

3 Jun 75 RB dinner at Cloniges. Sat next Lytton & Tom Pearson. Tom & I reminisced about Mark Chapman Walker in Lebanon. Neighbour on the right of Tom asked whether justice had ever caught up with him. We both said: "No; he bore a charmed life", Tom said he once remonstrated with him in his bath at a Cairo (?) hotel and said he was sure that sooner or later he would come to grief. Mark replied from the soap suds with a glass of champagne in his hand. "Well you say when I think of all you chaps wishing g: ho's up in front, I feel I ought to take a few wishes back here."

Saw Margaret ats: du Cann's speech. He had not distributed it thro' CCO and M did not know that he was going to make it, & had not a copy by the time of her Press Conference this morning. I said it was obviously carefully planned to make the maximum impact 48 hours before poll. The inroads that Conservatives were putting party before country is intolerable. She said she did not know why he had done it. I referred to Thomeycroft, Powell, & Aneurin Bevan's behaviour.