

OUR EUROPE

Published by Britain in Europe.

It makes sense to stick together

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British Governments had to face these questions:

How could Britain alone defend her trade interests and the jobs that depend on them?

What real influence could Britain alone exercise?

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The answers were not reassuring.

Across the Channel the key countries of Western Europe had joined together in 1958 as equals in the European Community of nearly 200 million people.

Together they had successfully rebuilt their countries after the war.

They combined to DEFEND their sovereignty, their individuality and their national ways of life. Britain decided to seek membership. It took over ten years but it was done.

We can come out again. We can choose isolation.

We can make a present of a lot of British trade and British jobs to competitors in other parts of the world.

We can watch the £ fall further.

We can watch some of our industries slow down while unemployment goes up.

We can do all these things, but it would be daft.

Outside this country it is the enemies of freedom who hope we will come out. It is the friends of freedom overseas who hope we will stay in. That includes every country in the Commonwealth.

It is an illusion to think that an isolated Britain will be more independent. How could it be?

The European Community will still exist. THEY will still make decisions which affect OUR work and OUR lives. The difference will be that we will have no say in those decisions.

The reality is that an isolated Britain will not have more sovereignty but less.

The reality is that our children will not live in a Greater Britain but in a lesser one.

Surely it makes sense to stick together and—

KEEP BRITAIN IN EUROPE

WE CAN'T CATCH UP IF WE DON'T KEEP IN!

Seventeen years ago we were the richest country in Europe. It's different now!

When the original European Community of France, Germany, Italy, Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg was formed seventeen years ago Britain was very much better off than any of them and less damaged by war.

Today they have not only caught up with us but have gone ahead, some of them a long way ahead. Their overall standard of living is higher and their rate of inflation is lower.

The European Community is the world's biggest trading area. For example they take one third of British exports. We take less than one tenth of all their exports.

That makes the rest of the Community even more important to us and to our jobs than we are to them. Let's keep that in mind and not assume that they will do what we want, if we come out. It is obvious that inside the Community Britain has much more power over what is done than she could possibly have outside.

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It is often said that the Community is just a good thing for business men. The reality is that it has been a good thing for everybody in good times and in bad, when working or when retired.

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In fact they all devote a larger part of their wealth to social spending of this kind than we do. They are all Welfare States.

Is this Selfish?

It is nearly two and a half years since Britain joined the Community and in that time Britain has received nearly £300 million in food subsidies and in loans and grants.

For example a total of £34 millions went on the training and retraining of 153,000 unemployed workers in our development areas. Just over £8 million was given to train the disabled. Over £1½ million was given in a twenty-five year loan at a token one per cent interest to modernise 6,000 miners' homes in various coalfields.

Over £50 million was lent to the steel industry and another £13½ million went to small and medium sized companies, especially in the development areas.

These are not the actions of a selfish rich man's club. They are simply part of the Community's purpose of raising the standard of living especially in the hard hit areas of Europe, including Britain.

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VOTE YES ON JUNE 5

FOOD PRICES

Shirley Williams says:

"Food prices are much the same as they would have been if we were not members of the EEC. It is world prices of food that have soared in the last two years, to the point where they have caught up with EEC prices, and sometimes gone beyond them."

The world now lives from one harvest to the next, and food reserves are alarmingly low even in the richest countries. At one time, a little over a year ago, the world's entire stocks of food were just enough for twenty-one days.

Luckily the European Community is almost able to feed itself, including us. We can't feed ourselves. It is not fantasy to say that outside the Community and alone we really could in time face periodic shortages and queues.

Food prices have soared in the past four or five years: so have all other prices. World food prices have gone up over twenty-five per cent faster (a quarter as fast again) than other prices. In Europe food prices have gone up less than other things.

Wheat is considerably cheaper in the EEC.

Sugar is cheaper inside EEC. But Britain would still have been short of sugar had it not been for the Community. The EEC arranged to buy 1.4 m tonnes at fair prices from African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (including Commonwealth countries of course). And it has subsidised supplies to Britain down to the EEC levels, worth £36 million to us last year. Meantime, continental sugar appeared in our shops to fill the gap quickly.

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Open letter from Marjorie Proops



Dear Waverer,

I call you this for the pretty obvious reason that you haven't yet made up your mind over whether to say YES or NO to the burning question about staying in Europe or coming out – or because you shrug indifferently and leave it to others to make the decision.

Women often do just that. I know. I'm sometimes a wavering woman myself. But not about the question of Europe. I made up my mind some time ago that I am a European Yes-Woman.

I thought about it long and hard before I knew it had to be YES for me.

A lot of people say we women are disinterested and apathetic about the vital decisions which affect our lives. They say we leave the tough decisions to men (and then blame them when things go wrong).

I stoutly defend us against these nasty accusations but secretly, I admit there's some justice in the criticism.

"All that you women ever think about," says my best-friend's husband, "is the price of butter. You are not concerned with the deeper economic and social issues".

The answer to gentlemen like this is that we do indeed think about the price of butter, of bread and cheese and meat and sugar and fish and potatoes. For we're the ones who queue up in the supermarkets, clutching our shrinking housekeeping money in our hot little hands, and hoping it'll stretch to cover our needs.

But we're not so dumb that we disregard the other things too – the benefits that staying in Europe will bring. Like the security and stability we'll gain by belonging to the Community.

Back to food, which is our constant headache. There's no doubt that being in Europe will give us greater price stability, far fewer risks of shortages and the enormous benefits of the stable supply of the basic foods we buy. Don't just take my word for it – John Sainsbury, who knows a thing or two about food, says it, too.

If we come out, some anti-Europeans insist, we'll have other sources of supply. Like the Commonwealth.

Don't you believe it. No-one's going to give us charity. Only about a quarter of our food imports come from the Commonwealth countries, anyway. The European Community is already our biggest supplier, and I buy French butter every week – to name but one European product that saves me money.

But like I said, it isn't only money and food supplies we women have to think about. It's our husbands' and sons' jobs and better prospects, it's a better future for us and our children, a better chance for us all. Which is why I'm an out-and-out YES-Woman, eager to grab the chance, and my unassailable right, on June 5th, to say so.

Yours sincerely,
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Anyway, unlike Norway and Sweden, we'd be too big for them to cope with like that. So up would go the tariff walls again.

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They try to scare you by saying the Community is a rich man's club. What's the matter with that?

Don't you want to be rich? The ordinary person in the Community was much poorer than us when it started in 1958. Now it is the other way round.

For heaven's sake, don't let's listen to the faint hearts who want to take us out of the Community so that Britain can gently fade away into a genteel decline. Staying in is the only chance the ordinary people of Britain have of becoming as prosperous again as the ordinary people of France, Germany, Holland...

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Other food prices and supplies vary. Rice, apples, bacon and tomatoes are cheaper inside EEC; lard and lamb cheaper outside. When consultations start about fair prices for lamb, Britain's interests will be fully protected.

The truth is that food is no longer cheap anywhere. Oil for fertilisers and harvesting – and above all for transport – is now very costly and farm workers everywhere want decent wages. Overseas countries are no longer selling food at knock-down prices. Some need more for their own people. Some sell to richer countries more willing to pay high prices.

No-one can foretell what world harvests and prices will be from one year to the next. Europe's prices have been far steadier in years of scarcity than in the rest of the world. Europe is naturally an area of abundant food and efficient farmers. Secure supplies and stable prices are far more likely in Europe than the risky and uncontrolled markets outside.

● Can the leaders of the three big parties all be wrong at the same time on the same subject? It's possible but unlikely.

Can the last Conservative Cabinet and the majority of the present Labour Cabinet both be wrong too? Same answer.

Yet that is the top political line-up in favour of staying in the Community. Their opponents may be right but I don't put much value on their judgment.

If I were an anti Marketeer I don't think I'd be very happy about some of my colleagues.

The IRA, the National Front, the Communist Party, and a variety of odd Right and Left Wing extremists. These are the real enthusiasts for getting Britain out.

They say it is unfair that most of the newspapers of all kinds of opinion are for staying in. It is not unfair at all.

What it means is that most of the people whose job it is constantly to think about what is best for Britain, have come to the same conclusion. That is, Britain out of the Community would be a lame duck.

WOODROW WYATT

Couldn't our great country survive outside the Community? Yes, in a broken backed sort of way.

Once we had a free trade area with small countries like Norway and Sweden. It wasn't much good. Going back to that mini-organisation would hardly help.

Nor would the Community let us have a free trade association with them. After we had just broken one treaty with them they wouldn't want to make another.

Anyway, unlike Norway and Sweden, we'd be too big for them to cope with like that. So up would go the tariff walls again.

Last year the motor car industry exported just on £500m worth to the Community. It was enormously helped by only having to pay the new low duty to us of 4.4% for cars and 8.8% for commercial vehicles.

On January 1, 1976 those duties will be cut to 2.2% and 4.4% respectively. Eighteen

Open letter from Marjorie Proops



Dear Waverer,

I call you this for the pretty obvious reason that you haven't yet made up your mind over whether to say YES or NO to the burning question about staying in Europe or coming out – or because you shrug indifferently and leave it to others to make the decision.

Women often do just that. I know. I'm sometimes a wavering woman myself. But not about the question of Europe. I made up my mind some time ago that I am a European Yes-Woman.

I thought about it long and hard before I knew it had to be YES for me.

A lot of people say we women are disinterested and apathetic about the vital decisions which affect our lives. They say we leave the tough decisions to men (and then blame them when things go wrong).

I stoutly defend us against these nasty accusations but secretly, I admit there's some justice in the criticism.

"All that you women ever think about," says my best-friend's husband, "is the price of butter. You are not concerned with the deeper economic and social issues".

The answer to gentlemen like this is that we do indeed think about the price of butter, of bread and cheese and meat and sugar and fish and potatoes. For we're the ones who queue up in the supermarkets, clutching our shrinking housekeeping money in our hot little hands, and hoping it'll stretch to cover our needs.

But we're not so dumb that we disregard the other things too – the benefits that staying in Europe will bring. Like the security and stability we'll gain by belonging to the Community.

Back to food, which is our constant headache. There's no doubt that being in Europe will give us greater price stability, far fewer risks of shortages and the enormous benefits of the stable supply of the basic foods we buy. Don't just take my word for it – John Sainsbury, who knows a thing or two about food, says it, too.

If we come out, some anti-Europeans insist, we'll have other sources of supply. Like the Commonwealth.

Don't you believe it. No-one's going to give us charity. Only about a quarter of our food imports come from the Commonwealth countries, anyway. The European Community is already our biggest supplier, and I buy French butter every week – to name but one European product that saves me money.

But like I said, it isn't only money and food supplies we women have to think about. It's our husbands' and sons' jobs and better prospects, it's a better future for us and our children, a better chance for us all. Which is why I'm an out-and-out YES-Woman, eager to grab the chance, and my unassailable right, on June 5th, to say so.

Yours sincerely,
Marje Proops



months later the duties will vanish altogether.

If we leave the Community January 1, 1976 won't see a reduction in duty. It will soar back to the original 11% for cars and 22% for commercial vehicles.

That would put the kibosh on the British taxpayer's attempt to rescue British Leyland. Likewise our hopes of exporting ever more of everything else to the Community would be gone.

The Community is our biggest single customer – far bigger than the Commonwealth ever was. With those tariff walls up again, good night. Incidentally, if Britain votes NO, the pound will probably nose-dive. Up still further will go food prices and the cost of living.

They try to scare you by saying the Community is a rich man's club. What's the matter with that?

Don't you want to be rich? The ordinary person in the Community was much poorer than us when it started in 1958. Now it is the other way round.

For heaven's sake, don't let's listen to the faint hearts who want to take us out of the Community so that Britain can gently fade away into a genteel decline. Staying in is the only chance the ordinary people of Britain have of becoming as prosperous again as the ordinary people of France, Germany, Holland...

The opinion polls are saying Britain is sure to vote Yes. Don't be conned by that into not voting on June 5.

Remember how Mr. Heath came up from behind and won the 1970 election? What would you say to your children and grandchildren if Britain were pulled out of the Community because you thought it wasn't necessary to vote?

It's their future as well as ours we have to make sure of.

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HOW MANY UNEMPLOYED IF WE COME OUT?

Jobs depend on industry and trade. One reason we joined the Community is to have free access for our goods and services to a market of 250 million people. The bigger market means more exports. To produce them means more investment in British industry and therefore more jobs and greater security for the future. Most of British industry wants Britain to stay in, because they are already getting bigger orders to supply the larger market. Already half of our sales abroad go to the Common Market and the European countries linked with it.

If Britain left the Community, our goods would probably face trade barriers again. Our most important market would be at risk. New investment would go to the continent instead. Our creditors would lose confidence in us, causing a run on the £. The inevitable result — inflation would get worse, living standards would fall, followed by an

economic slump with massive unemployment.

The choice is ours. As long as we shilly shally we shan't get any new investment in our industry. Our export orders will remain unfilled or delayed, meaning loss of trade and of jobs. This uncertainty must end. A decisive 'YES' in the referendum, is the only way, if we want to keep our jobs and create a secure and better future for ourselves and our families.

"A decision to leave the Community would be very different from a decision to join it, and the economic consequences of doing so would be very much graver" said Dennis Healey, Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer on the 27th March, 1975.

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JOBS FOR THE BOYS



—and the girls!

Think for a moment how jobs and life have changed in one generation. Think how much change there could be in the few years while these boys are growing up.

Just look at the kind of things that the European Community is thinking about and planning for.

Planning, for example, for Europe-wide training and re-training schemes. For Europe-

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They are serious about securing real equality for the girls, in the top jobs as well as the others, and in finding better ways of helping young families. Just one example: every country in the Community except Britain pays an allowance for the first child. We are just starting to do so.

By the time the young have grown up, the Regional Fund

for areas that need help will have grown up too. It is just starting life now.

Together so much can be done, and it will need to be done.

What other choice can we offer today's boys and girls? A long upheaval as Britain endures tearing herself apart from the rest of the Community? How could it help the young?

It must be right to leave them the best foundation we can for greater prosperity, a peaceful future and assured food supplies.

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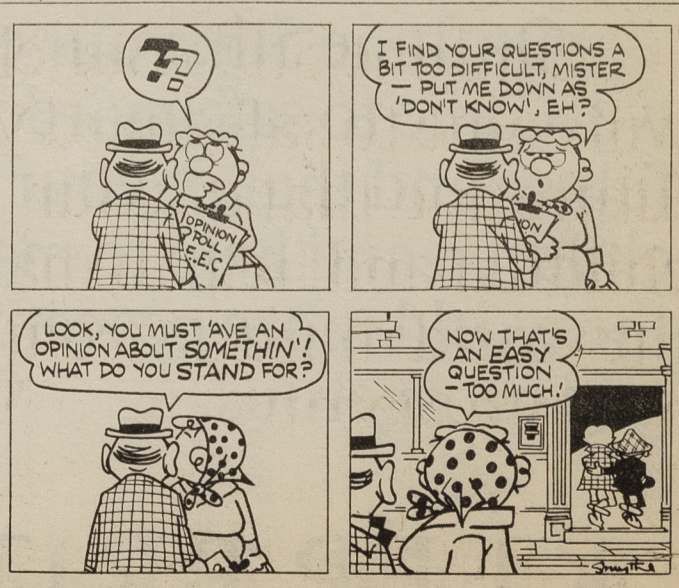
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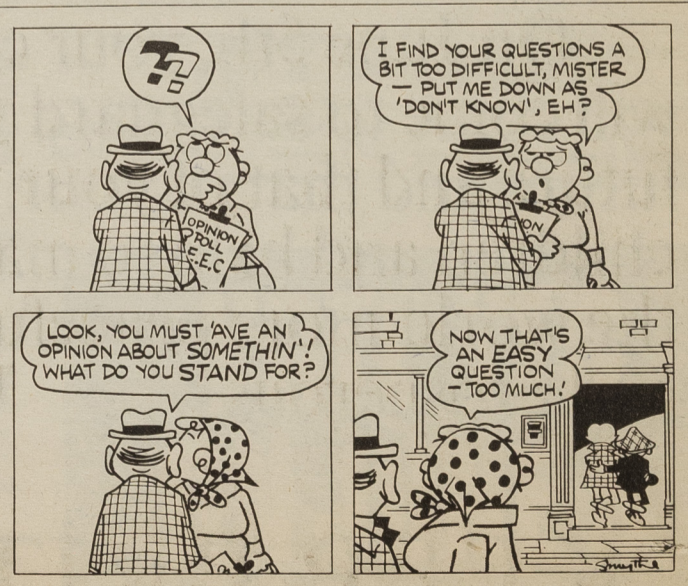
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