



Conservative Central Office

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From the office of:
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTY
Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit MP

23rd. September 1987,

D Rime Minster.

You expressed some surprise
at todays piece in the Express concerning
the Chairmanship.

You should be aware that such
pieces have been commonplace. I enclose
examples over the last 12 days.

Yr ever
Norman

MR NORMAN TEBBIT'S period as Chairman of the British Conservative Party is drawing peacefully to a close. Mr Tebbit has already left the Cabinet at his own request and is completing an analysis of this year's general election results for a yet unnamed successor.

By and large, he achieved what he set out to do. He targeted the right seats for special attention. Out of a total of around 70 which he believed the Tories had either to hold or regain in order to win the election quite comfortably, only 13 were lost — three of which were in Wales and seven in Scotland.

His outstanding performance was to help mobilise Ministers to put up a strong showing at last year's party conference. The Government had been going through one of its worst periods in the first half of the year what with Westland, BL and the dropping of the Sunday trading provisions. It came back at the conference with Ministers, in a united approach, outlining achievements so far and promises of what was to come. That was the political turning point.

Some of the tensions that arose afterwards are built into the relationship between Conservative Central Office and the Prime Minister, and owe a lot to there not being fixed-term Parliaments. Central Office is always nervous about the election timing: it does not want to peak too soon nor start too late, yet it does not have the final say about the date. It knows that it will inevitably be blamed if things go wrong.

There was also, perhaps especially in Mr Tebbit's case, a problem about the Central Office role in policy-making. Mr Tebbit is an ideas man rather than an organisation man. He would have liked Mrs Thatcher to have drawn up plans for widescale changes in the machinery of government, but she would have none of it, at least until the next stage of privatisation is complete. That left him vulnerable to the charge that he was more interested in organising Central Office.

The tensions between the party headquarters and the Prime Minister are likely to continue whoever succeeds him. The theory is—and nobody has effectively challenged it—that you put in a relatively low level or part-time figure between general elections, then instal someone bigger about two years before the next election is due.

The trouble is that the low level or part-time figure lacks the authority and the time to impose reforms on the organisation — and the high level figure might be a rival to the Prime Minister. It is difficult to see a way out of this dilemma so long as Mrs Thatcher remains, since even Lord

Politics Today

Wanted: a new Tory chairman

By Malcolm Rutherford

Thornycroft, who had no possible claim on the leadership, was dismissed as Chairman when he became mildly critical of her policies.

Nevertheless, Central Office enjoys one inestimable advantage over its rival organisations in other parties. It keeps its eyes on the constituencies. When the results of one general election are in, it starts planning for the next, noting the parts of the country where the party could and should have done better.

This is not an easy exercise, for the constituency organisations are jealous of their autonomy and, on the whole, support Central Office financially rather than the other way round. There is not even a central record of party members. Thus the power of the central organisation to intervene at the constituency level is very limited. Even an attempt to persuade a constituency party to employ a better agent or modernise its filing system might be resented and resisted.

What has developed over the years, however, and is now likely to be strengthened, is an effort to encourage neighbouring constituencies to work more closely together and to place resources where they are most needed.

Completion of the task will be impossible. The solid Conservative seat of Beaconsfield in Buckinghamshire, for example, is reckoned to have one of the best—and best paid—agents in the country; maybe that is why the Tory majority is so large. It might be better if the agent

were employed in the Midlands, but that is not going to happen.

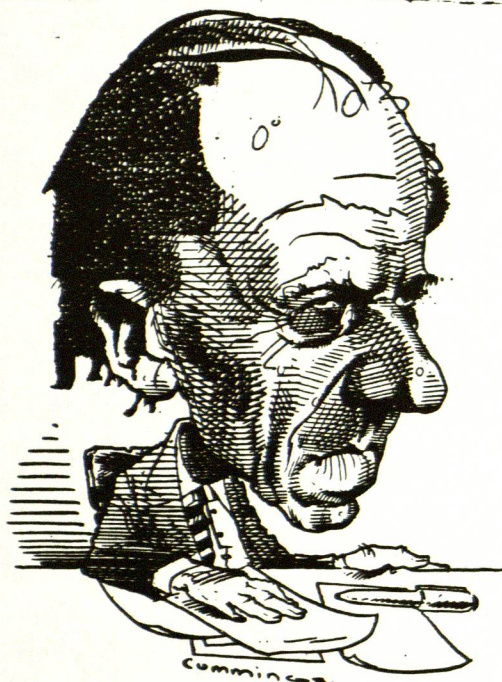
Still, there are areas where changes can be made. Plymouth has three constituencies, two held by Tories and the other by Dr David Owen of the SDP. The Plymouth Conservatives have agreed to a combined organisation and common headquarters. (It is rather an ironic place to choose since the Tories might have to decide whether or not to oppose Dr Owen at the next election.)

Another instance of the organisation beginning to cross constituency boundaries concerns Mr Tebbit's own seat of Chingford in Essex. The Conservatives gained the neighbouring seat of Walthamstow at the general election. The next aim is to pick up the other neighbour, Leyton; if successful, they would then hold all the seats in the Waltham Forest Borough.

Similar co-operation is being considered in some of the major cities, even those where the Tories did well, such as Bristol (three seats out of four) and Birmingham (five out of ten). Newcastle upon Tyne, which no longer has a Tory MP, is likely to be given special attention.

The aim generally is to extend the Conservative push to new frontiers. The political geography after the election showed that the Tories had done well in the south, including London and the Midlands, but badly in the north, Scotland and, to some extent, Wales.

The voting patterns can be broken down in more detail. The Conservative Central Office



Tebbit: an ideas rather than organisation man.

analysis is that someone who lives in a council house, is employed in the public sector, belongs to a trade union and owns no shares tends to vote Labour. Such people are concentrated in the north.

The Conservative voter tends to own his or her own house, work in the private sector, may or may not belong to a union (this criterion is no longer as important as it was) and to hold shares. This sector is concentrated in the south and is growing. Under Mrs Thatcher's Government it should continue to grow and expand northwards as more and more people move into the private sector and become shareholders.

Thus the Tory goal at the next election should be to mop up more seats in London, move further north and retrieve the situation in Scotland where there have already been extensive changes in the party organisation. Mr Tebbit would add, as a word of advice to his successor, that at the same time it will be essential to maintain the policy momentum; for it is from the growth of the private sector and from wider ownership that the Tory vote has come. He would also see the Tory aim not so much as winning more seats as winning more votes, more evenly spread around the country.

If all that sounds vastly oversimplified as a plan for the

Tories to win again, of course it is. It omits what happens if privatisation turns sour. (Recent events at British Telecom would have provided an interesting background if the general election had been October not June.) It overlooks what might come of the new party that might be born of the Liberal-SDP Alliance and it totally ignores how the Labour Party might develop.

Moreover, sooner or later—probably about mid-term—there is almost bound to be a huge fit of nerves in the Tory Party about whether Mrs Thatcher should stand again or step down. One can already sense the discussions beginning.

Nevertheless, a party that keeps its eyes on the constituencies and is continually trying to improve its organisation has a huge advantage. It will be a long time before even a regimised Labour Party can take on the Tories in the south, yet the Tories are already moving north. The Liberals can do it, but largely in by-elections when they simply pour all their resources into one place.

That is why the succession to Mr Tebbit is important. It means someone who is close to Mrs Thatcher, but can also stand up to her — who can organise as well as think. There are precious few candidates around.

Rasta is backed by top Tory

By TOM MCGHIE Political Reporter

A BLACK community leader convicted of police assault is at the centre of a row between two Government Ministers.

They have clashed over whether 25-year-old Rastafarian, Kuomba Balogun, should keep his State-funded job.

Last week Home Office Minister John Patten demanded Balogun's resignation.

Mr Patten said it was unacceptable for a man with Balogun's views to be employed where Government was concerned.

Last year Balogun was given a suspended prison sentence for assaulting two policemen during a police crackdown on street crime in the St Paul's district of Bristol.

Suffered

But now Mr William Waldegrave, Housing Minister and MP for Bristol East, has come to his defence.

He has told colleagues to lay off Balogun, who is in charge of a local development agency in the St Paul's area.

But last night sources said the Government was determined that he should go.

Last September the young community leader said of a police chief who suffered a heart attack after a Bristol drugs-busting operation: "I hope the bastard dies."



Balogun

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able criticism and result in an unfair burden on Mr Kenneth Clarke, who has been his Cabinet-level deputy for two years, first at Employment and now at Trade and Industry.

Mr. Tebbit has made no secret of his desire to surrender the chairmanship after completing a review of the Conservative Central Office organisation and of the broader implications of the general election. He left the Cabinet immediately after the election.

Lord Young has been the obvious successor ever since he worked alongside Mr Tebbitt in Central Office during the general election campaign as Mrs Thatcher's personal representative.

Allies of Lord Young at Westminster believe he can combine the post with his present one but others involved in the decision are more sceptical and believe that such an arrangement could produce considerable

A key question would be whether Lord Young would be an interim appointee serving up to the middle of this parliament until someone was appointed to handle the election preparations as happened in both 1981 and 1985, or whether he would serve throughout.

September 14/87 *Towles*
EXPRESS

TEBBIT BACK IN RACE

By ROBERT GIBSON
Political Editor

TORY PARTY chairman Norman Tebbit is set to stun friends and colleagues by revealing a "comeback" to mainstream politics.

Only three months ago he turned down the pick of Cabinet jobs after leading the Conservatives to election victory.

He announced that he wanted to spend more time with his wife Margaret, crippled in the Brighton bomb outrage.

And he has been widely expected to step down as party chairman at next month's annual Tory conference.

But far from quitting, the architect of Mrs Thatcher's third election triumph is now preparing for an unexpected new thrust in his career.

He will stand in the forefront of the party's challenge

Tory chairman stays on to go for top job

for the leadership, if Mrs Thatcher decides to call it a day.

Mr Tebbit, rested and refreshed since the June poll, has rediscovered his driving ambition and is convinced he can combine the roles of party chairman and constituency MP with caring for his wife.

POWER

Mrs Thatcher is unlikely to block the plans of her most trusted and loyal adviser who is already working on ideas to take the Tories towards a fourth term in Government.

He is proposing a massive overhaul of Central Office—including a move out of Smith Square, Westminster—to have the party geared up to meet what he feels will be a far stronger Labour challenge in 1992 or 1993.

But while Mr Tebbit looks upon the task as his foremost duty, he also recognises the party chairman-

ship gives him an unrivalled power base from which to launch a bid for the leadership.

He is already the darling of the grass-roots Tories and his fund-raising forays into the shires give him a first-class opportunity to woo local party workers and other MPs. One of Mr Tebbit's closest confidants said yesterday: "He sees himself taking a very active part in politics in the future, outside Cabinet, but going around arguing and advocating the Government's case—a kind of super-salesman."

"Norman Tebbit is a man of such determined ideas and vision that he knows he can never take a back seat."

"He is an ideas man and while he is party chairman he holds the platform to put them forward."

And a Cabinet colleague said last night: "This comes as no real surprise. Nobody really believed that Norman was turning his back on politics."

Tories
M.L.

Unrest in the Tory ranks at Baker's revolution

By STEPHEN BATES
Education Correspondent

THE Government's education reforms, designed to give parents more choice and influence, are under attack from Conservative-controlled local authorities.

They are complaining that the plans lack coherence and flexibility and warn that 'too much is being attempted too quickly'.

The criticisms, in a report by the Association of County Councils, which has a Tory majority, will be a severe setback for Education Secretary Kenneth Baker.

The Association warns that plans to establish a national curriculum could lead to school standards falling rather than being raised.

And the association has 'extreme doubts' about allowing parents much freer choice of schools — the issue at the heart of the Dewsbury row.

There is a real risk that parents may be led to expect a greater freedom of choice than can be delivered.

The proposals would make matters more difficult for schools and local authorities to manage sensibly, and for parents in general to be confident about the provisions being made for their children, it warns.

Meetings are planned this week to head off unrest from Tories in local government.

But yesterday, Philip Merridale, former chairman of the association's education committee and leader of Hampshire's education committee, said: 'We are not opposed to the principles, but I believe there are flaws in the legislation.'

September 17/87 Tebbit
D. I

Tebbit may quit for City job

By Nigel Dudley
Political Staff

MR NORMAN TEBBIT, Conservative party chairman, is preparing to leave Tory Central Office for a job in the City.

Friends of Mr Tebbit are talking to several institutions who are ready to make him a non-executive director.

There has been some speculation that he will resign at the party conference in Blackpool next month after receiving the party's praise for his role in the election victory in June. But he may delay his resignation a little until the reforms of the Central Office organisation, which he is proposing, are under way.

Mr Tebbit's experience as a former Trade and Industry Secretary would make him a very attractive proposition to many City institutions.

However, there is some opposition in boardrooms from those who think he is too abrasive and fear he will not make a major commitment to a new role as he has not ruled out a political comeback. Mr Tebbit, whose wife was paralysed in the Brighton bomb attack in 1984, could expect well over £10,000 for each directorship.

It would technically be possible for him to continue as party chairman and hold some outside jobs. But companies are now less keen to become too closely tied to one political party. Non-executive directors are also expected to pull their weight.

Lord Young, Trade and Industry Secretary, has been regarded as the favourite to take over the chairmanship, but Central Office sources say he would prefer to take on the job in two years time when there is an election to prepare for.

SDP LEADER'S SPEECH

MacLennan approach pleases delegates

The leader of the SDP assured the assembly that it was for the membership of the new party to decide its policies and that he had no intention of seeking definitions and additions "down to the last decimal point".

Referring to defence, Mr Robert MacLennan insisted that the new party's policy should be to retain a nuclear element in Britain's defence capability for the foreseeable future.

He drew warm applause when he said that the new party must be "open, decentralized and democratic", using a phrase similar to one in the motion on merger that will be voted on by the assembly today.

He was also applauded when

he gave his view on a current Liberal controversy. He spoke slightly of the idea of "one leader, one veto".

At the start of his speech, he assured delegates that, under his leadership, the SDP valued their friendship and now sought to make it one of united permanence.

He said that had been the clear desire of the recent SDP ballot and, from Tuesday's debate, it was the clear desire of their assembly. Most important of all, it was the clear desire of the electorate.

"Our task now, together, is to give practical effect to that overwhelming desire. I believe that we can and will achieve it." He was "determined and dedi-

cated to that task. I mean to be a candid friend."

He looked forward to working with Mr David Steel. They had known each other for more than 20 years. For more than 10 he had seen that they were on converging political paths.

The Liberal and Social Democratic parties had just enjoyed a Napoleonic experience. Napoleon had taken 100 days to progress from a small, warm, comfortable, Mediterranean kingdom to a cold, miserable Atlantic island prison.

That was very nearly what their two parties had done during the 100 days since the election.

"It has been an exercise which

has dismayed our many well wishers while delighting our enemies." But that exercise was now over.

Negotiations would start shortly. There would be full opportunity for input from members. That was crucial. It must be for the membership of the new party to decide the detail of policy issues.

They were addressing the potential membership of the new party which was wider than that of the two Alliance parties together. The identity of that great, new, national party would draw in a wider membership.

As SDP leader he had as much a duty to respect the legitimate anxieties of the 43 per cent who voted in the SDP ballot for the non-merger option. His task was to serve a third force for the British people — effective because it was unified.

The new party must be open, decentralized and democratic (applause). Alone among British political parties, they stood ready to confirm their belief in one member, one vote.

The new party must carry with it the best of the SDP and the best of the Liberal Party. The creative spark from both was sorely needed in the dreary politics of contemporary Britain.

The Labour Party might

undergo further massage, but it could not any further massage away its fundamentally illiberal instincts.

For the Livingstones and Scargills of this world, anti-Toryism meant central state socialism. The Thatcher Government appeared to have delusions of immortality. It had been long-lived but time was on its tail. Nemesis would befall this over-represented, over-reaching Government.

The Prime Minister, whatever her achievements, was a deeply flawed leader. Increasingly she inhabited her own chauffeur-driven little world. Her Parliament had become a court. Her best ministers had become backbenchers.

Look at her Cabinet after her fourth purge and what had you got? — a corps of commissioners (applause).

"We intend to offer better than that. We intend to drive poverty from the land, to ensure that the young in our society are well educated, to enrich our country's civilization as much through science and the arts as in material wealth" (applause).

Together they must proclaim their commitment to the collective strategy of Nato for defence and disarmament, retaining a nuclear element in Britain's defence capability for the foreseeable future.

h. radicals
Times

THE SUN SAYS

Please don't go, Norman

IS NORMAN Tebbit on the way out?

The latest stories are that he may be tempted by offers from the City and give up the Tory Party chairmanship.

This would also spell the end to his chances of reaching No 10.

And how sad that would be.

Suppose a Number 11 bus dared to despatch Margaret Thatcher to the big Cabinet in the sky.

Who would take over?

Choice

The ideal choice, **LORD YOUNG**, is debarred because he is a peer.

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, the Foreign Secretary, has shamefully diminished respect for Britain in the world.

One day he must be left to sleep quietly on the Woolsack as Lord Chancellor.

NIGEL LAWSON is a skilful Chancellor, but he possesses as much charm as Ian Paisley in a bad temper.

KENNETH BAKER, at Education, has probably too much charm. He is able and energetic, but he lacks achievement.

That applies also to **DOUGLAS HURD**, the Home Secretary, who talks too much and does too little.

JOHN WAKEHAM bust his chances at the last Election when he showed that he has about as much charisma as Jack the Ripper.

CECIL PARKINSON did for himself a little earlier.

NORMAN FOWLER at Employment? Norman who?

TOM KING, the Ulster Secretary, has made himself Dublin's poodle.

Victories

And as for the rest of the Cabinet pack:

Maggie's election victories have gone to their head.

Behind the complacency and the arrogance is next to nothing.

So—please don't go, Norman.

When the cupboard is so bare, England needs you.



Tebbit... vital role to play

TEBBIT *Norman*
Sun
September 18, 1987.

Thatcher
Leader
Mirror

MIRROR COMMENT

A sham crusade

ENGLAND is a green and pleasant land for Cabinet Ministers. They neither live in the slums of the inner cities, nor represent them in Parliament.

Since the election, Mrs Thatcher and her team have promised to help the families who do live there. To give them a better life, jobs — and hope.

The promise is a sham. There is to be no new money, only a redistribution of the little already available.

Mrs Thatcher promised to see for herself what needs to be done by making a series of visits to inner cities. Her first trip was to Middlesbrough on Wednesday.

Tripe

She went. She didn't see because she avoided the areas of greatest need. And she was conquered because she hadn't an answer for a man who can't get a job, no matter how hard he tries.

The Tory Daily Mail said she had launched a "crusade". That's tripe. It was a publicity campaign to benefit only her.

The inner cities deserve better than that, and the first thing they deserve is for their problems to be seen and understood by those responsible for making them worse.

If Prince Charles can see them at first hand, why can't the Prime Minister?

SUNDAY EXPRESS
20-9-87

Maggie will let Tebbit go

MRS THATCHER is ready to accept the resignation of Norman Tebbit as chairman of the Conservative Party, writes Peter Simmonds.

And the Prime Minister understands that he may need to secure a job in the City or industry to supplement his pay as an MP.

Her readiness to accept Mr Tebbit's resignation follows reports last week that he is considering a City post.

Mr Tebbit's wife Margaret was severely disabled in the IRA's Brighton bombing nearly three years ago and he faces heavy bills looking after her.

Tebbit battles to hold on to his job

NORMAN Tebbit was flying home from Italy last night for a meeting with Mrs Thatcher to determine whether he stays as Chairman of the Tory Party.

Tories are split over whether he or Industry Secretary Lord Young should hold the office.

Tebbit's fate hinges on whether Mrs Thatcher accepts his —

By **PETER DOBBIE**
Political Correspondent

or his arch-rival Lord Young's — plans to revamp the party machine.

His future could be decided in a 20-minute speech on the final day of the Blackpool conference in response to criticism that the party's election campaign,

under his direction, was a disaster.

Mrs Thatcher is now at the centre of the row which will dominate the conference.

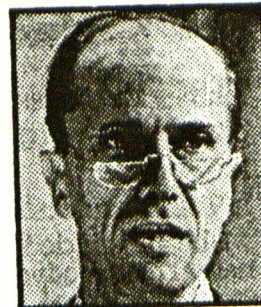
Many Tories believe the June campaign could have ended in disaster, but for the intervention of the Prime Minister.

She brought in a secret team of advisers, headed by Lord Young, which operated behind Tebbit's back.

Those loyal to Tebbit say they expect to be the first to be sacked if the chairman loses his fight.

Lord Young's supporters say Mrs Thatcher has 'given him her word' that he has the job.

But a senior Tebbit aide last night said: 'Norman is not yet ready to go. He is determined to stay and fight for the job.'



FIGHTING: Tebbit

SUNDAY
MAIL
20-9-87

Tebbit
September 22/87 Today



TEBBIT v YOUNG



Seconds out for the great Tory title fight

TORY Chairman Norman Tebbit said yesterday that it was up to the Prime Minister to decide how long he would stay on in the job.

And he refused to be drawn on rumours that he plans to announce his resignation at next month's Conservative Party Conference.

Over at Downing Street, however, the word is that Mrs Thatcher is leaving it to Mr Tebbit to make the first move.

Although she would like to make a

change she certainly doesn't want to push him out. She feels she owes him too much for his past loyalty and the terrible injuries he and his wife Margaret sustained in the Brighton bombing three years ago.

And if he does decide to quit Tory Central Office for a number of jobs in the City that have been lined up for him, it is Trade and Industry Secretary Lord Young who is said to be the Prime Minister's choice to succeed him.

So how do these two ambitious men

match up in the Conservative power game? Political Editor CHRIS BUCKLAND examines their credentials.

NORMAN BERESFORD TEBBIT: 56, son of a pawnshop clerk, State grammar school boy, BOAC pilot and union official who took part in two strikes. Two sons, one daughter.

DAVID IVOR YOUNG: 55, son of a Lithuanian Jewish immigrant, educated at Christ's college Finchley and University College London. Self-made property millionaire. Two daughters.

How Tebbit rates

6	Competent minister. Rose from back-bench roughneck to be one of Maggie's close aides. Handling of party chairmanship raised doubts.
7	Suffers fools badly. Few close friends, loyal to those he has. Jolly company in private. Rightly suspects conspiracies against him.
7	Good rabble-rousing stuff — once described union leaders as 'power-mad mobsters'. Loved by the Tory 'hang 'em and flog 'em brigade'.
8	Architect of the election-winning Trade Union legislation. Attacked for his handling of the election campaign despite landslide victory.
5	Adored by Tory rightwingers, loathed by his opponents and disliked by Tory wets as the unacceptable face of Toryism. No neutrals.
5	Caustic derision, sarcasm and cruel jibes are his stock in trade, though privately pokes fun at himself and can be much more amusing.
8	Strongest image in the party, PM excepted. Rough, tough and not nice to know. Softened by obvious tenderness towards crippled wife.
5	Once the most ambitious man in the Cabinet, now seems happy to act as a power broker. But would return to take over top job if asked.
5	Could carry on where Maggie leaves off. The right would love it but many Tories think he's too abrasive, scaring the moderate voters.
4	Once her favourite, she now no longer trusts his judgment implicitly and is nervous about keeping him on as the party chairman.

60

What Young offers

ABILITY	Another Thatcher creation — "Others bring me problems, David brings me solutions". Suspected better at packaging than content.	7
PERSONALITY	Dry and smooth, like a bank manager when you're in the red. Mild manner hides his determination. He, too, rightly suspects plots.	6
ORATORY	Dull and uninspired. More a backroom boffin than a platform performer — and reasoned argument never yet won a standing ovation.	3
TRACK RECORD	Got unemployment within sight of 3 million in time for the election, helped by numerous changes in the way the figures were counted.	7
POPULARITY	Should take a course in hackle-raising. Well suited to the Lords. Raises no strong feelings except among truly dedicated leftwingers.	5
HUMOUR	None evident in public — plays all deliveries with a straight bat. A book of his and Mrs Thatcher's jokes would be world's slimmest.	1
IMAGE	Bland, unexciting and gentlemanly. Can be pretty tough in private but not much of it permeates through to the outside world.	4
AMBITION	Power hungry — always trying to poach high profile activities from other ministries. Only his peerage restrains his hopes of the top job.	10
LEADERSHIP	Needs a change in the law to let him to give up his peerage. No power base in Commons — lacks the charisma ever to build one.	3
MAGGIE RATING	Took Tebbit's place as Maggie's blue-eyed boy. Despite her admiration for his action man approach, his stock has slipped recently.	7

TOTAL

53

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Today

HANG THEM

Rape backlash hits Tories

by CHRIS BUCKLAND, Political Editor

BRUTAL rapists could face the gallows if pro-hanging Tories get their way at next month's Conservative Party conference. Delegates in favour of capital punishment for murderers and sadistic sex attackers are mobilising their forces for yet another attempt to re-introduce hanging.

They want Parliament to bring back the rope early next year and their fury at what they see as lack of Government action is set to spill over at the conference. Home Secretary Douglas Hurd is guaranteed a rough ride

when he addresses the 4,500 delegates. A Commons vote on hanging could come in January when MPs debate the Criminal Justice Bill. Since the election of more Tory Right-wingers in June, the result would be much closer than the two votes in the last Parliament when calls for a return of the gallows were heavily defeated.

Pro-hangers at the Conference are taking a new tack because they believe Parliament does not represent the public feeling.

A total of 17 resolutions demanding a nationwide vote to decide the issue were published yesterday.

Massacred

The total would have been even higher if the motions had been submitted after the Hungerford Massacre, when gunman Michael Ryan massacred 16 people.

Mrs Thatcher and many members of the Cabinet are in favour of the return of hanging for certain categories of murder.

But anti-hanging Tories have so far been able to defeat the move by linking up with almost unanimous Labour and Alliance opposition.

One senior Tory said: "Feelings will be running very high, especially after Hungerford. The debate is usually lively, this year we can expect sparks to fly."

One resolution, from Sutton Coldfield, demands a poll on re-introducing the rope for aggravated rape and acts of terrorism, as well as murder.

But the hanging debate will not be the only lively occasion in the conference.

Tebbit sits back and the Party's over for now

I CAN put an end to the speculation surrounding the future of Tory chairman Norman Tebbit. He *will*, I can reveal, give up his post after the Conservative Party conference next month and before the end of this year.

It was Tebbit's own choice, made on his recent Italian holiday. He is not being pushed. He wants to return to the back benches where he believes that he will be able to make an

omnipotent contribution to the shaping of future policy without his every move being interpreted as official Government policy.

There is also the point, of course, that when—or if—Mrs Thatcher decides to vacate 10 Downing Street, he will be in the uncontested role of kingmaker in deciding her successor.

And for those who like weighty symbolism it is more than coincidence that he is moving into the Westminster offices once occupied by Edward Du Cann, former chairman of the backbench 1922 committee, and the man who manoeuvred Edward Heath out of the party leadership.

The Tory party being the organism it is, Tebbit's decision has unleashed the inevitable backroom squabble over who will take his place.

Promised

The Prime Minister, is believed to have promised the post to self-made property millionaire Lord Young, presently Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. It is a job he wants—and one that certain older members of the Cabinet are determined he should not have.

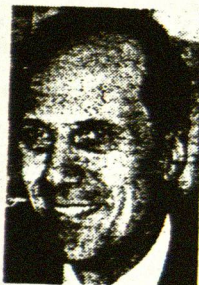
The argument is simply that as chairman of the party, Lord Young would face an inevitable conflict of interest with his job at

the DTI, where he carries the political responsibility for City mergers and take-overs.

Despite the opposition, however, I do not discount Lord Young's chances of pulling off the double. He is a very capable political operator. And as a life peer, he cannot lead the Party—therefore representing no threat to Mrs Thatcher.



Young: Conflict



Tebbit: Omnipotent

— done in with

THATCHER MISSES THE POINT (Yet again..)

Thatcher
Mirror

PREMIER Margaret Thatcher toured the devastated industrial heartland of Britain yesterday — and drove straight past dozens of derelict factories to visit a hat shop.

Instead of talking about the heartbreak of unemployment in the once-booming West Midlands, Mrs Thatcher forked out £40 on a leather handbag and four hairpins and chatted happily about hats and gloves.

The misery of Britain's inner cities — highlighted in the Mirror in the last two days — seemed to be far from her mind.

Mrs Thatcher's backroom boys picked two young girls to jump aboard the Tory bandwagon as it rolled through an area of high unemployment on a whistle-stop tour.

She spent 20 minutes talking to the girls, who had launched The Complete Lady shop in Bilston, Staffs.

Grant

The girls opened the shop two months ago, helped by a grant of £30 a week each from the Enterprise Allowance scheme, after quitting their jobs as a cashier and nursery nurse.

Once the Prime Minister had gone, one of the girls, Diana Dawes, said: "She complimented us on our stock."

Mrs Thatcher missed the point again when she swept into a college in the

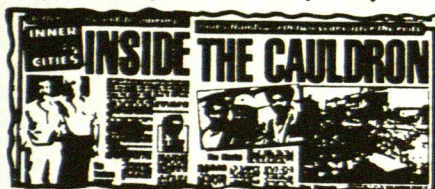


BUYER: Mrs Thatcher

deprived area of Handsworth in Birmingham.

Almost 100 lecturers and 300 students stopped classes to demonstrate about unemployment... but the Prime Minister just looked the other way.

THE overworked police are no longer able to cope with the rising tide of violence and crime in the decaying inner cities, the Superintendents Association conference in Torquay was told yesterday.



DESPAIR: The Mirror's bleak news yesterday

Maggie's 'scared to meet victims'

By DAVID BRADSHAW

THE MIRROR campaign was praised by MPs last night.

Labour deputy leader Roy Hattersley said Mrs Thatcher "lacks the guts to meet the people who have suffered."

He added: "The Mirror has helped lift the lid on the fact that families in inner cities are in desperate need of better housing and schools, more jobs and an urgent counter attack against rising crime. The thing Mrs Thatcher did

or said on her visit to the Midlands shows she has any intention of meeting these needs."

Shadow Environment Secretary Jack Cunningham said: "The sad truth is she does not want to see the real plight of the inner cities."

"She cannot see beyond her own prejudices."

The Daily Mirror is to be congratulated for helping to reveal the real story of the misery she has helped create.