

Opinion, page 23 John Biffen looks in vain for the opposition



Arts, page 28 **Clint Eastwood** conducts Charlie 'Bird' Parker



25p

Friday 12 February 1988

Published in London and Manchester

1 he Guardian

Bickering Alliance helps Labour break through poll barrier

Guardian Marplan

Martin Linton

hind the Government at 43 per cent.

The rise in Labour's support, putting it throught the 40 per cent "barrier" for the first time since the Marplan index started its monthly record of public opinion in 1992, appears to be a result of the crisis in the National Health Service. Polling started two days after the nurses' day of action.

But the Government has not suffered yet from the chorus of criticism it has faced from the nurses and the opposition. Its support has, in fact, gone up by one per cent in the last month and is at exactly the same level as its vote in last summer's general election.

It is the Alliance parties that

eral election.

It is the Alliance parties that have suffered, dropping from 10 to 14 per cent after the fiasco of the fiasco of

to 14 per cent atter the hasco of their merger negotiations and the divisions revealed by their conferences at Blackpool and Sheffield over the last rough. That will do nothing to spoil Mr Neil Kinnock's relief that his party has cleared the 40 per cent hurdle which Labour lead-ers began to feel was an invisi-

cent hurdle which Labour leaders began to feel was an invisible barrier before the election.
Other polls have occasionally
put Labour above 40 per cent,
and Labour has twice reached
40 per cent in Marplan. But on
both the earlier occasions — in
February 1984 and September
1986 — its support has immediately started to recede again.
It could easily do the same
again since public opinion has

been more than usually volatile over the last few months and the polls have recorded rapid fluctuations. Last month's Mar-plan Index in the Guardian put

fluctuations. Last month's Marplan Index in the Guardian put the Conservatives just 2 per cent ahead, but a week later Gallup gave them a lead of 7½ per cent.

They put the Conservatives at 45½, Labour at 37 and the Alliance, then in the middle of its merger negotiations row, down at 15. But at the end of January, Mori gave the Government a commanding 14 point lead with the Conservatives at 50, with Labour at 36 and the Alliance at 12.

What the Marplan polls appears to show is that disillusioned Alliance supporters, who have been drifting away since the merger negotiations and the ill-feeling and public acrimony which came in its wake, are moving in greater numbers to Labour.



"If an election were to be held tomorrow, which party would you vote for: Conservative, La-bour or Alliance? A. . L. . . L. . .

	Now	Jan	Dec	Nov	Elec
Con	43	42	47	(46)	43.
Lab				(33)	
Lib/SDF	14	17	13	(17)	23
Other	1	2	3	(3)	2

Con lead +1 +2 +10 +13 +11

These are the very voters that Mr Kinnock has made it his job to attract to Labour. But he will be only too aware that their support is likely to be highly volatile. It could be lost as easily as it is gained if internal divisions in the Labour Party match those in the Alliance.

Many of these voters may have suspended judgment on the Alliance until March when

have suspended judgment on the Alliance until March when the new merged party, the Social and Liberal Democrats, is finally launched and Dr Owen's continuing SDP is relaunched and will decide then where to put their support.

But the Government will have good reason to be worried by Labour's strong showing. Many Conservatives had begun to believe after the January polls that they could come through the NHS crisis unscathed or that a "winter of discontent" atmosphere, as not only the nurses but the seamen and Ford workers took action, might turn to their advantage.

The Marplait poll, on the other hand, shows that even if the NHS crisis does not necessarily hurt the Government it may be helding the Labour Party to broaden its appeal and break through its 40 per cent barrier.

Marplan interviewed a

barrier.

• Marplan interviewed-a tightly-controlled quota sample of 1,276 adults aged 18-plus in 103 randomly selected constituencies countrywide. Interviews were conducted face-to-face between February 5 and 9.

Leader comment, page 22

COMPETITORS at Cruft's Dog Show, which opened yes-terday, pictured by Martin Ar-gles waiting to show their paces in the gundog section. Hundreds of setters, spaniels and pointers arrived at the

Earls Court exhibition centre in London with owners and full make up in tow. Some even had lucky rabbit mas-cots in their pens. All have won at least one champion's certificate this year to qual-

ify for Cruft's, where success can be worth a small fortune in stud fees and dog food commercials. The highlights of the show are the working dog demonstration tomorrow and the judging of best-in-

confrontation

John Palmer in Brussels

RS THATCHER and the Irish Prime Minister, Mr Charles Haughey, are to meet today in Brussels in a highly charged atmosphere as the row over the Stalker affair continues unabated. Both governments were last night making desperate attempts to play

ernments were last night making desperate attempts to play down the seriousness of the talks, but privately officials were not disguising the deepening rift in Anglo-Irish relations. The meeting had been planned for last night but was postponed until later today. And although both governments insisted that the only reason for the postponement was lack of time during the first day of the European Community summit, there were indica nity summit, there were indica-tions that the Mr Haughey was pressing for a more extended exchange with Mrs Thatcher than expected in London.

than expected in London.
The announcement in London yesterday by the Attorney
General, Sir Patrick Mayhew,
that Mr John Stalker is not to
be prosecuted under the Official Secrets Act for publishing
his storv. has not lessened the

in Brussels tensions in Brussels.

Irish Government officials did not hide their unhappiness yesterday with the UK government on the handling of the "Stalker-Sampson" inquiry and the refusal of the Attorney-General to prosecute the Royal Ulster Constabulary officers for attempting to pervert the course of justice.

While Irish government officials would not be drawn on the precise demands Mr Haughey wants to put to Mrs Thatcher it seems clear they include at least the partial publication of some of the three separate reports into the "shoot to kill" affair.

The Irish Government will not be satisfied with any outcome which does not go beyond diciplinary action against the RUC officers involved even if this includes their "dismissal with ignominy" from the RUC. But Mr Haughey was anxious not to "talk up" his demands ahead of the meeting with Mrs Thatcher lest any failure to agree was seen as a politicial humiliation at home.

The Attorney General announced yesterday that Mr Stalker would not be prosecuted under the Official Secrets Act for his book Stalker but ministers are still considering a civil action against him aimed at reducing his profits.

A number of ministers are deeply sceptical about the likely value of such an action, but the anger directed at Mr Stalker from Downing Street is such that the possibility has not yet been ruled out. Sir Patrick

such that the possibility has not is currently advising Mrs
Thatcher on the likelihood of
success in a court challenge.

Mr Stalker said that he was delighted with Sir Patrick's an-nouncement that he would not His hook has so far sold some 57,000 copies.

Summit report, page 24

Bus Stop top just the ticket

Thatcher in new Forest put a stop to Clough's Welsh mission

BRIAN Clough, one of soc-cer's most buoyant figures, was left deflated yesterday when his desire to become part-time manager of Wales was blocked by his full-time employers, Nottingham Forest. The chairman, Maurice Roworth, who met officials of the Football Association of Wales earlier this week and agreed in theory to Clough accepting a two-year, £10,000-per-annum contract provided he was not away from the club for more

than 10 three-day periods, said yesterday's board meeting unanimously decided the two jobs were incompatible. Clough said: "I bitterly regret their decision and outte simply

Report, David Lacey, page 20

listings. On the

second section,

you will find a

back page of the

Dagenham Euro-threat

Stephen Cook reports from Cologne

E ARE cursing the English all right, says a jovial German car worker as he heads through the driving rain towards the bright blue Ford plant at Cologne to start his morning shift.

"We are cursing the management of Ford of Europe.

This is a highly political company and the strike is a highly political business," he says, declining to give his name.

"I can't blame the workers over there for striking. We had a two week strike here six or seven years ago and there have been hardly any strikes in Britain recently."

Not all bis of colleagues at the

an recently."

Not all his of colleagues at the largest Ford plant in West Germany are so forthright.

"It's not for me to judge

whether they're right or wrong," says Bernd Zeller, a thoughtful production worker, who detaches himself from the industrious tide heading towards the factory entrance in and away from the chill Rhine winds. "I don't know the condi-

tions over there."
He himself has settled this year for a 2 per cent rise and a

15-minute reduction in the I during the strike, but it spoke

15-minute reduction in the working day.

But his response was typical of many of his fellow-workers in the land of Vorsprung durch Technik to the four-day-old strike by their significantly worse-paid counterparts in Britain: a slightly bemused soli-darity, coloured by anxiety that, if the strike does bite, the Cologne end of the production line will have to start worrying. Cologne would be the last German plant to be affected, since it depends on Britain only for engines for the diesel-powered Fiesta — not a great seller — and for small parts and instruments which the management thinks it can resource in France and Belgium. But it is accepted that Cologne could well shut down if the strike

accepted that Cologne could well shut down if the strike lasts until the end of March. The formal union view yes-terday came from Rudolf Bam-bach, an IG-Metall representative, who was brought into a management office for the

interview.
This was mainly because management won't allow jour-nalists into any Ford factories fortable union-management relations in West Germany.

"We were surprised the offe was refused in Britain, and I think a lot of people in Britain were surprised too," said Herr Bambach.

"But the two questions we had to answer in the works council were: what can we do to help and what effects will it have here?

"I'm afraid international soli-darity is our biggest problem. But it might be in our interests for the people in Britain to earn as much as us — then the management wouldn't go on about switching production to England all the time".

land all the time".

Doubtless his fellow Ford workers in England would agree. "International solidarity" may not be quite as snappy a slogan as Vorsprung durch Technik and the like but it is a one that would certainly attract the attention of the Ford managements throughout Europe.

Europe grinds to halt, page 24

Tax cut

warning

Christopher Huhne Economics Editor

HE BANK of England warned the Chancellor yesterday to go easy on tax cuts in his budget — or face the inflationary consequences. The Bank's quarterly bulleting takes aim squarely at the bud get: "It will also be important that the anti-inflationary burden continues to be shared between monetary and fiscal

policy."
This does not rule out tax cuts, but it probably means that the bank would prefer them to be limited to around £2-3 billion - merely compensating for the incomes rise — rather than the £4-5 billion widely expected in

the City.
The Bank's commentary justifies last week's half point rise in interest rates by arguing that the latest indicators depict a still buoyant economy amply provided with credit.

City Notebook, page 14

Your Guardian comes? today in two redesigned sections

you will find the **Home News.** International **News, Financial News** and **Sports** News, running on in that order. The two editorial pages of

Comment and Analysis, clearly separated from the news, appear on the two pages inside the back of this section. The back page itself, like the front page, combines major news from home and abroad. The main Crossword is

there, too. Today's second section is **Review** Guardian, with all the books. records and arts events of the week. There are two new pages of entertainments

full page of **Television and** In section one, Radio programmes together with a new expanded Weather service. Inside the back, there is the new Personal Page, with obituaries, appreciations. pirtngays, and our legal service. Cartoons including the new Bloom County strip

Here is the index to today's paper:

and the Quick

Personal.

Crossword face

Arts, Books	25,30
Business and Finance	14-16
Crosswords	24,35
Diary	19
Entertainment Guide	31-33
Home News	2-8,24
Law Report	35
Letters	22
Obituary	35
International News	10,13
Politics	6
Profile	2
Sports News	19-21
TV and Weather	36

News in brief

Tomorrow

The new 20 page Saturday section, Guardian Choices, with helpful thoughts on how to pass your leisure time

Community crisis hopes

THE leaders of the 12 Europe Community governments were last night wrestling with a complicated compromise to the EEC budget crisis. Page 24

Under pressure

Speculation grew in Vienna that the two partners in Aus-tria's governing coalition are pressing on President Kurt Waldheim to resign. Page 10

Investor action

THE Stock Exchange is facing the threat of government action over its treatment of small inestors. Page 14

College cuts

SEVEN universities are sched valed to have their grants cut in the next two years, according to figures released by the Univer-sity Grants Committee. Page 2

Seamen fined

THE National Union of Seamen was fined £7,500 in the High court for failing to call off an illegal strike immediately. Page

Somme record

A RESEARCH museum, largely hinging on the British role in the battle of the Somme, will be set up in Amiens. Page 10

Divided city

LABOUR-controlled Birming-ham council, which is split after spending millions promot-ing the city for sports events, faces a threatened strike over staff cuts. Page 2

Plutonium row TWO US Congress committees have objected to British Nu-clear Fuels' plan to fly pluto-nium to Japan. Page 4

Party time
THE Tory Central Office is resigned to a weekend of embarrassment as Young Conservatives gather in Eastbourne.

Walking out SOME 1,200 health workers walked out at three Glasgow hospitals. Page 3

John Ezard

THE skimpy black-laced blouse worn by Marilyn Monroe in the film Bus Stop sold at Sotheby's for 27,150 yesterday, more than twice the forecast price, in an auction full of nostalgia, affection and reminiscent lust.

Although the action continue it

niscent lust.
Although as a film costume it had little inherent rarity value, it was treated as an established inistoric relic. It fetched 23,000 more than a nightshirt reputedly abandoned by Charles I in mysterious circumstances in a Suffolk mansion — and nearly 27,000 more than a pair of the society photographer Cecil Beaton's monogrammed velvet slippers.

Slippers. It went to Mr Patrick Mills, a

Hertfordshire property devel-oper, who wanted it to launch his 16-year-old daughter Chan-telle's show business career. telle's snow business career.
Jauntily paraded among bidders by a lookalike model, Kay
Kent, with photographers
shouting like their predessors
"Marilyn, look this way" it
achieved the same love affair
with the camera as when the
star wore it 31 years ago.

with the camera as when the star wore it 31 years ago.
Yet the filming of Bus Stop began miserably for Monroe. In his recent autobiography, her second husband, the playwright Arthur Miller, records her saying in a desperate phone call that the producers "can't stand women, none of them can, they're afraid of women, the whole gang of them . . I can't fight for myself any more".
Film historians, however,

regard it as the work in which she triumphed after studio quarrels by showing "a new gift for pathos, playing a small time showgirl who ekes out a living by wiscling her bine for couby wiggling her hips for cow-boys. It was the first time audiences were fully aware of her

The blouse was sold by a woman film buff who won it in a contest run by the magazine Picture Show in the 1950s. Its new wearer is still at theatre school. Asked if he was theatre school. Asked it ne was worried about the blouse being unlucky, Mr Mills said yesterday: "Marilyn's problem was her family and background, wasn't it? We have a good family and we look after each other