

5 June 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MARPLAN gives you 10% lead 44/34/20 - but rumours of a 2% lead caused panic in City and wiped £6bn off shares in an hour.

You issue new battle orders - intend to take campaign by the scruff of the neck.

You attack Civil Servants who plan to strike for 2 days next week as uncaring.

Press try to make issue of NHS and private medicine in view of your remarks yesterday.

Kinnock claims that he is a real toughie behind the smile.

Express highlights poll finding that secondary picketing is a big liability for Labour.

Sun claims Steel suggested on radio that age of consent for homosexuals should be lowered to 16.

TV viewers claim that after giving Norman Tebbit a rough ride, Sue Lawley turned a 'phone-in with Kinnock into a Labour Party broadcast.

Waltham Forest win legal right to challenge 62% rate increase.

Iranian Consulate in Manchester to be closed; 5 Iranians booted out - Howe chucks out Iranian rats (Sun).

Star: Home Secretary pledges a new crackdown on child abuse; leader attacks the "pampered penpushers" of the Civil Service who have voted to strike. It will not help their case but it will deny pensioners and the poor their benefits. It goes on to contrast Tory and Labour approaches to labour law and asks Kinnock what is he going to do about the power of union barons.

Inside Star reports that a Left wing councillor in Lambeth has been paid nearly £5000 for babysitters while she attended council meetings.

Sun leads with question "Do you want these men to run your life?" - a reference to the "total silence of robber barons of trade unions". They are now so shy as to make Greta Garbo look like an exhibitionist. But things have not really changed. They have concealed their ambitions but given up nothing.

Inside Sun says you are leading by a mile nationally and in your own seat; a Labour Government would wipe out fee paying private

education; EETPU throws out conference motion applauding Labour's anti-nuclear defence policy.

Mirror leads with 10 year old heart op boy's letter to you complaining his operation has been cancelled - with the help of Mirror. It claims you show the strain and drop a clanger over private medicine. Its leader says there is nothing wrong with private schemes in addition to a properly funded NHS but for you they are an alternative. It claims your reference to using the NHS for a complicated and expensive operation shows selfishness, greed and misuse of privilege.

Inside Mirror goes for Conservative record on housing and gives space to John Cunningham to explain what Labour would do.

Joe Haines, in Mirror, says that if Labour loses it, it will not be because the party has changed, but because the people have.

Today leads with case of a man prepared four times for surgery and each time not operated on because no spare intensive care bed.

Inside Today reports "Jittery Thatcher shakes up Tories". You are angry over the campaign. Kinnock refused on TV to give a direct answer as to whether he was happy to stand up for every one of Labour's candidates, including Militants.

Today features housing as an issue and says that "nowhere does the condition to which Mrs Thatcher has brought this country show its glaring divisions more than in housing". Tories do not have the fundamental commitment to face up to the huge housing need.

Daily News leads with "Tories in a sweat" and claims your Finchley majority is likely to be halved. You have taken charge of Tory election campaign.

Daily News leader headed "Thatcher on a slippery slope" claims there has been a slide away from you in your constituency though you lead - 49/37/13.

Express leads with "Union mob rule scares voters"; says Labour's pledge to restore right of secondary picketing threatens to destroy Labour's election chances as effectively as its nuclear defence policy - 66% less likely to vote Labour because of pledge. Express also lists "tax shock" figures of price people will pay under Labour.

Inside Express election pages feature "Kinnock signals return of mob" - a reference to speeches by Norman Tebbit and Bill Rodgers (SDP).

Express leader says Labour leaders are gradually having their party's secret manifesto dragged out of them - eg on taxes and union power. Kinnock lacked the guts to stand up to Scargill during the miners' strike. Why should we believe he has developed more guts meanwhile?

Lord Chalfont asks in Express if TV is really being fair to the Tory Party. He says that if you lose next week a great number of TV producers will be able to congratulate themselves on a notable but dubious triumph of corrupt communications.

Charles Moore, in his Express column poses a whole series of questions for electors and says it follows that no one has much to gain from Labour and many have a great deal to lose.

In a double page feature the Express highlights "The Real Price of Kinnock" by its money editor, setting out how much more individuals can expect to pay in tax, NIC and mortgage.

Mail leads with "Labour's lies on taxation". It says Labour's promise to protect the less well off from punitive taxes has been exposed as a sham. Millions who earn anything from £9,000 a year will be worse off, including pensioners; leader on "Labour's horrible hidden agenda" says interest and mortgage rates will go sky high and wipe out value of increased pensions over and above effect of higher taxes.

Paul Johnson, in Mail, on "The sinister conspiracy of silence" says the outstanding characteristic of this election is the sinister silence of the Left. All the forces of hate and destruction have been gagged. Just wait for their savage hosannas to the gods of destruction if they get their puppet into Downing Street.

Mail says Alliance was plunged into fresh turmoil yesterday when Owen admitted that any power sharing deal with Labour could be destroyed by the hard Left.

Telegraph on its front page says Tories aim for a strong Thatcher-led finish and that Kinnock brought education back on to the election agenda by vowing to abolish public schools.

Inside Telegraph suggests Labour may lose Sellafield seat and reports you claiming Labour is promoting class conflict.

Telegraph leader on "A Sinister Silence", commenting on the Militant takeover of CPSA, says the unions are waiting in the wings during this campaign and have good reason to do so. The

trade unions are the dog that did not bark - their silence is the clue which gives the lie to Labour's electoral confidence trick.

Guardian leads with "Thatcher health 'gaffe' attacked". Your words on private medicine will be used to underline Opposition claims you are remote from people. Labour planning to give SDP defectors a free pardon to try to seduce them back into Labour camp.

Inside Guardian has you and Norman Tebbit in a row over Saatchi adverts; Bishop of Durham tells electors to vote tactically "to reduce Conservative majority as far as possible".

Buried away in Guardian is a poll analysis saying marginal factor shows boost for Tories.

Guardian leader headed "A fit NHS needs more than money" says your astonishingly frank defence for private health may have provided one of the decisive turning points of the campaign. But it goes on to argue that any Government which intends to produce a better health service will have to attack the grip of health professionals.

Hugo Young, in Guardian, says the Alliance has become marginalised. The only form of hung Parliament now realistic to contemplate is one in which the Tories have narrowly failed to achieve a majority. So the only question for the Alliance is whether to do a deal with the Tories.

Independent leads with you giving a pledge on VAT - no extension to gas, electricity or children's clothing. MOD report leaked to Independent says Labour's plans to scrap Trident would save £2bn less than they estimate.

Matthew Symonds in Independent on the political tragedy that may await David Owen, says Owen has been sustained since 1983 by the idea that an unreformed Labour Party was unelectable.

Peter Jenkins, in Independent, says if the result comes out like the polls, it will be in spite of coups and boobs. Labour's campaign has been a brilliant example of making the best of a bad job.

Another Independent feature on 'The Conservative Iceberg' says concealed plans for big cuts in council tenant subsidies would send rents soaring.

Times leads with Kinnock's tax grab hitting pay over £15,000. Yesterday you and Kinnock turned the campaign into a presidential contest of highly contrasting personal styles and beliefs.

Alliance is in disarray, it says, over deals with other parties; Labour is planning a clamp on private health care.

FT: Tories attacked on NHS but find comfort in polls. Labour now to concentrate on the moral base of their campaign.

FT leader says Labour is quite right to place emphasis on its NHS proposals - it's good politics to play to strengths. But it says Labour should address itself to the efficiency with which resources are used. Kinnock should explain why the refusal in 1979 of some hospital workers to treat patients won't happen again.

Malcolm Rutherford, in FT, says whatever the outcome, Kinnock will have left a decisive imprint on the campaign and perhaps on politics to come. Labour is back in business. But Rutherford thinks he will not make it this time, though he will have given the Tories a salutary shock.

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