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14/1977

July 1, 1977

JENKINS ATTACKS ANTI-COMMUNITY FORCES

The Right Honorable Roy Jenkins, president of the Commission of the European Communities, today labeled those who are now campaigning for Britain's secession from the European Community as "false democrats."

Calling up memories of Britain's "memorable steadfastness in the face of daunting adversity" during World War II, the Commission president urged his fellow Britons to be "consistent and reliable" and to adhere to their decision to remain within the nine-nation European Community.

Jenkins, deputy leader of the British Labor Party before assuming his post as president of the Brussels-based Commission in January, was lambasting many members of his own party. A left-wing Labor Party group under the leadership of British Energy Minister Anthony Wedgwood Benn is urging Parliament to reject a proposal for direct elections to the European Parliament. The group blames the European Community's Common Agricultural Policy for Britain's high food prices and argues that Britain should secede from the Common Market.

In a speech today at the opening of a new factory in Glasgow, President Jenkins reminded Britons that in 1975 they had voted two-to-one to stay in the European Community. He scolded his countrymen for failing to take advantage of that membership in the meantime. "The main reason that we have not yet made a full success of our membership of the European Community," said Jenkins, "is that we have never really tried."

The following is an excerpt from Jenkins' Glasgow speech:

"Two years ago, the British people decided by a majority of a little more than two to one that they wished to remain part of the European Community.

It was the first referendum in British history, and produced a result far more decisive than any general election has ever done. Those who had most insistently demanded the innovation of the referendum - because they thought it would produce exactly the opposite result - were temporarily stunned by the sudden revelation that they were populists without the support of the people.

Now they have recovered from their concussion and seek to re-open the issue. I wonder if they consider for a single moment how damaging is their attitude to the interest of the Britain of which they presumptuously claim to be the guardians. Even if they had a coherent alternative policy - which they do not - it would wreck itself upon the rock of inconstancy. A weakened Britain has, in any event, a difficult course to pursue. No possible policy will work unless we stick to it. To float around like a feather blown by every wind of political opportunism is a certain recipe for national disaster. Our principal remaining moral capital in Europe and the world is that which we accumulated over 30 years ago by our memorable steadfastness in the face of daunting adversity. We have already used up far too much of it by a combination of economic weakness, which is not wholly our own fault, and a narrow short-sightedness, for which we have nobody but ourselves to blame. Yet a considerable residue of credit still remains. With only a little vision and courage it would be deployed remarkably effectively. But the essential element of such a deployment would be the re-creation of a feeling that we were people on whom others could count. No one any longer expects us to be a rich country. But with an almost touching faith, they still hope that we will be consistent and reliable. It is exactly this store of remaining national credit which the false democrats who first demanded and now deny the referendum seek to undermine.

They say our membership of the European Community has not gone well in the past two years. Many of their arguments for this are demonstrably false, but even if they were true, they ought not to weigh a people with steel in their backbone. The main reason that we have not yet made a full success of our membership of the European Community is that we have never really tried. Our governments have been too inhibited by the minority of unreconstructed anti-Europeans in their midst, men who have paid lip-service to the result of the referendum but have done everything in their power to undermine its verdict. They claim to have trembled before the voice of the British people, but in fact they have merely trimmed to subvert it.

There is no major line of policy on which one can ever set out without knowing that it involves a passage through rough water. Those who now cry "back" would, by any similar fluctuating advice, have frustrated everything worthwhile which this nation has ever done."