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《撒切尔夫人英国国会辩论经典片段（双语）》

On economic and monetary union, I stressed that we would be ready to move beyond the present position to the creation of a European monetary fund and a common community currency which we have called a hard ECU. But we would not be prepared to agree to set a date for starting the next stage of economic and monetary union before there is any agreement on what that stage should comprise. And I again emphasised that we would not be prepared to have a single currency imposed upon us, nor to surrender the use of the pound sterling as our currency.

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It is our purpose to retain the power and influence of this House, and not to denude it of many of the powers. I wonder what the right honourable gentleman's policy is, in view of some of the things he said. Would he have agreed to a commitment to extend the Community's powers to other supplementary sectors of economic integrations without having any definition of what they are? Would he? Because you would've thought he would from what he said. One of them was that the Commission wants to extend its powers and competence into the area of health. We said no. We weren't going to agree to those since on what he says, he sounded as if he would, for the sake of agreeing, for the sake of being little sir echo, and saying, "Me too."

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Would the he have agreed to extending qualified majority of voting within the Council, to delegating implementing powers to the Commission, to a common security policy, all without any attempt to define or limit them? The answer is yes. He hasn't got a clue about the definition of some of the things he is saying, let alone securing a definition of others.

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Yes, the Commission does want to increase its powers. Yes, it is a non-elected body and I do not want the Commission to increase its powers against its House. So of course we are differing. Of course the chairman or the president of the Commission, Mr. Delors, said at a press conference the other day that he wanted the European Parliament to be the democratic body of the Community, he wanted the Commission to be the executive and he wanted the Council of Ministers to be the Senate. No. No. No.

???Delors????????????????????????????????
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Or, or perhaps the Labour Party would give all those things up easily. Perhaps they would agree to a single currency to total abolition of the pound sterling. Perhaps being totally incompetent with monetary matters, they'd be only too delighted to hand over the full responsibility as they did to the IMF, to a central bank. The fact is, they have no competence on money, no competence on the economy, so, yes, the right honourable gentleman would be glad

to hand it all over. And what is the point in trying to get elected to Parliament only to hand over your sterling and to hand over the powers of this House to Europe?

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Norman Tebbit?My right honourable friend not agree that the mark of a single currency is that all other currencies must be extinguished. And not nearly extinguished, but that the capacity of other institutions to issue currency has to be extinguished. And that in the case of the United Kingdom, would involve this parliament binding its successors in a way which we have hitherto regarded as unconstitutional.

Norman Tebbit:

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This government has no intention of abolishing the pound sterling. If the hard ECU evolved into much much greater use, that would be a decision for future parliaments and future generations. It would be a decision which could only be taken once, and a decision which should not be approached in this atmosphere, but only after the greatest possible consideration. I believe both Parliament and sterling have served our country and the rest of the world very well. I believe we are more stable and more influential with it, I believe it is an expression of sovereignty. This Government believe in the pound sterling.

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Dr. David Owen: Is it not perfectly clear that what was being attempted at Rome was a bounce and a bounce that led only one way, and that was to a single federal united states of Europe? And is it not vital that in this House, across party lines, it is possible for a prime minister to go and make it clear, if necessary, that Britain is prepared to stand alone? We don's relish it, but that if necessary, if we are faced by the imposition, by treaty of an obligation to a single currency and a situation which would prevent enlargement to Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, Britain would be entitled and right to use the veto?

Dr. David Owen???
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Mr. Ron Leighton: There is no majority in the House for EMU, but is the Prime Minister aware that I attended a conference in Italy last year at which an Italian Minister spoke to me about EMU? I said, "What if Mrs. Thatcher opposes it?" And ungallantly, he laughed loud and he said, "We have met Mrs. Thatcher many times - she squawks and makes a noise at the beginning but always comes round and gives way in the end." Now what assurances and guarantees can seek of this House today that she will not give way on this issue, as she did give way on the Madrid condition about British inflation before joining the ERM?

Mr. Ron Leighton??“???????????????”???????????“?
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That is what they said, Mr Speaker, when I was negotiating for a better budget deal for Britain. Twice, they and the people in the Commission and our people in the Commission and we had the presidency of the Commission, advised me to give way. They found out differently.

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Mr. Tony Favell: Mr Speaker, next Wednesday, the doors of this Chamber will be closed to Black Rod as a symbol of the independence of this House. What would be the effect on the independence of this House and the nation which elects it if the power to veto proposals affecting social affairs, the environment and taxation were to be removed?

Mr. Tony Favell???

Mr Speaker, I hope that, when the next election comes, people who want to come to this House will come to uphold its powers and its responsibilities, and not to denude the House of them. We have surrendered some of them to the Community. In my view we have surrendered enough.
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Mr. Tony Benn: And then is the Prime Minister aware that what we are really discussing is not matter of economic management, but the whole future of the relation between this country and Europe? Are the British people when they vote in a general election to be able to change the policies of the government that has previously veto? And it is already a fact, as the House knows full well, that whatever Government is in power, our agricultural policy is now controlled from Brussels, our trade policy is controlled from Brussels and our industrial policy is controlled from Brussels and if we go into EMU, our financial policy will be controlled. It is a democratic argument, not a nationalistic argument. But now as they say this is the Prime Minister and it'd be the member of the Government who took us into the EC without consulting the British people, having been the Prime Minister of the Government who agreed to the Single European Act without consulting the British people, having now agreed to the ERM without consulting the British people. We find it hard to believe that she is really intent on preserving democracy rather than gaining some political advantage from waving some national argument in the eve of a general election. That is why we do not trust her own judgment on the matter.

Mr. Tony Benn???
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Mr Speaker, I think that I would put it just a little bit differently from the right honorable Gentleman, although I recognise some of the force of some of the points that he is making. I think when the Delors proposals for EMU came out, the economic and monetary union, it was said immediately by my right hon. Friend, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer that this was not really about monetary policy at all. It is really about a back door to a federal Europe, a federal Europe taking many many democratic powers away from democratically elected bodies to non-elected ones. I believe fervently that that is true, which is why I will have nothing to do with their definition of economic and monetary union.

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