



**The following letter was submitted to The Sunday Herald letters page for publication on Sunday January 4th 2011 in response to STUC comment piece on spending cuts (2/01/11)**

Re: Business Comment (Unison's Dave Watson, Dec 19) - I'd hoped even the trade unions had begun to understand economics and growth, however, he fails to grasp that everyone in our society needs success and prosperity and the politics of envy only take us back to a bygone age where we were all - including his members - much worse off.

The idea of taxing the rich is simple but wrong. The money generated being so limited it doesn't work and discourages desperately needed entrepreneurship and innovation.

No one supports unjustified massive salaries in the public or private sectors, but we must incentivise our best people and encourage them to grow businesses which employ people and pay taxes. What's wrong with our country is not too much of this, but just not enough!

What kind of economic thinking penalises effort, hard work and exceptional commitment?

Yes the banks were culpable in our economic demise but private sector growth is the only way out of downturn and should be encouraged. Mr Watson also fails to mention that public sector over staffing (and overpaying) makes up a sizeable part of our country's deficit for which we are now paying.

The deals that the unions managed to achieve for teachers and senior health service workers are costing us all enormously and crippling the services they work in - hence the reason politicians UK-wide are trying to back-peddle on both right now.

As for his point about the railways, I honestly can't believe that he - or anyone else on the planet - would think British Rail was best.

The privatisation process was botched and only now has the network begun to support the operators. Travel on trains especially in Scotland is now light years better than under the public provider and every measure proves it.

Let's move on and build a modern Scotland based on what this nation used to be known and respected for worldwide: our morality, personal strengths, business acumen and ingenuity. Not for the politics of envy.

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