

True blue Christmas... the card the Thatchers sent Ken Livingstone

Just crackers! Maggie sends true blue card to Red Ken

A RAY of sunshine shone into the life of London's Left-wing leader Ken Livingstone yesterday. He received a Christmas card from Maggie Thatcher.

He was so pleased to get the charming snap of Maggie and Denis standing by a Christmas tree that he allowed himself a seasonal chuckle.

"I thought it was a joke at first," Red Ken said yesterday. "In the picture they look so much like John Wells and Angela Thorne in 'Anyone for Denis?' that I thought the card must have come from Private Eye magazine."

"It gradually dawned on me that it was the real thing. Ever since, the entire floor here at County Hall has been convulsed in hysterics," said the GLC leader.

Mr Livingstone, who has been a constant nuisance to Mrs Thatcher and her Environment Secretary Michael Heseltine, cannot work out why he is on Mrs T's exclusive Christmas list.

"I have always thought she was a secret member of the Militant Tendency," he suggested.

Now he intends to reply with a card of his own.

"It will be one with a picture of Mrs Thatcher trying to denationalise Santa Claus."

"And I will write inside: 'Can we have our £400

By PETER HITCHENS

million back?' because that is how much her Government has taken from London," said Ken, never missing a chance to make a propaganda point.

A Downing Street spokesman saw nothing odd in Mrs Thatcher sending Ken her personalised Christmas greetings.

He said: "It would be surprising if the Prime Minister did not send a card to the leader of the Greater London Council."

Meanwhile, there is no sign of a card for Mr Livingstone from Labour leader Michael Foot, who has not exactly been overjoyed by many of Red Ken's actions.

Tony Benn has not sent one either.



Red Ken: "Hysterics"

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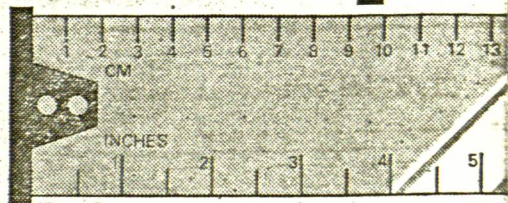
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