

10 June 1987

PRIME MINISTER

You are seen to be on course for a hat-trick with an 8% lead but not a landslide. William Hill refuse to take any more bets on your winning.

£6bn added to shares.

Today's Marplan poll is 43/35/21. Gallup 41/34/23.5.

Longer coverage than normal for your closing speech in campaign.

Summit seen as a triumph - and a repudiation of Kinnock's nuclear defence policy.

FT, after all its snooty criticism of the Government's record, comes down in favour of a third term for you.

Denis Healey's outburst at TV-AM studios over his wife's private operation gets full treatment - Star says his son went to a private school and Kinnock admits he would pay for medical treatment in an emergency.

Norman Tebbit attacks "the stench of hypocrisy surrounding Labour's health policy".

Star says the nation is getting the message; you are set fair to win. It leads on "Kinnock's private agony" reporting that he would, in an emergency, pay for private medical treatment.

Inside it accuses Dave Nellist of casting a slur in Coventry for saying we do not have a country worth defending.

Your speech given longer coverage than normal - our stark choice; Labour would condemn us to a second class life in a third class country.

Star leader, referring to NHS and private education, says Labour is just two faced. They tell us to do one thing and go off and do another and don't like to be found out.

Sun puts its opinion on front page headed "Half way there" - half way through a revolution you should be re-elected to complete. Otherwise, it's retreat with the Socialists to a past that has failed. Don't let "Kinnock's crackpots" wreck it. The Alliance is irrelevant. "Let's give Maggie five more years".

Inside the Sun has foul mouth Healey insults TV Anne Diamond.

Sun leader headed "Bully boy Healey" says he has long been the licensed jester of politics but the mask has slipped and revealed a foul-mouthed, evil-tempered bully.

A centre page feature in the Sun explains "Why Red Ken (Livingstone) is the real Labour leader" and lists 18 Lefties for "the Livingstone Cabinet".

Mirror puts its comment in very bold type on its front page - Time to choose (between) privilege and poverty. Conservative Party exists to preserve its privileges. Labour Party was created to fight it. It says you will get back on a "selfish" vote.

Inside the Mirror "Angry Healey savages dirty tricks Diamond" and claims that viewers want her sacked. It claims Labour goes ahead in the marginals (based on Vincent Hanna's dubious BBC Newsnight polling activities) and another sob story from its NHS reporter who claims that a 3 year old boy has been waiting 18 months for a hole in the heart operation.

Mirror's centre page spread has pictures covering "Thatcher's Britain" putting the worst possible light on unemployment, education, housing, NHS and crime.

Today leads with you heading for a hat-trick but with reduced majority based upon its Marplan poll. It also puts the Healey row on its front page, saying Labour taunts over private health backfired. Your speech at Harrogate is headed "Thatcher: It is the poll of the century", and story says you claim Labour would destroy prosperity and security within weeks. Today adds that Labour still keeps its tax plans under wraps.

Today's leader lists 10 questions voters should ask themselves in coming down in support of the Alliance.

Daily News says the Tory lead has been cut to 3% - again relying on the BBC Newsnight poll. It claims Government has secret plans to hive off job centres.

Daily News leader backs Labour - it urges a vote for a change in the conduct of our national affairs, a different style with a different face.

Express leads with "Healey the hypocrite" - a four letter outburst over his wife's private operation. Its comment column on the front page says Healey's foul language and boorish behaviour is not as offensive as his hypocrisy.

Inside its election pages lead with your speech - "Labour's 3rd class Britain". It also says you received a shot in the arm when the Office of Health Economics revealed that £22.4bn was spent on the NHS last year.

Express opinion column says Labour's caring image is a sham and nothing shows it up more clearly than its unions policy. By scrapping your union reform, Kinnock will strip us of our defences against union bully boys.

Jean Rook claims TV is biased in favour of Labour.

Express's centre page spread on "The great Labour tax shambles".

Mail leads with "Healey's gift to the Tories" - Labour's attack on private medicine boomerangs. Underlines its dishonesty on the subject. It says Healey went over the top again last night by saying "Re-election of a Thatcher Government would set the world on the path to extinction".

General message of Eastbourne hospital where Mrs Healey had her private operation says that if a patient had been in pain in 1985, the hospital would have been able to operate in one or two months, not 18 as Mrs Healey claimed.

Mail leader headed "The Choice - freedom's way or the road to ruin". Illustrated by a cartoon of Kinnock as a flash second hand car salesman. Never have so many promises been offered to so many people by a party with so little ability to make them come true. We have seen Thatcherism - and it works.

Telegraph predicts "Tories on way to a big win" on its front page. Victory with an overall majority of 36-90. Elsewhere on Telegraph's front page: "Healey in 4-letter row over health".

Inside the Telegraph reports increasing complaints of Labour terror tactics from the constituencies.

Telegraph leader says you are unlikely to gain a popular mandate. It cites boredom and distaste for you as reasons but says a more serious factor is middle class guilt. Too many, and especially the better educated, cherish the illusory merits of a middle way - the curse of the nation for two generations.

Christopher Booker, pursuing the guilt complex in the Telegraph, says union power is ultimately why the stupendous effort to sell Labour as humane, caring and moral gives off such an utter stench of humbug and it is why, when it comes to the point, Labour will fail.

Guardian leads with calls by you and Kinnock to switch loyalty and voters. It finds evidence of a last minute swing to the Alliance.

Guardian leader backs Kinnock - it says it is a risk worth taking "as you ... look at those who govern us now, people who seem - in this campaign especially - to have lost their capacity for learning".

Hugo Young, in Guardian, says his conclusion is that Labour does not know what it would do to make good its priority pledges.

Independent leads with "Tories plan for radical changes at Job Centres". It claims polls waver over the outcome of the election. Kinnock defends Healey.

Independent leader under heading "Time to reassess the NHS" says the new Health Minister after the election should consult the Alliance manifesto; another leader says Labour's answer to the markets is a plan for repatriation and direction of capital which, along with its murky tax proposals, is damaging evidence of its failure to understand the process of wealth creation.

Peter Jenkins, in Independent, while complaining about the level at which the election has been conducted, says if you win tomorrow it will be because Britain is a prosperous place to live and its economy for the moment is booming.

Times leads with "Bitter clashes mark climax to campaign"; Healey swears at TV girl. At your final rally, you say Labour is not fit to govern.

Geoffrey Smith, in Times, says you will not have a fourth term - after the campaign it is impossible to contemplate it. If the Conservatives are hoping for a fourth term they will need a different style of leadership. Kinnock has increased his standing, but for how long?

Jo Grimond, in Times, criticises Alliance leadership. He says he is not sure he wants to see a Prime Minister who appears to be a combination of hitch-hiker and family butler. He would prefer sharper leadership.

Times leader, examining the Conservative campaign, says Labour was allowed just to pluck at the nation's heart strings. Your mistake was to relax your guard. You must not allow the errors of your programme to water down your much needed programme of reform.

Another Times leader says the Alliance is now standing as neither a new credible party nor a replacement for Labour, but a mish mash of backward looking attitudes.

FT has "party leaders stressing the stark election choice". All the signs are that the Tories are heading for a lasting working majority.

FT leader presents the case for a third Conservative term.

ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Star: Thatcher is backed all the way - a major pre-election boost in endorsing your economic strategy and in blowing unilateralism out of the water.

Sun: Summit lashes Kinnock - you returned jubilant, after a "We're backing Maggie" verdict; Kinnock would be without a supporter among most powerful democratic countries.

Mirror predictably ignores Summit.

Today's headline "Big Seven leave Neil in the cold".

Daily News says you hailed your trip as a triple triumph - on economic policy, defence and terrorism; a big eve-of-election boost.

Express: World's leaders back Maggie on defence policies - a devastating eve of election blow to Kinnock. A stunning triumph.

Mail report headed "Summit triumph" - you flew back with the prize you wanted: a vote of confidence in your defence and economic policies. You gave the impression of being unstoppable after your Venice triumph.

Telegraph leads with "Venice backs Thatcherism" - financial and nuclear policies supported.

Telegraph leader says it is not immediately obvious what benefits your visit brought to world leaders or yourself.

Guardian on its front page says "PM says British policies won the day at Venice".

Independent forecasts the Summit nations committing themselves to closer consultation and coordination on economic policies.

Another Independent story says the meeting vowed to unite on terrorism.

Times headed "Summit boost for Prime Minister", says you secured from the Summit the election boost you sought - the effective repudiation of Kinnock's defence policy. Another story says the Summit revised its terror tactics - a reference to its tougher stance on terrorism.

Times Business News says finance ministers' agreement to extend economic cooperation is a step forward.

FT leads with industrial nations in accord on economic policy cooperation; you claim Summit backing.

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