# Mr Davies rules out unilateral action to alter EEC treaty

By Our Political Staff

Setting out to "dispel a few myths" about the EEC, Mr John vary unilaterally the Treaty of

"We can certainly ask the other members to reopen with us parts of the Treaty that we have subsequently found unacceptable—if such there be and it is open to them to accept or refuse our initiative", he said in Rawtenstall, Lancashire.

Mr Davies said he could not understand how people could be misled by the deliberate misstatement that Britain would be subjected to some faceless and insensitive bureaucratic rule which legislated without regard taken in the EEC without unanimity.

that a defection of former Tory rates. supporters to the Liberals could (Our Political Correspondent government expenditure and off | servative. writes). Lord Carrington's nationalization would be bound object obviously was to bring to mean higher interest rates." out the maximum Conservative Everyone buying homes with a vote tomorrow.

that a Conservative Government Mr Denis Healey, shadow Chandifficult times ahead. But the

Mr Callaghan, shadow Foreign Secretary, told a public meeting in his constituency last night that the trade figures showed that "Buddy can you spare a dime" or "I can borrow better than you can" would be apt slogans for the Conservatives (Pat Healy writes from Cardiff). The balance of payments figures were the final nail in the printing money, and output had Chatland Demotors gives a and failure, he said. It was sheer effrontery of Mr Heath to claim that the British people should not be surprised because a in imports.

that if the Liberals held the areas of Britain. balance of power in the next ' Parliament it would be realized Government could be defeated at any moment in the House of Commons (John Winder writes from Sale, Cheshire). Mr Barber bracketed the

Liberal and Labour Parties as a target for his criticism when he said: "There is one point of crucial importance to every one of the four million families who have a mortgage. While we are coping with the inevitable balance of payments problem arising from the higher cost of oil

mortgage should work out the He said all the polls suggested cost of a Liberal or Labour vote. would be reelected to carry on cellor, said last night that Mr the fight against inflation and to Heath was trying to create a new guide the country through the spirit of apartheid in Britain

> figures later in the year when the full impact of increased oil prices were felt. The balance Party's tactics become new issue for voters in islands of far north of trade deficit had been getting worse by an extra £1,000m a year | By Ronald Faux under the Tories. Mr Barber of that prices had risen and there was an enormous increase

Constituency profiles: The candidates and the campaigns in Bolton, Orkney and Shetland, Ripon

# Mill town belies its appearance with substantial Tory support

By John Chartres

A first-time visitor to Bolton deficit had been expected. "It | could be forgiven for wondering is now my profound belief that why the town, with its skyline of Mr Heath has had his chips", mill chimneys, does not automatically return two socialist Davies, Chancellor of the Duchy Mr Barber, Chancellor of the MPs to Parliament with five of Lancaster, said last night that the Exchequer, told a constitu-it was not open to Britain to ency election meeting last night ing one of the most marginal

> one includes a period lasted until the early when there 'gentleman's agreement" with the Liberals, Bolton has tended to swing only a few points either side of centre in recent years. Labour won both seats in 1964. taking east from the Conservative's and West from the Liberals; held them in 1966 with increased majorities and lost them both to the Conservatives in 1970 with a 471 majority in East and 1,244 in West.

Some of the reasons for the to her interests or wishes. No it will be essential to retain | Conservative substantial workimportant decision could be maximum confidence overseas. | ing-class vote in a predominantly A lack of confidence in Britain | industrial town, still saddled would inevitably lead to higher | with typical slum clearance and Lord Carrington, chairman of interest rates generally and sub-standard housing problems, the Conservative Party, said in those rates cannot be isolated | can be traced in history and may Brentwood, Essex, last night from the mortgage interest date back to the days when the Victorian cotton mill masters "A Labour government with were Liberals by persuasion and give Labour the chance of gain- its irresponsible policies of tak- the workers could only voice ing power "by the back door" ing the brakes off incomes, off | their opposition by voting Con-

> It is hard for anyone to believe, however, that such a habit could survive unaided into the 1970s—there are only 20 cotton mills left out of more than 100 and the whole textile industry has changed character.

Thomas writes Robert Redmond, who are def for the benefit of Bolton people. scars of the industrial revolution Open University who is a gradufrom Leeds). "It is a recipe for | fending East and West respec. It is impressive to see how well receive financial help for the ate in science and arts. social and industrial anarchy. tively for the Conservatives, be they are received in the meanest clearance of derelict sites. The real anarchist is the Prime | lieve that their support in the of the many mean (but still Mr Redmond, aged 54, is a ing point is that the deflationary



A constituent making her point to Mr Laurance Reed, the Conservative candidate in Bolton, East.

the bulldozers and in the new ated) streets which remain in council estates springs more from typical Lancashire independence of mind plus a tradi- is one of the most critical of the constituents. of extremism in any form.

Both are staunch community politicians who have nursed their constituencies assiduously Operation Eyesore scheme under contesting the East constituency, during the past four years and which Bolton and other Lanca- and Mrs Ann Taylor, aged 26, Mr Laurance Reed and Mr fought many successful battles shire towns still bearing the a housewife and tutor with the rows of terraced houses awaiting proudly maintained and decor- management consultant and budget following a Conservative

the inner fringes of the town Mr Reed, whose constituency tion of thriftiness and a dislike whole election, is aged 37 and an The Labour opponents are Mr expert on underwater techno- David Young, aged 42, head of tain edge over her opponents in logy. Among his services to the the history department of a Wartown was his origination of the wickshire high school, who is

Mr Young's main campaign-

prolific parliamentary quest- victory would put many of Bolioner who seems to be known ton's people straight on to the personally by every one of his dole. Mrs Taylor says she is finding prices the overriding issue and believes she has a cerbeing able to communicate on equal terms with the high proportion of working women in the

> The critical matter now of course is from where the two Liberal candidates may pluck votes—the tiny Conservative majorities in 1970 were both won in straight fights.

constituency.

The Liberals, both exuding confidence as a result of the opinion polls and their own local observations, are Mr Timothy Akerovd, aged 26, a Manchester barrister, in the East constituency, and Mr Philip Linney, aged 41, a local garment manufac-

turer and councillor in nearby Turton, in the West. Although they appeared on the scene at a fairly late stage they claim they are receiving an astonishing volume of support from party workers and believe that this year the traditional Bolton voting pattern will be

While both agree that most of their support will probably come from Labour supporters who dislike extremist left-wing activities they think they are also chipping into the Conserva-

tive working-class vote. They are operating from the brightly appointed Reform Club which stands like an island of good cheer in a surrounding muddy mess of factory and slum demolition land.

There is also a National Front candidate in Bolton, East, Mr Geoffrey Booth, a local journalist. He maintains that the town's 12,000 immigrants are not his main concern but rather opposition to the European Economic Community and such issues as law and order.

Nevertheless his presence could be a matter of some concern to Mr Reed who admits that strains over the presence of substantial numbers of immigrants are beginning to show in certain wards. General election: Bolton, East:

L. D. Reed (C), 22,769; R. L. Howarth (Lab), 22,298. C maj, 471. Bolton, West: R. S. Redmond (C), 19,225; G. I. Oakes (Lab), 17,981. C maj, 1,244.

## Swinging dynamics of the electoral system

By Professor Richard Rose

The dynamics of the electoral system can easily play tricks on politicians and commentators, for small changes in votes can have very different political consequences, depending upon which way the electorate

If every elector in tomor- the 1959 general election. row's contest votes the same as in the last Parliament, the Con- Labour would just be sufficient servatives will again form the to return a Labour government government, but their overall with a small overall majority in majority will not be the same.

servatives and the coming of would need a swing of more age of young and disproportion. ately Liberal or Labour voters, is one source of change. Parlia- force votes remains below 10 | Liberal, Mr David Austick, a

third-force candidates and de- greatly affected. velopments in Ulster are other sources of change.

Conservatives an overall major- of the Conservative and Labour | their reaction. They are the ity of about 20, more than at parties unaffected on current | first to admit this was a classic dissolution but 10 less than in evidence from the polls. The case of overconfidence—a misvatives about 50 ahead of ahead of Labour, though lack repeat this time. Labour, with Liberals and ing an overall parliamentary other third-force candidates majority.

dividing the remaining 30 seats almost equally.

a swing of 2 per cent in their change and constructive plan- the last general election. favour, that will give the party a majority of about 120 over Labour and result in the largest number of Conservative MPs in the House of Commons since

A 2 per cent swing to the House of Commons. To do | fought seat in Yorkshire must The dying-off of elderly Con- as well as in 1966, Labour

As long as the rise in third-

A doubling of the vote for

Mud is not normally an ingrerecord of Tory incompetence increased only 10 per cent in Shetland. Remoteness gives a three and a half years. Because | gentler perspective to any crisis Britain and the tradition that all dealings with the distant thralldom of Westminster are left in the steady hands of Mr Jo Grimond has survived 24 years and eight election campaigns.

This time, however, the Conservatives have adopted ruder tactics, suggesting Mr Grimond's record is not all that it should be ning has been none other than

surgery in London.

has been "totally disgraceful" and even the Socialist candidate which may rivet the rest of in the election, Mr Jonathan Shetland say the Conservatives to show both halves of the con-Wills, has come to Mr Grimond's defence, saying the Tories have been grossly unfair to the Liberal sitting member and are indulg- will not endear them to the ing in dirty politics.

Orkney and Shetland. Mr Firth volved, Mr Grimond has failed to has already attempted to win the attend to county council difficul. seat on three occasions and in- ties created by involvement with deed has whittled down the Lib- North Sea oil, has not replied to eral majority from 7,900, when letters or bothered to discuss If the Conservatives can gain and that the real instigator of he first tried in 1964, to 2,532 at crofting reform with the National Projecting this steady shift in

aged 37, a lecturer in neuro- the present day makes Mr roundly, by accusing Mr proof for their charges; the Grimond's seat precarious but if Grimond of voting only half the Liberals bearing handfuls of larly in Shetland, say they will The Shetland Times has de the Conservatives have designed time and even then 5-1 with press cuttings, postcards and support Mr Wills, the Labour clared that Mr Firth's campaign their attack as a coup de grace it Labour.

could easily rebound upon them. People in both Orkney and have been unnecessarily harsh and that a campaign which might be suitable for the metropolis islanders. Mr Firth declared that So mud has begun to fill the while the Liberals have talked political air, significantly both in about being committed and in-Farmers' Union.

The list of "shortcomings" is their candidate, Mr John Firth, voting over the past decade to long and formidable, and ends,

has worked hard over the years grossly exaggerated. televisions and sit unmoved while Messrs Heath and Wilson are attacked. But when the same fight each other to death". treatment is handed out to their own inalienable Jo, the net ness of the campaign is a sympeffect is to make them protec-

tives claim they have undeniable islands.

correspondence, say Mr Firth's In fairness to Mr Firth, who criticism is unfounded or at best Meanwhile in the homely

stituency that he actively cares streets of Kirkwall and Lerwick, about the islands, his election Mr Grimond continues his lowmaterial gives a more acid im- key campaign, ambling among pression than the man himself. the crowds, face wreathed in The islanders may watch their amiable wrinkles, content, as he puts it, to "let those who brought the country to its knees, Perhaps the unusual sharp-

tom that Orkney and Shetland will soon be faced directly with Both sides have reached the the outside world when the oil traditional impasse of all such industry, with all its difficulties, confrontations. The Conserva- and profits, materializes in the

Grimond, was once rector of Edinburgh University. He is a young, thoughtful man and works as a crofter-boatman on Unst, the most northerly Shetland island.

While conscientious housewives in Lerwick and Kirkwall mutter darkly about young folk who "opt out", they do admit that island isolation does put them on the most expensive end of the retail chain. To them Mr Wills's talk of decimating the food profiteers sounds attrac-

General election: J. Grimond (L), 7,896; J. L. Firth (C), 5,364; W. M. Reid (Lab), 3,552. Lib maj,

By Ronald Kershaw

than 5 per cent its way.

per cent, then the distribution local man, who astonishingly of seats between the major The by-election success of parties is not likely to be

third-force candidates would A stable vote would give the still leave the relative position were shattered is to understate

#### Liberals hope to build on their 'shattering' by-election victory in Yorkshire seat same numbers as in 1970, their 1970 to less than half that figure lives but is weaker than the more positive choice, as well as state it did, is a symptom of the The prize for the most keenly candidate, Dr Keith Hampson, at the by-election.

surely go to Ripon, where a little over six months ago the Tory stronghold was breached by the 10,000 twice and nearly 9,000 turned a 12,064 Conservative once, in 1966. majority into a 946-vote defeat

in the July by-election. To say the Conservatives

would have been home and dry. ence was justified. The Con-that if the Labour vote collapses servative majority at the even further, then the Liberals previous seven elections stretch- will win those votes and, he says, ing back to 1950 was more than "we shall have our backs to the 12,000 four times, more than

What was not correctly assessed was the massive per- the Conservative regional office sonal following of Sir Malcolm is overwhelmingly confident of Stoddart-Scott, whose death last success. year brought about the by-

1970. It would leave the Conser- Conservatives would be well take they do not intend to Conservatives did not foresee— on their hands and are working nor 'did anybody else—the like beavers to win it. They contend that had their collapse of the Labour vote,

Mr Stephen Place, the Con-A certain amount of confid- servative agent, admits candidly

A swing of rather less than per cent is required for the Tories to win back the seat and

In the field, however, it is a different story and constituency

Mr Austick has a particularly supporters turned out in the which fell from over 9,000 in strong pull in Otley where he

election candidates are fighting

Mr English, aged 24, a reporter on the Belfast Telegraph, was educated at Ripon Grammar School and Oxford and as a local boy may count on some support.

far-flung Patley Bridge area.

Mr David English is contest-

As is to be expected, he does not accept the view of both his opponents that the Labour vote will, fall still further. He puts the Liberal success in July down been concentrating on pointing to a protest vote against Govern- out the futility of the two-party ment policies and is sure he is system of government. He says:

Conservatives in Ripon and the the votes of those who abstained

Dr Keith Hampson, aged 30, ing the seat for Labour and that is a lecturer at Edinburgh Unimeans the same three by versity. He has an impeccable political background, having been personal assistant to Mr Heath in the 1966 election and secretary to Sir Alec Douglas-Home's Scottish constitutional

committee from 1968 to 1970. "The central issue has been inflation and which party is going to be best able to contain

Mr Austick has this week winning some of those voters "The miners' dispute, which who will now want to make a should never have reached the 946.

malaise which is affecting our society ".

Mr Richard Kemp, the Liberal agent, dismissed suggestions that Mr Austick won the by-election because the entire weight of the Liberal Party was thrown into the Ripon area. "We were disappointed at the turnout of Liberal workers last time", he

On this occasion they have turned out in force bringing him to the conclusion that if hard work wins elections then Mr Austick will enjoy a 2,000

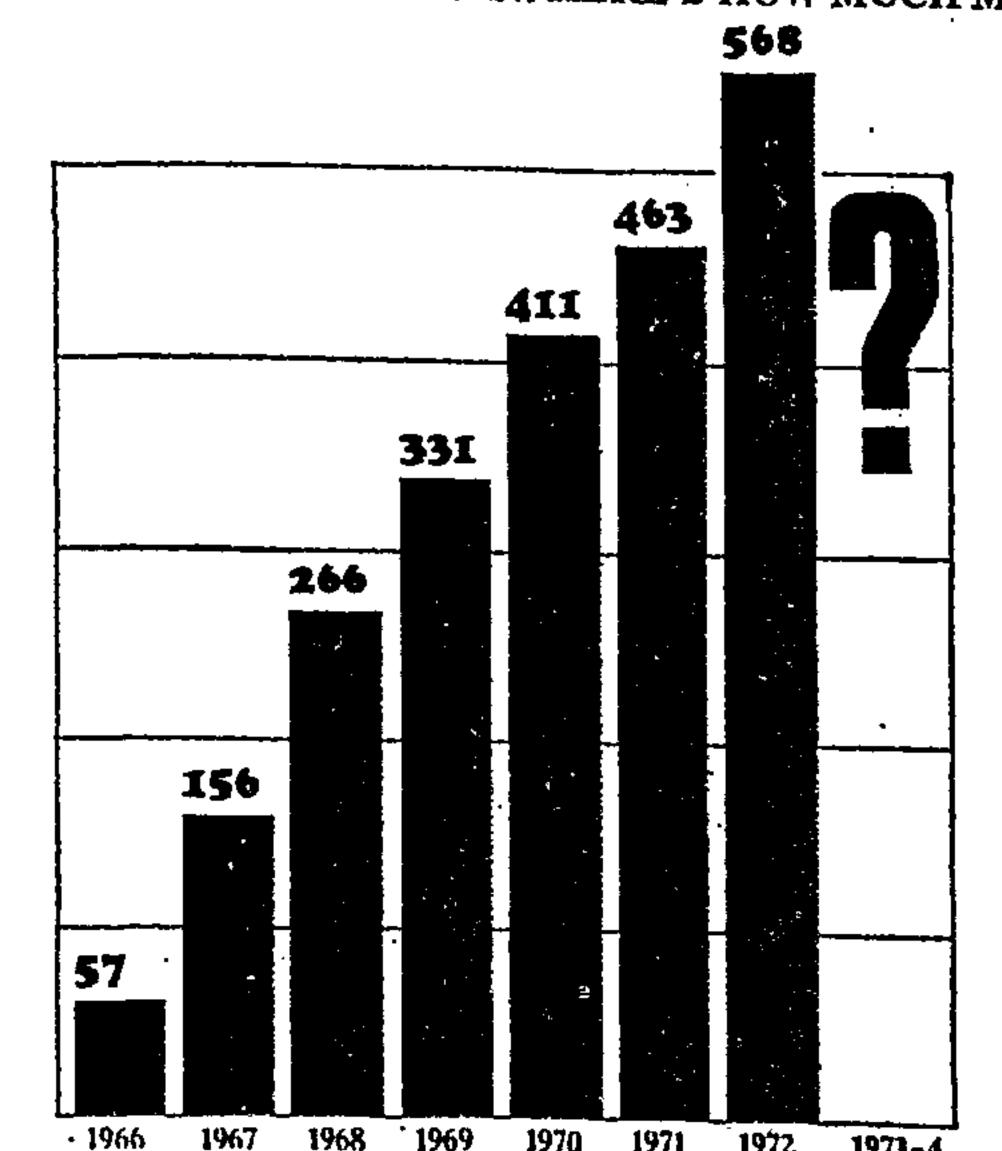
1973 by-election: D. Austick (L), 13,902; K. Hampson (C), 12,956; D. M. English (Lab), 4,435; R.

#### ADVERTISEMENT

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