

LIFE BOX.

CRO

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Mr. Richard Ryder,
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Dear Richard, ITN POLL

News at Ten on Wednesday night carried some details of the results of a survey they conducted on Public reactions to Mrs. Thatcher's statements on the costs of our membership of the EEC. ITN have just produced a press notice setting out the detailed results of the survey - I thought a copy might be of interest.





D.K. Britto.

Enc.



Press Information

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A MAJORITY THINK MRS THATCHER IS RIGHT TO PUSH FOR BREAK EVEN

IN EEC MEMBERSHIP COSTS

A survey of public opinion taken yesterday, Tuesday 27 November, indicates that Mrs Thatcher has majority support for her proposal that Britain should pay no more into the Common Market than it gets out. However, the survey also indicates that most people would be satisfied with a substantial reduction in EEC membership costs.

If Mrs Thatcher does not get a reduction which she considers acceptable then 40% of those interviewed think that Britain should pull out of the Common Market. This anti-Market feeling was also reflected when people were asked whether or not they thought it was in Britain's long term interest to remain a member of the Common Market - 53% indicated that they thought it was not in Britain's interests to remain a member.

SUPPORT FOR MRS THATCHER

When asked if Mrs Thatcher was being too tough or not, when she says that Britain should pay no more into the Common Market than it gets out, the answers were:

About Right	55%
Not Tough Enough	24%
Too Tough	13%
Don't Know	8%

Even among Labour supporters 51% thought Mrs Thatcher's attitude was about right, with Conservative approval being at the 64% level.

This support for Mrs Thatcher was also reflected in replies to the question "Do you think Mrs Thatcher is or is not the best person to look after Britain's interest in the Common Market?", to which the responses were:

Yes, is the Best Person	50%
No, is not the Best Person	39%
Don't Know	11%

Among those who were anti-Market Mrs Thatcher had the support of 45% - a slight lead over the 44% who thought she was not the best person to look after Britain's interests.

SHOULD BRITAIN SETTLE?

When those interviewed were given details of the reported proposal that Britain's net cost of belonging to the EEC should be reduced by a third, there was some indication that this might be acceptable. Of those interviewed - 53% said that Britain should settle for this proposal. At first sight this response seems somewhat at odds with the support for Britain making no net contribution to Common Market costs and perhaps indicates the desire to settle at some acceptable level.

This interpretation is supported by the responses to the question "If Mrs Thatcher does not get the reduction she considers acceptable, what should Britain do?" The responses were:

Pull out of the Common Market	40%
Continue as now but press for further reductions	29%
Allow the Market to operate with some British obstruction	15%
Refuse to cooperate in a way that makes the Common Market impossible to operate	9%
Don't Know	7%

BRITAIN INCREASINGLY ANTI COMMON MARKET

A majority of people, 53%, thought that it was not in Britain's long term interest to remain a member of the Common Market, with 35% thinking it is in Britain's interest. (13% Don't Know).

Technical note:

The survey was based on a national representative quota sample of 851 interviews carried out in 34 parliamentary constituencies throughout Great Britain, and the fieldwork was carried out on Tuesday 27th November 1979.

THE COST OF THE COMMON MARKET

THE QUESTIONS IN DETAIL

1. On the whole, do you think it is in Britain's long term interest to remain a member of the Common Market or not?

	All	By Party Support		
		Con	Lab	Lib
Yes, is in Britain's interest	34%	48%	23%	41%
No, is not in Britain's interest	53%	43%	67%	46%
Don't know	13%	9%	10%	13%

2. As you may know, at the Common Market summit which starts at Dublin on Thursday, Mrs Thatcher is proposing that the cost of Britain belonging to the Common Market should be cut substantially. Have you heard about this proposal?

	All	By Party Support			Pro-Mkt	Anti-Mkt
		Con	Lab	Lib		
Yes, have heard about this proposal	72%	79%	62%	80%	81%	70%
No, have not heard about this proposal	25%	20%	35%	20%	18%	28%
Don't Know	3%	1%	3%	-	1%	2%

3. Britain pays about £1,000 million more into the Common Market than it gets out. Some Europeans say that it should only cost Britain about two-thirds of this amount; do you think Britain should settle for this reduction or not?

	All	By Party Support			Pro-Mkt	Anti-Mkt
		Con	Lab	Lib		
Yes, Britain should settle	53%	59%	50%	47%	57%	50%
No, Britain should not settle	36%	33%	40%	37%	34%	42%
Don't Know	11%	8%	10%	16%	9%	8%

4. Mrs Thatcher is saying strongly that Britain should pay no more into the Common Market than it gets out. Do you think she is being:

	All	By Party Support			Pro-Mkt	Anti-Mkt
		Con	Lab	Lib		
Too tough	13%	11%	16%	12%	16%	10%
About right	55%	64%	51%	50%	64%	53%
Not tough enough	24%	19%	27%	22%	13%	30%
Don't Know	8%	6%	6%	16%	7%	7%

5. If Mrs Thatcher does not get the reduction she considers acceptable, should Britain:

	All	By Party Support			Pro-Mkt	Anti-Mkt
		Con	Lab	Lib		
Pull out of the Common Market	40%	30%	54%	27%	6%	66%
Refuse to cooperate in a way that makes the Common Market impossible to operate	9%	12%	4%	19%	14%	7%
Allow the Market to operate with some British obstruction	15%	20%	11%	19%	26%	9%
Continue as now but press for further reductions	29%	34%	24%	30%	49%	13%
Don't Know	7%	4%	7%	5%	5%	5%

6. Do you think that Mrs Thatcher is or is not the best person to look after Britain's interest in the Common Market?

	All	By Party Support			Pro-Mkt	Anti-Mkt
		Con	Lab	Lib		
Yes, is the best person	50%	84%	20%	35%	64%	45%
No, is not the best person	39%	10%	71%	50%	29%	44%
Don't Know	11%	6%	9%	15%	7%	11%