

PRIME MINISTER

PRESS DIGEST

Election

- Harris TV-Eye gives you 18% lead (46/28/24); MORI 11% lead (43/32/23); MARPLAN a 17% lead (47/30/22); and GALLUP a 19.5% lead (47.5/28/23) - Alliance make progress.
- Your lead still strong enough to give majority of over 100; but Alliance worrying; Keith Joseph says it could still crumble; anything could happen and probably will.
- Mr Healey regrets use of the word "slaughter" - should have said you glory in conflict. Other parties furious. Families say they are stunned. Healey gets Special Branch protection after outburst. Benn backs him.
- Viewers' fury over BBC Newsnight programme giving platform to Costa Mendez.
- You rule out inquiry into Belgrano sinking.
- Tribune accuses Labour leaders of fighting a low key campaign with too much sniping at own troops; but Jon Akass, Sun, reporting from Bradford, writes of gloomy young Militants who are killing Labour Party.
- Peter Shore says 500,000 will get jobs in first year of Labour Government.
- Ian Mikardo arrested for obstruction while electioneering ....
- Meanwhile main tit-bit of the day is which MP had an affair with Shirley MacLaine.

Healey

D/Star: Healey stinks says VC's widow.

Sun: Humble Healey says "I boobed". Falklands climb down. Mrs Sarah Jones: his outburst dispicable; cheap.

Mirror: Healey regret over that word slaughter.

Express: Healey's giant blunder - a TV retreat in face of nation's fury.

Mail: Healey half climbs down - Falklands heroes' families hit out. Labour clearly rattled by massive public blunder.

Telegraph: Healey bows to storm; glorying in slaughter phrase retracted; 'Tone it down' says Foot.

Guardian: Healey regrets word he used in taunt over Falklands campaign; Ian Aitken says Labour Party ran into serious electoral trouble as a result of gratuitous introduction of Falklands war into election campaign.

Times: relegates issue on front page below "Tory and Labour worry deepens as Alliance gains", and says Healey regrets his slaughter attack.

### Comment

D/Star: under heading 'The Repugnant Mr Healey' says he owes you an apology - and the nation and its fighting men; exposes him as nasty, hypocritical and stupid. What the hell is he up to? Get back to real issues.

Sun: Labour's beast seems finally to have gone off his chump. If he had had one particle of political savvy he would have run as far as he could manage before breathing the word Falklands.

Mirror: ignores Healey and turns its anger on Mr Tebbit - "Fiddler on the Loose" who "loses 1m jobless". Figures to be published today will be as genuine as a fourpenny Rembrandt. Instead of down read up.

Express: Not only nastiest slur of campaign, but biggest blunder. Maybe Healey and Kinnock, for his remarks on Belgrano, have already abandoned this election and are buttering up the loony left for one that comes later, or succumbed to wave of insanity sweeping their disorganised rabble of a party.

Mail: "The Real Healey Stands Forth"; what possessed him? and advances theory that he has lost all hope of anything other than scoring lucky hit by firing indiscriminately. But it suspects that under extreme pressure the vicious bullyboy mentality of the real Healey has finally revoltingly emerged; Andrew Alexander writes of the man who glories in hatred - a man who cannot see a belt without wanting to hit below it.

Telegraph: What on earth happened to Healey? Remarks outside British tradition of politics. He has attempted to deprive you of what he regards as the very foundation of your success. But it is hopeless. One cannot rewrite history on this scale; in a leader on Cabinet making, it says you are not likely to err on side of exclusivity but you must clear up curious relationship with Mr Prior.

Guardian: Feeling of a last (election) stand has dogged Mr Healey these last 2 weeks; inevitably perhaps he has gone over the top; attack must be reckoned as an own goal; on another tack, it says the most fundamental domestic question in election is which party is most likely to restore economic growth and reduce unemployment - if you were to be re-elected to pursue existing policies there could easily be a social catastrophe.

Times: in a long leader on the Falklands factor rehearses reasons why it would have been better if the Falklands had been left out of the election; Healey moreover has gone far beyond all reasonable standards of political debate.

### Economy

- Unemployment fall will give you a further boost today after rise in reserves yesterday.
- Len Murray denounces fall in unemployment in advance - the Big Lie, he says; deceiving nation.
- Jobs march reaches London for this weekend's rally; Express leader says it is quite right Livingstone should meet the People's March - his presence clearly illustrates this protest's left-wing gimmickry.
- Rumours of another devaluation of franc.

### Industry

- George Younger suggests Ravenscraig steel deal with USA unlikely to go ahead.
- Ford Escort world's best selling car.
- Marathon's North Brae oilfield development could provide up to 6,000 jobs.
- Imports of blue asbestos will be banned if you are re-elected (D/Star).
- Scargill says more than 70,000 jobs at 95 pits could go over next 8 years.
- Kaufman claims public transport will be crucified if Tories get back.
- Japan intends to train foreign businessmen how to sell to Japanese in bid to open up market.

### Defence

- 385 peace protestors arrested at Upper Heyford in 3 days; one injured in incident with US servicemen's car.
- Bruce Kent accuses Tories of trying to discredit CND.
- NATO leaders confirm decision to deploy Cruise and Pershing if arms control talks with Russians make no progress.
- George Gale, Express, says Labour in its present state cannot possibly be trusted with the nation's defence and Alliance cannot be trusted not to put Labour in.
- Lord Vaizhy says impossible to read Labour manifesto without realising it argues not merely for peace at any price but we should join Poland etc as enslaved states.
- MOD denies it is having to order tank gun turret castings from W.Germany because of UK foundry rationalisation
- US temporarily suspends tests on Cruise missiles to examine problems.
- RAF Hercules staging through Brazil, according to Guardian.
- Duke of Edinburgh calls for degree courses in military science.

### Media

- No FT again today because of dispute.
- Press Association journalists threaten industrial action over pay on night of poll.
- Advertising Agency report says ITV isn't meeting viewers' wants.
- Row over management of Morning Star threatens to detach it from Communist Party.

### Education

- Mirror feature on "Waste of a nation" turns to education.
- STOPP claims that 27 British corporal punishment cases have been referred to EuroCourt of Human Rights.
- Mail wants you, in next Government, to make parents legally responsible for actions of children who are doing a great deal of criminal damage in and out of school.

- General Secretary of National Association of Head Teachers says Labour's manifesto tramples on rights of parents; but Association says it has no confidence in many of Government's education policies either.

Medical/Welfare

- David Steel says twice as many are caught in poverty trap as in 1979.
- BMA calling for strict curbs on laser beam cosmetic surgery.

Religion

- Anglican report recommends possibility of divorcées being remarried in Church of England - a welcome from the Mail.

International

- EC: Butter mountain threatens to overbalance EC budget - Mail.
- USA: Two IRA gun-runners found guilty in New York - to be sentenced later.
- Middle East: Arafat threatened by mass revolt of PLO officers.

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