

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

In Washington this morning the Prime Minister was giving an interview to the NBC "Today" programme before flying to New York. At lunch time (local time) she will call on Dr Kurt Waldheim and the President of the UN General Assembly before lunching at the Foreign Press Association. There she will make her "third speech" (embargoed advances were given to the Lobby: a section on Rhodesia is to be added later). This afternoon she will visit the headquarters of the Exxon Chemical Corporation in New Jersey. She will then attend a reception in her honour given by the British Consul-General, New York, and a dinner given by Mr David Rockefeller. Mrs Thatcher will leave New York at 2300 (local) tonight arriving at Heathrow at about 1045 tomorrow morning.

IN THE HOUSE

Prime Minister's Questions will be taken by William Whitelaw.

There will be two statements:

- 1) The nuclear programme - David Howell (to be followed by a press conference);
- 2) Rhodesia - Sir Ian Gilmour, with a simultaneous statement by Lord Trefgarne in the Lords.

ANSWER OF INTEREST

To Question No 71 from Peter Rost asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the next public expenditure paper to be published.

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The morning Lobby was repeated.

PRESS NOTICE

Reappointment of Michael Robbins and Elliott Viney as Governors of the Museum of London on the expiry of their terms of office.

STATEMENTS/BILLS

The Bingham statement was likely this week; there may be one other but we could give no guidance on it.

It was not certain whether or not the Prime Minister would make a statement on her return from the US .

Alternatives were a PNQ which might be accepted; the Prime Minister could cover any points in PM's Questions in the House on Thursday (the Lobby should not expect any announcement on the Polaris replacement).

The Housing Bill would be published this week.

D/Employment should be consulted for information on any amendments to the Employment Bill.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

The publication in March of the Public Expenditure White Paper 1981/84 was announced in a Written Answer today. We had no information on any additional cutbacks in the 1980/81 financial year.