

Prime Minister (2)

Today's Sun editorial,
which you may be interested
to see in full.

MBA 19/5

The Sun speaks its mind

IGNORE 'EM, MAGGIE



BATTLING:

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher ... the Tories, and the country, need her to finish the revolution

SUPPOSE Ted Heath or Willie Whitelaw, or Sir Geoffrey Howe or Nigel Lawson, had led the Tories in the Elections of 1979, 1983 and last year.

Who would be in 10, Downing Street this morning?

It would be Jim Callaghan or Michael Foot or Neil Kinnock.

That is the measure of the debt the Tory Party owes to Margaret Thatcher.

It is also the measure of the country's debt.

In just nine years, Mrs Thatcher has accomplished the most extraordinary transformation Britain has known in the modern era.

In a revolution, there are always going to be rough times. Old habits die hard. Vested interests will fight to protect themselves.

Sniping

The Socialists have resisted her every step of the way.

That was natural. They are, after all, the Opposition.

But, at every turn, she has also been harried and obstructed by the unofficial Tory opposition.

All the Cabinet discards have

Forget your critics and finish the job

been sniping away almost since the day they lost office.

Yet another opposition to Mrs Thatcher lies within her Cabinet and stays there, enjoying the fruits of office and the luxury of dissent.

Freedom

There can rarely have been a more shameful act of disloyalty and ingratitude than that just shown in the dispute over the pound.

The Tories proclaim themselves to be the party of freedom. That means a free economy and a free market.

The Prime Minister was being consistent—and correct—when she declared that, in the end, the strength of a country's currency reflects the strength or weakness of its economy. Chancellor

Lawson, whose sulks make Ted Heath look like cheerful Charlie Chester, believes in currency manipulation.

He has been spending (and wasting) the taxpayers' money for 18 months vainly trying to keep the pound down.

Even though the policy was futile and wrong, he has expected the Prime Minister to support him in public.

Loyalty

She has done so to the last letter, culminating in her humiliating appearance in the Commons on Tuesday, while he sat smug and silent alongside her.

Mr Lawson is a man who demands loyalty.

What loyalty has he given Mrs Thatcher in return?

Then there is Sir Geoffrey Howe. He was an unimpressive Chancellor. He is not exactly dazzling as Foreign Secretary.

Last week he scented the chance to put the boot in.

Truth

He spoke of the need for Britain to join the European Monetary System. That is another way of having a managed currency.

We are told that Sir Geoffrey was piqued because Mrs Thatcher has ruled him out as a possible successor.

Well, that's too bad.

But the cruel truth is that no one, except perhaps Lady Howe, ever rated him as a Prime Minister unless a new Plague wiped out just about every other candidate.

As for Mr Lawson, he is not the original irreplaceable man.

Choice

Mrs Thatcher has enabled him to be a good Chancellor.

There are others who would do just as well.

If Mr Lawson wants to leave the Treasury, if he thinks he can make a fortune in business, then the choice is his.

But Margaret Thatcher is on an entirely different planet.

The Tories would be sunk without her.

The country needs her. The revolution is only half-done.

Without her, it may never be finished.