

PRIME MINISTER

ISSUES OF THE DAY

EVENTS

Schmidt in Washington.

CBI Employment Committee; MSC Chairman before Select Committee.

Commons debate on employment and training cuts.

Northern Ireland Conference.

National Economic Development Council.

Lords debate on lack of Home and Civil Defence.

Pay Negotiations - local authority white collar.

National Environmental Research Council Report.

D/Employment Rayner exercise on unemployment benefit payment.

British aid statistics.

Rhodesia

Apprehension over Mugabe's election. More hope than necessarily expectation that he will be moderate and realistic; fingers crossed, sums up reaction, though plenty of congratulations that we have got so far and a decisive result. Stirrings in Conservative Party that FCO miscalculated. Worries that Smith has left Mugabe paraphernalia of repressive laws.

Steel

ISTC and NUB join forces with other unions to tighten screw. Mediator idea seems dead as strike enters "win or bust" phase with TGWU issuing orders designed to freeze movement of steel. Supermarkets reported to be rationing tinned goods. Signs that unions are seeking out firms short of steel for publicity purposes. Police counter claim against Hadfields.

Employment Bill

Mr. Prior reaches deadlock with TUC who "kill" their picketing code as consequence. Backbench Tory pressure for compulsory ballots.

Olympics

BOA delays decision until March 25. Coach Watts to resign from International Athletes Club in protest against athletes' decision to go to Moscow. USA to stage alternative games in August.

Party Politics

Conservative peers in revolt against Education Bill (school buses); Selsdon Group say Government is too slow to cut public expenditure; Mr. Healey criticises handling of Eurobudget and says he is willing to stand as successor to Mr. Callaghan. NALGO considering affiliating to Labour Party.

EEC

Guardian says you should cut Budge contribution if there is no negotiated settlement in Brussels. Vredeling says UK expenditure cuts will reduce EEC social fund contributions to UK from £129 million to £121 million.

Pay/Prices

Speculation of another coal price increase of 10% in autumn. Yorkshire miners seeking 40% on basic rates. Speculation that Roy Mason, M.P. may seek to succeed Gormley as President of NUM.

Economy

UK interest rates under pressure; US prime rate goes to 17¼%. UK Black economy worth up to £5 billion. £6 million Interferon drug plant for High Wycombe.

Arab/Israel

President Carter's unprecedented climbdown over vote in UN and public blaming of Vance.

Other Points

Softly, softly orders in Ulster anger troops.

Office of Fair Trading criticism of electricity supply industry's service.

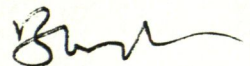
BBC can't afford to cover the Derby.

2 killed in Rocket fuel depot blast.

Doubts about Government's ability to complete its legislative programme.

M.P.s vote themselves better severance pay and travel allowances.

Kennedy wins in Mass. but loses in Vermont.



B. INGHAM

5 March, 1980