

THE ANDREW MARR SHOW
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INTERVIEW WITH:
RT.HON.DAVID CAMERON, PRIME MINISTER, LEADER, CONSERVATIVE PARTY

ANDREW MARR: All through his premiership, David Cameron has had the resurgent conservatism of UKIP on one hand and Lib Dems on the other. Does he feel master in his own house and does he yearn to shrug off the chains of Coalition? Well, he's with me now - good morning. Good morning Prime Minister.

DAVID CAMERON: Good morning.

ANDREW MARR: Can I start by asking you about something else, which is the terrible Al-Shabaab incident in Nairobi. What have you been told about the possibility of similar attacks on British shopping centres.

DAVID CAMERON: Well, we have been looking at this for a long time because of course the appalling attack that happened in Mumbai, in India, and so I personally shared a whole series of meetings, you know, years ago, but again actually this week, to check that we've got everything in place to prepare for those sorts of attacks. Now, we don't have intelligence that something is about to happen but it pays to be very, very prepared, very, very cautious and to work out we have everything in place that we could to try and deal with awful events like this.

ANDREW MARR: Are you concerned that Somalian based terrorists are trying to come back to this country, to do the same kind of thing here.

DAVID CAMERON: Well, there is always a worry of that and there is a hot-bed of terrorism in Somalia that spills over in to other countries and we're concerned about that and follow that. What it shows I think is that we have to keep going against Islamistic extremism: whether that is people home-grown in our own country, whether it is extremism that is fermenting either on the horn of Africa or in West Africa or in Afghanistan and Pakistan, it goes to this whole argument about why we need well-funded intelligence services, why we need to be engaged in the world. Why we need to share intelligence with others and why we have to be permanently vigilant and certainly under this government I take these responsibilities incredibly seriously. I Chair the Cobra meetings myself and I make sure from everything – ambulance to fire, police (interjection) ... that everything is prepared.

ANDREW MARR: You've got no thought that anything imminent is gonna pass?

(both together)

DAVID CAMERON: We don't have intelligence about anything imminent but of course, when that Mumbai attack happened and when you see what happened in Kenya, any responsible government would look at its own processes and procedures and say, How would we cope with something like that.

ANDREW MARR: Can I move to the opposite extreme of the Islamist issue. Nothing to do with terrorism of course but, there's been a huge amount of controversy in this country about the Niqab or the full veil. Should it be allowed in courts, should it be allowed in schools. Should it be banned anywhere. What's your own view about this.

DAVID CAMERON: Well I have a very simple view which is that we're a free country and people should be free to wear whatever clothes they like in public or in private but we should support institutions that need to put in place rules, so that those institutions can work properly. So for instance in a school, if they want to have a particular dress code, I believe the government should back them. Same for courts, same for immigration. (interjection)

ANDREW MARR: Even if that process is the niqab.

DAVID CAMERON: Yes of course. If a school has - and this did happen actually some years ago. A school put in place a uniform policy, which they had actually talked to parents about and it respected those people who were Muslim but someone then tried to break it and go even further and there was a court case and I remember saying at the time, I backed the school, it had a uniform policy and the government, I think should back those institutions that want to have sensible policies that actually, you know ... (interjection)

ANDREW MARR: The judge concerned, I remember in the court case said he thought there should be national guidelines on what happens in Court or not.

DAVID CAMERON: (overlaps and both together) Well I'm very happy to look at that. But obviously you know, in court a jury needs to be able to look at someone's face. You need to - I've sat on a jury, that's part of what you do. (interjection)

ANDREW MARR: (over) So you by and large agree with the judge.

DAVID CAMERON: When it comes to immigration procedures, when someone is coming in to the country, an immigration officer needs to see someone's face. In a school, it's very difficult to teach unless you can look at your pupils in the eye. So a ... (interjection)

ANDREW MARR: (overlaps) ... in a hospital, you know, particularly older people, they want to see the face of the person ... (interjection)

DAVID CAMERON: Of course, absolutely.

ANDREW MARR: You agree with that too.

DAVID CAMERON: In institutions, they should be free, it's a free country and I think a free country should have free and there are no ... (interjection) ...

ANDREW MARR: So no bans on what people do on the street (interjection) ...

DAVID CAMERON: (overlaps) No bans whatsoever on the street. But if the government needs to do more to back up institutions, then I'd be happy to look at that.

ANDREW MARR: Very interesting. Can I turn to what is no doubt, the biggest issue at this conference, which is the cost of living. The average family has I think, lost about £1500 pounds a year since 2010 when the Coalition started and Ed Miliband clearly did strike a chord when he suggested freezing energy prices. 63% I think of people back him on that. What are you doing to do to counter this.

DAVID CAMERON: Well, in the end we have to make – I think the big argument about living standards which is the only way to sustainably raise living standards is to keep the recovery going and the economy is now moving. To keep on creating jobs and we're creating those jobs. To keep on cutting the deficit because that keeps interest rates and crucially mortgage rates low and to keep on cutting people's taxes because that is the way actually to give people more of their own money, in to their own pockets, to spend as they choose and under this government we have cut people's taxes by £700 pounds

ANDREW MARR: I want to come on ...

per person because we've lifted the tax threshold up to £10,000. But of course, that's not enough, you've then got to look at what else can you do. We're freezing the council tax and other things.

ANDREW MARR: I was going to say British Gas are about to raise their prices, I think by 10%. The other big utilities the same kind of thing and you're doing nothing about that.

DAVID CAMERON: I don't accept that. We are. I want low prices not just for 20 months, I want them for 20 years. So what we need to do is go to the reasons why these prices are going up in the first place. We've got to make these markets more competitive. We've got to make sure the companies behave properly and put people on the lowest tariff and we're legislating for that. We've got to look at all the subsidies (interjection)

ANDREW MARR: Because so far, regulation has rather failed on this, even the Daily Telegraph, one of your great supporters says that there is a cosy cartel of big energy companies, which needs to be broken up.

DAVID CAMERON: Well there are six energy companies competing with each other, which is better than what we used to have in the past but do we want to make the market more competitive – absolutely. I don't accept that all the regulation is failing. Putting people on the lowest tariff is having an effect, as we speak that energy companies are coming forward with better offers. Is this enough? No.. (interjection)

ANDREW MARR: ... (overlaps) ... you have ideas for further regulatory changes then.

DAVID CAMERON: Yes, of course. I think we need to look at all of these markets and make sure they are working for hard working people.

ANDREW MARR: I was going to say Which are? Dot dot dot

DAVID CAMERON: For instance, well, for instance, we have frozen the council tax. You know, again year after year after year. With petrol duty, we've taken away Labour's planned increases in petrol duty and we've cut petrol duty ... (interjection)

ANDREW MARR: So you freeze all those things what's so terrible about freezing energy prices as Ed Miliband suggests.

DAVID CAMERON: I thought the problem with what Ed said was that it unravelled effectively within about twelve hours, when the next day he said he might not be able to keep his own promise. We need to look at the things that are causing the energy prices to rise rather than just deal with the symptoms. We've got to tackle the disease rather than ... (interjection)

ANDREW MARR: You don't regard this as a terrible throw-back to 1970s socialism.

DAVID CAMERON: I think if we take his approach as a whole, it's anti business, it's anti enterprise, it's saying to companies that are investing in Britain, I'm going to put up your taxes, take the job somewhere else. I think that is absolutely the wrong approach. The economy ... (interjection) ...

ANDREW MARR: Nuts was the word you used in one of the papers.

DAVID CAMERON: Well I often uses phrases that are perhaps a little bit er, but I mean there is, it is nuts, frankly, to put up Corporation Tax you know, Jaguar Land Rover is now making world-beating cars, selling them all over the world and Ed Miliband wants to put up their taxes. That is nuts. So to that extent it's a (interjection)

ANDREW MARR: So you think the leader of the opposition is nuts.

DAVID CAMERON: Well I don't want, I'm going to get in to a huge argument with the mental health lobby, that's not what I want.

BOTH TOGETHER

ANDREW MARR: ... Ed Miliband, possibly.

DAVID CAMERON: Well look, I'm not complacent about our recovery. We've got a long way to go. We've got a huge deficit still to pay down. Labour's debt crisis isn't over and the debt crisis is linked to the problems of the standard of living but we've got to build this recovery. We've got to make sure it delivers for hard working people. That's why I want to help people get that first apprenticeship, that first job, that first home, start up that first business. But we need to get business to invest, we need to be pro enterprise, pro business (interjection)

ANDREW MARR: Don't you need to do more ... (interjection) for the people

DAVID CAMERON: and taxing business is going to cost us jobs, set us back and make sure our recovery is weaker and that is wrong.

ANDREW MARR: Last week Ed Miliband came up with a couple of concrete proposals to help people on lower incomes and don't you have to do more than you've done so far to match that.

DAVID CAMERON: We always have to do more. You know, I recognise that so far, as this economy has started to recover, it's still very difficult for people to make ends meet because they see their wages are relatively fixed and yet the prices are going up. That's why cutting people's taxes is so important. That's why lifting people out of the first £10,000 of income tax is so vital. That's why freezing the council tax matters. But don't let's forget this issue about mortgage rates. If a Labour government came in and said it's okay to borrow more, spend more and tax more and the deficit goes up, interest rates go up, mortgage rates go up and that would wipe out any gain of anything else that is done on any other price because mortgages are such a big part of so many people's family budgets in our country.

ANDREW MARR: That is why so many people are worried about – not here admittedly, but in the South East, a housing bubble starting to create inflationary pressures and I know that George Osborne has turned to the Bank of England for advice on this. And yet you're bringing forward your help to buy scheme, including in the South East where there's already a housing bubble 95% help for individual families, that's an awful lot of money.

DAVID CAMERON: Well first of all let's start with the state of the housing market. I mean don't take it from me, take it from the Bank of England, we asked them last week for their assessment of the housing market and they said expressly that there isn't a bubble. The housing market is recovering but from a low base. If you look at prices outside London and the South East, they're only going up by 0.8%, talk of a housing bubble to people here in Manchester or Salford and they would literally laugh in your face. The problem we're trying to deal with is this - Today, the average family can't afford the average house and that's not a problem actually of the housing market, it's a problem in our banks and our mortgage market.

mortgage payments but they can't get the mortgage. They can't buy the flat or the house. Now as Prime Minister I'm not going to stand back while people's aspirations to get on the housing ladder, to own their own flat, to own their own home are being trashed. That's why we need to act and that's why it's good news that we're bringing forward the help to buy scheme and I can tell you today that Nat West, RBS, Halifax, are all going to be putting forward these products. This is not something totally new in our country. Most of our life times Andrew, it's been possible for people to go out and buy a flat with a 10% deposit and if we don't do this, then it will only be people with rich parents who can help them with the deposit, who can get on the housing ladder. That's not fair, it's not right, it's not the sort of country I want to live in and that's why it's important we bring this forward.

ANDREW MARR: And you have no worries at all about any inflationary effects of this.

DAVID CAMERON: Well, as I say, the Bank of England have advised that there is no housing bubble. They have all the tools, we've given them the tools for the first time in history to report on these things, to stop bubbles from occurring. They'll report back on this scheme, they can comment on it, all through its life – they were involved in its design. So I think let's put our trust in the Bank of England, particularly now we've given them everything they need to intervene if necessary.

ANDREW MARR: So we've been talking about fairness, in effect. Both of the other parties are now in favour of a mansion tax on properties above two million pounds. What's your view and can you be clear about what you would do in government (interjection)

DAVID CAMERON: I don't think this is a good idea. I want to live in a country where people work hard, they save, they put money in to their home and I think it's right people pay council tax, it's right people pay stamp duty and we put that up. It's right people pay a decent top rate of tax and it's 45p in the pound in this country. But to go after someone's house every year with a wealth tax, I don't think that is a sensible thing to do.

ANDREW MARR: And it was you, we know from this new book, it was you personally who stopped it last time.

DAVID CAMERON: Well I've never been in favour of this idea. I think wealth taxes they've been tried in a lot of European countries. A lot of them are now repealing them because they're not good for investment, they're not good for enterprise. I think it's a bad idea.

ANDREW MARR: And be absolutely clear, post election again, no mansion tax if you are Prime Minister.

DAVID CAMERON: That's correct as I say, stamp duty yes, council tax yes, but I think wealth tax is not sensible for a country that wants to attract wealth creation, wants to reward saving and people who work hard and do the right thing.

ANDREW MARR: When I was talking to Nick Clegg we talked a lot about whether any of his promises were real, come the next election because a coalition government – you have to negotiate. And in a sense, I ask you the same question because the polling suggests that if you come back to government, it will be possibly in a coalition again, so people want to know how much of what you say will actually be negotiated away with the Liberal Democrats. Nick Clegg says he stopped you doing a lot of things in this coalition government. Is that right?

DAVID CAMERON: What I'd say is we've got twenty months to go between now and the election. I'm absolutely convinced, not for my benefit but I think for the country's benefit, we need a strong government with a clear mandate that's properly accountable so you can see what goes in the manifesto - either it gets put in place or the government has to explain why it hasn't. That's the sort of government the country needs. I don't want another coalition, I want a Conservative only government and I think that's right for the country. That's what I'm going to be going all out for in these next twenty months and frankly, I'm not going to speculate about anything else because that's not what I want, it's not what I'm planning and frankly, it's not what the country needs.

ANDREW MARR: Is it true that before the last election you and your colleagues went through all the constituencies one by one and concluded there was no arithmetical possibility of a Tory overall majority and started to plan for a coalition, way before the actual vote took place?

DAVID CAMERON: That's not how I remember it. How I remember it is that I worked flat out before the last election. I always thought it was a tall order to do it in one go. We had to win something like 130 seats, in the end we won around 100: we fell short. I was always hoping we could make it but when you're leader of the opposition and you're up against such a massive great mountain to climb, you always know it's going to be tough.

ANDREW MARR: So that story by Matthew D'Ancona is false is it? The idea that you had gone through – that yourself, William Hague, George Osborne had gone through the list... (interjection) ...

DAVID CAMERON: I certainly, (both together) I certainly did not do that. I spent my entire time trying to win that election. I'm sorry I didn't make it. I think we had the best result for the Conservatives in terms of gaining seats since 1931 but it wasn't enough. And then the right thing to do was to be responsible. To recognise the country was in a crisis. A coalition was better than minority government and of course ... (interjection)

ANDREW MARR: You came out very fast. I was there at the time, after the election, with your generous, big offer you said. And that was partly base on the fact that people like Oliver Letwin had gone through the Liberal Democrat manifesto, line by line, trying to work out what could be a deal and what could be a deal breaker and ... (interjection)

DAVID CAMERON: Well I think if you ask people who were with me that morning, in that hotel room in central London, I think they were pretty surprised by how rapidly I did react and that was because I'd slept on it - for about an hour - and I just thought, look what does the country need right now. The country needs stable, good, strong government and I knew we couldn't do that in a minority government. And I thought a big open offer, I didn't know at that stage that would work of course.

ANDREW MARR: But you had a good idea because you'd looked through, there had been some pre-planning. If you did the same operation now, you looked at all the constituencies which are going to be battle ground constituencies, you would not conclude you can win a majority at the next election?

DAVID CAMERON: I simply don't accept that. I think that this next election is wide open to win. In the end, people are going to be asking ... (interjection)

ANDREW MARR: (overlaps) ... I think there are thirty six battle ground constituencies where the UKIP vote will let Labour in.

DAVID CAMERON: Look we have a huge battle. We have to persuade people who've gone to UKIP that they should come back to the Conservative Party because we're delivering for hard working people. The economy is recovering. We're on the right track. We've got to persuade Labour voters that look, there used to be a home in Labour for people who were pro enterprise but wanted good public services. It's now an anti-enterprise party. Come over to us, the Conservatives. We've got to persuade people who normally vote Liberal, you don't need to have a Liberal Party (interjection) ..

ANDREW MARR: That guy Clegg's an absolute swine...

DAVID CAMERON: You don't need that in order to have a compassionate country. Look, I'm absolutely in this to win it. I believe it can be done. I'm passionate about running a Conservative only government, not for my own benefit but because I actually think the country needs us to go further and faster on the things that really matter. Making a pro-enterprise recovery, delivering on promises like cutting immigration. Sorting out our welfare system, a revolution in our schools so we give every young person a chance to get on in a difficult, globalised world ... (interjection)

BOTH TOGETHER

ANDREW MARR: We're talking about UKIP and you haven't mentioned Europe. Your good friend Graham Brady, Chairman of the 1922 Committee, wants to see the list, the manifesto on which you're going to go to a referendum and which you're going to negotiate with your European partners, before the European elections next year. Is he going to get that?

DAVID CAMERON: Well of course there's much more we can say. Let me just make one point first which is, I mean at this election you've just been talking about, we'll have a very clear message which is if you want a referendum, if

you want that 'In' 'Out' referendum, there is only one way to get it and that is to put me back in Number 10 Downing Street, so I can deliver on my promise. A vote for any other party, including UKIP won't deliver that in out referendum (interjection)

ANDREW MARR: ... Except that a lot of people who want that referendum, want it to leave Europe and you're ... (interjection)

DAVID CAMERON: That will be their choice.

ANDREW MARR: You're committed to stopping that happen?

DAVID CAMERON: Look, my view, my goal is to renegotiate our relationship with Europe.

ANDREW MARR: How radically?

DAVID CAMERON: Very radically. People have said to me this is all impossible, you're not going to be able to do it. They also said you can't cut the European budget. I have cut it. They also said you can't veto a European Treaty, I did veto a European Treaty. They said, you'll never get out of the bailout mechanism. We got out of those bailouts ... (interjection)

ANDREW MARR: What does radical mean? Does it mean for instance, ending the free movement of people around the EU as far as we're concerned?

DAVID CAMERON: Well I'm not going to go through area by area. But there are two elements (interjection)

ANDREW MARR: Give us a sense of what

DAVID CAMERON: I'll give you an example. There are two areas to it. One is changing the European Union as a whole because it's become too anti competitive, too anti enterprise, too bureaucratic. It needs to change if we're going to compete in this modern, global world. But it also means changing Britain's relationship with this organisation. To give you one example, the phrase, 'seeking an ever closer union'; that is not what the British people want. It's not what I want. (interjection)

ANDREW MARR: So you want that taken out of the treaty?

DAVID CAMERON: Well, they can – other people can sign up to an ever closer union, other countries can but Britain should not be in an ever closer union and I'm determined to make sure we get out of that.

ANDREW MARR: to get out of that would mean a full treaty renegotiation because it is at the heart of the treaty that we've signed at the moment (interjection)

DAVID CAMERON: Yes we need a treaty renegotiation. I'm convinced one has to happen. I became Prime Minister three years ago – people said there

won't be any treaty renegotiations. I think we've already had three. Clearly the Euro zone needs treaty changes... (interjection)

ANDREW MARR: This will be a substantial re-writing of our relationship with the rest of the EU will it?

DAVID CAMERON: Yes.

ANDREW MARR: Can I give you another example, not about the EU but about the European Court. Christopher Grayling has said that he wants to see Britain's Supreme Court genuinely supreme. He wants to get rid of the Human Rights Act and that involves of course, leaving the European Human Rights system.

DAVID CAMERON: First of all we can scrap the Human Rights Act ...

ANDREW MARR: Yes. Sure.

DAVID CAMERON: ... as a first Act without actually altering the relationship with the European Convention on Human Rights but we do need to look at this and Theresa and Chris will both be making speeches about this, this week.

ANDREW MARR: Do you agree that we should leave the convention?

DAVID CAMERON: Well I think what we need to do is look and think about what's the outcome we want. I'm less interested in which convention we're signed up to but as Prime Minister, what I want to know is can I keep our country safe, so for instance are we able to chuck out of our country people who have no right to be here, who threaten our country. I say we should be able to do that. Now, whatever that takes, we must deliver that outcome and that is what I think we have the next twenty months to do and put in to our manifesto, whatever measures need to be taken so that we can get the effect we want, which is basically to have greater ability to keep our people safe.

ANDREW MARR: Aren't you interested in the constitutional position, which is so long as we're members of the convention our supreme court can't be supreme?

DAVID CAMERON: Well, obviously, there are a range of options as I've suggested in the past. You can right a British Bill of Rights, so that when cases go to the European Convention of Human Rights, you have a proper, you know proper margin of appreciation - the judges there can say, well the British have got their own Bill of Rights, they've made their own decision and we should respect that. That is one possibility. But we have some time now to get this right before the manifesto. But people should be in no doubt, a Conservative only government, led by me, there will be the ability to throw out of this country, far more rapidly people who threaten us and our way of life.

ANDREW MARR: A lot of Conservatives watching will say, what is the problem with somebody saying yes, we're going to pull out of the convention?

DAVID CAMERON: Well it may be that that is where we end up. But let's go through the process and work out what is necessary to deliver the effect that we want.

ANDREW MARR: Right. So you're not against that. That would of course require a majority Conservative government because the Liberal Democrats would stop you doing it otherwise.

DAVID CAMERON: Yes, look I think this coalition has achieved huge things for our country. The radical reform of our welfare system, so that it pays to work. A deficit reduction programme that's got our economy back on track. The reform of things like public sector pensions so that they're affordable for the future – you know we'll be remembering the record of Margaret Thatcher this week and I think Margaret Thatcher for instance would look at our school reforms, where we've got new schools, in the state sector providing a great education for young people and think that is absolutely in the spirit of handing power back to people. So we've done great things. It's a radical government but there's more we can do if we were a Conservative only ... (interjection)

ANDREW MARR: So far as I can remember Margaret Thatcher's government was in favour of workfare so was John Major's. They didn't manage to get it through, they didn't manage to legislate on it. Are you committed to doing that?

DAVID CAMERON: Well, I think this is something we need to look out and work out how to make sure that in all parts of our welfare system, there's no more something for nothing. It's not possible to just opt for a life on the dole. We've already done big steps in that direction, capping welfare so that no family gets more on welfare than you would if you were at work. Capping housing benefit because there were crazy rules that allowed families to get sometimes £70,000, £80,000 each for one house in parts of London. So there's more to do and we'll have more to say about that in the weeks that come.

ANDREW MARR: In the overall balance of cracking down on public spending and dealing with the deficit, what about the balance between tax rises and spending cuts, particularly on welfare? Because the impression is given, there's a big, big squeeze coming on welfare and that's again – it's the Tories being unfair on people at the bottom. And you're not doing anything about people who are doing quite well at the moment

DAVID CAMERON: I don't accept that. If you look at how we reduced the deficit, you know richest paid ten times more than the poorest and that's right. And that's why we put up things like stamp duty. But frankly, looking ahead, you know if we're going to get to grips with the problems of the cost of living people face, we've got to say people, we're not going to go on putting up taxes. The rest of the deficit reduction programme that George Osborne has set out, we believe we can do that by continuing to bear down on spending. I want us to see us... (interjection)

ANDREW MARR: No tax rises.

DAVID CAMERON: Well ... (interjection)

ANDREW MARR: Okay ...

DAVID CAMERON: No, no, what I want to see us is go on helping hard working people, particularly low paid people, to keep more of their own money to spend as they choose. You know and we have twenty five million people have got a tax cut because of the lifting of the personal allowance. We've taken over two million people out of tax altogether.

ANDREW MARR: So I'm going to hop from subject to subject because we're running out of time. On gay marriage, do you regret doing that and the furore that happened.

DAVID CAMERON: No, I don't regret it and Britain is a more equal and fairer country for having done it. Obviously (interjection)

ANDREW MARR: You're quoted in one of the papers ... If you'd known what was going to happen, you'd known the size of row, you would not have done it.

DAVID CAMERON: I don't agree with that.

ANDREW MARR: That's not true?

DAVID CAMERON: It's certainly true to say, you know that this is an important change. I don't think I expected quite the furore that there was. It's clearly been very difficult for some people to take on and I completely understand and respect that, back that. I'm not sure perhaps at the beginning we got across to people that this was about marriages that could take place in registry offices – this was not going to change what happened in Church, Mosque or Synagogue. I'm not sure we got that point across ...

ANDREW MARR: Right, so that was a selling point, not a principle ... (interjection)

DAVID CAMERON: On the principle of it, look, as you can see I'm passionate about marriage. I think it's a great institution and I think it should be available to people who are gay as well as to those of us who aren't.

ANDREW MARR: HS2, you're in favour of High Speed 2.

DAVID CAMERON: Yes.

ANDREW MARR: Is there any limit to how much money it's going to cost. Even the boss of HS2 says it may well cost more than 50 billion pounds. Do you have a cut off point?

DAVID CAMERON: Well of course there's a limit, we're not going to just spend any money on this. We have a budget, £42.6 billion(interjection)

BOTH TOGETHER

ANDREW MARR: ... if it goes above that, it's not worth it?

DAVID CAMERON: Well this is the government that delivered the Olympics on time and on budget. We're delivering Crossrail, the biggest construction project, anywhere in Europe, on time and on budget. And let me make this point. I think that the real ... (interjection)

ANDREW MARR: So HS2 is going to happen?

DAVID CAMERON: HS2 is going to happen and there are two points I think people – I want to get across to people. First of all, the West Coast mainline is full. We have to build another one. The choice is, do we build an old style Victorian one or do we build one of the new high speed lines like others. Second point, because I think people all over the country are worried that HS2 is going to take up too much money. In the next parliament, we'll be spending more than three times as much on other transport projects, as we will on HS2. It's not taking up an unfair share of the budget.

ANDREW MARR: This time last year, the conference was dominated by the Plebgate and the Andrew Mitchell affair and he was banned from conference. Do you now rather regret the way you treated him? (interjection) Unfairly treated him...

BOTH TOGETHER

DAVID CAMERON: Well, (interjection) I stood by him after these allegations took place. He stayed in the Cabinet. Eventually it didn't work out and he decided to resign.... (interjection)

ANDREW MARR: He was sent to Coventry and you were in Birmingham. I mean he was cut adrift a bit....

BOTH TOGETHER

DAVID CAMERON: These are very difficult issues to handle when allegations are made and all the rest of it and of course, there are always lessons to learn. .. (interjection)

DAVID CAMERON: Hang on. Let me answer the question. There are always lessons to learn about how to handle them better. Right now, there is a police investigation going on. A number of people got arrested.

ANDREW MARR: And on and on

DAVID CAMERON: Now these things shouldn't go on and on and on but it's underway. It wouldn't be right for me as Prime Minister to interfere in any way. We have to wait for its outcome and then we can make a decision.

ANDREW MARR: Can he come back into cabinet afterwards do you think?

DAVID CAMERON: He's a very talented politician. I've enormous respect for him. He was a brilliant development secretary. I'm very sorry about all the things that have taken place but we have to let this investigation take place and then we can take it from there.

ANDREW MARR: Okay, for now Prime Minister, thank you very much indeed for talking to us.

END OF INTERVIEW WITH DAVID CAMERON