

SCENE 1.

AN OLD FOLKS HOME. SALLY, A STUDENT NURSE, IS WITH AN OLD AND DODDERY VINCE CABLE.

SALLY: Right, time for your medication Mr. Cable!

VINCE: Can't it wait, nurse? I'm due in the House at 3:00.

SALLY: Come along Vince. We can do this the easy way or we can use the tradesman's entrance. Wash the pills down with your tea, there's a luv.

VINCE: Bloomin' heck.

VINCE GRUDGINGLY TAKES HIS MEDICATION.

VINCE: Did I ever tell you that I was the Business Secretary in the Coalition?

SALLY: Yes, you have mentioned that - every single day.

VINCE: Then at the grand old age of seventy four I've risen to become the leader of Liberal Democrats. Fancy that!

SALLY: I know. I do watch the news.

VINCE: I admit, we're not as big as we used to be, but we still have a few MPs. We've got councillors up and down the country. Once a year we meet to discuss our policy agenda and form our manifesto. In many ways we're just

like a real political party.

SALLY: Can I ask you a question? How come the mighty Vince Cable, leader of the Liberal Democrats, is living in an old folks home?

VINCE: Why shouldn't I? I can come and go as I please . It's handy for the House. The tax breaks are good, and Maureen does me a deal on secretarial services.

SALLY: Doesn't seem very grand, that's all. I know how you MPs like your expenses.

VINCE: Things are different now, especially for us Lib/Dems. Sad to say all our belts are somewhat tightened.

SALLY: I'm a student nurse. I know all about austerity. So what went wrong for you lot? How come no one's voting for you?

VINCE: People have long memories. We had policies on Europe, the economy, health and social care, the environment, families and communities. Did people want to talk about that? Did they heck. They just wanted to talk about bloomin' tuition fees

SALLY: I remember that. You promised to scrap tuition fees along with that git Clegg. Then you did the exact opposite. I voted for you sods!

VINCE: We were in a coalition. Some sacrifices had to be made.

SALLY: Yeah, not by you. Do you know how much I owe on my student loan?. I'll never pay the damn thing off.

VINCE: Suddenly I'm a bit peckish. Any chance of a slice of that Madeira cake, dear?

SALLY: Don't you "dear" me. I thought your lot said you couldn't have your cake and eat it.

VINCE: We said the time to fix the roof is when the sun is shinning. Didn't understand what that meant either. Go on, just a thin slice. I'm on TV later. Got to keep my energy levels high for Paxman.

SALLY: Hope Paxo gives you a right good stuffing. Get it yourself.

VINCE: What's got into you today?

SALLY: You just don't get it do you. You broke a promise to a generation, and we're the ones who'll be paying for it. For the rest of our lives. Hang on. I forgot your diuretic. Bend over, Vince. I'm going in the tradesman's entrance.

VINCE: Bloomin' heck!

THE END.