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PRIME MINISTER

POVERTY

You may be interested to see the attached article contained in this week's New Society - not normally noted for its sympathy to Government policy.

It provides a concise and powerful criticism of the approach adopted by the Child Poverty Action Group, when they define those living in poverty as those living at incomes below 40 per cent above the Supplementary Benefit rate.

The Opposition have in the past gone along with the CPAG's views. However Mr. Kinnock on Wednesday and Mr. Meacher yesterday reverted it seems to a definition of poverty which is set at or below the level of SB. Of course, the argument nonetheless holds that increases in the level of SB increase the numbers of people living in poverty - even though many of the "poor" are better off as a result.

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14 November 1986

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