

DRAFT

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT PRESS CONFERENCE ON WEDNESDAY 8 JUNE 1983

(1)

Three weeks ago we <sup>met</sup> ~~gathered~~ in this room to launch the Conservative General Election Manifesto.

(2)

Since then I and my Ministerial colleagues have set out each day to deal with the issues and policies on which we believe the voters will make their decision tomorrow.

Our opponents have indulged as we warned they would in a campaign of scares and smears.

Knowing that the public would be thoroughly alarmed by Labour plans and unimpressed by those of the Alliance they have each set out to concentrate attention instead upon the conduct of the Conservative Government.

I am grateful to them. For the nation has been offered a contrast between empty rhetoric and honest Government.

(3)

We have set out before you our strategy for jobs, our plans to protect and improve the Health Service and most importantly of all our plans for the upholding of freedom and the rule of law at home and abroad.

(4)

Where others have offered fantasies we have offered facts. Where others have made rash and costly promises we have undertaken the continuation of sound Government.

Labour in those three weeks has been revealed as a party unwilling to give realistic defences to our country or to stand by our allies.

For the sake of dogma they would sacrifice our markets in Europe and the jobs that go with them.

Where we offer answers they offer only abuse.

And given the chance they would turn this country into a dreary East European style state.

The Alliance meanwhile has emerged as a pale imitation of the Labour party awash with half formed ideas which would take Britain nowhere except into a quangoland of mediocrity.

~~There appears to be a battle for 2nd place between the Alliance and the Labour party.~~

The Alliance claims to have overtaken the Labour party.

5

Perhaps so, perhaps not.

6

My concern is not with who comes second but with winning from the British electorate a mandate for a second term of Conservative Government.

7

Those who do want a Conservative Government -- and I honestly believe that that means the majority of electors - must realise that only they can make it happen.

~~8~~

~~To rely upon the votes of others is to turn away from one of the most important decisions any of us ever has to make.~~

9

Now the debate is almost over. The future lies in the ballot box.

~~10~~

PRESS CONFERENCE BRIEFING

WEDNESDAY 8th JUNE 1983

1. "Howe wants to end security of tenure"  
(The Guardian)
2. "Jenkin predicts drop in interest rates"  
(The Times)
3. Mortgage interest rates
4. Retail sales
5. Wholesale prices
6. Example of Labour smears (Renee Short  
election address).

SS/CR  
8.6.83

PRESS CONFERENCE BRIEFING

Are the Conservatives going to deregulate the private rented sector of housing?

Source: Guardian 8th June 1983

Line to take: No. The Conservative Manifesto contains no commitment to deregulate the private sector. It concentrates on the shorthold and assured tenancies schemes.

1. The letter in question, which was written on 14th July 1982, shortly after the Chancellor spoke to the CPC Summer School in Cambridge, set the Chancellor's words in context.
2. What the Chancellor said was:  
"Can we afford to move so painfully slowly towards a revived, deregulated private rented sector of housing which would allow people to move quickly and easily to find jobs."
3. The letter explained that:  
"The Chancellor's intention was to give a personal view of the issues which the Conservative Government will have to tackle in its second term. It was not a 'Manifesto'; it was intended to stimulate debate about matters which must be of central importance to any responsible government concerned for Britain's long term future."
4. The letter went on to explain that the Chancellor's remarks were contained in the section of the speech which dealt with the need to tackle the problem of unemployment. Few would

dispute the fact that obstacles to mobility are a real cause of present levels of unemployment.

5. The decline of the private rented sector from about 90% of the housing stock at the turn of the century to its present 14% share has meant that it is now more difficult and expensive to move from areas where jobs are scarce to areas where jobs are more easily available.

6. The Manifesto says this about the private rented sector:

"Britain needs more homes to rent, too, in the private sector as well as the public sector. For years the blind prejudice of the Labour Party has cast a political blight on privately rented housing. But our assured tenancy scheme has encouraged builders to start building new homes to rent again, and our shorthold scheme is helping the private sector to meet the needs of those who want short-term rented accommodation."

P.25

8 June 1983

TH/TK

Security of tenure to council home  
units  
ms

## INTEREST RATES

(The Times, 8th June 1983, page 1)

### Jenkin predicts drop in interest rates

From Clifford Longley, Peterborough.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry, said yesterday that he expected a prompt post-election drop in interest rates which would stimulate industry. He told some local businessmen while campaigning in Peterborough that "if there is a surge in the £ after the election we can use interest rates to bring it down to more realistic levels."

Mr Jenkin is strongly tipped as a candidate to become Chancellor of the Exchequer in the expected post-election Cabinet reshuffle. His comments on a possible rise in the value of

the pound in the wake of a Conservative victory bear a striking resemblance to views expressed by Mrs Thatcher.

● Building societies are banking on a cut in interest rates fairly soon after the election to restore their depleted coffers and head off any rise in the mortgage rate (Lorna Bourke writes).

Figures for net receipts during May to be released on Friday, will show that the societies took about £320m - nearly £400m below what is required to maintain lending at its current level of £1,500m.

RE/CR

8.6.83

MORTGAGE INTEREST RATES

"Home loans set to rise whoever wins on polling day"

(Daily Express, 8th June 1983, page 2)

Line to take: This is a decision for the building societies.

What the Government is doing is to maintain a responsible  
monetary policy to keep downward pressure on interest  
rates.

SS/CR

8.6.83



WHOLESALE PRICES

Line to take:

These figures show that inflation is under control.

Background:

1. Output prices increased by 0.6 per cent in May. The rise in output prices (12 month rate) remained at 7.3 per cent in May.
2. Input prices fell by 0.5 per cent in May. The 12 month rate increased from 6.2 (April) to 6.4 per cent (May).

SS/EJ

8.6.83

Nationality Act.

We shall restore the centuries-old right of babies born in Britain to have British Nationality.

We intend to make an orderly withdrawal from the Common Market and to maintain our trading relations with all countries.

On Defence, we shall maintain our alliances and build up our non-nuclear defence forces which the Tories are dismantling. **Remember**, if the Falklands dispute had happened **now**, we would have had no aircraft carriers, for the Tories intended to sell them off and our most important naval bases are being scrapped. We shall stop the deployment of Cruise Missiles and abandon Trident, to prevent a new and dangerous escalation in the nuclear arms race.

The presence of nuclear weapons on British soil and under the control of a foreign power is completely unacceptable — but this is the policy of the Tory Government and we oppose it.

If re-elected, Thatcher would scrap the National Health Service, dismantle British Rail, sell off British Telecom and British Airways and crush the Trade Union Movement. **Is this what you want ?** In this Election you have the choice of voting Labour or Tory; any other vote would be a wasted vote and **would let in the Tories. So Vote LABOUR !**

In difficult times, you know a Labour Government will protect you and your family while a Tory Government will always look after their rich friends who are their backers. They have always done this and they would do it again.

**Vote Labour ! Vote for RENEE SHORT !**

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# LABOUR Again

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**THINK OF YOUR FAMILY  
THINK POSITIVE !**



You  
Labour Candidate  
THURS., 9th JUNE, 1983