

PRIME MINISTER

ISSUES OF THE DAY

EVENTS

Steel negotiations.

Corrie Abortion Bill.

BBC claim for parity with ITV at Arbitration; printers' pay talks.

Outcome of OPEC long-term strategy meeting in London.

ISSUES

Steel

Hopes rise. Optimism detected among Ministers, with contradictory reports about 'flexibility' and the use of cash limits, and the possibility of more money being available for pay.

In Brussels, EC Commission proposed talks on speed and scale of closures with BSC and unions following criticism of timescale.

Hadfields and Firth Brown workers to meet in Sheffield this weekend to decide whether to go back - Hadfields may close, reports.

Corby woman steelworker kills herself because she could not face mounting bills.

Miners

South Wales miners revolt against strike call. Only one of 12 pits voted for action - to crown a week in which BL rejected Robbo and the Sheerness picket failed.

Water

Negotiators to recommend acceptance of new 21.4% offer. GMWU ballot could take month. But Yorkshire and Welsh militants could take unofficial action. Implications for comparable groups, including gas and power workers.

Employment Bill

Times reports you tried to introduce one-clause Employment Bill outlawing secondary picketing three days ago. Colleagues resisted the move. TUC fear "worse to follow" present Bill, with union funds at risk.

/British Leyland

British Leyland

BL may enforce its pay offer regardless; lay-offs start Monday.

Rhodesia

Plans to protect Commonwealth monitors; Secretary-General of Commonwealth wants to see Lord Carrington about Lord Soames' role; Todd charges dropped.

Afghanistan

Vance supports UK's neutralist policy; Rumanian president's first Communist leader to disapprove of Russian action.

Olympics

Dennis Howell, for Labour, says sport should resist encroachment on its independence and go to Moscow; BOA freezes appeal to industry until Moscow argument sorted out.

Other Industrial

GMWU withdraws support from 27 Isle of Grain strikers; Labour says it will renationalise any bits of BNOC which are sold off.

Trade War

US wants compensation for UK curb on fibre imports.

Personal

Financial Times asserts you are not strong or consistent Prime Minister; you should have sacked Mr. Prior. But Mr. Heffer says you are no hypocrite.

Other Issues

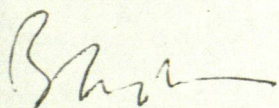
Attacks on housing cuts.

Scotland Yard investigates use of £35,000 Grunwick strike fund.
BBC directors told to make to £150 million cuts.

20 buccaneer jets grounded with wing-cracks.

Reports of Israeli/South African nuclear tests denied.

Cousins' Olympics gold.



B. INGHAM

22 February, 1980