

**PRIME MINISTER**

**THE SUNDAY PRESS**

There is no point in pretending that the Sunday newspapers make good reading. There are some bad opinion polls. In the Observer (11 per cent) and the Sunday Times (14 per cent) lead for Labour. It is however important to put the Observer's claim that two-thirds of those polled want you to go: 58 per cent wanted this, according to them, a month ago.

Relatively little appears about the substance of your talks in Washington and virtually every newspaper has seized upon conceivably the only negative aspect of those talks - the repatriation of the Vietnamese boat people.

Anthony Meyer continues to come in for a great deal of stick except in those newspapers hostile to you. And on this leadership question you might care to read, most notably, Lord Stevens on the back page of the Sunday Express which also has Norman Tebbit coming out for you in his own column and a good leader.

Brian Walden is again worth reading to the end in the Sunday Times and the second column of the Observer leader is interesting in asserting that most Tory MPs still believe that you are going to win the next election.

The Sunday Times leader is also very interesting because of an article in its colour magazine about research into our down and outs. This demonstrates that this "under class" is a modern phenomena, already well established in the United States where young people simply refuse to accept conventional forms of life and batten on to society.

**BERNARD INGHAM**

26 November 1989

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Stations - John Reed

V. B. Payne

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