

PRIME MINISTER

per Fry
cc S. Sharbourn

1983 ELECTION RECORDS

YOU ASKED FOR A NOTE ON SOME OF THE RECORDS WHICH THIS ELECTION HAS BROKEN. A LIST IS AS FOLLOWS:-

1. YOU ARE THE FIRST PRIME MINISTER OF ANY PARTY TO SERVE A FULL TERM AND THEN TO INCREASE THEIR MAJORITY SINCE LORD SALISBURY IN 1900.
2. YOU ARE THE FIRST CONSERVATIVE PRIME MINISTER TO WIN TWO ELECTIONS IN A ROW, AGAIN SINCE LORD SALISBURY.
3. THE INCREASE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S MAJORITY OF 101 WAS THE GREATEST IN HISTORY (OR AT LEAST SINCE 1832 WHEN RECORDS OF THIS KIND REALLY BEGAN).
4. THE MAJORITY WAS THE GREATEST PURELY CONSERVATIVE MAJORITY SINCE 1924.
5. THE MARGIN OF VOTES OF 4,600,000 WAS THE GREATEST SINCE 1931; AS A PROPORTION OF THE VOTES CAST IT WAS THE GREATEST SINCE 1935.
6. THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY WON THE GREATEST NUMBER OF SEATS OF ANY PARTY SINCE 1935.
7. THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY HAD THE LARGEST OVERALL MAJORITY SINCE 1945 AND THE LARGEST MAJORITY OVER THE SECOND PARTY SINCE 1935. ON THE OTHER SIDE, THE LABOUR PARTY RECEIVED THE SMALLEST SHARE OF THE VOTE IN THEIR HISTORY SINCE THEY BEGAN FIGHTING EVERY SEAT.

8. THE LABOUR PARTY LOST 119 DEPOSITS - IN ALMOST A QUARTER OF THE SEATS THEY FOUGHT - WHICH IS THE WORST IN THEIR HISTORY, AND THREE TIMES AS MANY AS IN 1931 WHEN THEY ONLY WON 50 SEATS.

9. IN GEOGRAPHICAL TERMS, PERHAPS ONE OF THE MOST STRIKING RESULTS OF THE ELECTION WAS THAT THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY WON 14 SEATS IN WALES - THEIR BEST RESULT SINCE 1874. THIS MIGHT BE A USEFUL ANTIDOTE TO THE "TWO NATIONS" THEORISTS.

JF

21 JUNE, 1983.