



## ONE LAST BASH AT THE CASINO ECONOMY

After the final Prime Minister's Questions of this parliament, Member of Parliament Alan Simpson said, "The last exchanges between Cameron and Brown got lost in another bout of "who's deceiving who." The sterile exchanges about £6billion of cuts or services ignored a very simple element in the equation. UK banks have paid themselves the same sum of £6billion in bonuses this year.

Instead of chasing after a bonus tax, the government should pledge to change banking rules, making it a requirement that banks must henceforth purchase the same amount of bonds from the proposed Green Infrastructure Bank as they pay to themselves in bonuses. Then it would be the gamblers who meet the cost of repairing the economy they have damaged, rather than the general public.

Parliament has been conned into bailing out a banking system that will take the UK into another economic crisis if it is not fundamentally restructured. The public will not be offered this choice in the coming General Election. The consequence is that the next parliament will be plagued by debates about whose cuts will be the kindest. This will be the real deceit taking place.

If there is to be a wider debate about the real choices that the UK might make, it will have to come from social movements not caught up in the current bun-fight of abuse that passes for a General Election campaign."