

Duncan Hames, declaring with apparent sincerity in his regular *Wiltshire Times* column recently that the cuts are by no means as bad as he feared they were going to be, while Tweedledum, Dr Murrison, on the opposite side of the same page chunters on about the EU or postal privatisation or a reception he has attended, anything to avoid the burning issues of the moment which millions of his fellow citizens are being forced to contemplate courtesy of the precipitate haste displayed by the ConDem alliance in pushing through its savage programme of 'savings'

Issues such as redundancy and unemployment leading to growing poverty, deprivation and dependence on public assistance, which await us just as surely as night follows day. Just like the good old days of the last Tory administration, some might say. Perhaps the best way to avoid becoming too depressed at the prospect of the mayhem to come is to make more of the humorous potentials of the situation.

Thus, if we imagine Cameron and Clegg or Murrison and Hames as some sort of old-school comedy duo along the lines of Morecombe and Wise say, or Little and Large, Barker and Corbett, even Laurel and Hardy, it might help to dilute the effect of the horrors which together they are preparing to unleash upon the country at large, with no democratic mandate for so doing, particularly in the case of the LibDems, who campaigned on a platform of policies very different from those which they are now supporting with varying

degrees of enthusiasm.

I'm afraid that even Wiltshire itself will not be immune from the consequences of their actions.

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Political mirth

HAS anyone else noticed the striking similarity between the political situation in this part of the county, with its cosy association between Hames and Murrison, and that of the UK as a whole, where Clegg and Cameron hold sway together?

The same subordination of principle to political pragmatism in the one case, the same bluff refusal to contemplate the likely consequences of their policies in the other. So we have Tweedledee,