

Ridley

9th November 1982

Thank you for having sent to me a newspaper cutting about one of our colleagues, who is still masquerading as a Conservative Member of Parliament.

Councillor Miss Nona Cowie is clearly a heroine, and obviously has no passion for Grocers.

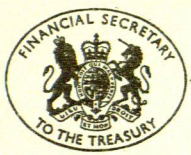
I understand that the person concerned is to give the House the benefit of his advice tomorrow; and I fear that I will have to be in my place, silent.

No such restriction needs to be imposed upon you.

IAN GOW

The Hon Nicholas Ridley MP

19.



I think you should
have a word with
this backbencher's
Constituency Chairman.
He can't have Tory
Members offending
their constituents,
let alone "dropping
shells on our
own Troops"

NR

Fed Heath

should go

say local

Tories

FORMER Prime Minister Edward Heath is losing grass roots support in his constituency because of what voters see as his 'Thatcher-bashing' stance.

A poll among Tory voters in Bexley-Sidcup suggests that three in four are against him.

Last night party workers and councillor, Miss Nona Cowie, voiced the feelings of many local Conservatives: 'I'm fed up with him, and tired of his anti-Mrs T attitude and his constant rocking of the Tory boat.

'The voters here tell me the same — their loyalty is to the Prime Minister and the party, not to Mr Heath. He's become a pink Tory and doesn't support the party or the Government.

Campaign

'He's been a good constituency MP, but he's not a young man any more (he's 66) and I think he's very jealous of Mrs Thatcher. We could do with a change — there are a lot of young, worthwhile candidates looking for a seat and I'd like to see him stand aside for one of them.

'I'm doubtful if we will be able to kick him out — the local executive is on his side.'

Councillor Raymond Pope, ex-chairman of the local association, said: 'It doesn't help if one of our big guns is dropping shells on our own troops.

The poll of Tory voters which showed a 3-1 majority against Mr Heath was conducted by a local paper.

Mr Barry Fowler, chairman of the Bexley-Sidcup Tory association, said: 'I'm sure the poll was properly conducted, but we are in the middle of a membership campaign which is doing well and that conflicts with the findings of the poll.

'The executive is fully behind our MP.