

# OIL

by

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Right, here goes, I'm going to keep this as short as humanly possible. Oil, there I've said it, the most hated word to a unionist apart from "Nat" or "Alicsammin". First let's get this out of the way, Scotland has 99% of the GDP of the rest of the UK without the oil so it represents a bonus and could be the seed capital for other things that we might like to do as a free and independent nation.

Next, we own the continental shelf where the majority of the oil fields are if independent. That's due to the UN charter that almost everyone has signed up to and "UNCLOS3" is its name (United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea). I won't dig into how it works (just google it if that's what you need) but suffice to say Scotland would own 95% of all the oil wells, fields etc etc. If we take back the 6000 square miles of stolen seabed, that goes up by a few percent, I'll leave you to google that scandal as well just put in "6000 square miles of stolen seabed".

So far so good. Next comes the scam perpetrated on the people of Scotland by Westminster.....

## **"THE GREAT SWINDLE"**

### **THE McCRONE REPORT**

Prof McCrone was a tory economist who was asked by the Heath govt in the 70's to write a report on Scotland after the oil started flowing. Heath lost his majority and Harold Wilson was swept to power. The completed report was handed to the Wilson cabinet who, needing the oil wealth to survive, panicked in case it got out to the SNP and immediately buried the report for 30 years until it was unearthed after a freedom of information request. What it described was an independent Scotland that would have an "embarrassing surplus" and would have a very hard currency attracting international hedge funds and investment as a fix against inflation.

*"The country [Scotland] would tend to be in chronic surplus to a quite embarrassing degree and its currency would become the hardest in Europe, with the exception perhaps of the Norwegian kroner. Just as deposed monarchs and African leaders have in the past used the Swiss franc as a haven of security, so now would the Scottish pound be seen as a good hedge against inflation and devaluation and the Scottish banks could expect to find themselves inundated with a speculative inflow of foreign funds."* Professor Gavin McCrone

So, instead of covering Scotland's wealth up like a greedy child hiding a bag of sweets in case it has to share, why didn't the Labour govt adopt a sensible, honest approach saying that the oil wealth was necessary to pull the UK out of a hole but that each year a proportion of the revenue would be put away into a sovereign wealth fund where Scotland would be entitled to half the fund as that's where the oil wealth was coming from. Fair, most would have thought so. However, what they did was a simple dirty trick, we were "grifted" or scammed by our own govt.

The real swindle took place each night on TV. As I and many others of my age will remember Sir Anthony Wedgwood Benn's words on TV;-



## Sir Anthony Wedgwood Benn

When asked about the economic long term prospects for Scotland as the first oil came ashore said,

"It's poor quality stuff and will probably run out in a few years....."

They've dropped the "poor quality" but the running out message has been played over and over, decade after decade. But you already know that.

We have proof of this now because the Chancellor of the Exchequer at that time admitted it;-

Dennis Healey  
(Chancellor to Harold Wilson's govt)

He says that the value of oil to the UK is a prime motivation behind Westminster's opposition to independence now and in the 1970s.

"I think we did underplay the value of the oil to the country because of the threat of nationalism .....[.] I think they [Westminster politicians] are concerned about Scotland taking the oil, I think they are worried stiff about it."



The revenue instead of being used to sort the UK's finances out and then being committed to a sovereign wealth fund was squandered on large projects in London and the South East such as the M25 London Orbital Motorway and the Channel Tunnel.

Later it was used by Maggie Thatcher to carry out the biggest act of economic vandalism the UK has ever seen. Thousands of people were laid off and thrown on the scrapheap whilst the industry they had worked for was literally demolished before their eyes.



#### CLYDE OIL

Then at around the same time oil was discovered to the south of Arran and the south of Campbeltown. In one of the most shocking of all the acts of the Thatcher Govt, all oil exploitation was "blocked" because any oil operations on the Clyde would "hamper movement of the Nuclear Submarines moving in and out of the Royal Naval Base at Faslane". This was done at a time when the West of Scotland was decimated and the remaining shipyards were screaming out for orders to keep them open.

Yet again, this story was "hushed up" and it was only when MOD and Cabinet papers were declassified and discovered by a history researcher at the National Archive that the true scale of the scandal became apparent.

Michael Heseltine, a Thatcher Cabinet Member at the time admitted the whole sordid affair earlier this year in an article by the Sunday Post who have had a keen interest in "Clyde Oil" since the story came out.

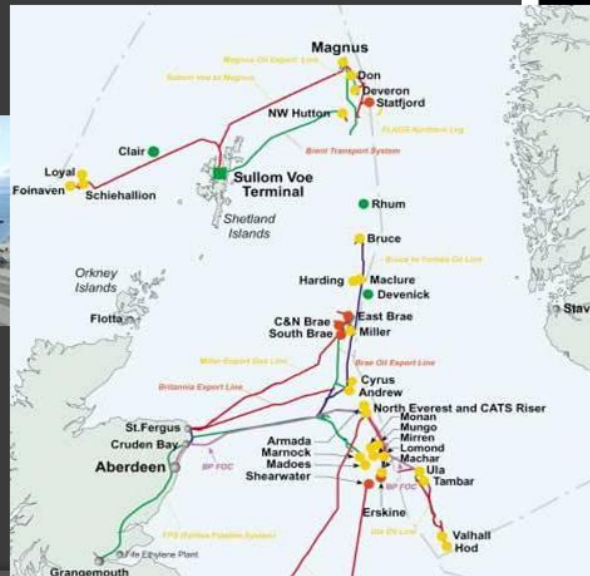


NOW

Clair, Clair Ridge,  
Rosebank and  
others yet to come.



"Wee Ginger Cat"



Over the last few months we've heard claim and counter-claim over what is left. What's become clear is that the UK Govt yet again wishes to vastly downplay what is there. Whilst the Westminster media machine is busy telling us that "it'll run out soon" (where have we heard that before?) or "it's too volatile for Scotland's economy" and "there's nothing there" (when asked about the finds to the west of Shetland), "Buster" (his cat is pictured) and his little flying machine captures pictures almost on a daily basis showing the massive investment that's been thrown into the new fields.

In one of the more curious events, the rig doing test drilling on Clair Ridge found that the oil was "sweet" (the highest value oil) and was three times larger than first expected. The staff were sent home on full pay until the end of September (after the referendum) and were each told "And don't go talking to any wee ginger cats otherwise you be back".

Two days later, the UK Prime Minister David Cameron arrived on Shetland. That's the first time any UK PM has bothered to visit Shetland in 34 years. Here's the picture of him after landing.



Now I don't know what you make of all this personally. It certainly angers me and makes me all the more determined to work for Scotland's independence. The acts of Westminster are that of an enemy and not a government sworn to look after us. We need to remove that institution and replace it with a government that will at last work solely for the people of Scotland and invests the wealth that comes from the oil in ways that ensure the long term future for everyone.

One possible way would be to invest some of the oil wealth in renewable development, the subsea renewable technology requires similar skills to that used in oil exploitation and could act (eventually) as a way to deal with people involved in an industry which will one day disappear.

Don't forget that, the oil will run out. The idea of that makes people uneasy about independence, however, if they put their faith in Westminster, that parliament have form and won't put anything away to help Scotland when the oil runs out. Yet again they'll have spent the money on their pet projects such as HS2 (high speed rail which won't reach Scotland) and be unable to help our grandchildren out.

Scottish independence allows for forward planning to be made to ensure that such an upheaval will be as minimal as possible. Our expertise in subsea renewable will build us into a world leader in such an industry.

## Subsea Renewables



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