



SPEECH GIVEN AT THE KENNET HUSTINGS BY PETER NORMAN

This is a letter to all our children

“I have a confession to make and with that confession an apology. An apology to you my children, your children and if we get there, their children.

The problem is I'm an addict and have been for the best part of my life. My addiction is fossil fuels and like all addicts I am consuming regardless of the consequences it has on you or on future generations. I know it cannot go on forever but the stuff is so cheap it is proving really hard to kick the habit. Not that I've tried that hard, indeed my dealer, George Osborne, has just bung another £1.3 billion to the oil industry to ensure I can get more of the stuff. His boss is busy sourcing alternative supplies for me through fracking. I know it is making our planet uninhabitable, but you see it is an addiction I cannot help myself.

I'd also like to apologise because in addition to being an oil addict I am a consumerist junky. I know it goes back to my oil fixation but aren't plastics fantastic? OK so my habit has created an island the size of Wales and growing in the Pacific Ocean and is choking the eco system, but it is so convenient.

And it is such an intoxicating habit, why put off until tomorrow what you can have today? We are all partying and what choice: I have plenty of parties to go to all telling me that life is going to get better. OK so there is a small price to pay, if I was hit by a bus you will be saddled with debts of £1.5 trillion, oh yes, sorry that is on top of the debts you owe because unlike my parents I can't pay for you to go to university, so I've saddled that onto your futures as well.

I am living beyond my means and I know it, my current overdraft is £90 billion and I cannot pay my way: I buy more than I sell by some £94 billion.

But you see it is an addiction, I can't help myself and it is resulting in some pretty poor life choices: I smoke, eat and drink too much and my oil fixation means I also drive too fast. But these lifestyle choices don't do any real harm, after all I can call on the NHS any time. Except I am putting such a demand on the health services that they can't really cope and we can't really afford it either. There is a £30 billion hole opening up, but its OK my party friends tell me they can fix it.

I know I was brought up with farming folk who taught me to care for the land and to leave it in a better state for future generations to enjoy. And I know my oil fixation is the warming planet creating water shortages with less land being sustainable for growth. But at least on what land is left I am building houses and with the rest I am filling it with nitrates to feed my profligacy.

So it is not quite the legacy I would have wished for you but at least now I can leave you a house, and as for the rest I am sure you will understand.”



If this is a picture you recognise then ask yourself this: how did we get here? What have our leaders been doing all this time, where has party politics got us?

You get what you vote for. If you are happy with the same old then put your cross by anyone of the candidates beside me, you might as well do it blindfolded as it really doesn't make much difference. If however you believe as I do that we are running towards a precipice and need to change direction now, then I suggest that you vote for the candidate who is at least aware that there is a precipice there.