

LABOUR PARTY

# Conservative and Unionist Central Office

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Memorandum from: David Boddy .....

To: Chairman  
c.c. Chris Lawson  
Peter Cropper  
Derek Howe ✓  
Tony Garner  
John Whittingdale  
Maurice Romilly

Date: 19th November 1982 .....

Labour's General Secretary, James Mortimer, spoke to the Press Gallery Luncheon on Wednesday, 17th November 1982. In a totally straight and humourless speech he outlined the five issues which would become the focal point of Labour's appeal over the next twelve to eighteen months.

They were:-

1. Jobs

They are worried that with over three million unemployed they still cannot pin the blame on to the Government.

2. Social Services and Health Service

Their appeal here is straight - the Tories would dismantle it.

3. Nuclear Weapons

4. The Common Market

5. The Rights of Trade Unionists

Other points of interest from the speech were:

- a. He admitted Labour's membership had fallen to 275,000.
- b. He admitted that they were financially in the red. He said that Party Headquarters was not budgeting to ensure that the overdraft was brought into balance - but that this would involve some difficult decisions (where have we heard that before!)
- c. His main appeal was for the Labour Party to stop tearing itself to bits and to unite for the election and he added: "we cannot have the luxury of colleagues expressing doubts about our policy".
- d. On 'Militant' he said that this was not an issue which was worrying the working class but he did describe Militant as a "Trotskyist set practicing the tactics of entryism."