

## SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS

For the third week running the Sunday Press is on the whole a pretty good one.

The Sunday Times is the most cautious, saying that while the local elections results have won a respite for you, you cannot sit back and wait for interest rates to fall and the Community Charge clamour to subside.

A number of newspapers, notably the Sunday Telegraph, suggest that the Treasury will be less inclined to throw money at the Community Charge in view of the election results.

There is further evidence from an NOP poll of a swing back to the Government - this gives Labour a 13% lead (47/34). [NB: a rather outdated ICM poll in the Correspondent gives Labour a 23% lead, but it admits that it does not take account of the "late swing".]

You are now evens to win the General Election with Labour still favourites, but with their odds drifting. Woodrow Wyatt writes of your rising trend of popularity.

The main threat remains inflation and your own side: Heseltine is expected to make a speech on the Community Charge this week. Barry Porter, MP, wants you to go. Robert McCrindle calls for a review of Government policies.

But overall, there is little doubt that the outcome of the local elections has strengthened your position. Adam Raphael (Observer) says the real victim of the elections was Heseltine. The People finds that Heseltine has voted only 5 times out of 48 on the Community Charge since 1987 - and only 3 times for the Government.

### Political Comment

#### Mail

Tories begin the long fight back. There is little

doubt that in Thursday's results lie the seeds of your future success.

Express

Conservatives have been given new confidence by weathering the worst of the Community Charge crisis. Everything now depends on whether inflation rises into double figures. (Observer says it will rise to 9.5% on Friday). You are entitled to sigh of fervent relief, but you got a mauling in the country. Now is the time for the Party to unit behind its leader.

Sunday Telegraph

Peregrine Worsthorne says talk of your standing down is now incredible. He makes a case for Labour in terms of domestic policy, but says Kinnock's replacing you would make Britain a laughing stock in the world.

Independent

Says your authority has been strengthened; only 16% of back benchers compared with 24% in March want you to retire. It is not obvious your Party would benefit from your retirement.

Observer

Alan Watkins says the truth is that Kinnock has done virtually nothing about the loonies.

The Sunday Express points out that under Labour marginal tax rates would more than double from 25% to 59% for people earning as little as £28,000.

Other points from the Sunday Press

Soccer

The last full day of the soccer season ended in violence with 900 policemen battling it out with Leeds fans in Bournemouth. There was also trouble with Grimsby fans in Chesterfield and with Preston fans in Shrewsbury.

There are more Cup Final tickets scandals

reported, and the President of UEFA now does not think English clubs will be re-admitted to Europe next season.

Hostages

The father of John McCarthy blames Rushdie for his son's continued captivity.

You have some strong support for your tough line in leader columns: the Sunday Telegraph says this most emphatically is not the time to negotiate with Iran and Syria. (NB: a new story says a promising opportunity to free Waite was vetoed by you 18 months ago when the FCO wanted to negotiate with Assad); the Correspondent says Britain's fastidiousness may mean our hostages are the last to be released, but if we play our cards right, it may mean they are the last that need to be released.

Arms

The Observer claims British Aerospace was given a virtual monopoly over the supply of ammunition and munitions when it took over the Royal Ordnance.

ICI admits pouring explosives into the Firth of Clyde: they keep coming up in fishing nets.

Archbishop

The funniest caption under a picture of Bishop David Shepherd is "Liked by Thatcher". The 4 front runners for Canterbury are said to be York, Liverpool, Winchester and Chelmsford.

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