

1. MR INGHAM
2. PRIME MINISTER

*This will be easy.  
You don't need any  
questions, 8/19/2*

INTERVIEW WITH THE TODAY NEWSPAPER

You have agreed to give an interview to David Montgomery, editor of the Today newspaper, and Chris Buckland, the political editor, on Tuesday morning.

Mr Montgomery moved from being editor of the News of the World after Today was taken over last year. He was sent there to revitalise the paper and since his arrival he has improved the quality and breadth of the reporting and layout. You might want to mention this to him. Also under his editorship Today has become more supportive of Government and at the height of the NHS crisis row offered space for you to put across your views. You declined at the time.

The questions Messrs Montgomery and Buckland will put to you are wide ranging and they realise that they may not reach all of them in the time available.

The questions will be as follows:

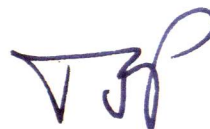
1. Britain is 12 years away from the millenium, what hopes and fears do you have for the citizens of the 21st century?
2. Do you think you have yet achieved your objective of removing socialism from the political agenda? If not, what remains to be done?
3. Are you worried for democracy by the lack of any cohesive opposition force?
4. On the health service why is the Government losing the war of words? What proposals attract you for changing the NHS?
5. Are you anxious about the opposition you are facing in the House of Lords? Can anything be done to reform the upper house?
6. The role of women in politics.
7. Your views on hanging.
8. Why are you so against the televising of Parliament?

9. With strikes back on the agenda, is more trade union reform needed? How big a threat is industrial action to Britain's recovery? Will your very success in the economy create problems in itself with higher expectations?

10. What should the Churches be doing? How do you answer criticism that the Government has created an atmosphere of self-interested money making which permeates society and is responsible for some of its problems?

11. What are your own plans for the future? Will you know when it is time to go? Will your successor have to be the same sort of person?

12. On international affairs, what differences will a new man in the White House make? When will Gorbachev visit Britain? Are you now ready to take a leading role for Britain in Europe and become more enthusiastic about the political aspects of the EC?



TERRY J PERKS  
19 FEBRUARY 1988

# Today

## Eyewash of the storm

THE official report on the weathermen's forecasting of the hurricane which devastated southern England in October is a very model of British understatement.

Or, to put it another way, a complete and utter whitewash.

It sticks out a mile from the report's own findings that human error was responsible for the soothing words that emerged from Michael Fish and the other weather gurus that evening.

Yet no human being is named or blamed for giving us no warning whatever that a monstrous 120-mile-an-hour gale was on the way.

Had we known, perhaps some of the 19 dead would be alive today and some at least of the £1 billion damage might have been avoided.

The forecasters quite simply failed to do their proper job of interpretation on the model their computer served up to them.

A ripe reason for recommending that a few heads roll at the Met Office in Bracknell, you might think.

But no. Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer and Professor Robert Pearce go out of their way to excuse the forecasters. Their brightest idea is that Met men get more training and bigger computers.

George Younger is the responsible Minister. He should now make his own inquiries — then fire the guilty men.

## Woman's place

TODAY's Chris Buckland caught Mrs Thatcher on the hop when he asked her a string of questions about women.

But her answers were all the more revealing for being unprepared and unpolished.

Replying spontaneously, she spoke from the heart and it quickly became clear where her own heart lay.

She firmly believes in putting family first.

Cynics may claim she can afford to say that because the luck of a wealthy husband let her be politician as well as mother.

But the strong foundation of family life she took the trouble to build needs far more than money. Time, care and hard work are just as important.

In her answers Mrs Thatcher revealed much about the values she brings to politics. Enterprise, innovation, risk-taking — all these matter. But family duties matter even more.

These may be Victorian values. But Mrs Thatcher proves in her own life that they are permanent values too.

## Hard sell

THERE would be a howl of outrage if a liquor company ran an advertising campaign with the slogan — "Buy our gin. It gets you drunker than anybody else's."

But the people who sell fast cars are coming perilously close to that style.

With their promises of rocket-like acceleration and tremendous cruising speeds they're almost whispering in your ear — "Buy our car. Then you'll be able to break the law more easily."

The only justification for high performance vehicles in a land with a 70mph speed limit is that they handle better in a crisis than lesser machines.

Safety is the line the car makers should be peddling. Because if they keep on boasting how fast their products go there'll soon be demands that they be fitted with governors to slow them down. Just like coaches.

GASKILL IS ON PAGE 15

# THATCHER TO



TOMORROW'S DREAM: Mrs Thatcher foresees enterprise and hard work bringing prosperity

Pictures: MIKE MOORE

IN JUST 4,346 days we will enter not just a new century but a new millenium.

In Mrs Thatcher's eyes, the year 2000 will herald a Golden Age for Britain and the world. She sees an era where the spirit of enterprise she has unleashed will bear fruit in burgeoning prosperity.

There will be a renaissance of family life, a rebirth of the great Victorian value of duty towards the poor, the elderly and the community.

And the middle classes will inherit the earth.

It will be an age of peace, with justice and freedom starting to expand their frontiers to the Soviet Union and South Africa.

A time of opportunity as young multi-lingual Britons freely roam Europe changing jobs just as easily as they move from Bristol to Birmingham today.

An era of new-found

wealth as today's youngsters start to benefit from the first generation of home and share-owners.

And it will be an era where co-operation between public and police will have tamed the tiger of crime.

That, at least, is the Prime Minister's vision. She can see the way ahead, and will permit no distractions to fulfilling her part, right up to the time the celebrations start on January 1 in just 12 years time.

Even though she will be 74 when the great day comes, boy, is she looking forward to that party!

From the gleam in her eye and the enthusiasm in her voice, you get the

impression that the grocer's daughter from Grantham thinks she will have played no small part in gearing us up to take full advantage of the new Elizabethan age of enterprise and advance.

### FORTUNATE

"We are quite lucky in a way, quite fortunate to live in an age where there is so much positive going on, moving further forward. Britain, because of our history, will be taking a prominent part in that forward movement the world over."

With the growing materialism — and that is no dirty word to the Prime Minister — will come a growing sense of old-fash-

ioned duty, to parents, to the community, to the poor. Perhaps even to supporting the Conservative Party.

"What we have done is to uncover the enterprise that was already there. One calls it the Thatcher revolution, but I didn't create this British character. I didn't create this fundamental sense of duty."

Her message for the 21st Century is to set the people free. Someone — guess who — had over-lain the great British character "and batted them down with a whole lot of iron hooks and controls and crosswires of steel."

"We took away some of

those things so the great qualities are being released."

Mrs Thatcher's coffee had stopped steaming and lay cold in her cup as she spoke enthusiastically about the Golden Age ahead. Her forecast for the children of the 21st century was brimming with optimism.

"There will continue to be peace in the world, and a peace under which we have freedom and justice — which means keeping one's defences."

The second most important challenge — a surprising choice for those who remember Mrs Thatcher's cold and mercurial attitude in the past — will come in Europe.

# 2000 A.D.