

Prime Minister - 1  
for information. On para 2 there  
have been a lot of such rumours  
flying about, but the Home Office are  
investigating these reports and will  
8 November 1985 let us know  
if they have any substance

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*This is most  
disturbing  
to everyone possible  
to assist the  
police in their  
duties?*

PRIME MINISTER

LAW AND ORDER - WEEKEND UPDATE

MEA 8/11

1. Brixton and Tottenham Riots

a. We have heard this week from the receiver of the Metropolitan Police at Scotland Yard that the first claims for compensation have already been met under the Riot Damages Act, 1886, and compensation is proceeding smoothly.

b. The horrifying way in which PC Blakelock was killed is sending rumblings throughout the Police Service. The Police Federation have made representations to us privately that you be made aware of the details. (We believe unless you request this information that you should not be troubled.)

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS  
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)  
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

2. Future Trouble

Private reports from the police indicate further likely trouble in Tottenham. A milk float, complete with a very large number of bottles likely to be used in petrol bomb-making, has been abducted in the last fortnight. Also, there have been several reports since 25 October that the ingredients of Napalm have been supplied to individuals in the Tottenham area. If Napalm is used, the police will require a new form of

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- 2 -

protective clothing. In Northern Ireland, the only known defence against Napalm is the plastic bullet which kept the users of this deadly material beyond throwing distance.

3. I attach the internal memorandum from the Labour Party Private Office, disclosing that they will be launching a forceful attack on law and order.

Conclusion

We recommend no action at present. The Home Office are aware.

*AScola*

*P* HARTLEY BOOTH

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THE TORY CRIMINAL RECORD

CRIME UP: Mrs Thatcher was elected on a law and order ticket. However since 1979 crime has both increased and increased faster than the previous trend.

<u>England and Wales</u> (thousands)	1979	1984	% increase
Robbery	12.5	24.9	99
Burglary in a dwelling	252.8	467.7	89
Criminal damage of which arson	320.5 11.6	497.8 18.9	55 63
Violence against the person	95.0	114.2	20
<u>Scotland</u> (thousands)			
Robbery	3.8	4.5	18
Housebreaking	76.6	112.1	46
Vandalism	53.6	74.8	40
Fire-raising	2.6	4.2	63
Serious Assault	3.5	5.3	51

(Note: In general the increase in recorded crime has been less marked in Scotland - though serious crime in Scotland remains at a much higher incidence. The broad generalisations in the press release are based on the aggregate figures for Britain, but members may wish to amend it for themselves by substituting the appropriate national figures.)

THE VICTIMS: Crime hits the poor and the disadvantaged hardest. Unskilled workers are twice as likely to be burgled as professional workers. The incidence of burglary in the poorest council estates is four times greater than in suburbia. The British Crime Survey conducted by the Home Office in 1983 found that two out of five residents on the poorest estates are "very worried" about break ins and vandalism. Single women and ethnic minorities are vulnerable to much higher incidences of burglary and street crime than males and whites.

DETECTION DOWN: The Conservatives have substantially increased the numbers and pay of the police force. Total numbers of policemen have increased by over 7000 and expenditure on the police by 40% in real terms. Yet during the same period the efficiency of the police force in England and Wales as measured by the detection rate has uniformly deteriorated. (In Scotland detection rates have improved, except for housebreaking where the rate has dropped from 20% in 1979 to 18% in 1984.)

<u>England and Wales</u> clear up rates	1979	1984
Robbery	31%	22%
Burglary	31%	28%
Criminal Damage	30%	23%
Overall	41%	35%

PRISON NO CURE: The Tory knee jerk to their policing policy failure has been to pressurise the judiciary to give longer sentences. Yet Britain already puts more people in prison than any other major European country and still has a worst rate of crime. The Home Office has admitted that the "short sharp shock" approach to young offenders has had no effect on reconviction rates. Surprisingly real public opinion is not in favour of longer prison sentences for non violent crime. The British Crime Survey found that 80% want to see more alternative to prison for the non-violent. Even among the victims of burglaries only  $\frac{1}{3}$  demanded prison sentences for the offenders.



LABOUR'S ALTERNATIVE: Labour will concentrate on crime prevention and attack the social conditions in which it takes root. Labour will:

ensure that the police return to the beat and create a relationship of trust with local people.

improve and increase community involvement Community policing and accountability to the community are essential reforms in the fight against crime.

create a safer environment by improving the design of housing estates and street lighting on pedestrian ways.

help the victims of crime who are the forgotten casualties of present crime policy. Labour will extend and simplify the compensation scheme, and will provide funds for Victim Support Schemes, refuges for women and children at risk, and rape crisis centres.

LAWLESS WHITEHALL: Mrs Thatcher constantly exhorts everybody else, especially local councils, to observe the law. Yet her government has been caught out acting illegally on a scale for which there is no parallel. This year alone the judiciary have held the government to have acted illegally on the following eight separate occasions.

- Jan The High Court ruled that Ridley had been "unlawful, irrational and procedurally improper" in withholding £281m grants to GLC.
- Feb The Chief Adjudication Officer ruled that it was against the law for Alan Clark (Employment) to prevent EEC students claiming their reciprocal right to benefit.
- May Justice Webster ruled that Fowler had failed in his statutory duty to consult over regulations denying housing benefit to joint tenancies.
- June The High Court ruled that Joseph has acted unlawfully in refusing to reduce ILEA's contribution to the national advanced education pool.
- July The High Court quashed the ban by Ridley on the GLC heavy lorry restrictions.
- Aug The High Court ruled that Fowler had acted unlawfully in placing time limits to the board and lodging payments of existing claimants.
- Oct The Appeal Court found Fowler had behaved with "identifiable illegality" in reducing opticians payments.

(Note: In the entire five years of the last Labour government it lost only four cases brought against it)

KEY QUOTES: "If boys and girls do not obtain jobs when they leave school, they feel that society has no need of them. If they feel that, they do not see any reason why they should take part in that society and comply with its rules."

William Whitelaw as shadow Home Secretary. 27 2 78

"A Labour government will work in co-operation with the police and public to combat crime. The greatest need is to re-establish full confidence between the police and the community, and to give priority to the kind of community policing which the public wants."

Gerald Kaufman 17 10 85

"Capitalism gives to each and every one of us a great opportunity, if only we seize it with both hands."

Al Capone





10 DOWNING STREET

Note for the file,

William Fittell (Ho) will  
discuss HB's claims with  
him & come back to us

(1) or whether they have any  
substance and

(2) or whether Ho are  
taking to help the police.

MUSA 11/11

PA

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. I am sorry to trouble you again, but we are concerned about the strategic "green policy" note sent to the Prime Minister at the beginning of August. It is quite important to know the Prime Minister's attitude towards these issues. We are preparing material for the conservation lunch and it is highly relevant to see that note. I suggest CF look in the file that might contain John Redwood's note of 1 August 1985 on "Green Belt and Concrete Jungles" which may have covered, or been attached to the Green Policy note. If by some chance the Prime Minister still has it, could Joy Robilliard be asked to look in the flat?

HB to re-submit.

2. I have spoken to all relevant sources at the Home Office on Napalm. The point you may wish to make is that the Prime Minister's office are unlikely to hit upon a matter like the Napalm document again. It was a rare matter - probably a once in two year discovery.

copy note.  
 HB will be  
 away for a few days  
 report for HQ a  
 the substance of the  
 allegations  
 MCA 18/11

We are sure you will want to defend the Prime Minister's right to have eyes and ears on all crucial policy matters. We are aware that the milk bottle rumours are rife - it may interest you to know that our sources did warn us the week before Tottenham, that riots were likely the week-end when they occurred.

HARTLEY BOOTH