

SUNDAY PRESS DIGEST

POLITICS - Considerable confusion over the fate of Mr Foot, especially if Tatchell loses Bermondsey or wins it by only a small margin; some say Foot won't get the boot, most union leaders are Foot men and rumours about Callaghan to replace him are nonsense; but others see pressures mounting and Mail quotes unnamed member of Shadow Cabinet as saying "Just jettisoning Foot would give us a public opinion poll boost"

Some newspapers, notably Mirror and People, say defeat for Tatchell would be a blessing in disguise for Labour; Woodrow Wyatt, in Mirror, says best vote in Bermondsey would be for Alliance; Tatchell gets a 24-hour police watch over him because of hate letters

Sunday Times sees threat of immediate challenge to Foot if Tatchell does badly Hugo Young, in Sunday Times, on the torment of Roy Jenkins at Question Time; he advises Jenkins would be less vulnerable and less miserable if he scaled down his hopes of becoming next PM.

David Owen asks can anyone seriously believe Foot could be in charge of our national defence

Express says Kinnock, in dragging Mark Thatcher into family policy argument, has diminished himself

ELECTION - Woodrow Wyatt says you should not go in June; your position will be stronger next year

Mirror says there is no Parliamentary crisis which would justify an election

FAMILY POLICY - Malcolm Wicks, Director of Study Commission on Family, says we need a serious and well informed debate on what is happening to family life

Sympathetic leader in Telegraph on family policy which notes 21% lead in public opinion poll on day of Guardian leak; this says more than factious indignation about imaginary attacks on welfare state

Telegraph reports Government anger at leak and fears that it may be a politically motivated civil servant; what is more leaks continued on Saty with story about Sir Keith Joseph suggesting a study of how to prevent girls from becoming pregnant

Observer says there is nothing wrong with questions raised by Govt, especially as welfare state is dying; Labour would be doing more of this questioning if it were not moribund; but questioning should be done in the open and Government should realise that its policies in making people unemployed are not helping them to take individual responsibility

Sunday Times suggests that the leak shows a lack of sympathetic imagination about the social circumstances outside Ministers' own middle class, Samuel Smilesian mould

OTHER POLICY - Alan Watkins, Observer, calls for a single Boundary Commission allocating a fixed number of seats

Nalgo to mount a film campaign against Govt spending cuts and privatisation Big re-think on rates and local government reform under way, according to Telegraph; after, Mail says, a magisterial rebuff for Mr Whitelaw for the proposals he brought forward

ECONOMY/BUDGET - Walter Goldsmith wants a cut in personal taxes, according to News of the World feature; put money into people's pockets, he says

Sunday Times says fall in oil prices already accounted for in Treasury estimates, so no threat to tax cuts

William Keegan, Observer, says the big difference between USA and UK is that the former has a policy for economic recovery and we haven't

WATER - Row over union figures put to inquiry puts hopes of a quick end to water dispute at risk: unions raise their demands by 1% to 9% over and above 6% offer already made - Dickens

George Gardiner, Express, says there are three great lessons to be learned from dispute - it ought never to have happened, it need not have happened and it never happen again: union funds must be put at risk - eg for flooded cellars

Mail says it is not unreasonable to expect those who provide essential services should accept a degree of obligation not to strike; concept of public ownership is that public interest should prevail.

UNIONS/PAY - Big rethink on Labour law seen to have been sparked off by water dispute

Telegraph says Civil Servants are threatening to leave their unions for staff associations because of Communists getting union posts

Senior Ministers determined to scrap Wages Councils after 8% for shop workers

Labour Party/TUC drawing up plan which aims to spend our way out of unemployment without any form of pay restraint

INDUSTRY - Parker to be ditched as chairman of BR in which a big shakeup is coming, perhaps by regionalising the system

Express describes Halewood carworkers who have been damaging vehicles on the production line in protest against being laid off as moronic criminals

Observer says you (PM) vetoed anyone from public sector as chairman of BSC

Observer says growing feeling in Government is that BNOC method of setting oil prices should be completely revised; it is at a disadvantage when oil prices falling

Sunday Times says there is a big row in the CEEB; with resignations in the offing, over the organisation and control of big contracts

MEDIA - Mail on Sunday price up 2p to 30p next Sunday

John Junor going to Falklands with Tim Raison

BBC refuse to allow Russians to choose one from a list of BBC reporters to staff Moscow office

BBC has collared 75% of the breakfast TV market, to distraction of TV-AM

Sunday Times says newspapers' readiness to admit mistakes needs to be improved;

Charles Wintour, in Observer, says Fleet Street needs to put its house in order if it is to ward off threat of legal restrictions

PEOPLE - News of the World and Telegraph features on the PM

Mail diary says B Ingham is going to lush pastures of private PR soon after the election - which is news to BI

ARCHBISHOP - Canon James, in Observer, advocates dis-establishment of C of E; says there must be no room for doubt that Next Archbishop of York is Church's choice - no longer role for State in Church appointments

DEFENCE - Mirror attacks goal for Greenham Common women; other ways should be found of persuading them to cool it

Teddy Taylor, in Express, says he wishes he could have taken Greenham Common women to Pakistan to see Afghan refugees - living consequences of Soviet expansionism

Woodrow Wyatt says it would be absurd to have dual key; real risk is that there might be circumstances in which we wish to fire nuclear missiles and Americans don't.

Mr Parkinson says one way of making ^{Russians} hesitate to take disarmament talks serious is for them to believe West neither will nor unity to use its weapons

Michael Howard, in Sunday Times, explains why peace campaigners of 1930s and 1980s were and are now wrong

David Owen accuses Healey of lying about discussions about deployment of Cruise

OTHER DEFENCE

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OTHER DEFENCE - MI6 double glazer penetrates Russian trade delegation and paves way for expulsion of 4 suspected Soviet spies over last 18 months

International gunrunners seeking to buy 30 Exocets, ostensibly for Sudan, but in reality for Argentine, according to Observer

LAW AND ORDER - Police sergeant in charge of watch when Fagan broke into Palace asked to resign

People says a scandal being investigated by DPP is into how senior health officials took bribes from medical goods company

Express leader records disgust at how suicide of black Colin Roach in East End is being exploited by left politically.

B Ingham
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