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PRIME MINISTER

ISSUES OF THE DAY

EVENTS

Questions: Northern Ireland, Agriculture.

Lord debate EEC Reports on policies for rural areas and agricultural structures.  
Select Committee - consumers give evidence on economic, social and health implication of CAP on milk and dairy products.

Lobby of Parliament - small one by pensioners/unions.

Pay negotiations: power workers; Nalco takes stock after rejecting offer; steel unions prepare revised pay claim.

Meccano workers meet on High Court order to quit factory.

Vredeling sees Murray over EEC aid for steel.

Statistics - balance of payments (4th quarter), vehicle production (February), housing starts and completions.

Rayner Report - Road Construction Units.

Rhodesia

Mugabe agrees coalition with Nkomo. May have white in Government if Ian Smith agrees to stand down as RF leader and M.P. British troops to stay on in training role for (?) years. Conflicting reports about whites' intentions.

Steel

13 unions agree to work together and come up with revised pay claim. Safety workers withdrawn for 24 hours at Scunthorpe. Guardian sees unions' action as sign that enough is enough, but Mail says TUC's intervention tantamount to invoking a mini general strike. Crowther, M.P. says strike is form of backdoor nationalisation.

Employment Bill

Mr. Prior says he will resign if he is overridden in Cabinet - was it just an aside or a declaration of intent? Conservative M.P.s on Select Committee summon Mr. Scargill (April 2) to help their case against Mr. Prior.

Economy

Sir Keith says it will take 4-5 years to get inflation under control; moonlighting and fiddles cost £5 billion a year;

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Chancellor explains need for cut in living standards to beat inflation.

### Cuts

Sir Frank Marshall's report says local authorities cutting services faster than staffs. Sanctions likely against Lothians Regional Council for overspending. BBC will not be able to do Derby "live". Civil Service pension deduction to be increased; unions fear curbs, according to "Times".

### EEC

Stink bombs for Peter Walker at Paris show; Commission seeks injunction against France on sheepmeat, but so what? Guardian says spectre of Cabinet clash over Budget sanctions. FT says we are re-examining joining EMS after Schmidt visit.

### Afghanistan

Russia rejects neutrality idea, according to New Times.

### Israel/PLO

EEC moving towards collective reorganisation of Palestinians' right to self determination. Incredible US row over UN vote rumbles on.

### Other Points

- Motorists could be hard hit in Budget.
- Pay for 40,000 shipbuilders being subsidised by State.
- 20-25 policemen facing charges in "Countryman" inquiry: McNee explodes.
- Remote control device for central heating worries Gwilym Roberts, M.P. on grounds of privacy.
- Mr. Critchley apologises to Aldershot Tories for not signing Observer article.
- Gas workers to get £50 for opening bank account to make wage payment more secure.
- 245T research papers stolen from doctor whose findings are published in "Nature".
- Cyril Townsend, M.P. reveals that 65 Russian inspectors are in British factories supervising goods for export. Are they spying?

*Shm*  
B. INGHAM

6 March, 1980