BORIS JOHNSON:
Good morning Andrew, good morning.

ANDREW MARR:
Good morning, now you have been making a lot of the, the danger of the SNP coming into government and talking about money pouring up the M1 to Scotland.

BORIS JOHNSON:
And absolutely reasonably I think because if you look at what’s happening in the British economy and the London economy at the moment it’s a story of great success and great progress just in, in this city you’ve got five hundred and thirty three thousand new jobs across the country two million new jobs since the election and you know I look at, I look at London and I look at everything that is happening here, we are the tech capital of Europe, we are the, we have half a million people now working in Fin Tech, Bio Tech, Ed Tech, Med Tech, Nano Tech, Green Tech, all this kind of stuff. That didn’t exist when Labour was in power, it’s
quite an amazing thing. It’s grown.

ANDREW MARR:

(over) the government…

BORIS JOHNSON:

I am perfectly prepared to accept that, I am perfectly prepared to accept that but what you’ve got is a Labour government that is coming in with a manifesto.

ANDREW MARR:

Labour government…

BORIS JOHNSON:

Proposing to come in with a manifesto to put up corporation tax, to put up income tax making it more difficult for these small companies to take people on and you would have in any, there is no way Miliband could conceivably govern except with the help of the SNP they’d be crouching on his back like a, well like a monkey or whatever, I don’t want to use any more ill-advised animal metaphors but you know that is, that is the reality.

ANDREW MARR:

And do you think..?

BORIS JOHNSON:

I think it is actually deeply alarming and you know you’ve got, you’ve got Ed Miliband on next and you should ask him.

ANDREW MARR:

(over) I think I probably will…

BORIS JOHNSON:

You should ask him, you should ask him you know would he, with the SNP to whom he
would have to go for every, any packet of funding for the whole of England would he go ahead with the A358 from Illminster to Tornton, would he go ahead, would he go ahead. (over).

ANDREW MARR:
I will ask him all ..

BORIS JOHNSON:
Would he go ahead with. (over) cross rail and the reason and I think with the SNP, with the SNP pushing him even further to the left it would be a real, real economic risk for this country.

ANDREW MARR:
Do you think this type of government would be illegitimate? Because that is what your close friend Teresa May said this morning, suggests.

BORIS JOHNSON:
It would be, I think there is a risk of people feeling that it is bizarre that you’ve got a party that is representing...

ANDREW MARR:
(over) The same people of England who have not spoken yet.

BORIS JOHNSON:
Yeah well you know, pay up pass up whatever it is.

ANDREW MARR:
But do not forget exactly. G K Cheston everybody.

BORIS JOHNSON:
But.
**ANDREW MARR:**
What do you think they would do if in that situation?

**BORIS JOHNSON:**
People will, people will look at the reality that you’ve got, a Scottish Nationalist party you know who’s aim ethic charter programme is to break up the union that is why they are called the Scottish Nationalist Party governing the United, being in government of the United Kingdom with a, an agenda even more left wing than Ed Miliband and with the long term interests of the UK not fundamentally at heart. And I think they will think that is deeply alarming and I think it’s just the wrong way, it’s the wrong way for this country to go.

**ANDREW MARR:**
Is this not rhetoric however which is going to weaken the union however coming from the Conservative side at the beginning you whip up a kind of English nationalism that hasn’t been there before and we could end up therefore with the end of the union for the other side.

**BORIS JOHNSON:**
I don’t think so because I hope that people will listen to this cautionary note that we’re striking I mean this, obviously there is a symmetry, what we are saying is that the economy is going gang busters, we’ve got more people in employment…

**ANDREW MARR:**
*(over)* Or going gang masters one would say.

**BORIS JOHNSON:**
We’re the second, we’re the second, well you would say that because you are a lefty BBC journalist. There is, there is, there is a..

**ANDREW MARR:**
I am a completely impartial BBC journalist as you know very well.
BORIS JOHNSON:
There is a, there is, we’re the second fastest growing economy in the, in the G7, things are really turning round and you know why would we, why would we want to throw that away you know I am so proud and so positive about what’s happening in this country and I just think there are unnecessary risks involved in this Labour SNP condominium. And so the answer would be no I don’t think we are in any way imperilling the union, the people who want to imperil the union because that’s what thier party is called are the Scottish Nationalist Party and what they want to do is.

ANDREW MARR:
Well.

BORIS JOHNSON:
I imagine their strategy is you know like the parable or the fable of the frog and the scorpion is to be allowed to be carried across the river and then ultimately to stab the poor, to..

ANDREW MARR:
Possibly too many animal metaphors for this interview so far, possibly. Now luckily for me however you have raised the question, you are talking about coalitions and you are talking about symmetry, which allows me to ask you perfectly fairly do you think the Conservatives could do any kind of deal with UKIP after the election, the Liberal Democrats are talking about what they call ‘Blue Kip’.

BORIS JOHNSON:
I don’t envisage any deals with anybody and I don’t see that it is necessary normal nor do I see that it is desirable you know, going back to my answer to you about the coalition and, sorry the, the prospects of a Labour SNP coalition I think it would be extremely destabilising, I think the answer to, to that is to have a Conservative majority government and you know that is, that is actually not so, not so very far from our grasp.
ANDREW MARR:
The polls..

BORIS JOHNSON:
Not so very far from our grasp.

ANDREW MARR:
The polls say it’s a bit away which allows me to ask you about your other good friend Nick Clegg, you’ve described him as a blamange and an Albatross and many other disobliging things.

BORIS JOHNSON:
Well you know..

ANDREW MARR:
He will be an MP probably after this election and therefore you would have a vote about another coalition. How would you vote?

BORIS JOHNSON:
I do not envisage such circumstances and I will fight, fight, fight to stop it from happening.

ANDREW MARR:
OK.

BORIS JOHNSON:
And nor, nor do I, I think I called him a lap dog come prop lactic as far as I can remember.

ANDREW MARR:
I was trying to avoid that one.

BORIS JOHNSON:
These are, look these are, and by the way do you not think, you are a distinguished political journalist yourself, do you not think as a country we’re becoming ever so super sensitive about the use of every day political metaphors.

**ANDREW MARR:**
We need more metaphors and more vivid metaphors Boris Johnson which is why apparently according to today’s papers so many Tories want you to take over from David Cameron imminently.

**BORIS JOHNSON:**
They don’t, they don’t and that is, that is both nonsense and may I say absolutely trivial by comparison with the choice that this country has to make in eleven days’ time.

**ANDREW MARR:**
Alright. OK. Let me come on to policies.

**BORIS JOHNSON:**
You know you’ve only got one more, you’ve only got one more Andy Marr Show before this country (over) tragically before this country has to make up its mind about whether to go forward with what I think has been a very distinguished Conservative led government, that has turned the economy around, that picked up a colossal mess in 2010.

**ANDREW MARR:**
Boris Johnson.

**BORIS JOHNSON:**
And who has actually put Britain back on its feet and I think the risk, the risk to our country is that Labour would in concert with the SNP would take it in profoundly the wrong direction.

**ANDREW MARR:**
One other issue I must ask you about which is rent controls because London has more private renters than anywhere else and more people renting out there, what do you think the effect would be of rent controls in London?

BORIS JOHNSON:
You know of course the answer is, is to build more homes and it is not therefore to come up with a policy that would discourage the creation of more homes. I have some brilliant housing officials in City Hall let me tell you Andy they are not by any means all you know paid up Conservatives.

ANDREW MARR:
But there are.. (over).

BORIS JOHNSON:
Let me, to put it mildly and they all to a man and a woman think that a policy of trying to impose rent controls is pure nonsense a gimmick wouldn’t, wouldn’t work (over) and if it did work let me tell you if it did work, if you, if you went ahead with the kind, with the drivel that we’ve seen on the front of the papers this morning and you imposed a three year cap on rents all that would happen, first of all you’d discourage people from getting into the rental market, you’d discourage the creation of new housing, and all that would happen.

ANDREW MARR:
Fewer houses you are going to say but OK.

BORIS JOHNSON:
Fewer houses.

ANDREW MARR:
But on the other hand…

BORIS JOHNSON:
All that would happen is at the end of the three years.

ANDREW MARR:
On the other hand an awful lot of people out there.. (over) who are.

BORIS JOHNSON:
Those that remained renting out their properties would jack up the rents even higher.

ANDREW MARR:
At the moment there are an awful lot of people out there who are paying very, very high rents for substandard housing.

BORIS JOHNSON:
I sympathise.

ANDREW MARR:
And they want something to be done.

BORIS JOHNSON:
And I completely understand that and I sympathise.

ANDREW MARR:
So what, if it is not rent controls what is it?

BORIS JOHNSON:
You’ve got to deal with the landlords and you’ve got to, and so what we’ve done in London is we’ve created a London Rental Standard so that if the guy doesn’t fix your boiler, if the bannisters are not working or whatever then they are held to account and of course that should happen. But if you…

ANDREW MARR:
(over) We will talk more about boilers and bannisters later on we’ve run out of time for now I am afraid.

BORIS JOHNSON:
The Emperor Diocletian tried this.

ANDREW MARR:
We have certainly run out of time.

BORIS JOHNSON:
They’ve tried it in Germany, they’ve tried it in New York and they are trying to move away from it..

ANDREW MARR:
Boris Johnson for now thank you very much indeed.

BORIS JOHNSON:
Disastrous policy.

END