

PRIME MINISTER

PRESS DIGEST

TORY CONFERENCE

- Sun: You are re-writing your speech to hammer home the nuclear message.
- You should respond to the call by the Institute of Directors and cut the basic rate of tax by 10p. Ignore opposite advice from Ted Heath.
- The Institute also wants schools and hospitals privatised, welfare services sold off, VAT done to 10% and wage claims reduced.
- Mr Tebbit last night warned Cabinet rebels that your top election strategy is still to cut 4p off income tax. But while he says the lid will stay on public spending, Douglas Hurd says more money is needed for inner cities, education and the police. A rift is opening.
- Mail: "Maggie gets ready to woo the voters". The great Thatcher counter-attack begins this week.
- Keith Waterhouse says the blind leading the blind are how Labour's proceedings are often summed up. "Coming next on your screens: the bland leading the bland".
- Express: "Maggie's poll boost". You have narrowed Labour's lead, according to the Observer's Harris poll. Now Labour 41, Tory 38, Alliance 20.
- Express: Leader says from Bournemouth "must emerge a leader whose authority is unchallenged over a party dedicated to an era of growth, wealth, liberty and the defence of our nation, which can carry us into the nineties."
- Today: Top level moves were being made in the Conservative Party last night to silence rebel "wets" who could wreck the Government's image of unity.
- Today: You will get an unwelcome lesson from Tory moderates today on how to win the election. The Reform Group is calling for a major shift in policy, with a re-think on industry, unemployment, housing, health and education.
- Article on "Tebbit's Battle Plan" says he has coordinated what Ministers are going to say, giving the public a "crash, bang, wallop of policy pledges and promises of shiny times ahead".
- Peter McKay says you might decide that your task has been completed when you become the longest-serving Prime Minister this century, and choose decorous retirement.
- Times P1 lead: "Tories pledge million more home owners". Details will be given at the conference. Other radical measures are to be announced.
- Nigel Lawson is planning a bullish account of the economy in his speech on Thursday, but his plans could be jeopardised by a rise in interest rates.
- All eyes are on the money supply figures (tomorrow) and OPEC, meeting in Geneva today.

TORY CONFERENCE (Cont'd)

- Guardian: "Tebbit adopts softer line for conference".
- Harris survey for 'Weekend World' shows that most Tory MPs want extra spending and radical reform.
- The Bank of England denied it was under pressure from Mr Lawson to hold interest rates.
- Guardian: Leader says, never underestimate the Tories. "For the Conservatives have the means, the motive and the opportunity to win themselves a third election." Government can always take the initiative quicker than the Opposition.
- Ian Aitken says the Conservative Party should stick to what it is really good at - scaring the pants off the electorate about the dangers of Socialism.
- Telegraph P1 lead: £ besieged as Tories gather. Shadow cast over conference.
- According to a Gallup Poll more than half the electorate see the Party as divided and 43% want the Government to change its economic policy. 68% of voters want better public services.
- Today: Roy Hattersley has demanded to know if Nigel Lawson has ordered the Bank of England to withhold an interest rate rise until after the Tory Conference.
- Guardian: Julian Critchley tells Mr Tebbit and Mr Archer that the electorate is turned off by invective. Voters do not want the good faith of opponents impugned.
- Teddy Taylor says to win again a new Tory vision is needed - "not just a pledge that we will continue to fight wars which the public consider have already been won".
- Telegraph: Gallup Poll shows most people think the Government has failed to keep its promises. A new image is called for. "The lady's not for turning" has become a double-edged sword.
- You are planning to launch a radical manifesto at the Conference with plans for further privatisation and far-reaching changes in education and housing.

LABOUR

- Sun: Military top brass and Dr John Gilbert, former Labour defence minister, joined forces yesterday to attack Labour's ban-the-bomb pledge.
- Mail: Leader says of Labour's defence policy: "Labour must face the fact that we live in one world. As long as its leaders insist on believing instead in their dream world, they will not be fit to wield power".
- Times: There is serious concern in the highest circles of the Armed Forces that Labour's non-nuclear defence policy could, if implemented, seriously damage Britain's ability to defend itself.
- Express: "Top brass N-revolt looms for Kinnock".

POLITICS

- Sir John Hoskyns, former leader of No 10 Policy Unit, challenges you to introduce a radical right wing strategy for privatisation of health, education and welfare.
- Today: The Alliance is again demanding that the BBC give them more air time.
- Times: The Government and Labour front bench are sharply criticised for colluding to thwart the will of a majority of backbenchers in a report to be published on Thursday about Commons procedure.
- Guardian: The Selsdon Group want the BBC, the Post Office and British Coal to be privatised.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Guardian: President Botha is to meet the leader of a neo-fascist party who has been condemned as a violent extremist. The meeting is subject to a repudiation of violence by Mr Terre Blanche.
- Telegraph: The US sanctions may cost 45,000 black jobs.

NUCLEAR SUB

- Mail: The fire which crippled the Soviet nuclear submarine off Bermuda was caused by an explosion in a missile silo, MoD experts believe three men are dead.
- Today: Leader says the speedy announcement of the fire by the Soviets would have been unthinkable even 6 months ago. But we have been lucky. Next time it could be a Chernobyl-at-sea.
- Times: More than 20,000 people yesterday joined a human chain 28 miles long in Scotland's biggest anti-nuclear protest.
- Guardian: The US says the Soviet sub danger is over.

PEOPLE

- Sun: Prince Charles's former valet, Stephen Barry, has died of AIDS. The news has sparked fears that the Queen and other members of the Royal Family may be at risk from the disease.
- Edwina Currie, appearing on 'World in Action' tonight, will let rip again at Northerners; accusing them of spending too much money on smoking and drinking.
- A car carrying the Duke and Duchess of York in Holland crashed into the back of a police car. Nobody was hurt.
- Euro MP, Terry Pitt, has died.
- Star: 'Health Chief Edwina bashes Northerners again!'
- Mail: "Edwina blames it on beer now!"
- Express: "Edwina in new rap for the North's smokers".
- Mirror: "Blunder woman strikes again".
- Soviet dissident Yuri Orlov, flew with his wife from Moscow to America yesterday.

PEOPLE (Cont'd) .

- Today: "Currie launches new attack on the boozy North".
- Times: "Northern diet under fire again".
- David Howell criticises Jim Prior for publishing his memoirs so early.

CHURCH

- Guardian: Dr Runcie is dismayed by a woman priest who celebrated Holy Communion in defiance of Church law.

SUMMIT

- Mail: Russia is holding out high hopes for the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting. Pravda is talking of "a drastic change for the better" in East-West relations.
- Times: President Reagan is also confident about the Summit.

LAW AND ORDER

- Sun: A 19-year-old youth was stabbed to death and another is in a serious condition after an attack by Millwall fans.
- You are to consult the Attorney-General over the extradition from the US of William Quinn, the suspected IRA terrorist wanted for the murder of PC Tipple.
- Mail: Insurance companies may effectively ban drink drivers for life by refusing to give cover.
- Mirror: The Football League meets today to consider Luton's position.
- Today: British Airways has refused to fly Quinan home because he is too dangerous. BA fear terrorist reprisals.
- Times: The Government is seeking to bring within public spending controls the way barristers run their chambers.
- The amount of domestic violence is being hidden because the police are not recording it, a report into the Metropolitan Police says.

INDUSTRY

- Sun: 1,500 new jobs are being created through the expansion of the Thorn Ericsson Telecommunications factory at Scunthorpe.
- Ferry chaos looks set to spread as unions and Sealink bosses continue talks.
- Express: "Maggie forces wage revolt". Union chiefs are aiming to wreck your pay policies this winter. Wage increases way above the rate of inflation are being called for.
- Times: Pressure is growing on the Government to provide more than £500m to BAe for a new generation of wide-bodied jets.

ECONOMY

- Tomorrow's growth rate figures are better than expected, says the FT, as are the figures for the M3 money supply. Both figures will hold off interest rate rises during Conference week.
- A strike at Lucas of 11,000 workers threatens a 20,000 lay-off at Austin Rover. The dispute over pay has dragged on since June and management at Lucas are now taking a tough line with their workforce.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Star continues its campaign for children in need with two pages of case histories.

EDUCATION

- Times: A Marplan poll shows 66% of the public support private education.

ARGENTINA

- Mail: Criticism of the attention given to the Argentine father visiting his son's grave on the Falklands. "They treated him like a prince - there was no need for that".
- Today: Leader criticises Falkland Islanders attitude to visit. They could have conducted themselves with greater dignity and understanding

IRELAND

- Guardian: Sinn Fein is likely this month to overturn its policy of abstaining from taking seats in the Dail, which was the reason for its split from the official Republican movement 16 years ago.

ISRAEL

- Times: Israel has refused to comment on a report in the Sunday Times claiming it has stocks of thermo-nuclear weapons.