

29 Mar Last night at 1830 when I was abt: to go to the Max Beloff buffet at the Athenaeum Peter Carrington came into my room at the H.L. He is disturbed at the way the party is being run. We are giving the impression of an extreme right wing party. Two persons to blame Margaret & Keith - I said I had warned again and again but had been ignored. Had wanted to go over the devolution blunder, but inhibited because of H.L. and my partnership w: him. No change of leader possible. He agreed & he added: "What is more, no one is in sight" I did not agree. I said Ted, Willie, F. Pym & J. Puir, all less glamorous than M.T. wd. do better than her in way we were discussing, but no change in leadership possible so soon after last. He sd: Well what are we going to do after she gets in if she gets in? I said all we can do

is to see she is surrounded by adequate advisers. P. said
At present there are Keith who is largely to blame, and Angus,
who is not extreme, but bitter. We agreed that in the circs. he
wd speak to P. Thomeycroft and arrange to see Margaret all
three together. We both agreed Margaret an extremely nice
person, but I said that I had never had much confidence in her
judgment & my fears had been realised. Keith tho' clever, even
brilliant, is dotty & lacks moral fibre for high office. Margaret
is extremely good at walkabout & meeting the public, but
politically unaware. The big industrialists have rumbled this.
I spoke of my own conversation with Plowden at Grillions.
Peter agrees & said they much resented the lecturing way she
lectured them. He said one had said: "I do not mind being
treated as a schoolboy if only she wd. put me in the 6th
form. But I do mind being put in the 4th." Plowden, with
less succumbness had said the same to me.

Wilberforce's judgment in Pizzey v Swinmonds
came round y'day. He agrees w: mine & does not wish
to add