

PRIME MINISTER

ISSUES OF THE DAY

EVENTS

Rhodesian Cabinet to be announced.

Steel talks continue.

Health Service (Invalid Direction) Bill.

Questions: Defence, PM.

Secretary of State for Education meets TUC.

Pay - nurses; Scottish water; TGWU ballot on London docks pay.

Statistics - Central Government transactions (industry borrowing requirement); UK banks liabilities, reserve and special deposits.

Alabama, Georgia and Florida primaries.

Steel

Some see encouraging signs in talks but hard slog today. Corby violence. Mirror calls on both sides to give. Pardoe, Scanlon and John Garnett being canvassed as possible mediator.

French Broadcast

Pops feature woman's angle. Qualities report message to France extensively. BBC say you came over firm, confident and determined but Guardian says translation did not come over loudly.

Iran

UN Commission goes home, its work incomplete; unable to see hostages. President holds special meeting of advisers.

Mr. Prior

On TV stakes his political future on Employment Bill; admits he is on trial politically. But no question of attacking union funds while he is Minister.

Rhodesia

Nkomo to be Home Secretary; 2 Whites to be in Cabinet.

Party Politics

Labour 8% lead. Will be close in Southend.

Pay/Prices

Gas prices up 17% April 1 and 10% in October; Gasmen settle for 19%. Rates to go up on average 27% according to Chartered Institute of Public Finance, Building pay offer of 14% rejected - strike threat.

/Paramedics

Paramedics say Clegg "disaster". Nalco to black rate demands after breakdown on pay. Kent row over paying children to clean classes.

Economy

ASTMS calls for car imports curb. BL to speed job reductions - 3,000 to go early. Building Societies Association foresees continued high mortgage rates (which are not damping down demand). Raw material costs rising fast. Callaghan predicts gloomy budget. CBI says decline in competitiveness accelerating.

Cuts

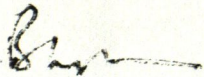
Mail feature on cutting bureaucracies; growing press interest in services and staff.

EEC

Butter exports to Russia expected to be resumed this week. Gundelach says New Zealand exporting butter to Russia.

Other Points

- London Transport record £15m loss.
- Jogging soldier shot (? by IRA) in Germany.
- Special Patrol Group to carry on with 3 major changes.
- Food Standards Committee criticises misleading slimming publicity.
- Britain buying uranium from Namibia in spite of UN ban - Benn implicated.
- Oxford fellow expelled from Czechoslovakia for talking to dissidents.
- Prison governors believe amnesty will be required to relieve overcrowding.
- John Carlisle, M.P. calls for National Union of School Students to be banned after weekend course on revolution.



B. INGHAM

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