LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why silence would be Callaghan's best policy

colleague more loyal than most damaging moment pos-sible to torpedo his former ing crisis in 1976, in order to sustain the Labour governseries of defeats in Cabinet, Michael Foot who accepted a notably over the IMF/sterlter, James Callaghan had no ment in office. Why then has Mr Callaghan chosen leutenant

ments are as binding on a prime minister as he chooses to allow them to be: he must remember, for example, the open-government and freedom - of - information pledges in the October 1974 of us that manifesto commit-He knows better than most open-government

This time, more than ever, the loony left's chances of the tating terms to an incom-Labour government look severely pruned gov-val list of priorities is because of the because

Yours etc,

6 Spital Street.

Will Attenborough,

likely composition of a Labour Cabinet, having in Mr Foot a sub-Atlee chairman of proven flexibility and vagueness, and dominated by anti-militant, anti-unilaterallist heavyweights such as Messrs Shore and Healey; support. and because the very best the party can hope for is minority government with Alliance

the benefit of a British pub-lic still largely at the mercy of a hysterically Thatcherite chosen to continue the betrayal of his party and his friends that he began when popular press. Instead he has chosen to continue the laghan should have employed his prestige to underline these obvious political and constitutional constraints for I suggest that underline Mr Cal

omic illiteracy.) wrecked the DEA experiment Exchequer home secretary (1967. (1964-67)

courage, dedication and skill a spent force thanks to the with Bennism - now largely

Mr Foot and Mr Healey

he ran away from the fight

Sir,—James Callaghan has decided to "contribute" to fence policy. he debate on Labour's de-

Brandt, displaying all the subtlety of the weapons he refuses to proscribe, begs to be taken seriously as a statesman, having served time This poor person's Willy Brandt, displaying all the the Crown in the four great offices

that other hastion of social-ist virtue — he has not had the grace to retire. Perhaps we could contribute a few notes towards a political obi-tuary which might help us, to Unlike Slr Harold Wilson the merits

with planning, and eventually U-turned over a devaluation which, if appropriate at all, should have come earlier. (Only the advent of Sir Geoffrey Howe has prevented him from winning the Sir Alec Douglas-Home Prize for econchancellor

> events in Northern Ireland wisionary perspective on immigration controls, and of his Roy Mason. ward with the stewardship of which he later was to re-

(1974-76) who aided "renegotiation" of FEC membership, he is perhaps the last person to advise on how to "negotiate" in other spheres of inestimably greater importance. As the foreign secretary

Pliatzsky has shown). unnecessary nostrums that Snowden (as money mandarin Sir Leo terms of the arguments used IMF-suggested cuts that were MacDonald had proclaimed in the 1930s, and presided over ianism, As prime minister (1976he repudiated returned even Keynes-

that anybody is responsible for the disinterment in the 1980s of atavistic conserva-1980s of atavistic conserva-tism. With such a record Mr mistiming — which he has obviously not lost — he more With a rare capacity

> on your part would be Callaghan should be advised, in the words of Attlee to Laski: "A period of silence come."

N. Ellison, P. Heywood, B. O'Leary.

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policy disagreements really amazes me. Lahour Sir, - The furore over the Party's

about whether a Labour government should "abandon" Polaris or "put it on the negotiating table" is on this means, not ends. levei : an argument about handling. fence strategy. But common sense tells me that stopping ally welcome Labour's manineeds ing an unexploded bomb, and lowards a non-nuclear deesto commitment to move he arms race is like defus-As a unilateralist, similarly actions

Compare this with the Con-servative policy: to hang on to Polaris come what may,

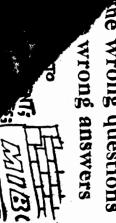
and to update it regardless

apparent determination not only to leave it intact, but also to cram even more explosive into it: a policy of such wild irrationality that even the Defence Secretary no longer pretends to have any logical arguments defuse the bomb should cause us far less concern than the Conservatives, I suggest that Labour's unshould

even willing -- to protect Mr slaught of a feather duster; Heseltine nation against the defence perform the more valuable hope that it will be able to nuclear abyss must fervently the world step back from the or may not his associates. but anyone who wants to see for it. The Labour leadership may policies of Mr Heseltine and function of protecting against he able — ر ا

Mansfield, Nottinghamshire Rosemary Street, Arthur Peacock.

the wrong questions wrong answers



Sir, — Yes, she is headstrong, profligate with other
people's money in her own
dublous causes, a cheapener
of every thought she touches,
and the nearest female equivalent to Horatio Bottomley
that we are ever likely to
hee. (Just the person to be a matching socio-economic base which does not sack to stop the planet and get off, but does seek fairer shares of wealth and opportunity round the country and the world than any businessfive or 15 years, or however long it takes to put together a left-of-centre coalition, with

> begins : Thatcher to take as her text. I have in mind T. S. Eliot's Hollow Men,

Into bondage with Britain's masochists

Our dried voices, when Headpiece We are the hollow men We are the stuffed men eaning together straw. Alas! stuffed

> copters, to mass meetings planned to greet them. They lecture the people with their parrot-learned parts,

after redundant human volers, with no real opporday and night, ad nauseam, in the family home.

Meantime those mouth their mutual insults Meantime sought.