

PRIME MINISTER

THIS WEEK - HIGHLIGHTS

A fairly eventful week with President Reagan's State of the Union message (Wednesday); Anglo-Italian Summit (Thursday and Friday); election of new NUM general secretary (tomorrow) and debates in the Commons on RSG (today); Scott Lithgow and B/Rail engineering (tomorrow) and Reuters' flotation (Friday).

Other notable events are Gibraltar general election (Thursday); 8th round, Sino-British talks on Hong Kong (Wednesday and Thursday), TUC General Council discusses new approach to policy (Wednesday); and Hennessy (Maze) and Ombudsman (Clift, forensic scientist) reports (Thursday).

Other details:

International:

- your meeting with Mitterrand (today); Kinnock sees Kissinger (tonight);
- David Steel to Moscow (tomorrow);
- Princess Anne, president of British Olympic Association, in USA (all week);
- Chancellor Kohl to Israel (tomorrow);
- Archbishop of Canterbury to Uganda (Thursday);
- Prime Minister Hawke to Japan (Thursday).

European Community:

- Councils - Foreign Affairs (today and tomorrow); Steel (Thursday).

Industry:

- Trade unions and Labour MPs meet on Scott Lithgow (today);
- First open inquiry meeting on portable pensions (tomorrow);
- Vocational education and training White Paper (tomorrow);
- HSE's tougher enforcement of noise at work regulations (tomorrow);
- AUEW constitutional conference (tomorrow and Wednesday);
- Lords debate Airbus project (Wednesday);
- Energy Select Committee hears Electricity Council (Wednesday) and Gas Council on prices (Thursday);
- TGWU conference to increase subscriptions (Thursday);
- Ian MacGregor speaks at Newspaper Society lunch (Friday).

Economy:

- IMF executive meets in Washington (today);
- Chancellor meets Trade and Industry backbench committee on budget (tomorrow);
- Irish Republic budget (Wednesday).

Local Government/Health:

- NALGO day of action against abolition of GLC, ILEA and Met. Councils (Tuesday);
- NHS Associations and administrators give evidence to Select Committee on Griffiths Report (Wednesday).

Economic Indicators:

- Trade figures and Balance of payments (Wednesday);
- Strike figures (Thursday for Friday).

Law and Order:

- Trial in Toronto of your would-be assailant during September tour (Wednesday).

Pay:

- Local authority manuals (today); bank employees (tomorrow).

Ministers:

- Home Secretary gives evidence to Home Affairs Select Committee (today);
- Foreign Secretary at Institute of Asian Affairs (Wednesday);
- Mr Jopling at NFU Council meeting (Thursday);
- Patrick Jenkin at Leeds Chamber of Commerce dinner (Friday);
- Tom King at West of England Engineering Employers' dinner (Friday).

BROADCASTING

Monday, January 23

BBC 1 8.00pm Panorama: The Middle East - interviews with Israeli Prime Minister and King Hussein.

ITV 8.30pm World in Action: For the benefit of Mr Parris - Matthew Parris MP lives on supplementary benefit for a week in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

BBC 2 9.30pm Horizon: Economist, Keith Griffiths, looks critically at the "green revolution" of crops.

Tuesday, January 24

ITV 6.55pm Reporting London: Looks at the West German and Danish systems of financing local government.

Radio 4 7.50pm Agenda 84: Richard Kershaw on the forthcoming US elections.

Channel 4 11.05pm Eastern Eye:

Wednesday, January 25

Radio 4 8.15pm Reith Lecture Discussion: Francis Pym, Sir Douglas Wass, Peter Shore, Sir John Hoskyns.

Channel 4 10.30pm Diverse Reports: new series from the Friday Alternative company.

Thursday, January 26

ITV 9.30pm TV Eye: to be finalised.

BBC 2 9.30pm 40 Minutes: the agonies of divorce.

BBC 1 10.20pm Question Time: Lord Annan, Tony Banks MP, Edwina Curry MP and Ruth Levit.

Friday, January 27

Channel 4 8.00pm A Week in Politics: The politics of coal.

Radio 4 8.30pm Any Questions: Lord March, Helene Hayman, Julia Cleverdon and Alistair Graham.

Channel 4 8.40pm What the Papers say: Neil Kinnock presents awards.

ITV 10.30pm The London Programme: Addiction to tranquilisers.

Main Events:

You pay short working visit to Paris for talks with President Mitterrand.

Princess Anne, President of the British Olympic Association, begins fund-raising visit to the USA.

EC Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels.

Leon Brittan gives evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee.

House of Commons debate on the Rate Support Grant Settlement.

Trade Unions and Labour MPs meet for talks on the future of the Scott-Lithgow shipyard.

US Congress reassembles, Washington.

Publications:

Draft circular on planning permission for minor development.

HMI report on schools in Gwent.

Public and Private Funding of the Arts.

Pay:

Local Authorities/manuals - employers consider claim.

Parliament

Commons

Questions: Wales; Energy.

Business: Debate on the Rate Support Grant Settlement 1984/85.
Adjournment debate on Leyland vehicles, Scottish operation.

Select Committees: HOME AFFAIRS: (Witness: Rt Hon Leon Brittan, QC, MP).
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS: De Lorean Motor Cars Ltd. (Witnesses: Mr Saxon Tate and Mr A S Hopkins, NI Development Board; Mr K Bloomfield, CB, Department of Economic Development, NI).

Lords: Committee stage of the Cable and Broadcasting Bill(HL).
Prohibition of Female Circumcision Bill(HL): Committee.

Ministers - see Annex

PRESS DIGEST

Politics

- Neil Kinnock renews pledge on Walden Show to scrap all British nuclear weapons.
- Express says he vowed to unchain the unions from Government legislations; Mail says Kinnock might put up defence spending.
- In big feature in Mirror, Kinnock expresses his anger at Government's treatment of young people today; claims you seem to treat youth like an illness.
- Express leader says contents of Kinnock package seen as unattractive and electorally poisonous as ever; Mail says Kinnock, on TV, was perky without being cocky but he remains fettered to all the policies which lost Labour the election.
- Telegraph says he displays closed mind on closed shop; we seem to have a Labour leader more blindly committed to past than any of his predecessors.
- Guardian says Kinnock took his new realism a stage further by acknowledging a Labour Government would be hard pressed to get unemployment below 2m.
- Shadow Cabinet meets on Wednesday to decide date of Chesterfield by-election; Bill Maynard, actor and lifelong Labour supporter, to stand against Benn to try to prevent his election.
- Labour Party planning to cut 20 jobs at HQ.

Your New York Times Interview

- Picked up by:
- Mirror - you tell US Britain is sitting on social security timebomb; only basic pensions and NHS exempt from debate - scandalous to do nothing about problems when you can see them coming.
- Mail features the timebomb aspect of your remarks and promises us an investigation of the facts tomorrow.
- Telegraph picks up your remarks on the "important change" in President Reagan's "softer" approach to US/Soviet relations.
- Times says both you and Reagan have signalled your mellowing towards Moscow in newspaper articles.

Queen's Christmas Broadcast

- John Carlisle MP backs Enoch Powell - says Queen was sadly misled by advisers.
- Express leader asks "Why the fuss?" over Enoch Powell's remarks - simply voicing resentment parts of it evoked.
- Mail thinks Powell's belated fire-power is excessive; Queen needs no lectures on duty to Britain and she need feel no inhibition about expressing her instinctive concern for others, whatever colour of their skin.
- Telegraph says Queen's dilemma springs from curious, anomalous and increasingly embarrassing character of commonwealth concept.

Coal

- Scargill faces embarrassment over result of General Secretary ballot - Left-winger Heathfield wins only narrowly, thus reinforcing demands for ballot on overtime ban.

- Miners in Yorkshire say they will "black" banks which harrass them for being overdrawn because of overtime ban.

Industry

- Sun features Redheads shipyard on the Tyne which has made a success of privatisation.
- FT story lists candidates for freeport status.
- Danes now sending long life milk to use.
- FT argues for a better energy price setting body than the Cabinet - a regulatory body.

Unions/Pay

- TUC considering a new approach to life this week, including working with governments - Times says it is reviving internal divisions.

- FT says pay settlements may now be on a rising trend.

Civil Service

- Guardian claims there is growing antagonism between No 10 and Whitehall mandarins apparently because of your impatience with criticism to challenge vested interests; you have Civil Service establishment in mind.
- Times says FDA fears that re-appointment of Sir Terence Burns could raise suspicions that Government Economic Service is being politicised.
- Industrial Society claims public service morale is at its lowest level because of cutbacks.

Media

- Press Council annual report attacks media "hounding" of individuals
 - suggested police should give guidance to press but Home Secretary turned down idea; wants journalists to use their intelligence and humanity to recognise when it is wrong to pursue stricken individuals.

Local Authorities/Rates

- FT says a plan to require local authorities to elect a third of members every year is being held in reserve.
- Telegraph says rates/RSG rebellion is receding; 20 Tory MPs might abstain or vote against this evening.
- Express feature on tale of two cities - Birmingham and Sheffield - over rates and how Birmingham, under Tory control, is getting it right.

- Paul Johnson, in Mail, says you must rein in rates; for Government to renege on solemn election promise would be negation of democracy and morally disgraceful.

Health/Social Security

- Health Authorities, according to the Mail, are considering a plan to farm out NHS abortion patients to private clinics to end delays and save money.
- DHSS considering proposal to stop benefit payments to long term hospital patients who have more than £1,000 in unspent benefit accumulated.
- Mr Fowler refuses to re-open British Oxygen's exclusive contract to supply NHS hospitals and Guardian says he should think again.

Defence

- MBFR talks to resume in Vienna on March 16. Times says this is not enough for Soviet commitment to peace to be taken seriously - Russia should return to all disarmament negotiating tables.
- FT thinks prospects for dialogue, if not detente, are better now than 10 days ago.
- Troops' overseas allowance to be cut again - this time by 4%, saving £4m.

People

- Former nanny accuses Peter Jay of being father of her son.
- Pictures of Mark in New York with Texan girlfriend.

Hong Kong

- China reported to have wrung major concession from you over Hong Kong's future - reported as you give in to China.
- Guardian says there is no confirmation in Whitehall that UK has conceded sovereignty after 1997.

Falklands

- Rows brewing over excessive cost of houses being built there - £18,500 bungalows cost £130,000 to erect.
- Mr Heseltine on visit hopes for a new start with Argentina and that a large military commitment will not be needed in the islands indefinitely.
- FT says Argentine is preparing an initiative to pave way for re-establishment of diplomatic relations and negotiations over islands' future; willing to offer islanders guarantee, including British nationality.

EC

- Foreign Secretary to express concern in Brussels today that France may be less than wholehearted about finding a fair and lasting solution to Budget problem.

Weather

- 3 climbers die in Cairngorms in wild blizzards after taking wrong turning; helicopters busy all weekend rescuing stranded motorists in Scotland and lifting 29 men to safety from oil rig which goes aground at Peterhead.

Law and Order

- 3 in court charged with £6m Security Express robbery last year.
- Mother and two children murdered in Chinese gang killing in London.
- Former Black Power leader, Stokeley Carmichael, banned from Britain by Home Secretary; Hackney Black People's Association outraged.
- Scotland Yard investigating work permit corruption allegations at D/Employment - Mirror says official is still working in the Department; Mail says Tory MP David Ashby plans to name the official.
- Express leads paper with a story suggesting that the cost of pilfering and cheating last year was £6bn and that Government lost £2.4bn of public money and goods; cheating now way of life.
- Ann Leslie, in Mail, investigates how Singapore put down crime, and especially armed crime.

Northern Ireland

- Richard Harris, actor, says Harrods bombing was "horribly wrong but understandable"; says you want to keep the trouble going and provocation comes from the other side.
- Sun says we now discover that Harris, having made a comfortable living on stage and film in this country, actually hates us; but you do not need anyone to defend you from "sick smears of this one-time drunk"; he should buzz off back to Ireland.

France

- 10 French farmers arrested after ransacking Government offices and setting fire to police car in Brest.
- Express reports that trial of Barbie, former SS man for war crimes, is being delayed in the hope that he will die and so provide an "elegant solution".

Norway

- High ranking Norwegian Government official seized at Oslo airport on way to Paris to meet Soviet agents - alleged to have spent 15 years spying for Russia.

East Germany

- 6 refugees who seek asylum in US Embassy in East Berlin escorted to West after safe passage negotiated by lawyer.

USA

- Ed Meese likely to become Attorney General.

Hungary

- Toughest round of price rises for years being introduced today.

B. INGHAM
23 January 1984

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC,)

- SO: Mr Walker attends Scottish Office Lobby reception, Dover House (1830)
- SO: Mr Younger hosts reception for Parliamentary Lobby correspondents, Dover House (1830)
- HMT: Mr Rees speaks at Wilton Park Conference, Surrey
- MAFF: Mrs Fenner visits Copella Apples, Boxford
- MOD: Mr Lee visits British Aerospace, Pall Mall
- DOE: Sir George Young speaks to the London Housing Association
- DEM: Mr Clark presents a "Fit for Work" award at Epsom Glass Industries, Epsom (15.00)
- ODA: Mr Raison meets Mr Van Lennep, Secretary-General of the OECD; Dr Dhua, Co-ordinator of the Indo-British Fertiliser Project, the Economic Committee of the Council of Arab Ambassadors, and the Directors Emergency Committee of British Voluntary Organisations
- SO: Mr Stewart meets Strathclyde Regional Council and launches Scottish Branch of the Unemployment Resource Centre, Glasgow
- DTP: Mrs Chalker visits Metropolitan Traffic Area Offices, Acton (08.30)
- DTP: Mr Mitchell visits British Rail Engineering Ltd works, Swindon (all day)

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling visits Denmark (until 25 Jan)
- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe attends EC Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels (until 24 Jan)
- FCO: Mr Luce visits UK Delegation NATO and SHAPE, Brussels (until 24 Jan)

TV AND RADIO

"Panorama" BBC-1 TV (21.10)

"World in Action" ITV (20.30)

"Horizon"; BBC-2 TV; "A New Green Revolution"; documentary on attempts to improve food production in Mexico, the Phillipines, and Bangladesh (21.30)
