

PRIME MINISTER

PRESS DIGEST

Election

- Mail says there's no stopping you now - you are irresistible force of British politics; and bookies William Hill stop taking bets on a Tory victory - first time they've turned bets down before campaigning has finished; last odds 9-1 on.
- Alliance hopes to push Labour into third place after 7 weekend polls give you a 15-16% lead but increased Alliance vote.
- Healey says some voters are turning to Alliance "to fend off extremist Tory Government".
- Express leads with Scottish poll which, it says, underlines your warning that a vote for the Alliance is a vote for Labour; an Alliance surge there has been at the expense of the Tories - Labour 38/Con 28/Alliance 22/SNP 12; but Mail says Labour is being hit twice as hard as Tories by Alliance surge.
- Showbiz comes to electioneering - your Wembley youth rally changes face of British politics.
- The great £15bn increase in public spending - or cuts - row over leaked papers; Chancellor denies plan to "smash" health and welfare services; Philips and Drew forecast £500m-£1bn spending cuts in autumn if Tories win; Peter Walker says spending on pensions, sickness benefit and education higher now than under Lib-Lab pact.
- Express unearths another Healey blunder - comparing your hard men to Provos.
- Sun says Mr Pym will become Home Secretary in re-shuffle - been guaranteed a top job.
- You and other party leaders state your case in centre page Express feature. Mail says Foot is beaten, he knows it and virtually conceded defeat at the weekend.
- Roy Grantham, General Secretary of union APEX, urges his members in South and West to vote Liberal where they have a chance of unseating the Tories.
- Telegraph notes that you used yesterday's rally to continue attacking Labour as main opposition in spite of Alliance claims of progress.
- 20% of Ulster electors undecided; fire attack destroys SDLP HQ in Londonderry.
- Gallup says most people prefer Britain to stay in EC.
- Telegraph article on the ideal Chancellor says there are no signs of Sir Geoffrey requiring a rest from Treasury.
- Labour claims that return of Tory Government will push up unemployment to 6m (Guardian).
- Guardian expects pay inflation to be down to 3.75% and to result in very low pension increase in autumn.

### Jobs March

- Sun says it flops in the rain and embarrassed Michael Foot; organisers speak of crowd of 150,000; police estimate 15-20,000.
- Mirror says it was the biggest protest yet against Britain's staggering unemployment.
- Express - job rally flops as thousands fail to turn up; Express puts attendance at 13,000 - most people will say flop serves them right; it was no honest outburst of anger from the unemployed but a political ploy arranged by Extreme Left; (this leader did not appear in first edition because NGA wanted right of reply).
- Mail says march was split by left-wing feuding.
- Telegraph says march ends on a low note - only 10,000 there and organisation sadly lacking.
- Guardian records police estimate of attendance (15-20,000) and organisers' 130,000.
- Times - low turnout for Foot as job march ends.

### Election Comment

Sun: Attacking tactical voting, says if there were 400 Tory MPs instead of 300 or 200 it would make no difference - they would still faithfully represent the wide spectrum of opinion from right to left. Only one way to cast a vote - for the party and leader best fitted to serve the country.

Mirror: Pursuing its waste of a nation theme, says you are trying to persuade those you have put out of work that only you can get them back; but in fact, it says, you can't, you won't and you don't intend to, Labour is offering dignity in work; the Tories the dole for the workless.

Express leader, sounding alarm after Alliance surge in Scotland, says it illustrates graphically the message, a vote for the Alliance is a vote for Foot; on the unions it says their leaders are agonising about their futures - reform and democracy are coming their way, regardless. George Gale says Alliance knows perfectly well you and Tories are right and that Foot and Labour are horribly wrong, but it cannot bring itself to utter the obvious truth - that those who know which side their bread is buttered will vote Conservative.

Mail: A genuine clash of forces in this eerie election has never occurred; campaign characterised by thousands of yards of no-man's land which separates Tory and Labour. Third force - the Alliance - has undoubted attractions but they are fudgers and surprisingly backward looking. But it is alternative opposition in the making; Paul Johnson says bewildered electors who vote Alliance to stop a Tory landslide could be making a fatal mistake - real beneficiaries would be unions whose leaders are being kept out of sight.

Telegraph: notes failure of Opposition to brand Conservatives as blinkered ideological party blind to human dimension of politics.

Guardian: says the charge against you is not of malevolence but of weakness and stupidity; your failure of Government are those of perception and intelligence, of intellect and human understanding.

Times: says Labour Party enters last few days of campaigning in sorry state when it should have started with much to commend its position. Causes run deep. It has been living a lie and pressure of campaign has cruelly exposed deceit springing from its change from broad church to narrow sect. Prospects of early recovery from defeat do not look encouraging.

## OTHER NEWS

### Industry

- Coal Board, according to Mirror, has warned the Government to expect a national strike next year in protest against plan to shut one-third of pits with loss of 70,000 jobs.
- New Landrover production line commissioned to meet demand.
- Surplus of 25m eggs a week leads to calls for slaughter of 2m hens.
- Mail says Lotus, which is short of cash, looks likely to stay British - to be saved by consortium of investors to prevent it being taken over by Japanese.
- Employees of Kraft Food at Kirby, Merseyside, call off campaign to save 930 jobs and vote to get best possible redundancy terms.

- New Government will face row with EuroCommission over BSC's £665m investment programme to use underground sites for nuclear waste.
- Chairman of Atomic Energy Authority says local authorities must eventually agree.

#### Law and Order

- Six people in Lanarkshire accused of killing police sergeant and trying to murder 3 other policemen.
- Prison watchdog group says prisoners who try to commit suicide punished by having wounds stitched without anaesthetic.
- Roman Catholic priest to be questioned by Fraud Squad about church school business deals.
- Warmer evenings bring police worry of more trouble in Brixton (Telegraph), but Times says drink clubs are the trouble.

#### Media

- FT talks to end printing dispute break down - no paper again today; ACAS expected to move in.
- Observer NGA men walk out over Tory Party advert dealing, among other things with unions; 200,000 copies lost.

#### Defence

- Concern about condition of house two miles from Greenham Common used as clean up place by women CND protestors.

#### Local Authority

- Telegraph says number of people employed by councils has fallen by nearly 5% since 1979 in spite of sizeable increase in police forces.

#### Death

- The case of the funeral firm which stores bodies, including that of Dick Emery, in a Battersea garage under a railway arch.
- Consultant draws up form to be signed by patients authorising doctors to withhold life saving treatment if they have become hopelessly senile.

#### Northern Ireland

- 3 shot in West Belfast Unity flats incident - in fact 3 women kneecapped.

- Sun journalist, who goes on "bomb run" to Northern Ireland with a mock bomb in his car boot, reveals lack of security - never checked.

International

Ethiopia: 10 relief workers, including 4 Britons, released by guerrillas.

Falklands: New pub to be called The Thatcher Inn.

Middle East: Israelis say their snipers spared Arafat during Beirut seige; Soviet Union mediating in PLO feud.

Russia: Expels US diplomat for spying; Andropov tells Averell Harriman he would like to see wartime intimate relationship between Russia and USA restored.

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