

## **'Standing Down'**

### **Two MPs reveal the Emotional side of giving up Politics.**

(Their anonymity has been preserved by using the names 'Con' and 'Lab'.)

In one of the bars in the House of Commons.

Con: I hear you're standing down. As am I.

Lab: Too right! It's all going south.

Con: Yes. And one is rather fed up with apologising all the time. The ghastly Press, one's constituents, the Whips.....

Lab: Damn right. I'm sick of it. I can't count the number of times I've had to say 'honest mistake' or 'oversight' or 'inadvertent error' and all that rubbish.

Con: I prefer 'error of judgement' followed swiftly by 'profusely apologise'. Seems to work. Were you adequately rewarded before this all began?

Lab: Too right! The max. And no messing about. I got a nice house out of it, too Wife's crazy about it.

Con: Me too. Down in Dorset. Very pleasing.

Lab: It's ours by right, right?

Con: Oh absolutely, considering all the work we do. Still, I don't think I did as well as that fellow for Falkirk. Pocketed a million they say. In eight years! Quite astonishing really. And he didn't even have a moat.

Lab: I don't know what my lad's going to do next year. He worked for me as a researcher and the pay was seeing him through uni. Poor guy will have to get a job.

Con: I'll miss the food allowance. Paid for a lot of whisky. I suppose I shall have to stop drinking malts.

Lab: The wife and I will miss the trips overseas.

Con: Oh, yes. Didn't you go on that one to Canada about the Olympics? Must have been very pleasant.

Lab: We did. And a few others. But you've got nothing to complain about, have you?

Didn't you go to China?

Con: Yes, we did. Took the children, too. But I prefer the European trips. Better food, you know.

Lab: Didn't you put in for a few bottles of wine? Against the rules, that.

Con: I did. And they paid! Tee hee! But what about your moth sachets? That was a good one!

Lab: Yeah. I'm proud of that! Haw haw!

Con: And the cat-food! In pursuit of my parliamentary duties! Ha ha!

Lab: Great! And you know what else I claimed for? A piano tuning! And I haven't even got one! Haw haw!

Con: Priceless! But I claimed for 'Beano' and 'Dandy'! Beat that! Ha ha ha!

Waiter: Excuse me, gentlemen. Some of the Members have asked if you would kindly be a little less boisterous.

Con: Of course. H'm. You know, I'll miss this place.

Lab: Yeah. But think about it. We get a resettlement grant and winding-up costs. That's worth at least a £100k. And then there's the pension - a right good one that.

Con: Indeed. 'Floreat Adsiduus.'

Lab: Eh?

Con: 'Long live the tax-payer!'

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