



SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY

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PERSONAL

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De David

I am attaching a copy of extracts from the September Gallup poll which the Prime Minister may be interested to see, if she has not already done so.

D A R Howell

in en
David

Table 3 : Urgent problems

Questions and answers	Today	Comparison
1 What would you say is the most urgent problem facing the country at the present time?		(i)
Cost of living	25	32
Strikes	20	7
Unemployment	18	22
Other economic problems	6	7
Ireland	6	1
Fuel shortage	3	5
Other	18	22
Don't know	4	4
2 And what would you say is the next most urgent problem? (Includes top problem)		
Cost of living	43	50
Unemployment	32	37
Strikes	30	15
Other economic problems	10	12
Ireland	12	4
Immigrants	7	10
Health	6	5
Law and order	5	6
Housing	4	6
Increase productivity	4	4
Pensions	4	4
Fuel shortage	5	9
Other	13	20
Don't know	4	4

X

X

(1)



X

X

(1)



(i) August 1979

Table 10 Energy crisis; nuclear energy

Questions and answers	Today	Comparison	Questions and answers	Today	Comparison
<p>1 Have you heard or read anything recently about there being a shortage of all types of energy, including fuel oil, heating and other fuels over the next few years?</p> <p>Yes → (2) 82 No 15 Don't know 3</p>		(i) 95 4 1	<p>5 At present, about 10 per cent of the total electricity in Great Britain comes from nuclear power. What do you think should be the development of nuclear power generation in this country?</p> <p>They should increase nuclear power generation (45) 47 They should not develop any more than at present (4) → (21) 25 They should stop generating nuclear power (17) 14 Don't know 17 14</p>		(1)
<p>2 Do you believe that such shortages are likely?</p> <p>Yes → (2) 74 No 17 Don't know 9</p>		85 10 5			
<p>3 Would you expect such shortages to be a very serious problem for this country, a somewhat serious problem or not a problem at all?</p> <p>Very serious → (2) 47 Somewhat serious 34 Not a problem 12 Don't know 6</p>		65 25 8 3	<p>6 What would you do if a nuclear power station were to be built in your area?</p> <p>Would agree to its being built 16 17 Would not oppose though would feel anxious about it 24 28 (4) → Would oppose it 42 42 Would not feel anything 11 8 Don't know 6 6</p>		
<p>4 Who or what do you think is mainly responsible for the high price of petrol?</p> <p>(3) The Arabs, oil producers 50 51 (3) British government, taxation 16 11 (3) Oil/petrol companies 8 6 (3) World situation 7 7 Trouble in the Middle East 4 6 The consumer, car owners 4 4 America (using too much) 3 3 Trade unions 1 1 Other 8 7 Don't know 13 9</p>					
			(12-18.9.79)		

(i) June/July 1979

ENGINEERING SOCIETY

P.M.

GALLOP on Fuel + Nuclear.

SUMMARY.

① They don't think there is a fuel shortage!

② They do think that there will be fuel shortages.

③ They blame the Oil Companies or the Government!

David W.

④ Attitude to Nuclear went entirely favourable!