

IMMEDIATE
29 June 2004

**CONSERVATIVE EDUCATION POLICY IS
"THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE" SAYS NASUWT**

Reacting to early reports of Conservative Party plans for education, Chris Keates, Acting General Secretary of NASUWT (the teachers' union representing 223,500 teachers in the UK), said:

"The Conservative Party's proposals to tackle pupil indiscipline have a great deal of merit and are likely to be welcomed by many teachers. Regrettably, it appears the good news ends there.

"The main plank of the 'right-to-choose package' is completely unworkable.

"Freedom of choice is at best an illusion and at worst it amounts to the law of the jungle.

"Freeing schools to set policies on admissions and attendance and a virtual abolition of the role of local education authorities is simply a more extreme version of the failed grant maintained schools policy of the last Conservative Government. The sense of *déjà vu* is chilling."

....Ends....

Further:

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