

INT - NEWSNIGHT-ESQUE STUDIO - EVENING

A smartly dressed interviewer is introducing the next item.

INTERVIEWER

That was Adam Parker reporting from Swansea. Because somebody has to.

(Slight Pause)

Figures out today show that immigration has risen once again, almost twice as high as the previous government white paper had suggested.

(Turns to the left)

Joining me to discuss the subject is the junior minister for immigration the Right honourable Douglas Price.

Douglas wears a smart black suit; he has a moustache and a bad comb-over.

DOUGLAS

Good evening.

INTERVIEWER

And also joining us tonight in the studio, is the minister's mother, Mary Price.

Sitting next to Douglas is his mother, a very prim and proper dressed old lady.

MOTHER

Mrs.

INTERVIEWER

Mrs Mary Price

MOTHER

Good evening.

(Elbows Douglas)

Sit up straight.

DOUGLAS

I am sat up straight!

INTERVIEWER

Minister, the white paper on immigration, a work of fiction?

DOUGLAS

I think we have to put today's figures into perspective...

INTERVIEWER

(Interrupting)

What kind of perspective? The white paper claimed that immigration was under control and that simply is not true.

DOUGLAS

I think that...

MOTHER

Oh, you've not been telling fibs again have you Dougsy?

DOUGLAS

What, no mother, I'm not telling lies. I was just about to explain that...

MOTHER

He used to tell lies all the time when he was a kid you know.

INTERVIEWER

Did he?

DOUGLAS

I did not.

MOTHER

I didn't break that window mummy; I didn't eat all the biscuits. I just spilt water on the bed.

INTERVIEWER

Did you spill water on your bed Minister?

DOUGLAS

Could we talk about the white paper please?

MOTHER

I won the money at the betting shop. I always carry my money around in a jiffy bag to keep it safe.

DOUGLAS

(Sharply)

Mother please!

MOTHER

Don't you speak to me like that!
(To interviewer)
He's ever so rude to me.

Douglas drops his head into his hands.

MOTHER

I've never liked him hanging around
with that Parliament lot. All day
long, select committee this,
constituency that. And they're such
a funny lot. Mister Speaker, chief
whip..

INTERVIEWER

Black rod.

MOTHER

Well exactly.
(Slight Pause)
You're very handsome on the telly
you know. You're mine and Mrs
Williams's favourite.

INTERVIEWER

Thank you.

MOTHER

I bet you're lovely to your mum.

INTERVIEWER

Well of course.

The interviewer mouths 'hello' and gives a little wave to camera.

DOUGLAS

(Through gritted teeth)
The white paper!

INTERVIEWER

Minister, how do you explain these
flagrant inaccuracies?

DOUGLAS

The current study was taken over a
relatively short period of 12
months. The white paper that we
researched was to cover a much
larger, and may I say much more
realistic time period..

Mother's hand appears in shot to the left of Douglas, she is trying to wipe the side of his face with a damp handkerchief. Douglas tries to move away but she doesn't stop.

DOUGLAS

Of four years.

(Moves further away but she carries on)

This initial study does not give the necessary time for our implemented changes to..

(Turns sharply)

Will you just stop it!

MOTHER

I was only trying to help.

DOUGLAS

Just leave me alone.

MOTHER

Well I never.

She folds her arms and turns away from him.

DOUGLAS

(Still shouting)

This current study does not take into account..

MOTHER

Your father would be turning in his grave if he heard you speak to me like that.

DOUGLAS

(Talking louder)

It does not take into account the many changes we have..

MOTHER

(To Interviewer)

His brother would never speak to me like that. He was always a good boy.

DOUGLAS

A good boy! He's in prison for GBH!

MOTHER

But at least he's not MP for Barnsley.

DOUGLAS

Mother!

MOTHER

Why couldn't you be MP for
somewhere nice like Dorset or Kent.
Dover is so lovely this time of
year.

DOUGLAS

(To Interviewer in panic)
I'm very proud to be the MP for
Barnsley, I think it's a splendid
and wonderful place.

MOTHER

Oh you fibber. You said to me only
the other day that the place stunk
of piddle and that you'd only been
sent there because you said the
Home Securities wife had..
(Looks from side to side
and says quietly)
A big bottom.

DOUGLAS

(Loud)
Look, we're here to talk about
immigration. Can we please just
please talk about immigration; I
refuse to say anything else about
any subject that is not about
immigration. OK, so let's just get
on with it.

MOTHER

(Not happy)
Oh fine then.

Mother folds her arms and looks away from Douglas.

DOUGLAS

Now what was I saying.
(Pause)
Oh yes, the study only covers a
relatively short period, during
which time the measure implemented
in this government will not have
had time to take their full effect.
Measures that will implement a
greater control, over time, upon
the number of illegal immigrant
coming into this country.

MOTHER
 (Quietly)
 Shouldn't be allowed.

DOUGLAS
 What?

MOTHER
 I'm just saying.
 (Slight pause)
 I don't think they should be
 allowed.

DOUGLAS
 If you could let me just finish
 Mother, please.

INTERVIEWER
 No, no. Mrs Price, what do you
 mean?

MOTHER
 You know.

INTERVIEWER
 I'm not sure that I do.

MOTHER
 I'm talking about the Darkies!

DOUGLAS
 Oh dear god.

MOTHER
 (Loudly)
 They shouldn't be allowed. Coming
 over here, stealing our jobs.

INTERVIEWER
 Get her out of here!

MOTHER
 They've only just come down out of
 the trees...

Two BBC heavies arrive and grab Mother.

MOTHER
 Take your hands off me. My other
 sons a violent criminal you know!

Mother is dragged off. Douglas and the Interviewer sit in
 silence for a moment.

INTERVIEWER

So Minister, your mothers a racist,
you hate your constituency and you
lied in your white paper.

DOUGLAS

(Looking down at the
floor)

Yes sir.

INTERVIEWER

You know what you have to do now
don't you?

DOUGLAS

(Mumbling)

Write a letter of resignation.

INTERVIEWER

I want it on my desk first thing in
the morning.

DOUGLAS

Yes sir.

INTERVIEWER

Now get out of my studio.

Douglas gets up and leaves very quickly.

INTERVIEWER

(To camera)

The Junior Minister for Immigration
the Right Honourable Douglas Price.
Tomorrow night on the show we'll be
asking the Health Security to lose
some weight, and the Deputy Prime
Minister will be explaining to us the
findings of his four year report in
the contrasts and contradictions
between his elbows and his bottocks.
Thank you and good night.