Coalition Update: 3-9 May

May 5 Election Campaigns and Results

Lib Dems face terrible backlash as voters opt for SNP (Guardian, 3 May)

Scottish Lib Dem voters angry at the Westminster coalition appear to be shifting their support to the SNP. Labour appear not to be benefiting from the disaffection.

http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/may/02/scottish-elections-liberal-democrats-snp

Greens eye Liberal Democrat defectors (Financial Times, 3 May) ££

Green campaigners in Sheffield and elsewhere see themselves as the natural party for anticoalition Lib Dems.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/08ff7fba-750c-11e0-a4b7-00144feabdc0.html#axzz1Llxql78a

The Story of the AV Campaign (ConservativeHome, 5 May)

Tim Montgomerie's excellent report on the No Campaign

http://conservativehome.blogs.com/avstory/2011/05/the-story-of-the-av-campaign.html

Lib Dem collapse in local elections is good news for David Cameron (*Guardian*, 6 May) Tony Travers claims that the Lib Dems have been electorally damaged by their role in the coalition, with the Conservatives set to take advantage in certain parts of the country. http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/may/06/lib-dem-collapse-david-cameron

Nick Clegg facing calls to quit from defeated Lib Dems (*Telegraph*, **7 May**)

Nick Clegg faces calls to resign after poor local election results throughout the UK

No challenge to Clegg, and certainly not from Huhne (*Independent*, 9 May)

Analysis of the potential successors to Nick Gegg, all of whom are assessed to be politically vulnerable or otherwise unlikely to stand.

http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/no-challenge-to-degg-and-certainly-not-from-huhne-2281146.html

The Changing Nature of the Conservative-Lib Dem relationship Now Cameron turns attack on Lib Dem plans for elected House of Lords (

Realities of power force coalition rethink (FT, 9 May) ££ George Parker discusses the "new phase" of the coalition, claiming the Geoge-Cameron relationship (on which the coalition is founded) will become "more transactional".

There are many ties that bind the coalition (*Telegraph*, 9 May)

Tory minister David Willetts claims there is little point identifying a policy as belonging to a particular party, adding it is bad government for ministers to distance themselves from specific policies.

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/8501928/There-are-many-ties-that-bind-the-Coalition.html

The Coalition and the Civil Service

DPM's Cliffhanger In Whitehall (Financial Times, 4 May) ££

Sue Cameron discusses Nick Gegg's expressed concern that the Gvil Service is yet to adapt to his near-unique constitutional position. Ms. Cameron finds this strange because the civil service "loves coalitions".

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ca765e34-75d4-11e0-82c6-00144feabdc0.html#axzz1M7znCDgh

NHS Reforms

Nick Clegg and David Cameron agree key changes on NHS plans (Guardian, 9 May)

David Cameron and Nick Clegg have agreed changes to the government's NHS reforms, with