

PRIME MINISTER

PRESS DIGEST

Your CTU speech

People: You keep them guessing (on election date); blast the City for fickle fears.

Mirror: Codswallop - PM hits at City; Shore says it is humbug for you to blame him for £.

News of the World: Maggie raps money men but you fail to scotch rumours of early election.

Express: Maggie: 'The £ wreckers' - you round on mischievous Labour and fickle City speculation - won't be deflected from sound policies.

Mail: Fish and flour hurled at Maggie in protest - angry demo as you blast unions and City.

Telegraph: Election options open as sterling storm grows - you keep open all your options on timing of election; fail to take ideal opportunity to quash speculation about early election.

Observer: £: PM hits Labour and City.

Times: PM lashes at 'fickle fears'.

Falklands

- People with professional skills being offered tax free bonuses of up to £6,000 a year to leave Britain for new life.
- Undertakers arrive to bury Argentine dead.
- Times says your visit has widened gap and USA thinks it unfortunate.

Defence

- Express says our European allies may demand scrapping of new Trident programme as price for an arms deal with Russia; Michael Toner says in few weeks he has been in power Andropov has run rings round Western Alliance in apparent devotion to peace and US arms policy now a shambles.
- 17 Anti-nuclear demonstrators arrested at Faslane.
- UAE buy £100m worth of Hawks.
- Mirror contrasts success of John Nott in finding job with that of General Moore and says you should find useful work for him.
- People feature on men Greenham Common women left behind.
- Observer says doubts enter into MoD on effects of A-tests on health of men involved.

Politics

- People: Best man in England and reigns supreme - but last week proves danger of one-woman Government.
- Peregrine Worsthorne, Telegraph, says there should be an early election, the sooner the better; your commanding position is total; and present defence policies lack consent if peace movement is as strong as it is claimed. A reborn PM needs to present herself afresh to people.
- Hugo Young, Times, says February or March election never a possibility; but City doesn't give a damn when election is so long as you are re-elected; unwise to rule out June - makes a lot of sense in terms of inflation, Cruise deployment.
- Lady Falkender, Mail, says your Falklands yomp was no more than you deserve.
- SDP/Liberal Alliance rally in London on Thursday.
- Tuesday will be your 1356th day in Downing Street - one more than Mr Heath.

Economy

- People says what hoot Government blaming Labour for fall in £ - perhaps it has dawned on gnomes your's is one of worst Governments.
- Woodrow Wyatt, Mirror, says it is impossible to pinpoint why £ fell last week but fears of early election put tin lid on it; but you should say there won't be an election this year - if you have one before you need one people will think something awful is round the corner.
- Paul Potts in News of the World, says Shore is already half way to devaluation target; judging by Government's performance while you were away it will be some time before you leave shop for any longer than you need to.
- Express attacks your colleagues for doing nothing last week while £ slid.
- Mail: Drama of last week just like old times and basic reason was old one, too - fear next British Government would allow inflation to drain money of its value; deciding factor over next few months will be holders' judgement of who will win election.
- Mail says inflation will dip below 6% this week for first time in 10 year
- Times Your resolute refusal to allow City to panic you into election absolutely right. Evidence of effect of £ in economy permits more relaxed view.
- Observer says Mr Shore is a principal guilty man and silly; but will make election more than less likely; leader criticises "paralysis" in Government's £ policy.
- David Lypsey, Times, says brokers not too happy way £ has gone since interest rate went up; wait and see what happens this week.
- Inmos decides to concentrate most profitable production on USA - undermines basis on which Government agreed to make another £15m available.
- Sinclair thinking of switching Dundee production to France.

Employment Law

- Woodrow Wyatt says Green Paper contains lot of sense but idea of distributing ballot papers through workplace is lunacy - many wouldn't get to workers.
- Mr Tebbit explains union democracy proposals in News of the World; arm twisting and intimidation has got to stop.
- Times leader says few can doubt democratising unions is worthy cause; problem is how to achieve anything useful; Green Paper raises important questions but gives no clear lead.

Unions/Pay

- Woodrow Wyatt asks why blame Government for unemployment when union leaders at Liverpool and Dundee are busy creating it.
- Water unions expected to give 7 days' notice of strike tomorrow.
- NCB chairman given 15% rise.
- Doctors want another 10%.

Franks

- Telegraph says Cabinet Ministers confident they can withstand any Franks criticism.
- Observer says Franks finds you are not to blame but likely to be big shake-up in way intelligence is analysed.
- Times: Franks clears No 10 of blame - will create no political cataclysm for Government.
- Observer and Times do long analytical pieces on who blundered.

Law and Order

- 3 detectives suspended after wrong man shot in Kensington in search for dangerous criminal; Home Secretary calls for full report; Commissioner asks why no crack marksmen in operation; single shot by policeman to immobilise Mini believed to have caused police fusillade.

Comment:

People: Trigger happy policemen stun Britain; Parliament must demand thorough investigation - need for independent inquiry.

News of the World: Dreadful events cry out for immediate action though no hasty judgements. We all share blame for guns; softly softly approach has done little to deter crime.

Express: Duty of Home Secretary is to order full inquiry not only into incident but into system which made it possible.

Ray Hattersley, Mail: says what happened was tragedy for British bobby and says call for elected police authority grows daily.

Telegraph: Root of problem lies in criminal trigger happiness; only deterring criminal violence will go to root of problem.

Times: Not too early to declare something unforgiveable occurred in London on Friday night.

Other Law and Order

- Runaway jeweller held in Spain.
- 2 Airmen in Germany given light sentence after shooting down 'plane by mistake.
- One man shot dead, another wounded outside London disco.
- John Junor highlights scandal of mugging in London.

Nuclear Power

- Teddy Taylor in Express asserts we are safer living next to nuclear power station than watching TV.

Rail

- Telegraph says Mr Howell will this week ask BR to appraise immediately Serpell's cost cutting recommendations; leader says clearly something drastic has to be done.

Media

- A lot of breakfast TV previews which opens on BBC tomorrow.
- LWT to cut some programmes because of Channel 4 payments.

Princess Diana

- Queen upset by Fleet Street.

Local Authority

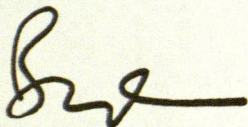
- Praise for Birmingham Council's rate cut.

Northern Ireland

- Labour Government would consider setting up all Ireland anti-terrorist force as if border did not exist.

Security

- News of the World says 5 senior officials at GCHQ have been given a rough time over files kept by Prime.



B. INGHAM
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