

FROM: ALFRED SHEARMAN.

5.6.1983

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THE LAST LAP. A MAJORITY IN SEATS AND VOTES:

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1. The implications of Healey's outburst

Healey is experienced and shrewd. He will have known that his attacks on Mrs T over the Falklands war would arouse anger as articulated by Cecil Parkinson, and actually lose votes. He did not mind. WHY? It can only be because he has already written off the Election and is looking to the next round which for him is a succession to FOOT. If Healey cannot be Prime Minister he wants to be Leader of the Opposition. Whereas majority of British voters are anti-Argentinian, a large part of Labour's electoral College are compulsively anti-British. KINNOCK sought their votes by breaking with all procedures and demanding a Belgrano enquiry (this will of course encourage the Argentinians to a second round but who cares?) Healey has decided to follow suit which tells us a lot about his estimate of the mood of the Labour Party and the attitude of the RIGHT WINGERS to him. It also tells us something about how a minority Labour Party may behave after defeat.

2. The implications of Healey's confession

If Labour is thoroughly beaten we can turn more to the ALLIANCE,

a) We must treat it as two parties, which it is, pressing on those matters over which they differ.

b) In dealing with the Social Democrats we need many variations of one single theme: "How have you changed since 1980?" "How are you coming to terms with your past, including your record in Office and the 1979 Manifesto, forgotten but not disowned?" This theme can be exemplified by reference to many themes in their Manifesto which promise the earth and ignore the fact that they shaped it as it was for inescapable reasons; Humanising the Social Services is just one example.

3. A Landslide

The anti-Landslide arguments being fed to the press among others by leading Tory circles both in office and previous office-holders, can be answered from the consideration that we will be a reforming Government carrying out reforms some of which are advocated in one form or another in all three Manifestos. All

reforms encounter vested interests, understandable given human nature. People do not want to give up what they have if they can find some political channel in which to preserve it whatever the common good. THE BIRD IN THE HAND TOO EASILY BECOMES THE DOG IN THE MANGER.

We have a right to ask for a majority of votes cast to strengthen the moral authority behind the constitutional majority we shall get by our majority of seats. A Party with a majority support in the whole country is the best guarantee that it will act for the WHOLE electorate.

A Shearman

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