

than 80% expected the Government to take the country into the Communities in the end. The anti-Parliamentary tendency found expression in a movement fanned by Mr. Wedgwood Benn, for a national referendum on the issue; although, in the face of firm Government (and official Opposition) rejection, this movement never achieved more than 10% public support according to the polls, it demanded attention through much of the campaign and in Parliament. Above all, however, the general mood of the country was one of preoccupation with the immediate problems of inflation and personal security, prices and unemployment. The threat of higher food prices from EEC membership, however small, and the alleged threat to jobs - from sharper competition, the cost of entry on the balance of payments, Community regional policy and the free movement of labour - became the main issues of the debate and, despite repeated and effective reassurance, remained obstinately the main causes of popular opposition to the end.

ANTI-PARLIAM
TENDENCY

15. A second, but related problem, was the general scepticism in the country on the EEC issue itself (and, coupled with it, a widespread suspicion of French motives). In a television interview on 27 May, soon after his meeting with M. Pompidou, the Prime Minister said: "I think that to a certain extent people have, or had, become bored with the discussion about the Community and it was quite natural that as we had been twice rebuffed they were very sceptical When the negotiations are concluded on the main items in June then we shall set out the whole position as fully as we possibly can in a White Paper. No doubt it will be printed in the Press, it will be discussed on television so the whole country can see the picture and weigh it up for itself We

/shall