

You've given to get Britain

The new ideas working again?

By TOM NEWTON DUNN
Political Editor, CLODAGH
HARTLEY, Whitehall Editor, and
JANE HAMILTON, Consumer Editor

CHANCELLOR George Osborne praised Sun readers yesterday as he listened carefully to their ideas for getting Britain back to work.

He met dozens of them at a special summit, organised by our Sun employment campaign, during the Tories' annual conference. It was an opportunity for Mr Osborne to allay their fears over his looming spending cuts. He told them: "My policy is all about trying to get unemployment down."

"It's about trying to provide confidence in the United Kingdom economy so that, internationally, people look at the UK and say it's a good bet." He said: "It was a really important discussion, and gave me lots of new ideas."

"The best questions came not from the experts but people who have real life experience of unemployment and trying to tackle it." "Full credit to The Sun for putting it on."

Vacancies

The Chancellor was joined by Employment Minister Chris Grayling, the 2006 Apprentice TV series winner Michelle Dewberry and Morrisons boss Dalton Philips.

Mr Philips kicked off the conference fringe event in Birmingham, chaired by TV show host Jeremy Kyle.

He asked the ministers why so many people remained jobless, pointing out that his stores alone had 3,000 vacancies.

Mr Philips said: "You've got to put programmes in place to get people who feel excluded back into the workplace."

Mr Kyle added he saw many people who knew they could "get money for just sitting on their backsides at home".

Mr Grayling said that in the last three months, when the economy was growing, 480,000 jobs were created in the private sector.

But he conceded: "We are simply not yet getting people off benefits and back into work. The systems we have inherited do not work."

"When people are out of work for so long they lose confidence." Mr Kyle introduced hard-working father of 11 David Jones, who has been out of work for only one week in his adult life.



Getting the message... George Osborne and Jeremy Kyle yesterday

have found it easier to live off the state. Mr Jones said: "When I had my children every single one was planned. When you bring a child into the world you have to provide for that child." "I just did what I had to do." Mr Osborne and Mr Grayling also heard from ex-office worker Sally Smith, 26, a single mum from London, who had split from her partner and moved into rented accommodation - paid for by the state. She said: "I've been back to work twice and both times I've been financially worse off." Mr Kyle asked Mr Grayling: "Here is a lady who wants to

work and says she can't afford to. That ain't right is it?" Mr Grayling said: "That's not right and that's why we are going to totally reorganise the benefits system to ensure that when you go back to work and work extra hours you will always be better off." Ms Dewberry, now boss of an internet firm, asked the ministers why they did not support fledgling companies with finance to take on new workers. Mr Grayling promised a new flexible approach would mean companies getting the support to employ more staff. Hugh Andree, boss of Force Select - an agency that helps

find work for former servicemen and women - said: "The worst employer to try to get into is government, in terms of government departments and the private sector." "There are 22,500 service men and women coming out of the Armed Forces this year - 4,000 have been medically downgraded, 1,500 of those permanently." "When are government departments going to start talking to one another and start using this pool of talented people, whose training we have paid for, and redeploy them in teaching and the NHS, etc?" Mr Osborne promised to look

at the idea of merging public sector jobs. The Chancellor was also asked whether he would reconsider his cuts plans - to be announced in two weeks - if unemployment increased from the present figure of 2.47 million. He said he was tackling deep problems in the economy to allow the UK to retain its crucial Triple A credit rating. Mr Osborne said: "I am trying to create stability. I believe that is the root to creating permanent employment growth." c.hartley@the-sun.co.uk

myView By JEREMY KYLE TV host

£120MILLION! That is what we pay other countries every day, just to service our debt interest. I can see why deficit reduction is such a priority for George Osborne. That's money from our taxes going towards building schools or hospitals abroad. In these tough times, the Coalition has found the billions required to do the right thing. Britain will be better off for enshrining the principle that it should ALWAYS pay more to have a job. Opportunities are there and I applaud this Government for attempting to use both carrot and stick.

SALLY SMITH

Single mum who used to work in the City but is now on benefits. SALLY said she cannot find work that pays as much as her benefits. She said: "What the Chancellor was saying is certainly a better idea than what happens now. When you go back into work you get no help. The Job Centre say you're better off working less for benefits." "I've had a couple of good jobs but they weren't enough to pay bills."



DALTON PHILIPS

Chief executive of Morrisons, one of the biggest supermarket chains. MR Philips insisted "cuts" were not the whole solution. He said: "We all know there's a big hole in the national finances and painful decisions will have to be taken." "But cuts are only half the solution. Economic growth is the other half. If companies invest, equipping their people with the skills to succeed, they'll make and supply better products."



DAVID JONES

Self-employed dad who has always worked to provide for his 11 kids. DAVID, from Barrow, told the Chancellor his earnings for the past two years had put him over the bracket which would mean losing child benefit. He said: "I agree things need to be done but a lot more discussion is needed. I think the Chancellor has been very brave." "We could be sitting here in five years time thinking that it was the best thing that could ever have happened."



MICHELLE DEWBERRY

Ex-Apprentice winner and founder of "deals" website thedailychic.com. MICHELLE says the battle to cut unemployment could be won by joined-up government thinking. She said: "The jobless are dumped on welfare-to-work schemes that get people off unemployment statistics for six months but don't offer jobs at the end. The Government should match workers to real companies with real jobs and use the money to pay their wages."



KHALID OBEIRNE

Former London gang member, now a youth worker for Connexions. KHALID, who was a finalist in The Sun's Column Idol contest, asked the Chancellor how Connexions could continue helping with its budget being cut. He said: "It was really useful and I got my point across." "I'm not 100 per cent sure how the benefit changes will affect people, but it was really encouraging to hear that there are jobs."



CHARLIE MULLINS

Owner of Pimlico Plumbers firm in London, with over 133 engineers. CHARLIE believes that the Government should pay Jobseekers' Allowance to firms which they can use as wages to take on extra staff. He said: "My firm would take on 20 employees tomorrow. We have to stop rewarding people to stay on the dole." He said too many kids go to university, adding: "They can earn as much in a trade."



Jail pledge...

PR
JU
'W

By GRAE

THOUSAN
petty crimi
plans unvei
The Just
should be
criminals a
Instead,
tences sho
offenders w
His comm
ference app
retary Ther
war on thu
He said:
always be
"But let
the previo
ous gangst
are only p
and violent
"We hav
thousands
who fail to
Mr Clar
53,000 crim
six montl
re-offended
Mrs May
"Vandalism
it's crime.
behaviour"
said he wa
T

I 'B

TORY MP
coining the
Mr Davis
Dem Nick
partnership
admitted be
he joked to
wisdom of

VOV

THE Gover
targets to
tional De
Mitchell pr
He insis
income wil
Mitchell als
donating £6