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Brexit 1 – a lose/lose situation? (The situation up until the 5th September)
By George Worsley

The UK Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, is trying to close down Parliament so that he can stymie opposition to his plan to leave the European Union on the 31st October - without a deal. If there is a deal out there, he has not found it.

Although some EU leaders have made noises about there being a bit of room for maneuver, the reality is that the chance of all 27 countries agreeing to change the offer they had already put on the table as the last and final offer is virtually non-existent.

As many level-headed and clear-thinking observers have frequently said, the border on the Emerald Isle has always been the stumbling block, although for the most part, after the Referendum in 2016, few people even considered that. At present, with the Customs Union and the Single Market, the border is almost academic. People, goods and services cross it with the same ease as at the border between Holland and Belgium. The same way as there will be border controls, customs and excise barriers between the UK and France, there will have to be something almost the same between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, part of the UK. People in the Emerald Isle don't want that. So what happens if the UK leaves the EU and the customs union and single market disappear? Ideally, a border should be created on the Irish Sea, between Ireland on the one hand and Wales, Scotland and England on the other. But for Northern Ireland to be stuck in a customs union and single market while the rest of the UK is no longer part of that makes it an inferior partner in the United Kingdom.

Boris Johnson wants to scrap certain agreements guaranteeing a flexible border between the Republic and Northern Ireland but he knows the House of Commons will resist that. So, he is proposing closing down Parliament for a while so MP's cannot vote against his plans. Tensions and emotions a running high: people are screaming undemocratic, treason. Inter-party lobbying is gathering momentum as MPs try and force a debate in the House of Commons before it is closed down.

Boris Johnson is willing to allow the UK to leave the EU without a deal while advice from almost everywhere is that this would seriously damage the UK economy. The only advice he seems to heed is from an adviser whose hold on the PM is similar to that of Rasputin on the Russian Tsarina a bit more than 100 years ago. There is hatred in British politics and this is blinding common sense and reason.

Hard-line Brexiteers are willing to shoot themselves in the foot to leave the EU irrespective of how the UK will lose out economically: a Pyrrhic

Victory. Leavers want the country to leave the EU and be better-off for it - a wild dream say the Remainers who only see increased prices, inflation, uncompetitive industries, unemployment and a drop in the cost of living as a result.

So who is the winner: no-deal chaos or a deal so disadvantageous that it would have been better not to leave in the first place?

As a Footnote, a certain Government document was leaked recently and Financial Services got a mention - yes, got a mention! In a worst-case scenario, a no-deal Brexit, Financial Services would experience some difficulties.

Brexit 2 – the end of yet another prime minister? (As of the 8th September)

By George Worsley

There have been quite a few developments since "Brexit 1"

Boris Johnson has lost his majority in the House of Commons. He lost a key vote on holding an election before a vital EU summit on the 17th October where he will be faced with a dilemma. He will either repeat his vow to take the UK out of the EU without a deal - something which Parliament is planning to forbid - or ask for yet another extension of Article 50, giving the UK more time to sort out a proposal to leave the EU. This last scenario, extending Article 50, is something Mr Johnson has said he would "rather be dead in the ditch" than do.

With emergency legislation blocking a no-deal Brexit becoming law on the 9th September, Mr. Johnson faces jail if be breaks that law by refusing to ask the EU to delay Article 50. Will he go to jail or will he resign and go down in in as the country's clumsiest prime minister ever? There would be no time for the Conservative party to nominate a successor before the main opposition party, Labour, would table and win a Motion of No Confidence which would lead to a general election.

There have been defections and ejections from the Conservative party but at present, polls give them a slight lead over Labour but the way things are going the Conservatives are getting weaker by the day. Chances are there would be a "hung" Parliament with a re-juvenated Liberal Democrat party playing the role of Kingmaker. The Lib Dems have vowed to seek a Remain course and, although they have not said as much in black and white, in order to get their hands on power in Parliament, they may be persuaded to make a compromise: take the Customs Union and Single Market offer from the EU which, by the way, solves the Irish border problem but means there would be no border for goods and some services between the UK and the EU i.e. little change from the present UK membership of the EU. "Little change" does mean, however, that the UK has no say in how the Customs Union and Single Market are run. Mind you, that is the deal

agreed by the EU and Theresa May which got voted out three times by the House of Commons but it looks like being either the UK leaves on these terms or does not leave at all.

Whatever next?"