

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1979

135, FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.

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CALLAGHAN'S HARVEST

GLADIATORIAL CONTESTS enliven presentation of politics, but they can obscure underlying issues and processes. The present struggle for control of the Labour party is not a personal contest between BENN and CALLAGHAN. It is the latest stage in the Left's general though often unco-ordinated advance during most of the post-war period. BENN is neither originator nor leader of this advance. Rather, he has joined the caravan, with the aim of becoming its main parliamentary representative—with limited success so far. But CALLAGHAN, for his part, cannot truthfully be depicted as leader of the defence against Left-wing takeover. On the contrary, for most of his political career, he has furthered the Left's advance in return for its support, thereby preparing a rod for his own back.

Nor does the Campaign for Labour Victory-Manifesto Group (SHIRLEY WILLIAMS, ROY HATTERSLEY, DAVID OWEN, WILLIAM RODGERS) deserve our sympathies. Whatever their original intentions, they too have played their part in facilitating the Left's takeover. For years on end, they denied that the Left had in fact been taking over key positions in the party—through "entryism" into near-moribund constituency associations, through ever-increasing control of the unions' block-vote, through hegemony in the National Executive Committee and increasingly also in the Transport House apparatus. "If these people are extremists, then I am an extremist", Mrs WILLIAMS said during the election campaign. In fact, she is not an extremist but an opportunist serving as cover for the extremists until their need for her is past. The group's claim that the Labour party can happily contain Marxist totalitarians so long as they do not "impose their policy prescriptions and personalities" exemplifies the hopelessness of its position. For the Left has no other object than to impose itself. Any party which admits and tolerates them thereby legitimises and advances their aims.

Five years have passed since a group of concerned Labour party members formed its "Social Democratic Alliance" to save the party from within. They were cold-shouldered and vilified by CALLAGHAN and the Manifesto group, who succeeded in deluding themselves, many of their supporters and much of public opinion that they could contain the Left and rely on the trade union block-vote in times of crisis. But it is becoming obvious that Mr CALLAGHAN can no more bring the union leaders to fight his battles in the Labour party than he could as Prime Minister in labour relations. Whatever debt they owed him for helping them destroy "In Place of Strife" 10 years ago has been redeemed, as far as they are concerned. CALLAGHAN will bluster on till his imminent retirement. The Manifesto Group will fight only for their political careers and share of the spoils. To that end they will patch up the best bargain they can make to save face. For the defence of British democracy, we must look elsewhere.

HARD POUNDING FOR BRITAIN

IF THE PAST FORTNIGHT'S FALL in the value of the pound abroad reflected a sober appraisal of our ability to compete in world markets, it was seemingly well-founded. Notwithstanding North Sea oil, our foreign trade is barely in balance. Some unexpectedly bad results from large manufacturing companies have shown that the Bank of England's grim warnings are not without

The four horse-traders of the Indian apocalypse

THE entire political scene in India today is a dreary disheartening one. Never has the disgust with politicians and parties been as widespread as it is now.

A poll taken towards the end of August by the Indian Institute of Public Opinion (the Gallup affiliate in India) showed that no less than 76 per cent. of those interviewed believe that "present day politicians by and large are guided by the exigencies of their own political careers." Some 59 per cent. expressed the view that this deterioration in political standards had been accentuated over the past two years of Janata party rule.

The sad thing is that it can reasonably be argued that there is nothing whatsoever to choose between the three parties contending for power. They have all been guilty of encouraging defections, of "toppling" Governments and of combining without the slightest scruple with the opponents of yesterday against their comrades.

It is, perhaps, inevitable that, in a country lacking the traditions of individual liberty and grassroots citizenship on which a free society can be based, there should be too much politics and too little citizenship. This natural handicap has, however, been greatly aggravated by the socio-economic pattern with which India's first Prime Minister, Mr Nehru, endowed the country, which he described as "the socialist pattern of society." In practice, this has meant an advanced and obsolete form of State capitalism with a big and burgeoning bureaucracy and administrative controls that invade every walk of life.

The combination of political and economic power in the hands of a few politicians has meant that the stakes of office have been raised altogether too high. This has resulted not only in corruption but also in an utter lack of scruple in the fight for political office. To the discerning observer, it is clear that India cannot have a clean and efficient Government unless it is also a limited Government and Gandhi—the Mahatma—was right when he reiterated that "That Government is best which governs the least."

What India needs on the socio-economic front is a "U-turn." Quite apart from the economic benefits of such a step, there can be no doubt that it would mean relieving the tender plant of Indian democracy of the excessive burdens it has been unable to bear without wilting. Such a turnabout has already been executed by President Jayawardene in Sri Lanka with success, but it would be too much to expect any of India's existing political parties to undertake it. In so far as economic policies are concerned, they are all wedded to the State capitalist pattern and are all part, to borrow Dillas's phrase, of the "new class"

MINOO MASANI on how politicians brought democracy into disgrace

As the disintegration of the Janata Government set in, Mr Devraj Urs, president of the partially reunited Congress, broke with Mrs Gandhi in June because she was not prepared to keep her son Sanjay from the levers of power. Discontented members of the Janata party demanded separate seats in Parliament. Mr Charan Singh, one of the two Deputy Prime Ministers, followed the breakaway movement. The party lost its Parliamentary majority and Mr Desai resigned as Prime Minister.

President Reddy invited Mr Charan Singh to form a Government, but on Aug. 20, with insufficient support from Mrs Gandhi's Congress faction, he resigned without facing Parliament and advised the President to call an election. Mr Jagjivan Ram, new leader of Janata, asked the President to invite him to form a Government, but Parliament was dissolved on Aug. 22 leaving Mr Charan Singh as caretaker Prime Minister and with an election to be held before the end of the year.

Mr Urs, attempting to form a union of all old Congress members except Mrs Gandhi and Mr Desai, has probably not been granted sufficient time before the election is held. Mrs Gandhi, shown well ahead of her rivals in an opinion poll at the end of August, said on Sept. 10 that India needed stability before democracy.

Whichever way one looks at it, the outlook for the next few years is bleak. It is most unlikely that either that part of Congress led by Mrs Gandhi or the Janata party led by Mr Jagjivan Ram or the coalition of parties and groups which is taking shape under the leadership of Mr Charan Singh and Mr Urs will get a clear majority in the elections to the Lok Sabha (Lower House). In the light of what has been happening during the past few months and weeks, can there be any doubt that such a situation will mean instability, with constant efforts at horse-trading and further defections?

The issue in the coming election will not be democracy versus autocracy: it will be the record of the Janata Government and, above all, the level of prices. It is a matter of record that prices in India rose from 1960 continuously except during the emergency, when they registered an average fall equivalent to an annual rate of 5 per cent.

On present form, and before the election campaign has really got going, all one can say is that the tide of public opinion is flowing in Mrs Gandhi's favour. As the editor of a leading daily in the capital put it last month: "Mrs Gandhi is back at the centre of the stage." Both Mr Charan Singh and Mr Jagjivan Ram have made no bones about saying that they would be glad to accept her assistance, though to a dispassionate observer the support so given may recall Moscow's retort in the twenties: "We shall support Ramsay MacDonald as the rope supports the hanged man."

The only public opinion poll available is the Indian Institute's, which gives Mrs Gandhi a combined urban and rural weightage of 110 as against only 65 for Mr Morarji Desai.

Ironically enough, Mrs Gandhi's main attraction is precisely what liberals like me deplore, namely, her penchant for authoritarianism. Many years ago, Mr Walter Lippmann had pertinently observed that history shows that when forced to choose between a strong and authoritarian régime and an inept and incompetent democracy, nations invariably choose the former. Mrs Gandhi seems to have cottoned on to this fact because, speaking in Bombay on Sept. 10, she did not hesitate to say that "unity and stability are the first requirements of the country, democracy comes later."

It is true that today India suffers from indiscipline in every walk of life—labour, education and politics. What India really yearns for is democracy with discipline and discipline without dictatorship.

True, says the cynic, but if we cannot have both, should we not, for a limited period, put discipline first and let democracy follow? This is a meretricious plea which has been heard elsewhere. When the democrat gives expression to his fear of what Mrs Gandhi's return to power may do to the rule of law, civil liberties and the freedom of the Press, he is met these days with the plea that these values would not really be endangered because Mrs Gandhi will, on this occasion have neither a clear majority in Parliament nor a rubber-stamp President at her beck and call.

The Indian electorate, though largely illiterate, has so far shown a certain measure of shrewdness and sagacity. It will need all its sapience to deal with this complicated and complex situation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEFENCE OUTSIDE NATO ARE

From the Rt Hon. JULIAN AMERY, M.P. (Con.)

SIR—As your leading article (Sept. 21) reminds us, the United States Administration is actively considering the formation of a substantial "Rapid Deployment Force" for the defence of vital American and Western interests outside the Nato area.

If this proposal is approved it will be a welcome sign of recovery from the withdrawal symptoms which have afflicted American policy since the end of the Vietnam war.

The French Government appears to be thinking on similar lines to judge from the latest statements of their Defence Minister. What about Britain?

It is now clear, from the deployment of Soviet and other Eastern bloc forces, that Moscow's strategy is global not continental. The raw materials in the Gulf, South-East Asia and Central and Southern Africa threatened by this strategy are just as vital to us as to the United States and France. Should we not also accept some responsibility for their defence?

1. Should we not consider as a matter of urgency reviving the United Kingdom Joint Airborne Task Force which was dissolved in 1974? This consisted of 37 Hercules aircraft and parachute units drawn from 16 Para Brigade and 44 Para Brigade TAVR. It gave Britain the capability of delivering by parachute a battalion of some 650 men and about 200 tons of guns, vehicles, ammunition and stores in a single lift to any required destination.

The force was originally designed for a Nato role but this could readily be extended with only minor modifications in training and equipment and subject to the provision of air cover.

At present only 40 of the total force of over 60 Hercules are kept in the front line and the crews would need intensive training to bring them up to the standard required for a close stream assault. But this could

be done if the force were relieved of some of its routine hauling chores. The Parachute Regiment would also have to recover the means and skills involved in heavy drop techniques. At the moment such parachute training as is practised is mainly done from balloons and single aircraft.

2. Should we not form a small task group consisting of an amphibious ship with a Royal Marine Commando embarked, half a dozen frigates or destroyers and a fleet submarine with the necessary afloat support? This group would be permanently available at 48 hours' notice for deployment to any trouble spot. Combined with American, French and perhaps Dutch maritime forces it could help to provide a semi-permanent Western presence in the Indian Ocean.

Both of these suggested forces for intervention outside the Nato area could, I understand, be formed out of existing units with scarcely any increase in the defence vote and only minimum diversion from our contribution to Nato.

Looking ahead should we not consider forming a commando brigade group or field force without a Nato commitment? This might consist of headquarters, three battalions, a light armoured regiment, a regiment of artillery and supporting arms and services. It should have an amphibious and airborne capability and the availability of an adequate lift and adequate air cover.

Although designed for intervention outside Nato, this suggested field force could, of course, be used to reinforce Nato in a European emergency. This would call for substantial additional expenditure, but in relation to the interests at stake the insurance premium would be very reasonable.

The forces proposed should be available for unilateral action such as the French recently undertook in Zaïre. But they could, of course, undertake combined operations, in training with the American and French forces now under discussion.

JULIAN AMERY
House of Commons

Pensions index-linked to inflation

From Mr PETER HORDERN, M.P. (Con.)

SIR—I was somewhat surprised to see Mr C. G. Lewin's letter (Sept. 19) since the British Rail Pension Fund, of which he is controller, is looking to the taxpayer for at least £1,000 million to make up the deficiencies on his fund.

I say "at least" because a new actuarial assessment takes place this year, and it is almost certain to turn out to be a much higher figure.

Mr Lewin says that there is "no guarantee from the taxpayer in respect of pensions now being earned." But I fear this is scarcely a guarantee from him that the taxpayer will not be further troubled, nor can it be, for the simple reason that the pension is index-linked to inflation.

The point of my article (Sept. 14) was that over £2,000 million a year would be saved if the pensions of nationalised industries and local authority employees were paid as

Expansion of private schools by vouchers

SIR—There is a danger that the Ken education voucher experiment will exclude private schools, because the 1944 Education Act prevents local authority payment for an independent school if there is a place at a suitable State school.

So, unless the Minister asks Ken County Council to include the private schools, and in the forthcoming 1977 Education Bill removes the restraint of the 1944 Act, we shall not see whether the demand for private schools could point the way to a substantial saving in State expenditure.

Ever since W. E. Forster's Education Act of 1870, the political climate has been discouraging to private education, reaching a peak of hostility under Mrs Williams. The result is that there are now less than five per cent. of children in independent schools.

The "rake's progress" in State education, however, has brought expenditure to £8,000 million a

the shop stewards reckon a 26 per cent. pay claim is the right response to a vanishing market share for the product. Local authorities insist that they are physically incapable of achieving the marginal economies asked of them: yet the Secretary of State for the Environment deals that they are still engaged in adding to their debts. The Chancellor's appeals for a new sense of realism are like so much wasted breath. Small wonder the unrepentant advocates of corporatism and State control believe the Government will soon be forced to give in.

Underneath the surface, though, there are signs the times are changing. For all their huffing and puffing, the town halls do seem to have got the message that this time the party is really over. The solid resistance so far displayed by the Engineering Employers Federation to the demands of the engineering union, and Ministerial warnings of the consequences of irresponsible wage settlements, are not unconnected. Certainly the outcome of the engineering dispute still hangs in the balance, and much will turn on it, but at the least it can be said that the forces of free collective bargaining are beginning to look somewhat less irresistible than some had assumed them to be. None of this alters the fact that the battle with inflation will claim many casualties. It was wishful thinking to imagine it could be otherwise. Trade union leaders will not be easily or swiftly brought to respond to the legitimate anxieties of the shop floor, but resistance to their autocratic ways is already showing signs of building up. It will be a long haul, as Mrs THATCHER and her Ministers knew it would be. There is no substitute for perseverance.

In these circumstances, the counsel of friends can sometimes be more insidious than the criticism of foes. Chancellor is not lacking in advice to beware of overdoing things. It is being said by some that monetary policy is more restrictive than it seems, and that with the economy moving into recession next year, a larger deficit on public spending would be entirely appropriate. Now quite apart from uncertainty about the timing of the recession—it could be into 1981 before DENIS HEALEY's election boom is over—it is essential that Sir GEOFFREY's eye should not be deflected from the battle with inflation.

Yellow dentures?

Dentists tell us that one of the commonest complaints from patients is that of "yellow dentures"—in fact yellow tartar which clings to the denture surface. Sometimes it's caused by smoking, sometimes by natural deposits which build up. Just soaking won't remove this tartar and unsightly staining, which may be the cause of embarrassing mouth odour. But DENCLEN does remove them—and fast, without harming the delicate surface of the denture.

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Finchley does proud for Mrs Thatcher

MRS THATCHER will be able to indulge in some justifiable constituency pride at the Conservative party Conference in Blackpool next month, because her own association, Finchley, has come second in the party's financial league table.

During the past financial year it has sent £7,500 to Central Office funds—317 per cent. of its quota target of £2,300.

Not surprisingly, in the run-up to the election the constituency with the largest contribution—£11,426—was the City of London and Westminster, where local Tories achieved four and half times their target of £2,450. But the bulk of the money seems to have gone direct to the Conservative Board of Finance, probably from firms with headquarters in the constituency.

Alistair McAlpine, party treasurer, will get little satisfaction from the performance of other associations, some in seemingly prosperous areas. Perhaps because they were husbanding their resources for their own election campaign some even had nil returns, while Birmingham is recorded as having sent £1—just 0.03 per cent. of its target.

No-roe area

FOR caviar-lovers the current session of the United Nations General Assembly will not be one to remember. Gone are lavish receptions given each autumn by the Iranian delegation, who had beluga flown in to fill large bowls resting on the backs of swans sculpted in ice for the buffet tables.

The Ayatollah Khomeini's delegation says that any entertaining for fellow-envoys will be in keeping with austerity imposed by the Government in Teheran.

Otherwise, the UN's social life is as robust as ever. From today there will be an average of three receptions every night at the UN and in New York hotel ball-rooms. And as there are now 152 members of the organisation, the party tempo will not begin to slacken until November.

Coming unstuck

IMPRESSED once by the speed and imagination of the most famous tissue-manufacturers in supplying a list of the 1,001 possible uses they claimed for their product, I am pleased to tell the makers of Araldite that they have an unusual customer in that outstanding guitarist Paco Pena, whose Flamenco Company begins a two-week season at Sadler's Wells tonight.

At rehearsal there yesterday, Senor Pena showed me the fingernails on his right, or strumming hand, and said: "Not a pretty sight, are they." Well, they were a bit yellow and of greatly varying lengths but considering the often violent job they have to do...

LONDON DAY BY DAY

He then revealed that after years of experiment he has found a thin coat of the glue applied once every ten days stops his nails breaking while allowing them to be "slightly flexible."

I expect the tip will be passed on in a tutor which Pena started writing several years ago but put away when his concert career blossomed. A cancelled Australian tour next month gives him time to finish it and to develop such theories as that an Englishman may yet be able to play exciting flamenco if exposed to the right musical environment "and to the right wine."

Wealth at steak

OWNERS of a restaurant now being built in Springs, a mining town East of Johannesburg, found themselves sitting on a gold mine and faced with a very awkward decision.

Their site was levelled in 1937, when the price of gold was a mere 35 dollars an ounce, and gold-bearing rock from a nearby mine was used for the job.

When trenches for the restaurant's foundations were dug, a piece of the rock was sent for assay and its yield estimated at 4.5 grams to the ton. Anglo American Corporation, the South African mining group, is recycling gold from mine dumps at 0.5 grams a ton and finding it worthwhile.

After some thought—which must have intensified with a vengeance last week, when gold hit a peak of 586 dollars an ounce—the restaurant-owners ordered building to continue, presumably in the belief that there is more future in steak-and-chips.

I see from an announcement in the Brighton EVENING ARGUS that the Atlantic Swiss Watch Company is being wound up.

Decamping

READERS may remember my story last month about Simon Stevenson's answering service: his phone is answered, in verse, by the whisky-soaked voice of an octogenarian ex-Indian Army colonel. People have been ringing up in droves since then.

Mr Stevenson was pleased at first, thinking he was performing some sort of social service for the bored and lonely.

Now things have got out of hand. Stevenson rang me wearily to say that he gets an average of 2,500 calls a week and all this celebrity is too much for the colonel. His last message therefore, delivered in a hoarse croak, goes out this week:

"This is the last time I'm answering the phone. I'm off to an old soldiers' home. So the next time you ring You'll get the real thing—Mr Stevenson all on his own."

There follows a fit of coughing, and the colonel, who, I can now reveal, is portrayed by the actor Harry Fowler, adds: "Don't know



"Tony Benn wants a say in choosing the menu..."

what the devil I'm going to do with myself but you know what they say—" (sings feebly). "Old soldiers never die, they only fade away..."

Coarse mirth

AN unusual claim has been made to me concerning the "world record laugh." It was provoked by a performance of "The Cherry Sisters," one of the playlets that comprise the "Coarse Acting Show," based on the book by humorist Michael Green.

The laugh, which is on tape, continues unbroken for five minutes and the cast are hoping to sell it to the BBC as canned laughter for their comedy shows.

In addition to "The Cherry Sisters," which is—obviously—a parody of Chekhov, the "Coarse Acting Show" also contains an experimental Beckett-style piece called "Dernier Appel au Petit Dejeuner," a 20-minute version of "Moby Dick" with "real sea-water and a real whale"; and "Shakespeare's most rarely performed play, Henry X, Part 7."

The whole package can be seen from next Monday at the Shaftesbury Theatre, where it forms part of Brian Rix's production "The Lunatic Fringe," a compilation of some of the better things from this year's Edinburgh Festival.

Ne'er the twain

A SEMINAR on "The Role and Function of the Secretary" gets off to a promising-sounding start in a London hotel on Nov. 6. The introduction to the course comprises:—Analysing the secretary's role. —The boss's expectation versus the secretary's position."

PETERBOROUGH

see why there should be such a difference in the manner of providing pensions, and at such vast expense, to different categories of public servants.

In the field of occupational pensions, only actuaries and investment managers may safely graze. But, when our health and education services, and all our public services, are under such great pressure, why do we continue to provide index-linked pensions in the most expensive and unnecessary manner to some public servants?

It cannot last for, despite the indolence of successive Government, the sums required to sustain these pensions will become too large to be tolerable.

It is time that Parliament refused to grant these huge sums which so distort and damage our economy.

PETER HORDERN
House of Commons.

Large Blue

SIR—I was interested to read the report by Mr John Grigsby, "Large Blue butterfly extinct" (Sept. 12).

During a wildlife-adventure expedition in the Cotswolds several years ago I rediscovered the Large Blue butterfly (*maculinea arion*) where it was generally thought to have become extinct, not having been observed for over 40 years.

The butterfly's only other known habitats were North Cornwall and an island in the Outer Hebrides.

Later I found the caterpillar whose colouring was almost the same as that of the unopened buds of wild-thyme growing on the north-east side of an adjacent ant-hill.

I decided that somehow I would endeavour to purchase the area as a small nature reserve, though especially for the Large Blue and other butterflies. I noted that there were well over 100 ant-hills, each of which had a covering of wild-thyme, as only with the species of plant and ant can one of the world's most beautiful and rare butterflies survive.

The Large Blue was observed on July 12 and on July 16. I feel bound to say that this extremely rare species of lepidoptera does occur in other parts of the British Isles.

As a naturalist-explorer may I appeal to people everywhere to press for further legislation to protect all our butterflies? The Large Blue is included in the Wild Creatures and Wild Plants Act but it is the only species of lepidoptera to be so recognised.

The wilderness is a living tapestry, but it is also the God-given heritage of children yet unborn.

JOHN C. LODGE
Founder, British Wildlife Soc.,
WILDERPLORS,
Maldon, Essex.

Not for politics

SIR—In your report, (Tory party received £1 million gift from big business," Sept. 8) the Prudential Assurance Company is included in a list of contributors to British United Industrialists.

This is incorrect. The Prudential does not make any donations for political purposes.

P. R. GLYNNE-JONES
London, E.C.1.

fewer children in schools. A two-thirds (of State costs) voucher which parents could take to an independent school would set the ball rolling for an expansion of private schools such as we have not seen since the mid-19th century. Then the State set up subsidised schools by raising new taxes, two-thirds from food and tobacco, so that the impact was greatest on the poorest families.

It followed that parents forsook private schools for "free" schools financed with their own money but over which they had no direct control—an irony we suffer still.

A Government of positive goodwill towards private schooling would make it possible for individuals and organisations to set up private schools. There are many teachers—let the unions deny it—who would rather teach in private schools because of the better co-operation of parents and children.

Should an experiment be frustrated which might prove that the way to cut public expenditure is to make private expenditure not only possible but popular?

Even if only 10 per cent. of children in Kent transferred to private schools with a two-thirds voucher, parents would be spending some £15 million.

MARJORIE SELDON
Hon. Chairman, Friends of Education Voucher Experiment
in Representative Regions.
Sevenoaks, Kent.

Inca fleet

SIR—Peterborough's item (Aug. 27) and Mr John Allen's letter (Sept. 6), about the S.S. Inca on Lake Titicaca.

The British fleet of ships operating on Lake Titicaca deserve full publicity as evidence of the standard of British shipbuilding in "the good old days." The full fleet was:

Yavari. Constructed England 1862 by Cammell Laird, erected Puno 1869. Gross tons 240.

Yapura. Constructed England 1871 by Cammell Laird, erected Puno 1872. Gross tons 200.

Coya. Constructed Scotland 1892 by William Denny of Dumbarton, erected Puno 1893. Gross tons 600.

Inca. Constructed England by Earles Shipbuilding, Hull 1905. erected Puno 1931/32. Gross tons 1,050.

As the railway from the coast did not operate to Puno until 1876, the first two of these vessels had to be carried from the coast, using the port of Tacna, in small parts on the backs of mules. Puno on Lake Titicaca is 12,500 feet above sea level so this was no small achievement.

R. GARDINER
Former Managing Director, Peruvian Corporation Ltd., Guildford, Surrey.

No soloist

SIR—It would be interesting to know why there was no soloist in "Ru Britannia" at the last Promenade Concert of the season at the Alb Hall.

What would Sir Henry Wood have thought?

JOAN LONGRIE
Farnham, Surrey

Pictures

8-14, £31.95. By Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London, SW1. Beneath it, a slash necked sweater dress in black and red stripes; also available in rust/black, purple/black or fuchsia/black, sizes 10-14, £16.95. By Prêt

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THE SHAPE OF THE SEASON

Pictures by KENNETH MASON



ABOVE LEFT:

quintessentially-tailored even-eighths coat, lean and side buttoned in self-striped pure wool fabric, £73.50. Matching slim-line skirt, £34; both in slate grey, black or burgundy, both in sizes 10-14. Tie-necked blouse in mustard wool and polyester mixture, also available in blue or black, sizes 10-14, £29.95; all by A. W. Dobson from Harrods Way In, Knightsbridge, London, SW1. Felt beret with gold trim, black gloves and geometric brooch, all from Fenwicks. High vamped suede shoes from all branches of Sacha.

ABOVE RIGHT:

Bright yellow pure wool coat with the Fifties touch of flip back collar, and roomy enough to

à Porter from all branches of Miss Selfridge.

RIGHT:

Left, stunning cropped coat, in white wool and acrylic fabric has raglan shoulders, asymmetrical fastening; also available in black; sizes 10-14, £57.50; slim black skirt, £19; sizes 10-14; both by Strawberry Studio from 66, Old Compton Street, London, W1. Little black felt sailor hat by Miss Dolores from Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1. Geometric brooch from a selection at Fenwicks. Square black bangle from Harvey Nichols. High vamped leather court shoes from branches of Sacha. Right, the new cropped trench-coat, optionally belted and roomy enough to



STEPPING OUT IN THE NEW SILHOUETTE

IF YOU only make one major buy this autumn, make it one of the new cropped coats. The seven-eighths or three-quarters length coat has reappeared after an absence of many years as the very newest shape this season. Not only will it give you the new silhouette, but will instantly update your existing wardrobe, too.

Whichever cropped length you choose, the main thing is that your coat hem should reveal plenty of slimline skirt beneath. The best are dramatically shaped and all-enveloping, with broad shoulders and little, or no, fastening.

They are often bulky enough too, to throw over a tailored suit for really cold weather, but look equally good worn more casually over knitted sweater dresses or tapered trousers. Off-white is a favourite colour and looks stunning teamed with black or with any of the fashionable purple and burgundy shades.



There are also some more tailored, lean-line versions of the cropped coat, many of which come with a matching slimline skirt for a suit effect, around which to hinge a whole winter wardrobe. Some of the most stylish are by A. W. Dobson—exquisitely tailored in self-striped wool or multi-coloured tweeds. Cropped coats in the thicker tweeds and bouclé fabrics often have co-ordinating skirts in a finer weave.

The overall effect is sophisticated and elegant, with a slightly Fifties feel. Play it up with one of the small, feather-trimmed hats, neat gloves, elegant, high vamped suede court shoes and seamed tights.

Ann Chubb

The Daily Telegraph, Monday, September 21, 1979 19

Well-heeled in Suede

Soft and supple shoes in glowing colours and sophisticated shapes. Here we show three from our exclusive Spanish collection. All in English sizes 3½ to 8. Pair £39.50

Shoe Salon, First Floor.
Personal shoppers only.



Above:
Plain court in Taupe, Pink or Green with Black back lacing.



Left:
Scrolled open-toe design in Black, Wine or Navy with Bronze piping.



Below:
Leaf design in Brown, Black, Wine or Green with Bronze piping.

Autumn Fashion Shows from today until Friday 28th September at 11am and 2.30pm daily; Saturday 29th September at 11am, 1pm and 3.30pm. Fashion Theatre, Third Floor. No tickets required.



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