. That is the vital work for this year.

ANDREW MARR:
Sure. If this country has been adopting the right policies, unlike countries such as the United States which didn’t go for nearly as tough an austerity regime, why is it that the United States is growing and we’re not?

DAVID CAMERON:
Well I think there are a number of points there. I mean, first of all, the United States’ plans are for tougher austerity measures than we have here in the UK. The second point - they don’t have the Eurozone on their doorstep. And we’ve seen you know in the last couple of weeks Spain going into recession, Holland going into recession, Italy going into recession.

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Are we halfway through this Euro crisis, in your view, rather than at the end of it? In other words, do you think there’s going to be another grim period ahead?

DAVID CAMERON:
I don’t think we’re anywhere near halfway through it because what’s happening in the Eurozone is a massive tension between the single currency that countries are finding very difficult to adapt to, and that’s what we’re seeing. So I don’t think we’re nearly halfway through it. I think it’s going to be a very long and painful process in the Eurozone as they work out do they want a single currency with a single economic policy and all the things that go with it, or are they going to have something quite different. That they have to decide about. You know we’re a united kingdom. I hope we stay a united kingdom. We have a single currency called the pound.

ANDREW MARR:
Yeah.

**DAVID CAMERON:**
And the way it works in our united kingdom is the different parts of our united kingdom support each other …

**ANDREW MARR:**
Okay.

**DAVID CAMERON:**
… and there isn’t that in Europe and that’s their problem. Or one of their problems.

**ANDREW MARR:**
May I ask you just to reflect on the last few weeks of your government. You’re down to what 29 per cent in a poll in the Sunday Times this morning. A long, long time since you’ve been that unpopular in the country. What are you going to say to people to convince them to take a second look at you and give you another go?

**DAVID CAMERON:**
Well look it has been a difficult month, but you know it’s far more difficult for people who are trying to find work or trying to make their household budgets work at a difficult time for the country. What I have to do is convince people that we’re taking the right long-term decisions to deal with problems in our country that have existed for many years. The reason our economy is finding it so hard to recover is there was too much debt in our banks, our households, our government, and we need to deal with that and it takes time. You know we’re taking long-term decisions, whether it’s on infrastructure and the infrastructure we need for our future, whether it’s on education where I’m passionate that we provide really aspirational schools for our young people. All of these things are long-term decisions and governments have got to focus on what’s right for the country, what’s right for the long-term and not be driven off by the short-term difficulties tough though they are. And I’m absolutely determined. We’ve got a strong coalition government, we’ve got a five year term. I’m absolutely determined that we deliver all the things we’ve talked about, particularly recovery in our economy …
ANDREW MARR:
(over) Okay. And finally would you say …

DAVID CAMERON:
(over) … and the sort of society where we really get behind people who do the right thing.

ANDREW MARR:
All of those people who say on your own side you know he’s a posh boy. Do you really get it? I was talking to a young person yesterday. He said, “Ask him what’s his problem? Does he get it?”

DAVID CAMERON:
I do. I understand how tough it is for people in our country right now if you’re trying to make the household budget work out when you’ve got you know petrol and diesel at the prices they are now. I understand how difficult it is when you’ve got job losses in the public sector and you need the private sector to expand faster, we need more jobs. I understand those difficulties. That is what fires me up, that is what gets me out of bed - to work hard to do the right thing for our country. And it’s got to be about the long-term.

ANDREW MARR:
Okay, alright.

DAVID CAMERON:
I don’t want to be someone who just trims for the short-term because you’re in difficulty rather than focuses on the things that need to be done.

ANDREW MARR:
David Cameron, thank you very much indeed for joining us this morning.

DAVID CAMERON:
Thank you.
INTERVIEW ENDS