

22nd March 1983

SPRING - DIRECTIVE.

25/3/83 (BR)

C108

1. General Election:

I would quite welcome the thought of a General Election I think we have come to a stalemate in trying to get the country out of the state its in. Whether or not an Election would do any good I could not predict but at least the politicians would have to lay their cards on the table and not keep them up their sleeve I would have liked to see a Liberal Government. Unfortunately now they are allied with the SDP I am not so sure. All I know is that I voted Liberal last time and will probably vote Liberal again. I could not vote Labour as although I hate the thought of nuclear arms I lived through the last war and many of my surviving friends either fought for this country or were imprisoned, interned or executed for their beliefs ; some were just victims of circumstance but still bear the scars. I do believe in multi-lateral disarmament. But NOT Unilateral unless Russia gives up their Arms first! I do not think we should stock pile but just have enough to at least go down fighting if it came to war. I do not like the sight of the Greenham Women - I think it demeans their status. If a women can become Prime Minister surely we can put our views in a more civilised manner.

2. The Water-Workers Strike.

We were very lucky. Although there were cuts and standpipes within yards of us we retained our water supply. Mind you it tasted horrible - I think they were using a lot of chlorine or some such in it. Nevertheless we economised. I only did one wash each week. We only had one bath a week. The chain was only pulled twice a day unless there was real need. The car wasn't washed. My household plants were watered with rain water. The washing up was left until it was worth a bowl of water. This then was used to wash kitchen floor if needed. Any extra household cleaning was put off. I have just started Spring cleaning

3. Shops closing.

Still more shops are closing but two have reopened. One had been empty years and is now a shoe shop. The other was a Bakers and is reopening as a Bakers.

4. The Streets of London.

Today is the 22nd of March and we had to drive through London. It is a very windy day and the amount of paper, cardboard boxes and general trash blowing through London had to be seen to be believed. It was terrible. On the way back I had to deliver something to a small council block of flats. Not high rise but so depressing. Does the attitude come from where people live or do the people make it so bleak. I remember when everyone scrubbed their own landing and steps polished their letter box and if they had a bit of pavement swept it each side of their flat into the gutter. Then the roadsweeper came and it looked grand. Now there is a stench of urine on every landing - glass is left unwashed - paint peeling and instead spray paint slogans everywhere. Is TV to blame? Perhaps we spend so long watching who has got the whitest whites that the real work doesn't get done. If everything looked bright and clean at least the mood of the country might change. Now people seem to want to escape to Clubs, Pubs, Community Centres, Bingo and looking around one cannot blame them. Its right to want ones immediate surroundings nice but I think that we have to extend ourselves. Do that little bit more that isn't absolutely essential but could have a beneficial effect on the way we all live. In Scotland there are many Railway Stations with neat gardens of flowers - clean washrooms with soap & towels in. I can't see it being allowed to happen here - but I wish it would.

22/3/83

4. VIEWING AND READING (continued) ✓

You can just fill this in and return it if you like but don't forget what's on the other side!

(a) Which daily newspaper do you read regularly?

DAILY EXPRESS

(b) Which weekly or monthly magazines or journals do you take regularly?

READER'S DIGEST MAG. WEEKEND  
SCOTS MAGAZINE  
TITBITS

(c) As regards your answers to (a) and (b), have there been any changes, say, in the last 5 years? (a) Stopped Sunday Observer (Economy)

(b) UNTIL 4 YR ago we regularly took NEW SCIENTIST  
STOPPED THE OBSERVER IN JAN 83 (Economy)  
USED TO BUY LOTS OF MAGS :- WOMAN'S JOURNAL, MOTOR  
BIKE MAGS, GARDENING, DO-IT-YOURSELF (Stopped for Economy)  
Now buy only when really wanted eg. holidays, Xmas.

(d) On television or radio, have you a preferred news or current affairs programme that you watch regularly?

Weekend World \*  
Money Programme  
Horizon  
News at Ten (ITV) } To a lesser extent

(e) On television generally, what are your favourite programmes at the moment?

Quincy  
Fourth Arm  
Professionals  
Last of Summer Wine  
Dallas (only me not husband!)

(f) Do you watch Channel 4 ~~regularly~~/irregularly/~~never~~?

(g) Do you have a video recorder? ~~Yes~~/No

(h) If the answer to (g) was YES, do you use it mostly for recording TV material or for watching rented cassettes? TV only/rented cassettes

NB I am enclosing an account of Mass-Observation primarily intended for new Observers. I'd be grateful if the 'old hands' would also read it, and in particular, note item at end on newspaper cuttings.

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SPRING 83

APRIL 1983.

NEW £1 COIN.

Before issue the general consensus seemed to approve a £1 coin.  
Since issue it has been severely criticised.

WEIGHT ADEQUATE.

COLOUR NOT DARK ENOUGH.

SIZE TOO SIMILAR TO 5 p.

THE SIDE WITH THE QUEEN'S HEAD ON IS EASILY MISTAKEN FOR 5 p.

The Blind say there is not enough to differentiate it.

Personally I think it is like the chocolate money one puts on the Xmas Tree.

I think it should have been more brassy in colour, slightly larger and have a hole in the middle of it!

A week after issue and I have not been given any in change.

I shall probably save them in my holiday box I wouldn't like to carry too many about.