

PRIME MINISTER

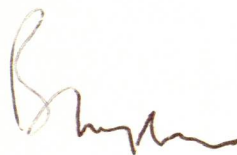
The atmosphere at today's Sunday Lobby was remarkable. The questions were not about the inequities of the community charge or about your future: they were about whether the outcome will render unnecessary adjustments in the charge and whether you now saw challenges to your leadership falling away.

This was a quite remarkable transformation of fortunes and underlines the public impression of the outcome of the local elections.

I am tempted to say that only your Backbenchers can now spoil it.

All this, together with the likely news next Friday, may signal that things are moving back your way.

I told the Lobby that the outcome of the local elections would not invalidate adjustments which we felt intrinsically necessary. Your own position was unchanged: you intended to stand, fight and win the next General Election.



BERNARD INGHAM

May 4, 1990