

PRIME MINISTERPRESS DIGESTElection

- Will Mr Foot resign soon after election whether or not he wins - his wife reported to have said he would. Mirror says he refuses to confirm or deny.
- D/Star: Mori poll gives you 12% lead but Alliance make headway up 6% - 44/32/21; Steel claims tide has turned for Alliance.
- Audience Selection of TV-AM gives you a lead of 11% (41/30 but Alliance up to 24).
- William Hill makes you 8-1 on favourite to win; Stock Market at new peak; Bank believed to have cooled £'s rise.
- Sun says you beat Robin Day in big telly battle.
- Mirror features the waste of a nation - what happened to British industry over last 4 years.
- Express says you taunt Labour and Alliance over their panic weekend meetings and shuffling of leaderships; and speaks of Tory revival in Scotland.
- Two Labour men - Lord Raglan and Eddie Griffiths, ex Sheffield MP, go over to SDP.
- Roy Jenkins replies to readers' questions in D/Star - we will cut taxes and invest in industry.
- TUC's MariePatterson (TFWU) says many women who voted for you now disillusioned.
- Mail says Foot last night gave his blessing to 4th Militant - Nellist in Coventry, but Telegraph says he carefully absented himself from Nellist's speech.

NHS

- Your pledge in response to Labour's scare arising from another leaked document that you have no more intention of dismantling NHS than of dismantling Britain's defences.
- D/Star medical correspondent says document won't bear weight Labour puts on it.
- Mirror - Tory plans to sell off parts of NHS to help finance private medicine exposed.
- Express describes all this as Labour's sick joke; spend wisely is what the leaked report is really saying.
- Telegraph leads with "NHS safe with us, say Tories" but points out this issue forced Tories on to the defensive.
- Times says Foot committed a £1bn election blunder last night in ITN interview, by saying that Labour was not planning any increase in National Insurance charges.

Election Comment

- D/Star: Whatever window dressing it's plain that Labour and Alliance have changed leaders in mid-election in to the bully and the Boy Wonder; Tories decided you were their strongest card and they were right. If you win by landslide two opposing Parties will have only themselves to blame.

- Sun does a full page leader on "The Beast of Pingle's Place" - Healey, the acceptable countenance on Labour's ugly face of Marxism, but if Labour wins on June 9 it won't be Healey and moderates running the country.
- Express: Two factors having wholly disproportionate influence on campaign - your personal stature and colossal ineptitude of Opposition Parties; but Tories have been running a rather laid back, lack lustre campaign and now time for Whitelaw, Howe and Pym to be up and doing; George Gale, on why unemployment won't lose you votes, says when times are exceptionally good the country may decide it can afford the luxury of Labour Government; when times are difficult Tories are a necessity.
- Mail under heading "The biggest boloney burger in the world" says Denis Healey is determined Labour's wake should be uproarious with a barrelful of the tallest stories he has ever told on the hustings: a phoney secret Tory manifesto a day is meant to keep reality away.
- Guardian says leaked document does not imply dismantling of NHS but Mr Fowler's claim that it proves Government's undying commitment rings distinctly hollow.
- Times calls for a clear statement of Conservative social policy; its managerial agenda is a recipe for reform - not revolution.

Defence

- Enoch Powell, according to Sun, give full support to Labour's nuclear disarmament policy-for us to use weapon would be genocide.
- Guardian leads on your pledge to push Polaris button, if necessary in event of major Russian attack.
- Morning Star says you revealed yourself ready yesterday to sign Britain's nuclear death sentence.

Economy

- USA economic indicators reinforce message of cautious optimism from Williamsburg; recovery said to be on course; Euro Community inflation lowest for 4 years.
- Sun says unemployment will fall by 100,000 on Friday but you will be careful not to claim you have turned the unemployment tide.
- Guardian leader and articles critical of outcome of Williamsburg; but Times says declaration will have helped to reduce inflationary expectations.

Industry

- Labour unveils £550m plan to revive West Midlands; pledges to save Cardowan pit.
- CBI Chairman attacked for £13,000 pay rise at Dunlop.
- Sun says 20 leading industrialists claim Labour's policies would lead to Socialist siege economy.
- Mr Howell says Tories will set up a new London regional transport authority to take over from GLC.
- Director magazine claims that Asian business community in Britain accounts for £2bn turnover.
- BR could win 2m extra passengers if it opened 200 new stations, according to consultants.

- Airbus lands £263m order from Singapore Airlines.
- 10,000 people seek 200 jobs at Esso's Mossmorran oil plant.
- Order book in British shipyards falls by quarter in 3 months.

Media

- No FT today because of strike.

Unions

- CPSA urges 210,000 members to vote against you.
- Sun journalists accept 7.8% rise.

Education

- NAS tells scruffy teachers to smarten themselves up.
- Surrey teachers resisting County Council's plan to cut 84 teaching posts to offset cost of pay rise.

Housing

- John Stanley forecasts steep rise in mortgages if Labour wins.

Medical

- Epidemic of German measles sweeping UK.

Local Authorities

- Mail says black militants have told Labour controlled Hackney Council that there will be an angry reaction if one of 2 £10,000 a year posts don't go to a black.

Other Defence

- 60 arrests as police foil Upper Heyford CND demonstration.
- Mirror says more than 600 merchant seamen who served in the Falklands campaign are now unemployed; Slater NUS accuses you of stealing all the glory while men get all the misery.
- Mail says 12 European countries are demanding a bigger share of NATO defence contracts; want to see an end to USA "hogging" contracts.

Northern Ireland

- 8 suspected terrorists held in dawn swoop in Republican areas of Belfast.
- Police foil IRA bomb blitz; seize 11 bombs in van in Belfast.

France

- blacked out by gas and electricity strike in protest against job benefit cuts; Giscard says Socialists are ruining France while Chevenement says Mitterrand is turning his back on socialism.

Ethiopia

- 4 British relief workers expected to be released by guerillas this weekend.

Uganda

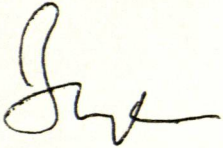
- Many slaughtered by guerillas in raid on refugee camp.

Middle East

- Arafat appeals to Saudi Arabia for support against extremists in PLO.

Zimbabwe

- White Air Vice-Marshal says he was given electric shock torture to make him confess to sabotage.



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