ANDREW MARR:
Now Jeremy Corbyn isn’t the first Labour radical to storm to the leadership of the party on the back of popular discontent. Keir Hardie, Labour’s founder, and George Lansbury, were at least as far to the left and are still revered in the Labour Party. The trouble is, however, neither of them became prime minister. And that’s Mr Corbyn’s challenge: to take the energy that got him elected leader and use it to win over not hundreds of thousands but millions of people, many of whom have never been on a demonstration in their life. Welcome Mr Corbyn. Thirty years ago almost to the day, just down the coast, Neil Kinnock kicked out the Trotskyists and the Communists from the Labour Party. Are they welcome back in again?

JEREMY CORBYN:
Anyone is welcome to join the Labour Party providing they support the principles of the party and be content with that. And thousands have joined the Labour Party in the last few weeks. Fifty thousand, maybe 60,000 have joined since I was elected two weeks ago, 150,000 have joined since the General Election. This is a growing, enthusiastic, optimistic party.
ANDREW MARR:
These are big numbers. Does it concern you that some of them have come from revolutionary organisations?

JEREMY CORBYN:
They’re big numbers and they’re huge numbers of people. I’ve met many of them. Many are young people who’ve been disengaged from party politics, but very engaged with environmental politics and many other issues. Many are older people returning who felt disillusioned with Labour after the Iraq War. I’m not concerned in the slightest. A big, open, democratic party – surely that’s something to be proud of and pleased about?

ANDREW MARR:
Neil Kinnock wouldn’t be pleased. I don’t think he’s here this week, but he wouldn’t be happy.

JEREMY CORBYN:
Neil is one of my constituents. We get along just fine.

ANDREW MARR:
Very good. Let me ask you about what you’ve said about changing the party radically. You’ve said that you want to harness those new £3 members and so forth as full members of the party. Do they now have to pay more money to become full members of the party?

JEREMY CORBYN:
Yes, yes of course they do. They have to join as full members. They have to pay a subscription to do that and as of next year they’ll be paying the full subscription to do that. I want to bring all these people in. We’ve got now a very large membership. I’m hoping we can get our membership up to around half a million as an immediate target. And that surely is a good sign for Labour, but a good sign for politics as a whole because generally speaking party membership all over Europe has been falling, not rising. We’ve beaten the trend, we’ve
bucked the trend. It’s a British achievement.

**ANDREW MARR:**
And what you have to do is you have to take the surge that got you into the leadership and then translate it into changing the party in terms of policy as well, and what I’m wondering is exactly how you’re going to do that.

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
Well in the past policymaking has become more and more centralised in the party with the leader …

**ANDREW MARR:**
*over* National Policy Forum and all of that?

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
Well National Policy Forum is one step towards it, but also the role of the leader’s office and the leader and the shadow cabinet and the parliamentary party I think was disproportionate in the sense of involvement of the entire membership and I fought the whole of this leadership campaign on the idea that we really need a much more bottom up democracy. I produced twelve policy documents during the leadership campaign – all of which are consultative, nothing written down in stone, consultative – and invited people to respond. Amazing! Thousands and thousands of emails coming in – people with really sensible, really good ideas, there’s a whole lot of talent out there - and I’m not sure that the political classes, which I suppose includes you and me and many other people, fully appreciate the disillusionment of so many people with traditional politics and their love and desire to be involved and have their voice heard. That’s what I want to unlock.

**ANDREW MARR:**
I’m sure you’re right about that. What I’m interested is exactly how it’s going to happen. Does this mean the constituency parties must have a bigger say at conference?
JEREMY CORBYN:
Indeed. What it means is that we’re going to do open forums on many things. Jon Trickett is starting with a constitutional convention, which will go around the country taking views yes on the power of the House of Lords, yes on devolution, yes on voting systems, yes on voting age - all those key issues and on power of local government, all those kind of things. That will then feed into what local parties want to put forward, what union branches and unions want to put forward through the traditional structure of the party. Eventually conference will obviously have to make decisions. So this is … we’re only two weeks into my leadership, remember.

ANDREW MARR:
And conference is the sovereign body and it’s going to speak with a louder voice as far as you’re concerned in future?

JEREMY CORBYN:
Yeah, as far as I’m concerned. This annual conference, Barbara Castle used to call it the People’s Parliament.

ANDREW MARR:
And that’s what it’s going to be again. Now this is not …

JEREMY CORBYN:
(over) Well I wouldn’t use those terms, but something like that.

ANDREW MARR:
… this is not an abstract question, as we both know. There’s going to be a vote, for instance, on Trident this week. Do you want that to be an absolutely clear, crystal clear, easy to understand vote – yes or no to Trident?

JEREMY CORBYN:
My views on Trident are very well known. My views I put forward in the leadership campaign, there were two absolutely central points to it. One is I want us to fulfil our obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to take steps towards disarmament, hence non-
renewal of Trident. Secondly, I want to ring-fence that money that was earmarked for Trident to invest in …

**ANDREW MARR:**
*(over)* For engineering?

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
… in engineering, defence diversification. So people’s jobs are not at risk because of this. In fact the engineering and employment base of this country would be stronger for that decision.

**ANDREW MARR:**
So you’d be against any attempt to kind of fudge or composite or push to one side the clarity of the vote on Trident this week?

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
Well sadly the Labour leader has no dictatorship over the conference arrangements …

**ANDREW MARR:**
*(over)* But your view?

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
Well the conference arranges the committee or anything else. I think there’s going to be probably a series of alternatives put there and we’ll see what happens. Now they’re deciding this at the moment actually, so if we could sort of shoot the cameras over to the conference arrangements committee …

**ANDREW MARR:**
*(over)* We’d see it, we’d see …

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
*(over)* … we’d see compositing in action. Would you like to film that?

**ANDREW MARR:**
*(laughs)* I think nobody would want to watch that.
JEREMY CORBYN:
Oh no it’s very exciting, I promise you.

ANDREW MARR:
I don’t believe that for a second. Nonetheless, if the party votes against Trident – as you hope it will – where does that leave all those members of your shadow cabinet, all those MPs who stood in the manifesto diametrically opposite to that and who are have very sincere, clear views? Hilary Benn was on the sofa last week talking about it. They believe that Trident’s kept the peace, they want to keep Trident. Do they then have to belt up because the Labour Party conference has changed its views?

JEREMY CORBYN:
In some ways this is in the government’s hands because they are due to bring the main gate decision (as it’s called) on Trident replacement to parliament next year and I understand it’s going to be June. (clears throat) Excuse me. There will then be a vote in parliament at that time. My view is absolutely clear. We’ll have that discussion around the table at the shadow cabinet, we’ll have that discussion in the Parliamentary Labour Party. At the end of it, we’re still all going to be Labour MPs, we’re still all going to be in the same party.

ANDREW MARR:
So the question really is: is it the view of the shadow cabinet that becomes the Labour Party view whipped in the House of Commons, or is it the view of conference that becomes the Labour Party view whipped in the House of Commons, or is there no whip at all?

JEREMY CORBYN:
You’re asking the most fundamental philosophical question that’s ever been asked …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Well thank you very much indeed.
JEREMY CORBYN:
… apart from who guards the guards.

ANDREW MARR:
So what’s the fundamental philosophical answer?

JEREMY CORBYN:
The fundamental philosophical answer is we’re going to have to discuss it and debate and then come to a philosophical solution to it. But I understand colleagues’ views. I hope to persuade them that a nuclear free world is a good thing; that fulfilling our obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and promoting a nuclear weapons convention is a good thing. They’re all signed up to multilateral disarmament, by the way, and that there are many people, military thinkers who are very concerned, indeed opposed to Trident because they don’t see it as part of modern security or defence because they don’t see any situation in which Trident would become an option you would think about using. This is a weapon of mass destruction.

ANDREW MARR:
And you have held these views very strongly for a very long time …

JEREMY CORBYN:
All my life.

ANDREW MARR:
… but Hilary Benn, Charlie Falconer, same thing on the other side of the argument. All I’m asking is what’s going to happen?

JEREMY CORBYN:
We’re going to come to an accommodation of some sort. We may end up … there may end up being a difference of opinion. Is it so disast…

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Is it …
JEREMY CORBYN:
(over) Well no, Andrew please …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) … no it’s not disastrous …

JEREMY CORBYN:
(over) … is it so disastrous that politics has two opinions?

ANDREW MARR:
I’m just asking you. So therefore it is conceivable that the vote comes along, the leader of the labour Party votes one way, the shadow foreign secretary votes another way? Is that conceivable?

JEREMY CORBYN:
(over) I will do my … I will do my persuasive best …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) But if you fail?

JEREMY CORBYN:
… to bring them around to my point of view. Look watch this space.

ANDREW MARR:
Alright. Okay let’s move onto another thing that’s going to probably come up quite soon. We’ve heard overnight that France has begun bombing inside Syria and there may well be a vote in the House of Commons on that again soon. That’s not something that can be fudged again. Is there going to be a clear Labour Party position taken by all Labour MPs on that issue or matter of conscience war and peace free vote?

JEREMY CORBYN:
Look what’s happening in Syria is dreadful. Half the population are displaced or dislocated and in refugee camps. Two million people in Lebanon alone and many … It’s obviously disastrous. Isil is a perfectly atrocious and appalling force. That we all agree on. There is
a four or five-way civil war going on in Syria. Ultimately there has to be a political solution. That’s got to involve Iran and all the neighbouring countries. Hilary Benn, our shadow foreign secretary, and I had quite a long discussion about this yesterday, a very interesting discussion. He will be making a case tomorrow in his speech and I’d rather wait until he makes that case tomorrow.

ANDREW MARR:
For or against bombing?

JEREMY CORBYN:
(over) He will make the case tomorrow about our views and my own position I’ve just put to you is that I think the priority has to be a political solution. Interestingly the foreign secretary when he was Tehran did say that he welcomed the renewed relations with Iran. I do providing it’s accompanied by a human rights agenda and at the same time Iran can be part of the political solution in the whole region.

ANDREW MARR:
One of the things that’s changed since we last talked about this of course is that Putin has put in jets and troops and tanks to bolster Assad. Is one of the things you’re worried about that if we started to bomb in Syria, we’d start to hit Russians and we could stumble into some kind of unintended but lethal confrontation of Putin’s Russia?

JEREMY CORBYN:
The danger is we end up with a proxy war between Russia and others in Syria on top of an incredibly unpleasant, nasty civil war within Syria. And who are the losers of that? Ordinary people just trying to survive, many of those we’ve seen desperately fleeing to try and get refugee status in Europe and other places. There’s got to be a political solution as quickly as possible.

ANDREW MARR:
So that kind of confrontation with Russia could happen. Can I ask about Putin generally? Here is somebody whose tanks are rumbling right at the moment through Ukraine, which used to be an entirely
sovereign country, somebody who terrifies the wits out of the Baltic States at the moment. Do you regard Vladimir Putin as a threat to world peace or do you think he’s just reacting to NATO?

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
*(sighs)* I’m not a supporter of Putin. I’m not a supporter of his human rights agenda. I’m not a supporter of Russian militarism or indeed anybody else’s militarism and expansion. I think there has to be a serious negotiation with Russia to try and demilitarise that whole boundary - that whole boundary between Poland and Russia, the Ukraine and Russia, all down that line, as a way of bringing about a greater sense of peace and security in Europe. Do I support what Russia’s doing? No, absolutely … absolutely do not. It …

**ANDREW MARR**
*(over)* Do you think this was caused by NATO provocation is what I’m really asking, I suppose?

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
I think quite honestly it’s a bit of both. I think the Russian military have been pushing Putin to be more aggressive. I think NATO have had a long-term agenda of expanding eastwards. I think basically the two military pressure groups play off each other and we’re all the losers for it. We’re losers for it because we’re spending more and more money on it. The losers for it are those poor people in Eastern Ukraine and other places who are losing their homes because of the fighting that’s going on. There’s got to be a political approach to this and it’s not going to be resolved by more and more arms being sent to the borders.

**ANDREW MARR:**
*(over)* But just to be clear, now that NATO is in the Baltic States …

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
Yeah.

**ANDREW MARR:**

… and in Poland and so forth, do you think those states should stay within the NATO ambit or are you suggesting a much wider demilitarisation of Central Europe?

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
They’ve decided to join NATO. Ukraine is not a member of NATO and Ukraine was indeed a non-aligned … non-aligned foreign policy status after its independence in 1993 or the agreement was made in 1993. I think there has to be an agreement to try and remove troops on both sides from near the border in order to bring about that peace … That can be done whether a country’s in NATO or not, of course.

**ANDREW MARR:**
Let me ask you about another big story of the day, which is John McDonnell, your shadow chancellor, supporting only 3 years ago insurrection, violence in the streets and describing somebody who threw a fire extinguisher (which could have killed people) as being not the criminal; it was the politicians who imposed the policies who were the criminals. What do you make of those comments?

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
I think the point John was making was that was at the end of a student demonstration and this person threw a fire extinguisher from the roof, which land… which was a stupid …

**ANDREW MARR:**
(over) Could have killed people.

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
It was a stupid and absolutely wrong thing to do. I think that and I’m sure John thinks that as well. I think the sentence he got was possibly disproportionate to the crime that he committed and I think that’s the fundamental point about it.

**ANDREW MARR:**
Now I know John McDonnell’s a good friend and comrade of yours and all the rest of it, but nonetheless when he says words in favour of
“insurrection” – his word – and in favour of taking action on the
streets and describes the coalition government only a few years ago as
an “elected dictatorship”, those are extreme words which if you don’t
repudiate them are going to be hung around your neck for the rest of
your leadership.

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
Well the coalition government was elected by a minority, as this
government has been …

**ANDREW MARR:**
(over) But it’s a long way between that and saying it’s an elective
dictatorship.

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
Many people used those words about Margaret Thatcher, including
many Labour MPs at the time. It’s not words I would use myself. I
prefer to fight people in parliamentary terms. I don’t believe in any
kind of dictatorship actually – elected or otherwise.

**ANDREW MARR:**
What about insurrection? What about violence on the streets?

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
Well I’m not in favour of violence on the street or insurrection. I
believe in doing things by persuasive democratic means. That’s what
we have a parliamentary system for. That’s what we have a
democratic political structure for.

**ANDREW MARR:**
Sure.

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
That’s what people have spent their lives fighting for democracy for.
You opened this programme referring to George Lansbury and Keir
Hardie.

**ANDREW MARR:**
(over) So … absolutely.

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
That was their position.

**ANDREW MARR:**
Absolutely. So what’s your message to John McDonnell about those words?

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
Well, John is now our shadow chancellor. John is going to put forward some great economic ideas tomorrow. You’ll be pleasantly surprised at how radical, how good and effective they are and how much they’re going to improve the lives of ordinary people in Britain. Is John in favour of insurrection? No he’s not. It was a colourful use of words and I’m sure he’ll explain that when you invite him onto your programme.

**ANDREW MARR:**
I’m sure he will.

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
Are you going to invite him on?

**ANDREW MARR:**
I certainly will.

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
Oh good.

**ANDREW MARR:**
Now you raised the question of economics, which I’d like to turn to, because one of your advisers, or certainly one of the people who contributed to your campaign, has suggested today that you need to go much further, be much clearer on tax. Now I know you want to get billions and billions of pounds back by getting rid of tax breaks for companies. I suggest to you that’s going to be a little bit harder than you think because these are com... International capital is mobile; they have very, very clever lawyers; it’s going to be very tough to get
those billions back. Which means that if you are going to balance the books without hitting the poor, without cutting back welfare, you are going to have to raise ordinary taxes – capital gains tax, inheritance tax, income tax and so forth – and in terms of plain speaking and honest politics it’s right to admit it now.

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
Well listen, let’s take those things in order. First of all, this government is cutting tax credits for the very poorest. The poorest families have been hit by £1,300 a year each. That’s a big, big cut …

**ANDREW MARR:**
*(over)* It’s a big chunk.

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
… for the very poorest families. Inheritance tax has been reduced, so the richest 60,000 families have suddenly had a huge tax break. Second point: they’re cutting corporation tax from 20 to 18 per cent, doing very little about companies that offshore their head offices – Boots and others – to Switzerland and other places to pay lower tax. Where’s the narrative of this government in trying to protect corporation tax …

**ANDREW MARR:**
*(over)* Inheritance tax.

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
*(over)* … corporation tax levels all across Europe? And so I think we have to start with that. Do we then chase down tax havens and chase down tax evasion? Yes we do. If a company is operating in Britain – as is Boots or many others – making, yeah, good business, making a lot of money in Britain, they should pay tax on what they earn in Britain, not by some piece of sophistry move it to Switzerland or Lichtenstein or Luxembourg.

**ANDREW MARR:**
I think a lot of people will agree with that.
JEREMY CORBYN:
(over) Good, good, we’re making progress.

ANDREW MARR:
(over) A lot … a lot of people watching will say but I want to know what Jeremy Corbyn thinks about the taxes I pay, I want to know what he thinks about the bottom rate of income tax, the top rate of income tax, inheritance tax.

JEREMY CORBYN:
The bottom rate of income tax, I would hope we could lower if we can to help the poor…

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Lower?

JEREMY CORBYN:
For the very poorest, for the low… very lowest earners. That’s a hope. I would want to keep the top rate of 50 per cent, 50 pence, keep it there. I’ve no plans to raise it beyond that and neither has John.

ANDREW MARR:
Alright, what about inheritance tax? A lot of people are you know delighted by the big cut in inheritance tax. Is that something you’d look at again?

JEREMY CORBYN:
Well it should be graded actually. Somebody leaving a normal house to their children or family, fine, but when you cut overall the rate of inheritance tax that means the very richest become richer because of it. You mentioned Hardie and Lansbury. The whole issue of inheritance tax (death duties as it was called) at the start of the 20th century was a huge controversy and the richest and most powerful used the newspapers of this country to try and defend their wealth and their inheritance …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Highly successfully because neither of those two ever became
... They were both Labour leader, they were both (as I said) revered in the party. They never got anywhere near Downing Street.

**JEREMY CORBYN:**  
Yeah but death duties was introduced.

**ANDREW MARR:**  
Death duties was introduced eventually. That’s absolutely right.

We can’t quite see the Grand Hotel from here, but it was blown to pieces by the IRA in an attempt to murder the British cabinet at the time. Do you regret just a few weeks later inviting members of Sinn Fein into the House of Commons given what we know now?

**JEREMY CORBYN:**  
I invited people who were former prisoners, who had served their sentences into the House of Commons at that time for a discussion about the prison situation and conditions in Northern Ireland, for a discussion about the possibility of a political development and a political solution. All through the 1980s yes I did make myself very unpopular with some people by a preparedness to reach out to the Republican tradition in Ireland, to say ultimately this war is unwinnable by either side. There is never going to be a military … therefore there has to be a political dialogue. At the same time, secretly the British government was also engaged in that and then eventually in 1994 we got the first ceasefire, then the second ceasefire in ‘97, then the peace process. Can’t we be proud of the fact that both sides in Ireland were prepared to reach out into each other’s hinterland, each other’s history, each other’s past and bring about that fantastic peace process? It’s a great achievement.

**ANDREW MARR:**  
Surely the difference between John Major and Tony Blair and all those involved in the peace process and Jeremy Corbyn is that they weren’t deliberately trying to take a very neutral approach about the outcome, but you are a supporter of united Ireland, you were on the Sinn Finn side. In a sense, ultimately, you wanted the IRA to win.
JEREMY CORBYN:
There were many other people who were very much if you like on the other side, the Unionist side.

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Are you shaking your head and saying you didn’t want the IRA to win …

JEREMY CORBYN:
(over) I wanted the fighting to stop and I said that to many, many people on many, many occasions. I don’t want violence, I don’t want killing, I don’t want all the horrors that go with it. And also when you get to that kind of conflict you end up with a destruction of the civilian law system – remember supergrass trials, remember imprisonment without trial, remember the ban on travel and all the other things? None of that brought about evolution.

ANDREW MARR:
(over) It’s just that you’ve spoken much more eloquently against what you say is the state to violence, the British state at that time, than you have against the violence of the IRA.

JEREMY CORBYN:
The violence was wrong on all sides and I said so all along. My whole point was if we were to bring about a peace process, you weren’t going to achieve it by military means. Talk to anyone who was in the army at that time in Northern Ireland. Did kicking in doors on street terraces all through Derry bring about a peace process or did ultimately the political dialogue that John Hume had, Gerry Adams had, that all of the Ulster Unionists came to? Surely that was an incredible achievement? Yeah …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) A lot of this … a lot of this is about the timing of when you speak to people and you spoke to them right when things were at their worst. You regarded that as important – to open the dialogue …

JEREMY CORBYN:
Isn’t that the time to speak to people?

ANDREW MARR:
Well so if there’s an ISIS incident next week and someone’s beheaded or something, would you talk to ISIS people?

JEREMY CORBYN:
No I wouldn’t talk to ISIS people and I’m sure …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Why not?

JEREMY CORBYN:
… ISIS people wouldn’t want to talk to me because they’re not, as far as I know (Marr over/inaudible) a force that wants to negotiate with anybody. My view on ISIS is you’ve got to cut off their money, cut off their arms, cut off their oil sales in order to try and isolate … But you’ve also got to have a political and a cultural campaign to try and persuade young people – and they’re predominantly young people everywhere – there’s nothing glamorous or great about what ISIS or Isil are doing and it’s a perversion of Islam …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) So you wouldn’t talk to these people?

JEREMY CORBYN:
Look what Isil are doing is appalling. What is happening in Syria is also appalling, although the numbers of people killed by ISIS and all the other conflicts going on is of a different proportion.

ANDREW MARR:
And you would still like to see a united Ireland now?

JEREMY CORBYN:
It’s for the Irish people to decide. My own view is historically Ireland, yes I’m very much on the record of that.

ANDREW MARR:
Sure.
JEREMY CORBYN:
But quite honestly the peace process has brought about a huge step forward. There’s a lot of cross-border agreement, there’s a lot of cross-border institutions. There is a feeling … You go to Belfast, you go to Dublin. People travel back and forth all the time. The governments are in touch with each other every hour of every day on different issues. There is that kind of sense there’s one island of Ireland. That’s a good step forward …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) From Ireland … from Ireland to Scotland. An awful lot of what you stand for in terms of economic policy, being anti-Trident, anti-nuclear and so forth, are views shared by all the people in the Yes campaign or very many of them and all the people outside the SNP but who supported that in the radical independence movement, but they all say there is one problem with Jeremy Corbyn: in the end he is a unionist. Why are you a unionist?

JEREMY CORBYN:
Well you know nobody has said that to me in Scotland. You’ve said it to me, but nobody in Scotland said it to me.

ANDREW MARR:
Well I read it on the internet …

JEREMY CORBYN:
(over) Ah …

ANDREW MARR:
… and that’s what they say.

JEREMY CORBYN:
… that’s the trouble of the internet, isn’t it? Listen I’ve been in Scotland a lot of times during the leadership campaign. I’m going to Scotland again next Thursday, then a week later. I’m going to be in Scotland a great deal as leader of the party. Yes the SNP have a headline of being opposed to austerity – fine. The SNP also
privatising CalMac, also were behind the privatisation of Scot Rail, also cutting college places, also privatisating services, also cutting local government funding. And so yes they have an austerity badge, but where’s the economic strategy behind it which doesn’t either continue the austerity that’s happening now or if they go for fiscal devolution it’s going to be even worse in Scotland because of the price of oil at the present time?

ANDREW MARR:
(over) If there is another referendum on independence, which is probably going to come quite soon, will you be standing alongside David Cameron saying you must stay in the UK to the Scottish people?

JEREMY CORBYN:
No, I will not be standing alongside David Cameron. I’ll be standing alongside Kezia Dugdale and the Scottish Labour Party. The Scottish Labour Party will make its decision. Kezia has given her views that if another referendum comes along, so be it, we’ll contest that referendum and decide what happens, but above all this is the growth and rebirth of Scottish Labour. Membership has gone up incredibly in Scotland in the past few weeks during the leadership campaign and since the leadership campaign. Listen if you’re poor in Glasgow and you’re poor in Birmingham, you’re poor. If you need a house in Glasgow and you need a house in London, you need a house. And so there is the class politics issue of it. That’s the message I’m taking when I’m campaigning in Scotland just as much as I’m campaigning anywhere else. Flags don’t build houses.

ANDREW MARR:
Fla... Okay carrying on with flags and class and all of that and putting aside the personalities of the Queen and the Prince of Wales and all the rest of it, would Britain be better off as a republic?

JEREMY CORBYN:
That’s for people to decide, not me. I’m not … Look, look …

ANDREW MARR:
I’m asking for your view. You’re the leader of the Labour Party. Come on.

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
No the issue of the head of state isn’t the issue. The issue is democracy in this country. The issue is an unelected upper chamber. The issue is the royal prerogative held by the prime minister, largely unaccountable. That royal prerogative and my view should be brought under parliamentary scrutiny not – and I say this as somebody who wants to be prime minister – I don’t want that unaccountable power. I want to be accountable to an elected body. Democracy isn’t just about symbols. It’s about how it actually operates.

**ANDREW MARR:**
But it’s also about symbols and we have …

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
I said just about symbols.

**ANDREW MARR:**
It’s also about symbols and therefore as a symbol a lot of people on your side of politics would say the trouble with the monarchy is not just the royal prerogative, difficult though that is, it’s not just the House of Lords and the connection with the House of Lords and the Church of England. It’s the fact that it sends the symbol right at the top of society there is an unelected hereditary system which kind of has to ultimately go if we’re going to have a fully democratic society.

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
I’m not in favour of hereditary systems in politics. We do have a head of state who is hereditary. I guess I think I’m right in saying the majority of people probably go along with that in Britain. That’s fine, leave it there. No part of my election campaign was about this. *(Marr over/inaudible)* My election campaign was about democratising our society, democratising our party. Why are we living in a society where the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer, there’s more destitution than there’s ever been, a million people rely on food banks …
ANDREW MARR:
(over) Those are the issues, those are the issues.

JEREMY CORBYN:
Those are the real issues that matter and it’s very surprising …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Okay not - and I understand that you’re …

JEREMY CORBYN:
… that we discuss everything else except that.

ANDREW MARR:
I understand your irritation at endless …

JEREMY CORBYN:
(over) No I’m not irritated. No, no, no. I don’t do irritation.

ANDREW MARR:
You don’t do irritation. Very good. I understand you know … you know you get done for not singing the National Anthem, will he kneel before the Queen, will he kiss her hand, will he wear white tie? All of that stuff, I get … I understand that. But if you become prime minister, there is going to be such a lot more of that kind of activity. You won’t be growing vegetables. You’ll be doing all sorts of things. You’ll be shaking Netanyahu by the hand. And a lot of people will say if you can get the big change in the Labour Party in its decision making chain??, completely transform the Labour Party, that is the essence of your job done. It might not be J.C., it might be the John the Baptist.

JEREMY CORBYN:
John the Baptist, is he a contender?

ANDREW MARR:
John the Baptist was the guy who stood aside …

JEREMY CORBYN:
No I know who John the Baptist was. I’m very familiar with the
Bible. I was brought up with the Bible.

**ANDREW MARR:**
Yes you haven’t quite answered my question.

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
My purpose of being elected was to ensure there was a choice for party members. I was elected with the biggest ever mandate of any Labour leader. Two hundred and fifty-one thousand people voted for me to be the leader. It’s a huge honour and a huge responsibility …

**ANDREW MARR:**
Right.

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
… first to democratise our party, but above all …

**ANDREW MARR:**
Time is unfortunately up.

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
Can I just finish with this?

**ANDREW MARR:**
Very quickly.

**JEREMY CORBYN:**
I want to achieve a decent democratic society where nobody is forgotten and we don’t as a society pass by on the other side while the poor lie in the gutter.

**ANDREW MARR:**
Jeremy Corbyn, thank you very much.

**INTERVIEW ENDS**