

1 September 1986

PRIME MINISTER

PFESS DIGEST

TUC

- Labour Party seeking £5m from unions.
- NUM rejects Scargill's opposition to secret ballots - nuclear energy policy, electricians' role in Wapping dispute and pay policy remain to try TUC.
- Mirror and Express leaders against scrapping of nuclear power, as advocated by Scargill.
- TGWU rejects a Labour Party/TUC policy statement attacking low pay.
- Sun says since the '70s the TUC has lost nearly a quarter of its members. Unless it comes to terms with reality it will have no future and no place in our national life.
- Mirror says it is a myth that the TUC dictates to a Labour Cabinet, but unfortunately the voters believe the myth.
- Lord Young, in Express, attacks TUC for "marching backwards to disaster" creating rigid employment rules which will make it almost impossible to tackle unemployment.
- Peter Paterson, in Mail, says Kinnock may regret not driving a harder bargain with TUC.
- Telegraph leader describes Scargill's stance on nuclear power as humbug.
- Guardian leader says it is a high risk policy for the TUC to pin all its hopes on Labour's return to power. The likeliest outcome at present is a minority Conservative Government.
- Times leader takes up a frank article in the New Statesman on the unions and says a fact of life in Britain in the 1980s is that attitudes towards work and employee status are changing. Any presentation by the TUC of a single employee viewpoint will be suspect because there isn't one.
- FT says on the face of it the union movement looks weaker than at any time since the war. In time it might be better if the TUC could begin to keep its distance from political parties.

POLITICS

- Labour Party plans to end tax privileges for private schools and selective education.
- SDP will match £ for £ mortgage deposits up to £1000 for first time buyers earning less than £12,000 who have been saving in a building society for 2 years.
- David Steel says he does not want SDP tax proposals, which would leave anyone earning more than £10,500 a year worse off under an Alliance Government, in a joint manifesto.
- Two thirds of young people who have reached voting age since 1979 may not vote at next election; largely apathetic about politics, and 80% of them do not blame Government for unemployment.

RESHUFFLE

- You are to make Cecil Parkinson chief of your No 10 Think Tank (D/Star).
- Telegraph feature suggests you should get rid of Michael Jopling.

VISAS

- Reporting suggests FCO opposed to plan to introduce visas for visitors from certain Commonwealth countries.
- Express leader in favour of the move and makes the point that Ghana, Nigeria, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka all demand visas of British visitors.
- Mall leader says the time has come to stem the flood of visitors from Africa and Asia.

RACE

- Terry Dicks MP accuses West Indians of being bone idle, lazy good for nothings; Labour MPs want Government to disown him.

LAW AND ORDER

- Mail says Scotland Yard is investigating allegations of "a horrific catalogue of sexual abuse" suffered by children at a Lambeth council home.

INDUSTRY

- Westland win two orders at Farnborough Show worth £35m - from Royal Navy and Indian Navy.

ECONOMY

- CBI expects 300,000 jobs to be created next year, but unemployment to fall by only 100,000; it also forecasts rising inflation.

MEDIA

- Threat of ITN blackout by producers' strike over request to one to leave with £40,000 compensation.
- Yorkshire TV flotation 52 times subscribed.

BBC

- D/Star comes out in favour of Lord King as chairman.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Mail leader on Zimbabwe's negotiation of a trade agreement with South Africa while Commonwealth sanctions conference was on and postponement of sanctions by front line states, says it would be more appropriate if the NAM conference in Harare concerned itself with starving in Africa.

LIBYA

- "Today" says we are ready to ban imports of Libyan oil.

EUROPEAN GAMES

- Britain wins 8 gold medals - third in overall table.

PEOPLE

- Henry Moore, sculptor, dead.
- Ex-President Kekkonen, of Finland, dead; aged 86.

BERNARD INGHAM