

(FROM ANDREW TYRIE OF THE CONSERVATIVE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT)

### The Campaign So Far

#### Background

Little interest has been shown by the media in the European Elections; nor is there much apparent interest from the electorate. Turnout is likely to be low, only a little higher than last time (32%). European issues are barely grasped. Only the simplest of points seem to be getting home. It therefore seems at least as important to get our supporters out as it is to persuade doubters on the issues.

#### The Conservative Theme

The 'Strong Voice in Europe' can embrace several ideas. It provides for progress - Conservative ideas are gaining ground in the Community (we have made a major step forward in dealing with agricultural surpluses, the Community accepts the need for budgetary reform, the Commission recently launched an initiative to further the completion of the internal market). We are the only Party with a credible policy on Europe, with a sense of purpose and with standing abroad.

#### Attacks on Opposition Policies

We are concentrating on just a few issues.

##### Labour:

- Membership. How many candidates support continued membership?  
How sincere is Labour's change of policy? Labour are peddling the same discredited policies at a European level which were decisively rejected by the electorate last year (interventionist, inflationary, wasteful, etc.).

The Alliance:

- They want severe restrictions on the powers of the veto. They want to give the European Parliament the power to raise revenue.

Both parties call for reflation. Neither the Labour nor the Alliance Manifesto makes any reference to the need for sound financial discipline in the Community.

Specific Attacks and Issues (briefing appended)

1. The Social Fund
2. Perks for MEPs
3. Labour scare tactics on food prices
4. Competition in Air Transport
5. The Channel Tunnel
6. Mitterrand's speech on a Federal Europe
7. The EEC Budget Shortfall
8. Vredeling and the Fifth Directive

Prime Minister

I have not attacked  
these. You are  
familiar with them and  
I don't want to  
add to your burden  
of paperwork

Slater  
1/6.

Andrew Tyrie  
1st June 1984