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Subject: Re: my fellow brits... who're you gonna vote for?

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Fri, 23 Apr 2010 06:38:30 GMT

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Dover wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 23:56 It's about 3 USD/gallon now, yeah. At it's peak it was 4.50 or so, but a decade ago it was barely over a dollar. I don't know what gas prices in the UK are now compared to what they are then

Tiesto is correct. It's about £1.20/litre now, was about £1 at the time (the £1/litre mark seemed to be a kind of symbolic marker they didn't want to break, but once they did, they didn't fucking stop).

Quote:but from what I understand absolute wages are higher there than they are here  
I don't really doubt that.

Quote:and the British Pound is so much stronger than the US Dollar, so I'm sure it all balances out in the end.

If the pound is stronger than the US dollar then this is probably quite a recent thing... not long ago the pound was in the gutter (but so was the dollar).

Quote:No, we don't have a real national health service. And most of our immigrants work, yeah. well, that's two huge differences right there.

Quote:Also -normal-. In the US we play three seperate taxes on gas at the local, state, and national level.

But neither the tax rate nor the tax proportion, are anywhere near as high, I'll wager.

Quote:Nobody notices or cares because all they see is the price on the big sign outside the station.

Interesting point, I'll come back to that very shortly...

Quote:And from what I understand health care is free in the UK, while here in the US we have people going broke because of doctors bills.

Free in the sense that it's paid for by huge levels of tax. I think I read a while ago that it works out as something like £2000/year per adult (I'd be interested to hear how much does the average American adult pay for health insurance?). So your earlier point... all they see is the price on the sign? well, you're not seeing the enormous cost of UK healthcare. I might add that it's also in a terrible state. When the American healthcare debate really started to kick off, I was talking to an American friend about it. Coincidentally we both had a similar operation recently - in my case arthroscopic knee surgery, in his case it was a leg tendon or something. In his case he said something like: i saw the doctor on monday, had an x-ray on tuesday, booked the operation on thursday, and we were making love on friday and saturday, we chilled on sunday (sorry, went a bit off track there).

in my case it was more like: saw a doctor in january, booked an x-ray in march, saw another doctor in june, booked another x-ray in december, had surgery the next june.

now that was for a condition which meant i couldn't run or do anything particularly active, and walking was a rather slow affair (though oddly enough, driving was fine)... admittedly not

lifethreatening though. imagine if you had a lifethreatening disease, cancer or something. where would you rather get treatment?

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