

PRIME MINISTER

DIARY

Anglo-Italian Bilateral talks, London (until 25 February).

Bermondsey by-election.

EC Economic and Social Committee Plenary Session, Brussels.

Statistics:

New vehicle registrations (Jan).

Capital expenditure by manufacturing, distributive and service industries (4th qtr-Prov).

Manufacturers' and distributors' stocks (4th qtr;prov).

Energy trends (Dec).

January trade figures (final).

Local Government Financial Statistics (Scotland) 1979-80, 11.00am.

Fertility report from the 1971 Census.

Publications:

Employment Gazette.

"Disposal of Surplus United States Mutual Defence Programme Equipment 1981/82" (Cmnd 8813).

Boundaries Commission Report.

Pay:

British Gas/manual grades (GMBATU TGWU).

Federation of London Clearing Banks.

University teachers.

Parliament

Commons

Questions:

Prime Minister, Treasury.

Business:

National Heritage Bill (Lords): 2nd Reading.

Civil Aviation (Euro-Control) Bill (Lords): Remaining Stages.

Currency Bill: Remaining Stages.

The future of the British Aerospace industry: Motion for the adjournment.

Select

Committees:

AGRICULTURE: Organisation and Financing of Agricultural Research and Development. (Witnesses: Rank Hovis McDougall, Dalgety Spillers).

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL: To consider the Epsom and Walton Downs (Regulation) Bill (Lords).

Lords:

Divorce Jurisdiction, Court Fees and Legal Aid (Scotland) Bill: Second Reading.

Water Bill: Committee (1st Day).

Ministers - see Annex

PRESS DIGEST

Your Speech/Water/Pay

D/Star: Page 2 - says you are drawing up new plans to meet a new pay stampede after water settlement; too high and could lead to big loss of jobs.

Sun: Page 4 - says power unions now threaten trouble - John Edmonds in gas and electricity negotiations says, "We can do more damage in one afternoon than other groups can do in three months"; you tell water men they are biggest losers.

Mirror: Page 1 - you admit water outcome serious setback and any more settlements at this level will lead to more unemployment; Beckett says award is far too high; Murray says it has left Government with egg on its face.

Express: Page 1 - Maggie - You'll pay in jobs.

Mail: Page 2 - your warning that big claims will cost jobs and article on price of water men's pay 'victory'; Beckett says outmoded self-centred trade unionism throwing away Britain's chances.

Telegraph: Page 1 - Thatcher attack on "too high" water deal; unions say they will be tougher in other negotiations; our briefing comes through strongly in story; story on other aspects of your speech says you gave insight into election pledges you would like to see given - your 4 point for economic optimism and some of the freedom and monopoly stuff in conference report.

Guardian: Page 1 lead - Thatcher warns of pay race jobs loss, but no sign gas and electrical will heed it; you are confident of second term promising reform of rating system; inside page - up to a month before normal supply resumed.

Times: Page 1 - Thatcher plea for restraint on pay claims; water strike victory fuels power unions' offensive.

Inside pages - warning of job losses as workers return; disputes over value of settlement.

Labour Editor comment - logic of strike is surely that clout still equals money; they struck, they stuck it out and they won.

FT: Thatcher attacks waterworkers' pay settlement; Ministers attempt to defuse impact; employers criticise inquiry.

At the Conference

- Giordano, at IOD, says low pay is to blame for many of our economic problems; we should strive to pay more through productivity.
- Peter Wallis, BP, wants tax cuts to go to those who earn least.
- James Tye, British Safety Council, thrown out of Albert Hall for not having right ticket just before you speak; campaigns about hall being fire trap.

Strike aftermath

- Coventry waterworkers want 19 year old girl saving up to get married sacked for working on (Mail).
- Telegraph says hundreds of waterworkers jumped gun to end strike.
- National Bus group workers to strike for a day after rejecting 3.5%.
- Leaders of B/Steel managers invoke arbitration.

(Meanwhile Andropov says no pay rises without offsetting rise in productivity

Comment

(Telegraph).

Sun: Union leaders are crowing over water strike "famous victory"; certainly it is defeat for Government; but it will take men more than 2 years to make up and if it sparks off inflation their pay packets will buy less and less - is that really supposed to be a victory?

Mirror: You know you have been defeated - at least twice as much as you wanted employers to concede and Government can only blame itself. Success went to Cabinet's head.

Express: Under heading "A hollow victory", apart from reiterating unions' 12% over 16 months, uses our arguments - no dreadful disaster for consumer so employers will draw obvious conclusion - more waterworkers than required. Total pay bill could actually fall. "One more such victory and we are lost" it reminds unions; Barrie Derney feature on the headache Johnson has given you - he could well have opened flood-gates; there must be a binding arbitration clause in public services.

Mail: On 'the Basnett connection' says nothing was more disagreeable after strike having to listen to victorious and self righteous pontifications of Basnett. Does this self styled moderate think the only responsibility that matters is prosecution of class and political struggle regardless of how many innocent people get hurt?

Telegraph: Major lesson is that industry is not properly accountable for financial resources it consumes - both politically and commercially. Public sector negotiators may be able to limit damages.

Guardian: No-one could claim it was a victory for commonsense - on balance a touch less of the victory unions were claiming in first flush. First thing skilled union negotiator would be doing is stressing cost to strikers of "famous victory" - a costly and irrational spasm. But 4% 'norm' disintegrating.

Times: Comments on inquiry turning into a negotiation when what was needed was adjudication. Gets over our arguments on workers proving limitation of their strike weapon; pay rises not paid for in productivity still threaten jobs and postpone recovery

FT: Says it is a serious defeat for Government which needs a more open mind if to avoid courting another defeat.

By-Election

- Audience Selection Telephone Poll of Bermondsey gives Alliance 10% lead - 42/Lab 32/16 O'Grady/6 Conservative; Sun says Tatchell will lose by 3,000; Express says Tatchell is odds on to lose - Liberal 3,000 ahead - deep gloom in Labour Party; Mail speaks of disaster warning for Tatchell - defeat will throw Labour Party into greater turmoil.
- D/Star says this is Labour's moment of truth - a party in ferment.
- Sun leader says it doesn't believe Tatchell is man for Bermondsey, as Tories argue - he's demonstrated his lack of commitment to Parliamentary ideal; it will be good also if Foot is booted out as a result of Tatchell's defeat.

Politics

- Speculation in view of CCO's poster publicity plans, of June 23 election.
- Labour Party in turmoil after expelling 5-man board of Militant newspaper.
- Labour Chief Whip gags MPs from discussing Foot's future on TV.
- Express diary features departure of David Boddy from CCO.
- Government union certification officer upholds complaints against ASTMS on gifts to Labour Party.

Economy

- £ down to \$1.51 on warnings of lower oil prices and higher inflation and higher unemployment; Britoil shares down to 40p.
 - Six OPEC countries agree to cut oil prices; decision on further British cut expected next week; Saudi says there will be a price war if OPEC countries do not fall into line but Telegraph doubts ability of OPEC leadership to assert authority.
 - Pressure building up to persuade Chancellor not to increase tax on drink in Budget.
 - D/Star says thousands are putting off getting married and having children because of unemployment.
 - NIESR calls for gradual but sustained ⁱⁿinflation over several years.
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Industry

- Welsh miners to vote on strike on Monday over threatened closure of pit
- BR abandons talks with private catering contractor over Southern Region - not convinced it has managerial resources.
- More British cars being bought this month and Metro doing particularly well.
- Mail feature on role of British taxpayer in farmers' bonanza last year.
- Working days lost through strikes in January half monthly average in 1982.
- ← - OPCS records 12% increase in self-employed to 2.057,000.

Law and Order

- ← - New legislation for video pirates promised by Iain Sproat - 2 year sentences and heavy fines.
- Large amount of cyanide in haul of thieves from Bilston firm.
- Mail says Royal 'sneak' prevented from telling story to Sun could get legal aid to defend himself.

Defence

- Gromyko urges Britain and Europe to ditch USA zero option and go it alone with nuclear missile cuts.
- Anne Robinson, Mirror, says constant appearance of strident, ill-mannered Greenham Common women on TV has done irreparable damage to their cause.
- Mr Heseltine attacks one-sided disarmament in party political broadcast
- 2 Harrier jets crash in mid-air - 2 die, one of them Falklands pilot.

People

- Earl of Arran dies; Adrian Boult conductor, too.
- Mail leader critical of calling off of Princess Anne's visit to college because of threat of student demo - appeasement of rowdies defeat for authority. H

Welfare

- 3 social workers in Hammersmith get off even though handlers of 3 year old who dies tragically criticised by report.
- Cost of TV licences for 43,000 handicapped people to be cut.
- Helpful piece in Times, by Ronald Butt on family policy.

*Disables
in care*

Local Authority

- Ken Livingstone offering £4,500 to someone to oversee homosexual arts festival.
- Hackney Council votes not to pay £4m cash grant to police because it wants inquiry into death of Colin Roach.

Media

- Big shake-up in TV-AM as viewing figures plummet.

Commons

- £374,000 bill for taxpayers because of failure to pay postage on deliveries of Hansard for 6 years.

International

Australia: Death toll from fires up to 72.

Malta: Plane hijack over with release of passengers and crew.

Iraq: 4 Britons accused of spying released from gaol.

Eire: Foot flying to see Fitzgerald tonight.

Lebanon: Express says if President asks for more British troops he should be told "No"; and existing detachment should come home as soon as possible.

Middle East: Hussein seeks US peace initiative.

EC: Euro MPs cause storm by organising investigation of Ulster problem, defying Euro convention; UK Government refuses to take part.

B. INGHAM
24 February 1983

Ministers

Mr Pym speaks to European Luncheon Club.

Mr Younger visits America (until February 28).

Dr Vaughan addresses Henley Management College.

Mr MacKay hosts reception for World Health Organisation, Bute House, Edinburgh.

Lord Avon opens the Total Facilities and Energy Managers Bureau, London.

Mr Macfarlane opens Toxteth Football pitch with Bobby Charlton.

Mrs Chalker visits North Yorkshire County Council, Yorkshire County Council and Bradford County Council.

Mr Brittan speaks at Institute of Directors, Herts.

Mr Gray speaks to the backbench energy committee, House of Commons.

Mr Waldegrave visits University of Surrey.

Mr Sproat talks to British Midland Airways lunch, House of Commons.

TV/Radio

Mr Brittan on Radio 4 ; "The World Tonight" and "By-Election Special" 11.00pm onwards.

ITV - "Money Talks" examines the astounding growth of industry in Third World Countries - 11.00pm.

BBC 1 - "Question Time" has Sir Edward Gardner, Ken Livingstone, Professor A J P Taylor and Betty Toynbee.