

New-look Cabinet lines up for next election

WHY I HAD TO SWITCH LEON, BY MAGGIE

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The 3
new
boys

By TREVOR KAVANAGH, Political Editor
PREMIER Margaret Thatcher insisted last night that her decision to drop Leon Brittan as Home Secretary did not mean he had been demoted.

**Key job in
dole fight**



Mrs Thatcher . . . "fresh faces and ideas" in her new-look Cabinet



KENNETH BAKER new **ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY** was Minister for Local Government and a former technology minister.



KEN CLARKE, new **PAYMASTER-GENERAL**, was formerly Health Minister. Now aged 45, he is seen as a rising star.



JOHN MacGREGOR, new **TREASURY SECRETARY**, was formerly an Agriculture Minister. He is a former junior industry minister.

She said his new role as Trade and Industry Secretary was a key post in the crucial fight to **CUT** dole queues and **BOOST** production.

And she added: "He has got a very big task with a lot of legislation, but he has a great grasp of administration and is the best man for the job. "This is not a demotion — he is still in the same order of Cabinet precedence."

**Hurd in
pledge
on drugs**

NEW Home Secretary Douglas Hurd last night pledged himself to curb the evil menace of drugs.

And he plans to wage war on the rising tide of crime in Britain.

Mr Hurd's hard-line approach was nurtured when he was school captain at Eton — where he was known as "Hitler" because he loved dishing out canings.

Scholar

One former pupil who was often on the receiving end of Hitler Hurd's swishing rod said: "Most people beat you for specific offences — but not him.

"He caned for things like 'insufficient effort' and not being keen."

Nobody ever accused Hurd of lacking either keenness or effort. He shone as a sportsman and a scholar.

But he also has another talent — as the author of a political thriller called *Vote To Kill*, about an IRA plot to assassinate the Prime Minister.

Mrs Thatcher revealed that the new line-up of Ministers would be the team leading the Government into the next election.

And she paid tribute to the Cabinet members who had been axed.

Ideas

She said: "It's important that as some people get near the top, they make way for others to be promoted.

"You get fresh faces and new ideas — and I hope this will revitalise party fortunes."

LABOUR leader Neil Kinnock branded the reshuffle as "a game of musical chairs to the sound of the Dead March."

And **LIBERAL** chief David Steel said: "The Cabinet has been shaken about a bit, but it's the same old jar of jellybeans."

TEBBIT'S TASK

NORMAN TEBBIT spoke yesterday about his new task as Tory chairman.

He said his job was to make sure the Government got a fair hearing.

Mr Tebbit added:

"We have put an extra 57,000 nurses and 6,000 doctors into the National Health Service. It is crazy, but people believe we have made big cuts."

High price Tebbit pays — Page 9