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PRIME MINISTER

BBC Newsnight poll suggests a hung Parliament - causes share prices to tumble and a row over its nature; Sun says it was conducted mainly by students and leaked.

New Harris poll gives you a 5% lead in London.

You attack the union threat.

Kinnock speaks of a divided nation with "disposable" communities.

Alliance woos the women's vote and attacks the Left.

Row over whether David Owen did, or did not say this was the Alliance's last chance; and another one in Hattersley's seat in which Labour accuses the Asian Tory candidate of "cheating".

Paisley reveals the contents of a handwritten letter by DT saying "Northern Ireland politicians steadfastly refuse to do anything at all in the government of the Province".

Norman Tebbit accused of bullying BBC - he denies it; and taunted by Left wing extremists in Leicester who scream "Three cheers for Brighton bombers".

Plenty of pictures of DT having a drink.

Our warnings to Iran over Edward Chaplin command a lot of space.

Press makes much of its "victory" in High Court over contempt proceedings over Wright/MI5 book - Government to appeal.

Star: My election nightmare, by Maggie - the economic disaster round the corner if you don't win; leader says Kinnock can be given 7 out of 10 for his resolute stand against Militant Tendency but Labour's fight against extremism is far from over when the largest Civil Service union has elected a Militant assistant general secretary.

Sun has Steve Caughen, leading jockey, on its front page saying he will return to the USA if Labour wins. "I cannot imagine myself living in a country led by Kinnock" - driven away by Labour's attitude to success.

Main Sun election story is headed "It's all aboard for the big gold rush" - reference to the huge increase in reserves bringing the prospect of a fall in interest rates after the election. In



two other stories it reports your warning of a return to picket line violence if Labour is re-elected; and Eric Hammond, EETPU, revealing that Left "thugs, creeps and cowards" have terrorised his family.

Sun leader headed "Kinnock is a sick joke" says the knowledge and wisdom of Kinnock would make the shortest book in history. Kinnock for PM must be the joke of the century.

Mirror leads with "Cabinet Puddings" - a reference to the failure of members of the Cabinet to answer to its satisfaction the question as to how they would help an unemployed hod carrier from Blackburn. "They just don't give a damn", it concludes.

Joe Haines, in Mirror, accuses Norman Tebbit of bullying the BBC. And he then says Labour, if elected, should go in for a bit of bullying too - by sacking Hussey and Barnett.

Elsewhere the Mirror contrasts Conservative promises and actions on pensions, with a Q & A by Hattersley on what Labour would do. And Anne Robinson goes critically on tour with you.

Today says key Tory seats are at risk, according to Newsnight poll. It says that Owen warned voters this could be the last chance for the Alliance to break the mould and reports your speech - "Let's not hand power back to the pickets".

A feature article in Today examines what it calls your "criminal record" and Today leader says there may be more law under the Tories but there is less order. We need a fresh approach because, it alleges, you have put on the streets thousands whose attitude to committing crime is "Why not?".

Daily News leads with a double blow to Conservatives - two opinion polls: one Newsnight's; and the other the Daily News's Harris giving Conservatives a 5 point lead - 42/37/21 in London.

Daily News leader says apart from defence, foreign policy has played little part in the election. This is as well for the Conservatives because the Government's rag bag of prejudices, tradition and vague hankerings after lost greatness hardly amount to much; and another says Mr Tebbit threatens the BBC and you have created the context in which his threats work.

Express leads with you playing the Tory election ace pleading with the country not to let Labour ruin "Maggie's bulldog economy". Inside, the Express's main stories are Jon Akass's profile of Denis Healey - Yesterday's Man; and Owen's admission that this could be the Alliance's last chance.



Express leader on "The Magic of Maggie" refers to the support in the letter to the Times yesterday of leading businessmen for your policies. Kinnock would decommission the economy as well as Polaris and the achievements of the last 8 years would be destroyed. Another leader says that last night's Labour election broadcast about how Labour cares for education did not tell us that Glenys Kinnock was a keen supporter of the teachers' disruption. This shows devotion to union selfishness and irresponsibility - not to education.

Edward Pearce, in Express, reports the end of the line for Owen and Steel.

Jean Rook's column devotes most of the page to "The Real Maggie" - "Yes, she can be bossy, but she's also brave, loyal, nosey, emotional and above all caring".

Mail leads with "Thatcher's warning to Britain - the tyrants are waiting" - the spectre of Britain back under the heel of trade union rule. Another story refers to "panic in City at Tory poll shock".

Mail leader subjects the facts of the NHS to "cool and clinical examination" and finds that Tories can be "trusted to sustain that economic growth which is the life support system for the NHS; only the Tories have a proven record on which to build".

Andrew Alexander, in Mail, highlights one of the Government's "great unsung achievements - overseas investment".

Another Mail story says at least six members of Kinnock's election team share Peter Shore's dilemma over defence policy. You pledge not to privatise Royal Mail.

Telegraph leads with "Union power warning by Thatcher - repeal of reforms recipe for violence"; leader asks why has the election campaign failed to catch alight? It expresses disappointment at Conservatives' lack-lustre performance reflecting no credit on CCO, party organisers and principal speechwriters. From the outset they seem to lack a vision for the future of Conservatism. The Conservatives deserve victory, but they have not earned it by their performance in this campaign.

Guardian leads with "poll fillip for Opposition as marginals shift". Tories turn attack on union nightmare. It says Owen qualified his remarks made initially almost casually about its being now or never for the Alliance.



Guardian's poll of polls says that despite the uncertainty in marginals, the nationwide polls are becalmed - for six days running the average has given you a 10% lead - 44/34/20.

Guardian leader notes Labour is saying as little as possible about unions. The disturbing inference from its manifesto is that Labour has sold out to the unions on reforms and that the unions have secured a set of pledges which are so watered down that they amount to a return to 1979.

Hugo Young, in Guardian, says for the Thatcherite prospect, Thatcher is irreplaceable.

Independent leads with Owen describing election as Alliance's last chance and Kinnock warning of areas "left to rot".

Ken Livingstone, in Independent, says Labour does not need to win an overall majority to claim victory - it wins the moment the Conservatives fall below 325 seats.

Independent leader refers to Labour's efforts to keep nationalisation out of the campaign. This has been wise. The real criticism of Labour's social ownership plans is that they are thin on intellectual coherence and practical relevance. There are criticisms to be made of the Government's privatisation programme, but Kinnock's social ownership plans do not look remotely enticing by comparison.

Times leads with poll rumours (of a hung Parliament) spark nervous selling in City; Owen casts doubts on future of the Alliance. You say Labour "would bring factory chaos".

Geoffrey Smith, in praise of Chancellor's campaigning, says the Conservatives took a calculated risk with their manifesto, but it has not been the centre of the campaign. This is because the Government has been comfortably ahead in the opinion polls and so many people feel it is natural for the Government to continue in office.

Robin Oakley, in Times, says Tories have a handsome lead in most polls but they are not yet out into clear water.

Times features Wall Street Journal's upbeat report on the economy; another article says whatever happens Kinnock will survive and be central figure in any centre left realignment.

Times leader asks if Kinnock admits inflation would rise to 7%, to what heights would it really soar? The interview was the most revealing of the campaign so far - identifying himself with



inflation, pickets, closed shops and nationalisation. Voters know all too well what they mean. The result of more inflation would be more unemployment.

FT has Tories spelling out priorities for privatisation and Kinnock accusing you of creating a divided nation. You warn of prosperity vanishing like a dream in a "savage" attack on Labour policies.

FT's leader says privatisation was undoubtedly a great political success, but less of an economic success because of the Government's tendency to rush its fences. If yesterday's press conference is any guide it would be just as badly implemented in the third term. Coal and steel are industries for which no coherent economic case for private ownership can be made.

FT gives a lot of coverage to a NIESR assessment of the three parties' programmes.

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