ANDREW MARR:
And so there’s the Labour reaction. For the Conservatives, I’m joined now by the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson.

BORIS JOHNSON:
Good morning, Andrew.

ANDREW MARR:
Mr Johnson, I said right at the beginning of the programme that we needed to know whether you regarded UKIP as the out and out enemy or as, as it were, kind of renegade friendly conservative minded people who need to be wooed?

BORIS JOHNSON:
Well very good. I just watched your brilliant interview with Douglas Carswell and I was thinking … Have you seen … There’s a very good film with John Travolta and Nicolas Cage – have you seen it – called Face/Off?

ANDREW MARR:
I have, yes.
BORIS JOHNSON:
Very good movie in which basically … I can’t remember much of it, but the gist is that they’re fighting each other or rather the Nicolas Cage guy is fighting a chap who looks like himself, a doppelganger.

ANDREW MARR:
Yes, so you’re fighting doppelgangers.

BORIS JOHNSON:
Fighting doppelgangers. And I was listening to Douglas and I was wondering what I really disagreed with him about, and there wasn’t very much frankly that he said that I could disagree with. So my message to beloved Kippers everywhere else … around the country thinking of voting for UKIP is, look, it doesn’t seem to me there’s a lot between us and quite frankly what do you want? You want a low tax economy, what Douglas stands for, you want global free trade, you want basically a liberal, a libertarian approach on the economy, socially progressive – go for the Conservatives. And we’re the only party, the only party by the way that will deliver what the UKIP people want, which is a referendum on Europe.

ANDREW MARR:
I was going to come to Europe right away because they also want an end to uncontrolled migration inside Europe and the Conservative Party at the moment is not offering that, and they want a referendum which takes us out of Europe and the Conservative Party (certainly at the leadership level) is against that too. Not the referendum, but they want to stay in.

BORIS JOHNSON:
Well I think just on the second thing, I think that it’s obviously axiomatic that if we don’t get the reform that we need in 2016-17 then the referendum … then I think we should campaign to come out. But on the border control thing, that is critical and I think that’s now emerging as the number one thing that we need probably to sort out in this renegotiation. Why shouldn’t we have some sort of system, some sort of points based system or whatever such as they have in America or Australia …
ANDREW MARR:
Sure.

BORIS JOHNSON:
… why shouldn’t we do that? And you can still be pro-immigration. You can still have loads of people who are talented and who want to make their lives here coming to build careers in Britain.

ANDREW MARR:
(over) But this would be quotas and a points based system depending on education and the skills that people were bringing in. That kind of thing is what you’re after?

BORIS JOHNSON:
I think somehow or other we need to … I’ve felt for a while … I mean London, 40 per cent of Londoners were born abroad – including me, incidentally – and this is a city that has thrived massively on immigration and the London economy churns, it delivers huge benefits for the rest of the country. But it is not reasonable to have a situation in which you simply don’t know the numbers that are coming in and local councils cannot plan, they can’t budget for it. And I think there were two big deceptions. The first was when Blair took the brakes off in 2004. Other countries kept their borders sealed …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) That was for new entrants.

BORIS JOHNSON:
(over) … and we didn’t. That was a mistake. And then the second thing was saying that we could control the numbers when we couldn’t. So in the renegotiation we need to get back some control over borders. And the key thing to UKIPers – and I make the point again – is that only the Conservatives are going to deliver that change.

ANDREW MARR:
Okay, I want to come onto that policy in a little bit more detail. We’re talking about quotas for existing members of the EU – France and Germany, Italy and Spain – not
simply new members or more recent members. Point one. But you know you reported from Brussels for a long time and you know that the free movement of peoples inside the EU is one of the absolute founding principles. Is it realistic for us to get an abrogation out of that?

BORIS JOHNSON:
(over) A derogation, yeah.

ANDREW MARR:
Derogation, derogation.

BORIS JOHNSON:
I think it is. Don’t forget that we already have different arrangements, Andrew, in so far as Schengen is concerned. We don’t have the same border arrangements. We do have a different dispensation already, so the principle of you know uniformity across the European patrie has already been breached in our case. And the second thing is that of course when that vision was first promulgated – and it’s a positive vision, it’s a wonderful thing in many ways to try to create a union between European countries – but when that vision was first put forward, there were far fewer countries. And you’ve now got 28 countries stretching right the way to the, you know the Urals virtually, and …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) So to be absolutely clear …

BORIS JOHNSON:
(over) … and with very different wage rates, very different benefit systems, very different stages in the economic cycle. It seems to me to be quite reasonable to look at some system of control.

ANDREW MARR:
So to be absolutely clear, end the free movement of people in Europe as it applies to Britain …
BORIS JOHNSON:
Yuh.

ANDREW MARR:
… or leave the EU? It’s as stark as that really, isn’t it?

BORIS JOHNSON:
I don’t think that it is as stark as that. I mean I think that there will be other things that we will want from the renegotiation …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Sure.

BORIS JOHNSON:
(over) … but I think …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) At the hardest level.

BORIS JOHNSON:
Yeah, but I don’t think that that is necessarily something that our friends, our partners in Europe will view with complete horror. They know that we’re already opted out of the Schengen stuff. They know that it would be much better to keep Britain in if they possibly can. They want … We’re a gigantic market, we’re a very important part of …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) It’s a bit of a gamble, nonetheless, isn’t it? We don’t know that we’ll get that, but that is what we have to get to stay in the EU in your view?

BORIS JOHNSON:
It’s always been my view, or rather in the last few years I’ve come to the view that …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) That is the crucial thing?
BORIS JOHNSON:
(over) … that there is a viable and very attractive future for this country. If we can continue to have access to European markets, if we can continue to be part of the great free trade zone, then there is a viable future for our country with a different arrangement. And we should be very, very content …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) So we could thrive outside and not be frightened of that prospect?

BORIS JOHNSON:
We should not … That’s the key thing. I think people are too apprehensive about the possible downsides. And I don’t deny that in the initial phase there would be lots of international businesses who would be a bit nervous …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Well, as you know, some would move, some would move.

BORIS JOHNSON:
Well they claim they would. Actually the advantages of the UK are over… Don’t forget, Andrew …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Big international banks who do a lot of their trade in euro bonds.

BORIS JOHNSON:
(over) Which is what they said, which is what they said before the euro was created; and they said unless Britain joined, the whole thing would collapse. That gorgeous vista behind you would basically disintegrate and giant mutant rats would crawl out of the gutters in Throgmorton Street. It didn’t happen. London powered on outside the euro. London continues to have amazing attractions for investors. What I’m saying is in a way the argument is less charged, less important than it was 30 years ago. Europe as a share of global GDP has shrunk and it’s still colossally important …
ANDREW MARR:
(over) But there is a good future outside?

BORIS JOHNSON:
(over) There is a good future outside.

ANDREW MARR:
And if we don’t get what we want, particularly the free movement of peoples thing ending, you would campaign for us to leave in that referendum?

BORIS JOHNSON:
Yes.

ANDREW MARR:
Because that is the big question. I put that question to David Cameron all the time and he will never answer it. The Conservative leadership as such at the moment won’t say that they would campaign to leave if they don’t get what they want.

BORIS JOHNSON:
I think it’s got to be axiom… You can’t go into a negotiation unless you’re prepared to walk away. So it follows that if we don’t get the right solution, then we need a better solution, and I would certainly be … I would certainly be willing to say that. There is nothing to fear in this argument and a lot to gain. I think one of the reasons why UKIP has gained in appeal is because people feel you know they’re not being given a proper choice.

ANDREW MARR:
Not being listened to. What would happen to your great party if you lost Strood and Rochester to UKIP?

BORIS JOHNSON:
Well again I think the message - to get back to my text for this Sunday morning, which is Face/Off – if I get back to Face/Off, I think the key thing there, the reason I think it was Nicolas Cage triumphed in the end was that he didn’t panic but he just got
on and showed the people that he was … Well not the people. He showed his family, showed everybody that he was the real deal. And it’s only David Cameron who’s offering the prospect of a reform …

ANDREW MARR:
Yeah.

BORIS JOHNSON:
… it’s only David Cameron who’s offering a referendum. And I just say, I just say this. This is …

ANDREW MARR:
*(over)* At the moment …

BORIS JOHNSON:
*(over)* … this election …

ANDREW MARR:
Okay.

BORIS JOHNSON:
… that we’re sort of going into now, it’s a very, very important time for this country. This is a crucial election. You’ve got the Eurozone tipping back into recession, you’ve got terrible, terrible things happening now in the Middle East. We’ve really got to ask ourselves who do we want at the tiller? Do we want Ed Miliband …

ANDREW MARR:
*(over)* But the way you’re going …

BORIS JOHNSON:
*(over)* … going mano a mano with Angela Merkel and Putin, or do we want David Cameron? I want David Cameron.

ANDREW MARR:
And yet the simple message which has been the Conservatives’ message up to now,
which is vote UKIP, get Ed Miliband, clearly isn’t working. You need to do more with UKIP than that, don’t you?

BORIS JOHNSON:
Well, as I say, I think where we agree plainly between me and someone like Douglas Carswell, there’s very – as far as I can tell listening to Douglas there’s very little I would disagree - where we agree, we should agree. And I think we should just make the argument to people that if you want to achieve those objectives which we both believe in, then stick with the party that actually has a chance …

ANDREW MARR:
You might …

BORIS JOHNSON:
(over) … and I think a very good chance of being in government.

ANDREW MARR:
(over) … you might help keep Ed Miliband out of No. 10 if you allowed some pacts locally between UKIP-y Tory MPs and Kippers.

BORIS JOHNSON:
The whole point about the great movement against Westminster politics is that everybody thinks that it’s a stitch-up. How is it going to help if we all go round trying to stitch things up?

ANDREW MARR:
So no pacts?

BORIS JOHNSON:
I don’t see how that works, no.

ANDREW MARR:
A couple of more local questions if I may put it that way?
BORIS JOHNSON:
Yes about London. The buses.

ANDREW MARR:
Well I’ll come to buses. But there is a huge problem now with TB in London.

BORIS JOHNSON:
Right.

ANDREW MARR:
We have rates which are as high as sub-Saharan Africa and yet nothing seems to be done about this. We read very little about it. We read about Ebola but not about tuberculosis, which is a huge problem - particularly in East London – isn’t it?

BORIS JOHNSON:
It’s certainly the case that rates of TB have been climbing and we’re monitoring it very seriously. But we’re content at the moment that we are able to deal with the situation and to manage it. Obviously it is not desirable. I mean you’re right to put your finger on it. It’s one of the downsides of being a world city and one of the reasons why you know, you’ve got to be careful about who’s coming in.

ANDREW MARR:
What are you doing about it?

BORIS JOHNSON:
Well unfortunately, as you may know, I don’t have direct responsibility for healthcare in this city, but I’m told by my health advisers that we have adequate provision in place to cope with the TB outbreak. But you’re right to raise it because …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) So from one disease to another, do you understand the measures being taken to stop people with Ebola coming into this country because nobody else seems to?

BORIS JOHNSON:
Look no. I mean that’s to say I understand why people don’t understand them. The difficulty is that I think again it’s one of those cases where we’re at risk of seeming to promise stuff that doesn’t really make any sense. And you can’t blood test everybody coming into the country. On the …

**ANDREW MARR:**

*(over)* There are these devices the Americans use to measure your blood temperature as you come through which are meant to work quite well.

**BORIS JOHNSON:**

Well again I can only go on the advice I’ve been given and that is that although I think we are doing a lot more screening, we don’t think that temperature measures alone will be of any use because you could after all … it could be in the early stages of incubation of the virus and have two or three weeks to run. And so the idea of screening it at airports is I’m afraid not … it’s far from perfect as a solution. What you need to do is make sure that people coming from the affected countries are properly screened, properly tested. When they leave, they shouldn’t be allowed to leave if they’ve been in contact with people in one of the affected areas, and obviously we should be putting on preparations here. And I have no doubt … I mean I must tell you, I have little doubt that eventually there will be a case of Ebola in this country and probably in this city. All I can tell you, Andrew, is that to my best of my knowledge – and obviously we’ve had a lot of meetings now about it as indeed COBRA’s been meeting – we have fantastic preparations in London for this and …

**ANDREW MARR:**

*(over)* So it will happen, but don’t panic?

**BORIS JOHNSON:**

*(over)* … and we have very good healthcare in this city – considerably better, alas, obviously, than they have in Africa.

**ANDREW MARR:**

We’ll talk in a moment after the news, but to the news now with Sally.
INTERVIEW ENDS