

PRIME MINISTER

ISSUES OF THE DAY

EVENTS

Central Council Conference

Pay: steel negotiations; water industry talks

Statistics: new vehicle registrations; sales and orders on engineering

Wales: Secretary of State opens new unit for handicapped children,
Cardiff

North of Scotland Hydro-electric Board - new tariffs

EEC

You have full authority from Cabinet to negotiate a settlement; ready to risk breach of Community law on VAT; holding firm on CAP. Commission trying to sell idea of 5% CAP settlement in return for French generosity on Budget - but longer term cost would put up Budget contribution. Mr Walker tells French to obey the law or get out.

Not yet ready to recognise PLO - statement from Eurocouncil on Middle East policy.

Our revised 1980 contribution put at £1140m - compared with West Germany's £675m.

STEEL

Talks resume today - an early start apparently because of pressure on ISTC by other unions. Unions will go for Committee of Inquiry if they break down.

Sir Keith Joseph says Government's estimates of demand more pessimistic than BSC's; he promises 18,000 new jobs to Wales.

US steel to sue Europeans over dumping.

RHODESIA

Lord Soames lifts martial law and proclaims political amnesty; £7m initial aid - some criticism of small amount.

CUTS

'Guardian' leader regurgitates Conservative quotes on child benefit, family etc. Geoffrey Smith in 'Times' says that you need to convince younger ambitious and possibly frustrated MPs of your strategy.

PARTY POLITICS

Underhill revelations of Militant Tendency moles in Labour Party given massive coverage; 60 Labour MPs reported by 'Sun' to be in peril.

Labour Party pamphlet gives cautious welcome to Eurocommunism. Heffer says Labour Party programme not very different from that of French Communist Party and more left wing than that of Spanish Communist Party.

ECONOMY

Monetary Control Green Paper widely reported in qualities. Geoffrey Rippon, in Nice, attacks your monetary policy and high interest rates - they are fuelling inflation.

Barclays profits up £156m before tax to £530m.

INDUSTRY ETC

British Shipbuilders chief executive not to be reappointed. Speculation that Robert Atkinson will succeed as chairman.

Red Robbo gets £6000 a year union research job with TGWU.

Scargill may snub Select Committee - says they've changed the terms for his appearance. Wants opportunity to make a statement.

B Leyland's "Buy British" campaign now paying off; importing some of its models.

Tube strike March 29 in protest against thugs.

IRAN

'Telegraph' says students leader says hostages will not be released until revolution complete.

NORTHER IRELAND

'Telegraph' reports that army / RUC relations improved.

CIVIL SERVICE

Resists manning cuts says 'FT'. CSU may sue Ministry of Defence over redundancies. CPSA and IPCS may pull out of TRU operation.

OTHER ISSUES

Select Committee urges better deal for tax payers who are victims of Inland Revenue errors.

Calls for Scotland Yard's black-list to be investigated.

Danish ships will ferry our Terriers etc across to Europe in biggest exercise since 1945; all ours busy with holiday traffic

Russian anthrax outbreak a natural one, say Soviets. US says explanation plausible.

Times goes up 5p to 20p on Monday.

Th 20 or F 21 / 3 / 80

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