

PRESS DIGEST FOR SUNDAY 14 MARCH

LAW AND ORDER

This is the major new feature in the weekend papers.

You are showing increasing concern over law and order as evidenced by the recent crime figures; Victor Knight, Sunday Mirror, says Tory MPs are baying for Mr. Whitelaw's blood and want you to replace him; a move to get Rhodes Boyson transferred to the Home Office.

George Gardiner says Mr. Whitelaw is a big softie; Ivor Stanbrook calls for a firm approach with a Minister in charge of the fight against crime, reporting monthly to the nation; Vivian Bendall to table a new clause for the Criminal Justice Bill to bring back the death penalty for certain crimes.

Cecil Parkinson says no Home Secretary has done more to strengthen the police and the real problem lies in homes and schools.

Mr. Whitelaw tells Sunday Telegraph there has never been any soft pedalling on crime and there won't be.

Milne, General Secretary, Scottish TUC, says the Government's policies could lead to a breakdown of law and order and create conditions for encouraging crime.

Woodrow Wyatt, Mirror, says thugs will not behave in a better way if the Government pour money into the areas where they live - the answer is stronger policing.

Donnison, former Chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission, says we cannot put an end to violence on the streets unless we tackle the fundamental problems over economic mismanagement, social neglect and injustice.

/ British Council

British Council of Churches condemns the publication of statistics highlighting black mugging and says it will only stir up racial hatred.

Newspaper comment:

People: It is realism not racism to spotlight a major social problem; there must be a determined campaign to lift the blight in black areas and black leaders must play a constructive part in creating respect for the police.

Mirror: Scotland Yard right to reveal a disproportionately high number of muggings are by blacks; nothing like telling the truth to make people face up to problems.

News of the World: It will be too late for old soldier Whitelaw to draw out tired platitudes when the violence running through our society explodes.

Sunday Times: The collapse of the detection rate in London is more frightening than the rise in offences; Mr. Whitelaw is the most police conscious Home Secretary.

Observer: Expects that pressure for criminals and their victims to be racially identified to grow in Parliament this week.

OTHER LAW AND ORDER

Enoch Powell attacks the scoundrels who go abroad - ie to the Euro Court - for justice; says he would rather have injustice in a British Court.

People reveals that a walking stick shotgun is now on sale.

Police fear a new wave of heroin addiction because the price of the drug has slumped.

/ Sunday Times

Sunday Times features a book to be published in America soon which reveals the activities, in support of American Intelligence, of a GCHQ Station at Bude.

HILLHEAD

Mirror says Roy Jenkins is facing a disastrous defeat - two opinion polls reveal that he is trailing behind Tory and Labour.

Express thinks Jenkins has possibly made his worst mistake in his political life in deciding to fight Hillhead.

Polls show - Observer/NOP -

Labour ahead 33%, Tory 30%, Alliance 23%

Sunday Standard puts Tories ahead 30%, over Labour and Alliance equal 27%.

BUDGET

Criticism follows expected political lines.

Times says that if restoring business confidence was the critical objective, the Budget has done the trick; and Sarah Hogg says the revised monetary strategy is the most encouraging feature of a dull Budget.

Express says it has reinforced the framework in which interest rates can fall.

Times says the test of the Chancellor's resolve will be whether he continues next year to feed all his available cash into industrial expansion rather than into people's pockets.

Observer claims that the Chancellor has abandoned his plans to cut direct taxation to 25p in this Parliament.

/ Observer says

Observer says the crucial judgement is what the Chancellor has done about the greatest social evil - unemployment - and he expects it to rise further; Labour Party to unveil its plan for jobs tomorrow.

POLITICS

Adam Raphael, Observer, says it will not take much to break the tiny bubble of euphoria generated in the Tory Party by the Budget.

Telegraph feature on old v new Toryism says that while there may be differences about whether the present Government's beliefs are right, that they have any serious beliefs indicates some advance since Butler was in office.

Express leader says that if the General Election were fought tomorrow you would win - what a magnificent tribute to you now that it is becoming daily more evident that you are going to win the economic battle.

Sunday Times says leading Conservative officials were told at the Conference yesterday to lay the groundwork for the next Election and use their power on local council to spend more on capital projects.

Roy Mason defeats an effort to replace him in Barnsley with a left-winger; Albert Roberts MP to stand down in Normanton.

Hoteliers in Cleethorpes refuse to make a room available for Wall and the militant tendency.

CIVIL LIST

Mirror says the Royal Family were badly advised over the 8% award - it was 4% too much.

DEFENCE

John Nott, News of the World, explains the Trident decision and says we must pay the price for peace.

Telegraph says that if you accept that scrapping Trident is tantamount to dismantling our nuclear defence, Mr. Nott's voice is closer to the mood of the nation; Mr. Nott is inviting Liberal and SDP leaders to hear the Government's case for Trident Two.

Express feature on CND campaigners who were fettered around Russia and asked Russia to cut its nuclear strength by 10% - they were refused.

MEDIA

Express says Harry Evans wants £0.5m golden handshake to leave the Times.

A group of Times journalists issue a statement saying they want Evans to go and claim to have the support of 80% of the editorial staff.

Observer says that if Evans was a mistake it was Murdoch's mistake - national directors should get together and enable Evans to leave with dignity knowing that he has protected his successors from being the lonely victims of proprietorial whim.

McNally, MP urges a Select Committee to call newspaper proprietors before them to justify their stewardship.

UNIONS/PAY

Militant coalfields demanding £200 a week for face workers - a 37% rise.

/ Gas workers

Gas workers threaten strike over 9%.

Observer expects ASLEF to accept flexible rostering provided they are paid for an 8 hour day - but British Rail won't agree because of its cost.

George Brown, Express, highlights the problem and dangers of a militant takeover of the unions and wants stronger law on secret ballots properly supervised, an ending of the closed shop, and restriction on the right to strike of any public services.

INDUSTRY

Observer says the City now feels that the odds are against Laker flying again.

Sunday Times sees little hope of a De Lorean rescue.

Observer claims the Government intends to privatise British Telecoms rather than raise money through a Buzby Bond.

← Rothschild reported to have already been paid £0.5m for advising on the sale of BNO's oil and gas assets before the legislation has gone through the House.

Government to receive this week the Price Waterhouse report on British Airways; you get your copy tomorrow.

Observer says British companies are manufacturing and selling £m worth of spare parts for Russian military equipment used by Arab Armed Forces.

REAGAN VISIT

Woodrow Wyatt says Deaver was tactless but Labour rudeness is far worse; to boycott Reagan would be barmy and he should speak in Westminster Hall as planned.

/ Hugo Young

Hugo Young, Sunday Times, says your passion for Reagan has become unhinged with this invitation; it raises the question of whether we owe undying loyalty to the man, whether we should be servile puppet or candid friend.

SPORT

Botham sends a message of support to an anti-apartheid rally in London today.

Commonwealth Secretary trying to avert an African boycott of the Commonwealth Games in Australia.

Woodrow Wyatt says Mrs. Suzman, Opposition MP, does not think the visiting cricketers strengthens apartheid now and she is going to watch the cricketers in recognition of the advances made against apartheid.

Two stabbed and one hit by an axe in violence after yesterday's League Cup Final at Wembley.

Mark: Peter Shore criticises Mark for his article in Honey and Benn contrasts the transport facilities employed in his Sahara rescue with what London travellers have to put up with.

HOUSING

John Stanley invites council tenants who have failed in their efforts to buy their own home to get in touch direct with him.

Express says Mr. Heseltine is to put on sale to private builders a large acreage of publicly owned land in inner cities to build homes for millions of owner occupiers.

/ WELFARE

WELFARE

People accuses Wolverhampton Councils of disgraceful behaviour in defending their social services offices over the schoolboy sent to Belize and now detained in a reformatory even though he is innocent; says one Councillor is a prize fathead.

Allegation that a DHSS spy followed a spastic home from the Unemployment Office causing him to lose his mobility allowance because he was able to walk 1,533 yards.

Speculation that a new death grant, on a more restricted scale, of £2.50 is to be announced.

IRELAND

Observer story says authorities covered up a near disaster last year when as a result of an IRA blast some highly toxic chemical was washed into the drains.

Conor Cruise O'Brien in the Observer says Haughey will make some difference to Anglo/Irish relations and not for the better - he and Paisley feed each other. Haughey's return is unhealthy for the North and the violence.

GHANA

News of the World uncovers a plot to overthrow Rawlings by mercenaries being recruited in London.

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