

ANDREW MARR SHOW, ADAM PRICE, PLAID CYMRU LEADER

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AM: The Leader of Plaid Cymru Adam Price came into the studio a little earlier. I asked him about his party's plans to create tens of thousands of green jobs. How much would that cost?

AP: Well, we've set out a programme of £20 billion of investment throughout the course of the decade. You know Wales has huge latent potential. We've got about 15 percent of the whole of Europe's marine energy resources. We're not tapping into that at the moment but we could take advantage of course of those historic unprecedented low interest rates worldwide to build a platform for Wales in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We were the cradle of the original industrial revolution. We could be there at the ground floor building the world's first tidal lagoons, building a barrage on the Usk, building offshore wind farms, creating the jobs to drive us up the economic league table.

AM: So it costs around £20 billion. That's money that has to come at the moment from Westminster. So presumably you need a government in Westminster prepared to hand you £20 billion for this and that's much more likely to be a Labour government than a Tory one.

AP: Well look, we've been neglected by Labour and Conservative governments I mean over generations. I mean Wales has been at the wrong end of a long queue as far as investment. We've seen the concentration of –

AM: If you had to choose you'd want a Labour- you'd want Jeremy Corbyn there so that you could get the investment that you want?

AP: Yes, but our key proposition in this election, Andrew, has to be look, don't put your faith in any of the Westminster parties. We've been let down by Labour and Conservative governments.

The only way that you can get Wales at the top of the political agenda and see investment actually happening in terms of the green industrial revolution, building the jobs of the future in Wales is if Wales' voice is heard in the corridors of Westminster and Whitehall like never before. I'll give you one example, I'll give you one example, Andrew. A hundred billion - over a hundred billion offered to Scotland by the Labour Party in their manifesto. Nothing concrete like that offered to Wales. Why? Because Scotland is on the top of the political agenda, because the SNP's growth -

AM: You say that Adam Price, but actually in this election if you look at where the target seats are, where the two major parties are fighting to get that extra bit of advantage over each other, a lot of those seats are in Wales. It's going to be a battleground in this election. Now neither of us know what's going to happen in the election but it's perfectly possible it'll be quite a close result, might even have a hung parliament and Plaid with four MPs or so may be in the position of actually exerting real influence. What's your price in those conditions?

AP: It has to be this £20 billion investment in Wales. It has to be fair funding for Wales. Remember of all the devolved nations in the UK yet again Wales is the one with the worst funding settlement, unfortunately. The Labour Party in this manifesto - in the last one they offered to review the Barnett Formula and to turn to a needs based formula which will give Wales what it deserves. Nothing offered or promised to Wales in this manifesto. The only way-

AM: They're not really thinking about Wales, do you think?

AP: The only way to get Wales on the political agenda, to make it a priority, is if Wales finds its voice, votes for Wales' party in numbers that we've never seen before.

AM: Now you are a nationalist party, you've always said you want an independent Wales inside the EU. If Britain later this year

finally leaves the EU where does that leave your policy on Welsh independence?

AP: Well I think you know what's happening of course is there's a surge in support for independence. I think because when people look at the chaos in Westminster and the fast moving right show that is British politics at the moment, if we wake up with an ultra hard right government delivering a hard- ultra hard Brexit then I think many, many people in Wales will decide we're better off in the future in actually taking responsibility for ourselves as an independent nation.

AM: Because at the moment over the last ten years or so independence has never been over 10%. It's not been a popular option in Wales itself. Are you saying that Brexit will change that?

AP: Well it's already changing it, Andrew, isn't it? So it's now up to 30% in many opinion polls. Amongst young people –

AM: 7% overall.

AP; No, that's changed. That's changed over the last two years because people are contrasting – you know – the exciting potential that's there, both in terms of our green industrial revolution, in terms of our politics as well you know we would be better off of course trusting ourselves, taking responsibility for our nation rather than trusting Westminster governments.

AM: Just in terms of geography however, doesn't an independent Wales where England is outside the EU, isn't that a much harder proposition? You've got this long land border with England. England is therefore your major, in many respects, your major market. If both Wales and England are outside the EU I ask again where does that really leave the practical prospect of Welsh independence?

AP: Well, that's- I'm not prepared to declare defeat yet in this election before it happens and so that's why I believe it's the best solution for Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland that we all remain within the European Union and that's why we're

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working with the other pro-remain parties to get that result. I mean the difference between continuing to leave or remaining within the European Union which we think is the best thing for Wales is whether we see a huge third bloc of MPs from the pro-remain parties. Plaid Cymru, the leading pro remain party in Wales, the SNP in Scotland, Liberal Democrats and the Greens in England, if we achieve that not only can we get a referendum but here's the crucial thing, we can win it. I mean my fear is without that you might get a referendum but if you have a Labour Prime Minister that is neutral you know where are you going to create the dynamic that is going to deliver that remain vote?

AM: Adam Price, thanks very much for talking to us.

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