

PRIME MINISTERPRESS DIGESTELECTION

- Press portrays a great drawing of battle lines.
- Nigel Lawson forecasts a drop in inflation.
- Owen attacks Tory manifesto claim that Alliance defence policy would be one-sided disarmament by default or inadvertence.
- Michael Heseltine describes Labour's defence policy as wall to wall whitewash.
- Conservative adverts on "Who cares? - Conservative or Labour.
- Express notes that a Harris poll in Daily News shows Tories have increased by 2 points their lead over Labour in London -47%/33/Alliance 19
- Eldon Griffiths, speaking for Police Federation, attacks Labour and Alliance manifestos.
- Star P2: Maggie's Sunday best - shops and pubs pledge; you want a social revolution. Kinnock claims Britain will return to Dickensian conditions if Tories wins. Summaries of manifesto headed: Power to the People - Maggie promises more tax cuts and even more state sales. And Britain will win - Kinnock promises more jobs, more care and no missiles.
- Star leader says the contrast between the two main contenders could not be more stark - and a vote for Alliance is a vote for a step into the unknown.
- Sun puts its leader on P1 with "Never has so much been hidden from so few" beside a wilting rose. It says that to judge from Labour's manifesto the Labour Party hasn't done much these last 8 years. It is a political pygmy beside the Conservative manifesto. And the reason is that if Labour said what they really stand for no one would vote for them. Contrast with Tories could not be more marked.
- Inside it says Power to the People is Maggie's poll war cry. She pledges a Tory revolution. You steal the workers' war cry. Meanwhile Kinnock and Hattersley disagree on the level at which the rich start - £26,000 (Hattersley) or £28,000 (Kinnock).
- In the Sun's coverage of manifestos its heading says "Labour will snatch your 2p tax cut - back to unions versus police". Tories to shake up schools.
- Today consigns the election to Pages 6 and 7 - Labour's message of hope in its plan for jobs, but it points out that the manifesto has been shorn of policies party chiefs feel could alienate voters. My dreams, by Thatcher, but you may not go on for ever after all - you tone down your "going on and on" remark.
- Today leader wants the country to take the best from both Labour and Conservatives - ie vote Alliance. But it admits that if the election were to be settled by a duel of manifestos you would win by a long shot. Your zest is undiminished whereas Kinnock's offering is dismal - a weak brew of wishful thinking and nostalgia. Where you are direct, Kinnock is evasive.

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- Mirror on P2 concentrates on Labour's manifesto and confines its treatment of your manifesto to a panel which concentrates on the party political broadcast. Its treatment of Labour's manifesto is headed "Kinnock's fair deal for Britain - we'll stop the rot and misery".
- Mirror leader says the Labour and Conservative manifestos give the British people a stark choice - their philosophies could not be more different. It is a choice between putting people back to work or keeping them on the dole etc. Most of all, it is between humanity and selfishness. The choice must be made from the heart.
- Express leads with Michael Heseltine's "Wall to wall whitewash" and also features Nicholas Ridley's claim that home owners in the South could face rate increases of 30% under Labour's property value system.
- Inside the contrasting treatment of the manifestos is "Maggie's new dawn" and Kinnock's new deal" - the cost of wiping out poverty (Labour) and a crusade for prosperity (Tory).
- The Express devotes virtually a full page to its leader headed "Maggie's tomorrow or Neil's yesterday". The contrast is sharper than for 50 years in vision, outlook and agenda. Tories look forward with confidence - Labour backwards; Tories brimming with fresh ideas - Labour groans with stale, rehashed notions. The Tory manifesto implies great faith in the people. Labour has faith only in the state. A vote for Labour would be a vote for yesterday. A vote for Tories is a vote for tomorrow.
- Express City section has two pages on "Moneyfesto for the people - Tories go forward with a boost to Britain's new share owning democracy" You pledge to crush inflation and Chancellor promises more tax cuts.
- Mail's front page has "The long and short of Neil and Maggie" - a reference to the most comprehensive Tory manifesto in living memory and perhaps the shortest one in Labour history. It finds Tories have a remarkable burst of new energy.
- Mail leader headed "Ready, radical and raring to go" says it is not your way to spoonfeed people with soothing syrup. You briskly challenge the electorate to go forward with you. No resting on laurels. The inner cities and schools and council tenants are your new frontier. You are offering emancipation, destruction of the culture of dependency. A fair and free future for all our people was never won by fainthearted government.
- Elsewhere the Mail picks up your "She" interview and highlights Ken Livingstone's belief that a Labour Government should model itself on the GLC and unite minority groups under its banner - open defiance of Kinnock's ban on black sections.
- Telegraph leads with sharply contrasting manifestos and Kinnock's presidential style campaign on a slimmed or toned down manifesto. Kenneth Baker says comprehensive schools which opt out of local authority control will remain non selective. The front page also notes you are going in for a crackdown on TV sex and violence.
- Continuing its series of interviews with party leaders, Owen says "The prospect of another Conservative Government with a big majority appals me".

ELECTION (Cont'd)

- Telegraph leader on the manifest differences between Tory and Labour. Labour's is better than 1983 but is not a practical document because so much runs against the tide of public feeling. The Tory's in essence is undertaking to persevere with ideas in the mainstream of opinion. Tories are entitled to declare: we go forward.
- Times P1 lead says Tory manifesto is of astonishing radicalism for a Government seeking a third term. Thatcher's freedom of choice: Kinnock's pledge on jobless, poor, crime. The Labour programme is shorter than the disastrous manifesto of 1983, shorn of the favourite rostrums of the Left and noticeably cautious on expenditure.
- Times leader concentrates on Conservative and Labour manifestos. Each Conservative manifesto has its own special tone - this one of business and bustle. Unlike some others, this one will repay careful examination. It does not posture or plead. It is a revealing snapshot of a Government in power, still thinking, still taking risks, not always getting the means right, but ready to fight for clear and critically important ends.
- Commenting on the Labour manifesto the Times leader says the names change but the strain remains the same. It goes to great lengths to avoid suggesting it is a Socialist tract. Mr Kinnock's manifesto cannot be described as good, and it is not true either. Or if it is the whole truth, Mr Kinnock is not the man we thought he was.
- Geoffrey Smith in Times says Conservative and Labour set out to reassure electorate yesterday. The Conservatives did so by what they put into their manifesto. Labour did so by what they kept out. Conservative manifesto offers page after page of momentum. An excess of steam is Labour's problem. So the manifesto is designed to offer tangible evidence that a Labour Government would be under moderate control.
- Guardian has remarkably positive front page lead - the Thatcher revolution sets election battleground - Tories plan an irreversible switch of power to the individual in health, housing and education. Labour attacks "extremist" Tory manifesto. General secretary of Head Teachers says heads won't want to take their schools out of LEA control.
- Guardian leaders are headed - "Power to the people with power" and of Labour's manifesto "Red roses and a few thorns". Your manifesto creates the impression of constant action but examined in detail it is somewhat less than overwhelming. We are asked to go marching on but not asked to look over our shoulders at the underclass left behind. In contrast Labour's manifesto could be described as learning from past mistakes. It says the Labour prospectus is superior to the Alliance's but the reality of British politics is that realignment has not yet produced a single coherent force.
- Hugo Young writes about the negative appeal of a crusade against Thatcher.
- Independent presents "Battle plans for nation". Leaders say the Tory manifesto is more robust than radical and Labour's is offering a version of the past and not necessarily a better one than the Alliance's, it criticises on that account. The Tories (for all the Independent's carping) is however "a vigorous and confident manifesto but not quite as radical as it pretends to be and its lack of interest in the plight of the less able and less fortunate is not attractive".

ELECTION (Cont'd)

- FT: Leader says the term "irreversible shift" used to be associated with Labour but there can be no question as to who has the claim to it now: your Conservative Party. The evidence lies not so much in the Tory manifesto as in the way the other parties are trying to catch up.

OTHER NEWS

- Prince Charles increasingly concerned about the way his marriage and lifestyle are being portrayed by some newspapers.
- Mirror smear story about Jeffrey Archer says he has been banned from British racecourses for failing to pay gambling debt - and the ban has been in force for 12 years!
  
- Woman shot dead by gunman in hospital casualty at Stevenage while being guarded by policeman.
- Today leads with plan by gay rights extremists to smuggle a 16 year old boy out of Britain to Norway after helping him escape from a children's home.
  
- Keith East to appear in court on June 16.
- French Government promises to put £500m in Airbus.
  
- B/Airways profit of £162m - £17m more than predicted.
- Sir Robert Haslam imposes pay settlement on NUM.
- Fat profit expected on Rolls-Royce shares when dealing starts today.
- Sellafield's workers demand £10,000 per person to give up breakfast break.
- Times says 44% of unemployed on Merseyside admit to working in black economy.
  
- In Fiji rebels force Premier who accepts Governor General's right to call new elections.