

# On the Touch Lines

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It's New! It's Exciting! It's Socialist Choice!



WITH Mr. Heath now, metaphorically, standing on his head, as far as past promise and present performance go, Mr. Wilson, himself past master of the political somersault, has not only repeated his speciality but has tried to take the English language with him.

The word "liberal" we have known for some time, now means the complete opposite to what it did seventy years ago, but from January 20, 1973, "choice" according to Mr. Wilson, is what you have under socialism but do not have under capitalism. If this sounds strange to the reader, let him bear with this explanation, and, with the aid of his Newspeak dictionary, (obtainable, presumably, from Transport House) all will be made clear.

The trouble with the "ruthlessly competitive free market industrial and financial economy" in which we live is that the individual is restricted in his choice. He can buy only those things that manufacturers choose to make for him (and of course they only make things that will sell). He can only obtain such housing as the free market provides. He can choose to live only in

areas where work is available, and to send his children to such schools as are nearby.

Under socialism, in contrast, he may not be able to get those manufactures at all, because he has "chosen" instead higher taxes to turn those "nineteenth century bastilles" into "modern, forward looking" schools. Instead of being forced to live in privately rented accommodation, or to buy his own house, he will have the choice of living in a subsidised council house, or in his old rented accommodation now "municipalised".

Socialist choice, according to Mr. Wilson, means evaluation of the benefits and costs to the community as a whole. It means exalting the role of the individual in society, replacing the soulless society of capitalism and its free market vandalism with the Britain we want to see for ourselves, where the individual will be able to live his own life, express himself, dream his dreams and realise his ideals; a Britain where he will work - regardless of the amount of satisfaction and fulfilment he will get at that work. And so on.

Now we can see, says Mr. Wilson, the magnitude of the choice that has to be made. Labour's task is to make the choices clear. Still more to make clear that there is a choice, and in whose hands that choice lies.

That's us, folks. We have the choice. We can choose between two leaders who have been chosen for us, who will choose to put into practice policies different from those they promised when we chose them, who will choose to ignore all opposition, however broadly based, to their chosen policies, who will choose what is good for us, and will choose to call an election at a date of their choice so that we may choose to re-elect them for another period of chosen office.

That's choice, 1973 (or should it be 1984) style?

## FUTURE LAND VALUES LOST

THE Greater London Council is cashing in on the land price boom to the tune of £625,000, the price a development company is prepared to pay for more than two acres of land near Cambridge Circus in London's West End.

London ratepayers, whose natural reaction is probably gratitude that their total rate bill will be reduced, would do well to ponder on future increases in this value will now be lost to them forever, unless the merits of land-value taxation and site-value rating are recognised by those in authority.

