

Lobster 60

Books

Another way

Meltdown UK: There is another way

Stephen Haseler

London: Forum Press, £19.99

Crisis and Recovery: Ethics, economics and justice

Rowan Williams and Larry Elliott (eds.)

London and New York: Palgrave Macmillan, £20.00

Tom Easton

One can only admire the ubiquitous energy of Stephen Haseler. He was a precocious Gaitskellite parliamentary candidate in Saffron Walden in the 1960s, a fellow of the Heritage Foundation in Washington DC in the 1970s, as well as being a founding member with Douglas Eden of the Social Democratic Alliance in the UK, and then helped launch the SDP in the 1980s. In that latter period he also helped set up Heritage's London operation, the Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies, while authoring anti-Labour material here alongside his old acquaintance Brian Crozier and

in the United States with Roy Godson (*Lobster 31 et seq*). He is now director of the Global Policy Institute, a senior fellow of the Federal Trust and a prominent republican, opining recently on BBC Radio 4 on the forthcoming royal marriage.

His latest book is a fulminating criticism of those elected to power in Britain while he was busy on these assorted activities. His main focus is globalisation and the way these islands have suffered its orthodoxies, particularly in the areas of the City and finance, with the 'meltdown' future he envisages in his title. He calls for a stronger state as a force for democratic action at home and a new Europe-wide 'protectionism' abroad. Haseler's is a forceful work with some footnotes and a limited index.

The Williams and Elliott volume is much better, and much of Haseler's ground is covered in a rather less hectoring manner. The contributors range from the Archbishop himself to Zac Goldsmith, with stimulating thoughts from 'Red Tory' Philip Blond, Financial Services Authority general counsel Andrew Whittaker, and theology student turned investment banker John Reynolds. The contributions from New Labour familiars Jon Cruddas and Will Hutton offer little that is new or incisive.

Rowan Williams calls for 'an unashamedly immodest and ambitious plea for a renewal of political culture and social vision, a renewal of civic energy and creativity, in our own country and world-wide'. Amen to that.