

MR. HEALEY'S "FIVE LIES"

The Government were lying when they said that unemployment would not reach three million. This Report said it would.

Untrue. The Report made no such forecast. It merely described a number of outside forecasts, by Cambridge Econometrics, the Cambridge Economic Policy Group, the London Business School, the National Institute, the University of Liverpool. Some of these forecasts showed unemployment going above 3 million; others did not. All had already been published. *It also referred to Manpower Services Commission forecasts, which were below 3 million.* It did not say which it thought was right.

The Government were lying when they said that unemployment was not a factor in the breakdown of law and order. The Report said it is.

Untrue. The Report said that "the effect of youth unemployment in terms of opportunities for crime is uncertain. But it is undoubtedly a matter for justifiable concern".

The Government said that the Youth Training Scheme was not a device to cut the unemployment total, that it would not put older people out of work and that it would not cripple unions' ability to protect their members.

The Report did not describe the scheme as a device: it said that, among other things, it would reduce registered unemployment, but what is wrong with that? The Report did not say that the Youth Training Scheme would put older people out of work or that it would cripple unions' ability to protect their members.

So all Mr. Healey's charges of five lies turn out to be lies themselves.

### HEALEY ACCUSES THATCHER OF JOBLESS LIES

LABOUR DEPUTY LEADER DENIS HEALEY TODAY ALLEGED THAT MRS THATCHER AND HER MINISTERS HAD LIED OVER UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS.

HE SAID THAT A LEAKED CABINET THINK-TANK REPORT SHOWED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS "LYING ON FIVE ISSUES OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE" WHEN IT SAID IN 1981 THAT THE END OF THE RECESSION WAS IN SIGHT.

THE REPORT, CIRCULATED TO MINISTERS IN FEBRUARY 1981, PREDICTED THAT BY THIS YEAR, MORE THAN HALF THE LABOUR FORCE UNDER 18 WOULD NEVER HAVE HAD A JOB, AND THAT A COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH TRAINING SCHEME - SUBSEQUENTLY INTRODUCED

- COULD CUT THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED BY ABOUT 200,000.

MR HEALEY, INTERVIEWED ON TV-AM, SAID LABOUR INTENDED TO MAKE "A VERY BIG THING INDEED" OF THE REPORT IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

"THE GOVERNMENT WERE LYING WHEN THEY SAID <sup>1</sup>UNEMPLOYMENT WOULD NOT REACH THREE MILLION. THIS REPORT SAYS IT WOULD. <sup>2</sup>THEY WERE LYING WHEN THEY SAID THAT UNEMPLOYMENT WAS NOT A FACTOR IN THE BREAKDOWN OF LAW AND ORDER UNDER THE CONSERVATIVES. THIS REPORT SAID IT IS." HE SAID.

MR HEALEY ALSO ALLEGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD LIED THAT <sup>3</sup>THE YOUTH TRAINING SCHEME WAS NOT A DEVICE TO CUT THE JOBLESS TOTAL, THAT <sup>4</sup>IT WOULD NOT PUT OLDER PEOPLE OUT OF WORK, AND THAT <sup>5</sup>IT WOULD NOT CRIPPLE UNIONS' ABILITY TO PROTECT THEIR MEMBERS.

ASKED WHETHER "LYING" WAS TOO STRONG A WORD FOR WHAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED SIMPLY MISCALCULATION, MR HEALEY REPLIED: "A LIE IS A STATEMENT WHICH IS FALSE AND WHICH IS KNOWN BY THE PERSON WHO MAKES IT TO BE FALSE.

"MRS THATCHER WAS TOLD THE FACTS IN THIS SECRET REPORT - AND IN SPIT OF KNOWING THE FACTS SHE MADE FALSE STATEMENTS IN THE FIVE AREAS I HAVE MENTIONED. "I HATE TO USE THE WORD 'LIE' - I WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO USE IT IN PARLIAMENT - BUT MAKING A STATEMENT KNOWING TO BE FALSE IS A LIE."

191423 MAY 83

NI6012 4 XXX 243

TEBBIT HITS BACK AT HEALEY

EMPLOYMENT SECRETARY NORMAN TEBBIT THIS AFTERNOON HIT BACK OVER CLAIMS BY LABOUR DEPUTY LEADER DENIS HEALEY THAT MRS THATCHER AND HER MINISTERS HAD LIED ON UNEMPLOYMENT.

MR TEBBIT SAID THAT MR HEALEY HIMSELF WAS NOT TELLING THE TRUTH.

MR HEALEY MADE HIS ALLEGATION ON TV-AM SAYING THAT A LEAKED CABINET THINK-TANK REPORT SHOWED MRS THATCHER AND HER MINISTERS HAD BEEN "LYING ON FIVE ISSUES OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE" WHEN THEY SAID IN 1981 THAT THE END OF THE RECESSION WAS IN SIGHT.

HE SAID THE REPORT, GIVEN TO MINISTERS IN FEBRUARY, 1981, PREDICTED THAT BY NOW MORE THAN HALF THE LABOUR FORCE UNDER 18 WOULD NEVER HAVE HAD A JOB AND THAT A YOUTH TRAINING SCHEME - NOW INTRODUCED - COULD CUT THE UNEMPLOYED BY 200,000.

MRS THATCHER WAS TOLD THE FACTS IN THIS SECRET REPORT AND IN SPITE OF KNOWING THE FACTS SHE MADE FALSE STATEMENTS IN THE FIVE AREAS I HAVE MENTIONED. I HATE TO USE THE WORD LIE BUT MAKING A STATEMENT KNOWING IT TO BE FALSE IS A LIE", SAID MR HEALEY.

MR TEBBIT DISPUTED MR HEALEY'S ACCOUNT OF THE REPORT, PUBLISHED IN THE LONDON MAGAZINE TIME OUT.

MR TEBBIT SAID THE REPORT DID NOT WARN THAT UNEMPLOYMENT COULD REACH THREE MILLION, OR SAY THAT LAW AND ORDER WOULD BREAK DOWN.

MR TEBBIT ADDED: "ALL THIS RAISES CONCERN ABOUT MR HEALEY'S CAMPAIGNING STYLE. AS HE SEES THE POLLS POINT TO A LABOUR CATASTROPHY HIS ALLEGATIONS BECOME MORE HYSTERICAL DAY BY DAY."

--

191431 MAY 83