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PARTY ELECTION BROADCAST BY THE ALLIANCE

TRANSMISSION: WEDNESDAY 20 MAY 1987 1530-1535 RADIO 2

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IN CUE                               There now follows a Party Election  
Broadcast by the SDP Liberal Alliance.

TOYNBY                               Hello I'm Polly Toynby and here in  
the studio with me is Ian Wrigglesworth, the Alliance  
Spokesman on Trade and Industry.

Ian, I know a lot of people feel they don't know enough about  
Alliance policies and what the Alliance means to achieve.  
So, I'm going to ask you about two key subjects:  
Unemployment and pensions.

First, let's talk about our industry and especially the  
tragedy of unemployment. What does the Alliance plan to do  
about it?

WRIGGLESWORTH                   Well firstly, we're not going to do  
anything which we haven't costed very carefully and know that  
we can achieve without bringing inflation back again. And  
our first priority is to deal with the longterm unemployed.  
The people who've been hit hardest by the recession in recent  
years who've been unemployed for longer than a year. And for  
those people we want to introduce a building programme that  
is going to provide work in the construction industry, in  
particularly, house building and housing renewals and housing  
repairs and housing insulation which is labour intensive,  
gets people back to work again. Then we want to introduce a

recruitment incentive for the private firms that will encourage them to take longterm unemployed people off the unemployed register and we want to start a lot of new jobs caring in the community. People like care assistants and home-helps which there's a tremendous demand for and the Social Services department haven't got enough to satisfy that demand and we want to see a lot of those - not highly skilled jobs but caring jobs in the community which will help the longterm unemployed do a worthwhile job in their neighbourhood.

Then, on top of that, for the rest of the unemployed people, we want to provide a major programme of capital expenditure on the fabric of society, on the schools, on the roads, on the hospitals of the country in order to both improve the quality of the hospitals and buildings and the roads and the sewers, but also to help get people back to work again. And then we want to attack poverty. Poverty has increased tremendously in pockets of our society and is a scar on our society and we want to spend more money there to help those that have been hit hardest. Then, in addition to that, we want to ensure that pensioners also get an increase.

TOYNBY                          Well what about pensions? Many people feel that elderly people have had a raw deal in Mrs. Thatcher's Britain. What would the Alliance do to help pensioners and elderly people?

WRIGGLESWORTH                  Well many of our policies that are to help deal with crime and some of the things I've just mentioned. Appointing more care assistants, appointing more home-helps will help the pensioners. But in addition to

that, they obviously need the money to be able to live more comfortably and they should have kept up but haven't kept up with the earnings of other people in the community over recent times. We therefore, will increase the pension for a single person by £2.30 a week and increase the pension for married couples by £3.65. But we want to target the bulk of the money for pensioners to those that are worst off. Those that don't have any other income. And for those people we will increase the pension by £6 and by £9.40 a week and that we think will help pensioners very considerably indeed. But in addition to that, we will restore the death grant to a more realistic level by putting it up to £400 and we will abolish the infuriating standing charges on gas and electricity and telephones which particularly hit the old people within our community hard. We also want to give the pensioners an additional bonus at Christmas. At present they're given £10. It's not been changed for many years. We think the pensioners should have a double pension at Christmas and we would give them an extra week's pension at the beginning of December and then it would go up along with the rest of the pension increases as the years went by.

TOYNBY

Ian, I know you'd say that the time has come for an Alliance Government but sadly, our time has now come to an end.

Thank you for putting so clearly the Alliance plans to deal with unemployment and improve the lives of elderly people.

WRIGGLESWORTH

Thanks Polly. Our policies on unemployment and pensions are just two of the very many reasons why people should vote Alliance on June 11th.

(MUSIC)

OUT That was a Party Election Broadcast  
by the SDP Liberal Alliance.