

PRIME MINISTER

ISSUES OF THE DAY

EVENTS

- Censure Debate. Th 22/2/80
- Publication of Supplementary Estimates.
- Parliamentary Questions: Home Office.
- DES - Warnock Report statement.
- British Gas, chemicals industry and building pay talks.
- Rhodesian elections continue.
- Royal College of Nursing conference on "Patents first".
- Bankruptcy hearing of garden gnomes millionaire.
- OECD steel conference continues in Paris.

ISSUES

Steel

Murray reported to be trying to get steel talks resumed, perhaps before strike collapses; BSC ballot about a ballot to be campaigned against by ISTC who are seeking legal advice on BSC's action in giving employees' names to Electoral Reform Society; McGahey leads mass picket to Bellshill today; 70 ISTC members expelled at Corby. £4 million so far paid out in social security to strikers' families.

Employment Bill, etc.

TUC reject Government financed ballots as one element in package they totally oppose; but Murray says they are not opposed to ballots in the "right" circumstances; McNee, of the Yard, tells Select Committee police will not help employers to identify pickets - so some M.P.s want to know how new law will work. Employment Gazette shows UK half-way in strike league table but worse than main rivals.

Economy

FT says Chancellor may achieve PSBR aim with neutral Budget; Welsh CBI seek meeting with Sir Keith Joseph - want new policies to help Welsh economy; Sterling boosts UK's contribution to EEC; UK oil consumption down 5% in last quarter of 1979; Irish Budget switch to indirect taxation and big increase in petrol, drink and tobacco duties. Mirror's "No confidence" leader. Polish ship order losses will reach £40 million. Pilkington's provide £1.5 million to new company formed to help entrepreneurs.

EEC

Speculation that talks with Schmidt did not go well. Will we withhold VAT? UK fails to take advantage of EEC money for transport - according to British Roads Federation. Guardian says Cabinet decision on Channel tunnel expected soon and may be part of EEC trade off on Budget. Euro-court helpful ruling on EEC whisky duties.

Cuts

Guardian says real housing cuts since Government came to power total nearly £1 billion. Row over halving of private sector housing insulation grants. Spinster, 92, dies at home after cut in hospital beds. BBC Scottish Orchestra may be disbanded.

Afghanistan/Olympics

Chairman of Occidental, Armand Hammer, encourages view Russia interested in neutrality idea. Duke of Edinburgh says sport is used for political ends. Mr. Munro says no Government money for Olympics Moscow journal says you are spending a lot of time on Olympics while economy goes downhill.

Rhodesia

Voting going well. People walk 50 miles or dance to poll. But Mugabe flies to Mozambique for several days. He also asks Lord Soames to stay on for few months after election.

Iran

Hostages may be held for another two months.

Other Points

- TUC calls for ban on 245T.
- High Court orders Hillingdon Council to house Ethiopian refugee.
- Ambassadors taken hostage in Colombia.
- TV view data spoof porn-guide excites Mr. Mawhinney, M.P.
- British M.P.s most talkative at Euro-parliament.
- Joe Gormley's idea for miners' racehorse owning syndicate.
- Police and bailiffs may end Meccano sit-in tomorrow.
- Lord Denning approves legal challenge to tax amnesty for Fleet Street workers.

Brown

Th 28/2/86 (censure deb)