

1987 Journals of Woodrow Wyatt 1998 (Macmillan)
 Linda June Box P 369

shouldn't serve the whole of a third term. We've got to
 stout people in the Cabinet - only those who are going
 ist to you. I used to think you could have more diversifi-
 ow I don't think so.'

don't blame you for getting rid of John Biffen. He showed
 very disloyal at a tricky moment.' She said, 'I was hurt
 en we were in Opposition he twice resigned as Shadow
 because he said he was having a nervous breakdown. Twice
 ack and I put him in the Cabinet and overlooked his
 re in will power at not sticking to the earlier job.'

an Tebbit she said, 'He'll carry the scar of that Brighton
 his life. I didn't want him to go. Whenever he is away
 can't even attend to business properly. He's always ringing
 ut if the nurses are looking after his wife all right.' She
 rry for him but he's still going on being Chairman of the
 or the time being.

that Rupert had said to me on the telephone this morning
 ing to buy the *Today* newspaper which is losing £400,000
 very secret, not that I think you're indiscreet,' and she
 said, 'Oh no, of course I'm not indiscreet.'

'I don't see why it should have to be referred to the
 Commission because it's losing so much money and a lot
 d be lost if Rupert doesn't take it over. He's trying to get
 g or at most pay something in seven years if it makes a
 ok like having another pro Margaret newspaper.' She said,
 gnber the *Times* didn't get referred to the Monopolies
 when he bought them both, the *Times* and *Sunday Times*,
 were making a loss.' I said, 'Well the same applies here.'

he was having some difficulty in thinking of good younger
 ing on. I told her I was pleased about John Moore who
 ry well during the election with his party political about
 ts and looked nice and young and clear. I said, 'I've never
 Major who has been promoted to the Cabinet.' She said,
 y good. I note that you have never met him and will do
 bout it.' He's been made Chief Secretary to the Treasury
 e Cabinet.

oke to her this morning about what to do about Scot-
 'Vaguely I have sometimes thought maybe they should be

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a separate country, though you would have trouble with the Monarchy.' She said, 'Well you couldn't have different old age pensions both sides of the border. Yesterday when I was watching trooping the colour there were the marvellous Scots Guards and I thought, we can never be separate countries.'

A jolly dinner with Rupert and Lachlan, and the Searbys²⁵ were there.

He was adamant that he didn't want Nick Lloyd back. He said he and his wife had tried this ploy before. He had taken them to America (I think for two years) and he put Nick through the Harvard Business School and he turned out to be totally disloyal. He only remained as an Assistant Managing Director of News International for about two weeks. It was nothing whatever to do with Bruce Matthews that he gave it up. 'He just was tempted by the idea of having the title of *Daily Express* editor and a lot of extra perks and the money.' He's not a good editor according to Rupert.

I reminded Rupert during the evening how at his request and at my instigation she had stopped the *Times* acquisition being referred to the Monopolies Commission though the *Sunday Times* was not really losing money and the pair together were not.

At dinner somewhere last week Verushka made friends with Charles Sweeny whom I used to know slightly. A great amateur golfer, married to the Duchess of Argyll.²⁶ His daughter is now the Duchess of Rutland who won't speak to her mother because she is such a tart. He became very interested in Verushka. He rang up on Friday and asked if we would both go to dinner at Aspinall's. I said, 'I couldn't but you go by yourself.' 'Why aren't you jealous?' she asked.

Monday 15 June

A lovely surprise. A box of six magnums of Lafite Rothschild 1975 arrived with this letter from David Somerset.²⁷ The box has never been

25. Richard Searby, chairman, News Corporation Australia, and deputy chairman, Times Newspapers Holdings.

26. Margaret, Duchess of Argyll (1912-93), m 1 (1933-47) Charles Sweeny, m 2 (1951-63) 11th Duke of Argyll.

27. 'As in my opinion you were responsible for winning the general election, you may consider this box of wine scant compensation.'

opened before. I ran worth £100 and I'm making a total of around says it has got a lot of drinking which means

Rupert elated by some people about £500,000 a week and be dealt with rapidly taking over the paper commercially when he weapon to use against

Rupert's energy is lost with an Italian who has and is trying to do something

I wrote to dear old

Tuesday 16 June

The routine of Ascot with Piers Bengough²⁹

The Tote has a record on the year before though the attendance was up

After the races we herself in that great hat who seems to have Piers poured it out if he had the races. Usually they're an enormous party with. However, she was lively

She told me about her it up. It can take twenty room and lunch is left over is breakfast. They are a if they have to finish a