

2 June 1987

PRIME MINISTER

Conservatives strengthen lead 44 (up 2)/Lab 33/Alliance 21 (up 1).

Sun Audience Selection poll gives you 10% lead - 43/33/22. Today says 8m voters still undecided; Guardian 5.5m.

Plenty of mudslinging around, with you the target. Sun notes you refuse to join in.

Plenty of pictures of you bricklaying. Teachers at school you visit furious over kids being given blue hats and flags.

Lord Young says Labour's policies will cost 1m jobs - Sun says 2m.

Kinnock's Panorama interview gets little coverage in pops - Mirror: You are a bigger obstacle to peace than Russians or Americans; Today: Kinnock will restore closed shop; Daily News: Hard Left won't rule me, says Kinnock; snub for top brass over defence - not bound to accept their advice (Express); Kinnock's state power plan - vast extension of state control (Mail); Kinnock's plan to extend state control (Telegraph lead); Guardian concentrates on Kinnock's defeat of the inflationary effect of his policies; Times: "Kinnock aims for long-term state control - raises fears of iceberg manifesto".

Kenneth Baker in attack on Labour's educational background, says 18 either went to private or grammar schools.

Sun says Labour's top brass had a furious fall out over Polaris which Peter Shore insisted must be kept; leader salutes Shore as the man with the guts to speak out.

Sun has a blank page 3 - says this is what would happen if Clare Short had her way with pin-ups.

Iran given 24 hours, in some papers, to drop charges against Edward Chaplin or face sanctions, a variety of which are rehearsed, including ban on arms sales.

Row brewing over how Iranian accused in Manchester got his passport back - after prosecution intervened.

Shares hit new peak on hopes of a comfortable Conservative victory.

Teachers offer an "olive branch" to incoming Government over negotiating body.

Star leader says conventional wisdom has it that Liverpool docks and militant workfroce killed off the city. But, under private enterprise, the docks are booming again after scrapping old and wasteful practices.

Sun leader contrasts the views of party programmes from stockbrokers James Capel - and says people would be stark staring bonkers to vote Labour; another leader says John Biffen has all the impact of a long cold glass of water. It says both he and Peter Walker will be chopped and will go quietly.

Star feature by Michael Ivens is headed "If you want union bully boys back, vote for Kinnock - workers face a worse time."

Mirror leads with allegation that three wards at Stoke Mandeville have been closed down because of a shortage of nurses and says that the NHS is as safe with you as a lettuce would be with a rabbit. It says that you turned your back on teachers who tried to talk to you yesterday about education cuts.

Today leader headed "Time to end these years of job decay" says you should be put out of your job.

Daily News leader says whatever the outcome, this election will rank as a success for Kinnock and his determination to focus attention on welfare services. News story says Tory workers are being told there is nothing wrong with London's NHS.

Express leads with "Crazy cost of Labour's jobs - £20bn" - an Employment Department report shows that the figure is double that in the manifesto. Inside you hit back at the Beastie Boys of Labour.

Express leader on Kinnock headed "Well meaning, verbose, slick, bad tempered and totally inexperienced", says that since they are subjecting you to abuse, Kinnock's personality is also an issue. By comparison you seem almost like Mother Theresa.

Lord Chalfont, in Express, says it is difficult to see how the Service Chiefs could remain in their posts if Kinnock became Prime Minister.

Mail news story says Labour starts to play dirty. Leader says on a 'phone-in Kinnock couldn't disguise his urge to abolish private schools because they set standards state schools can't match. He confuses class with ability. When the crying need is to lift school standards, Kinnock has the cheek to level them down.

In another leader on the industrial action by Civil Servants and teachers, the Mail says that it comes as a timely reminder of how much worse things used to be and could be under Labour.

Mail says an independent think tank - King's Fund Institute - backed Tory claims over NHS spending, which had played a crucial part in keeping it alive.

In other stories the Mail has Norman Tebbit ridiculing Labour's U-turn on nuclear defence; Livingstone branding bankers, judges, police and Army as enemies of an incoming Labour Government; and Robert Maxwell saying he owes everything to you in getting rid of shop floor tyranny in printing.

Telegraph leads with Kinnock's plan to extend state control, as revealed in Day interview. Leader says that John Biffen would be a real loss to the Government and his removal would speak ill for the standards demanded of Ministers.

Feature in Telegraph says Labour's proposals for repatriation of capital etc would disrupt markets and hurt small investors.

Guardian leads with Kinnock defending policy on inflation. Inside it says teachers' grumbles marred your school visit yesterday. Marplan poll shows 5.5m still undecided.

Guardian leader says that sooner or later it was inevitable you would become an election issue. But whether your opponents are wise to challenge you on it is another matter. You are not quite yet a vote loser. Thatcher values are now more widely shared than a decade ago.

Independent leads with Norman Tebbit ringing BBC and demanding it keep Cecil Parkinson on its TV Breakfast Time programme. In another front page story it says Alliance leaders have lowered their election sights and are now pinning their hopes on winning 70 target seats into which resources are being poured.

Inside Independent says CBI admits its business survey was misleading. Labour reveals its interventionist industrial strategy.

Independent leader says that the crucial thing for the public is that union power, until recently seen as almost invincible, has been eroded and Kinnock appears to wish to restore it. This is disturbing. Peter Jenkins says at the very heart of the North/South divide is London, representing the worst of the Labour Party and bringing out the worst in you - eg education reform; GLC abolition etc.

Independent gives a lot of attention to John Biffen on the hoof, as does Times.

Times says your advisers are counting on Labour's personal attacks on you becoming counter productive. Inside Tories say Labour manifesto is a jobs destruction plan.

Robert Kilroy-Silk, in Times, contrasts the 1984 venom of the Left with the soft image they present today.

Times leader says the evidence suggests that the country as a whole has settled in its own mind for more or less the social market system which your two first terms have launched. Taking victory for granted is your greatest danger.

Strong endorsement for Conservative policies from a series of businessmen in letter to Times.

FT says the economy took centre stage with Lord Young claiming Labour would destroy more than 1m jobs. But it says the campaign is at present in some kind of limbo.

Peter Riddell says Kinnock's performance on Robin Day was his most impressive yet.

BERNARD INGHAM