

## PRIME MINISTER

### ISSUES OF THE DAY

#### EVENTS

This is National Kidney Research Week.

St. Patrick's Day.

Olympics Debate and Ministerial meeting in Geneva.

EEC Council of Finance Ministers (Budget).

Schmidt/Giscard statements on their weekend meeting.

Pay - local authorities meet on pay deadlock; Union of Post Office Workers discuss productivity/staff package. Steel unions talk.

Statistics - Balance of Payments; overseas trade figures.

Announcements - Scottish Office road equivalent tariff for Isles.  
Transfer of responsibility of legal aid.  
ACARD Report on R & D for public purchasing.  
CAA Hong Kong licensing.

Sir Keith Joseph on "World in Action"; Dr. Vaughan on Panorama - heart transplant policy.

Petition to be handed in on Canadian sealskins (and at No. 11 on child benefit increase).

Labour Party meeting on "The Crisis and Future of the Left".

#### Schild

Pope reveals that Mrs. Schild is free; speculation about fate of daughter.

#### Olympics

Tory MPs, led by Terence Higgins, threatening to revolt in debate unless effective trade sanctions. Criticism of line on Civil Service/Armed Forces athletes. Hector Monro "gagged" in debate.

#### Steel

Steel unions meet today. Sirs predicts BSC offer will be turned down and strike will go on to Easter. FT says most buyers are overcoming the strike.

#### Economy/Budget

Star says Treasury officials and Chancellor are at loggerheads over indirect tax increases because of effect on IRP. Petroleum Revenue Tax to be raised; also end of earnings related supplement, de-indexing of short term benefits and 75p on child benefit - Budget speculation. National Consumer Council wants higher maternity grant and higher stamp duty threshold. R. Hayward calls for import controls.



## Ireland

Sun backs Edward Gardner's idea of ending Irish voting privilege. Cardinal O'Fee condemns violence in London sermon but says a united Ireland is a natural desire.

## EEC

Reports that Community nears Eurobudget crisis. Euroloan to provide 18 new fast inter-city trains. Cossiga may lose vote of confidence this week.

## Law and Order

Sunday Times says Blair Peach was killed by one of a six-man SPG team.

Chief of police officers want 12,000 more men at cost of £60 million. Petrol bomb thrown and explodes at Newcastle football match. Attorney General says some criminals have been framed by Police so that they will not give evidence against officers - and offers protection.

## Other Points

- Debenhams offer spare space in stores for Community services - e.g. directors.
- BL's Buy British plan now seems to be succeeding.
- BMA backs corpses for road crash tests.
- NATO Commander says West should have ability to use chemical weapons and neutron bomb.
- Environmental group wins seats in German State legislature.
- Guardian says 100,000 Council Houses standing empty.
- Report to DES says bright children do just as well in comprehensives so why assisted places scheme?

  
B. INGHAM

17 March, 1980