

MONDAY 14 MARCH 1983

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh at Commonwealth Day Observance Service, Westminster Abbey

Prime Minister visits Greenwich Museum

EC Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels

EC Agriculture Council, Brussels

Penlee Inquiry opens, Penzance

100th Anniversary of death of Karl Marx

NATO Economic Committee

STATISTICS

DOT: Retail sales (Feb - provisional)

PUBLICATIONS

DHSS: Health Services Development Circular: Community Care and Joint Finance

HO: Notifiable offences recorded by the police for 1982

HOC: Standing Orders Committee - 3rd Report of the Foreign Affairs Committee: Wilton Perth, Supplementary Report

NIO: Eighth Report of the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights, Annual Report 1981/82

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Industry, Trade,

Business

Consideration of the Supplementary Estimates.

Motion relating to Class XIII Vote 23 (Stationery and Printing Supplies to the Houses of Parliament etc)

Motion relating to Class II Vote 10 (Overseas Aid: Subhead C3 (6)) (Budgetary Aid: Turks and Caicos)

Ports (Reduction of Debt) Bill: 2nd Reading and Money Resolution

Mental Health (Amendment)(Scotland) Bill (Lords): Money Resolution

The discovering and prosecution of war criminals (Adjournment Debate)

Select Committees:

HOME AFFAIRS: SUB-COMMITTEE ON RACE RELATIONS
AND IMMIGRATION

Subject: British Nationality Fees
Witness: Mr David Waddington, QC MP
Minister of State, Home Office

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Maintenance Economy Reviews and Energy
Conservation. Measures to Promote Economy in the
Civil Estate

Witnesses: Mr M Alfred, Property Services Agency;
Mr C Whitmore, Ministry of Defence

Lords:

Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1976
(Contingency) Order 1983: Motion for Approval
Motion to take note of the Review of the Operation of the
Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1976: Motion
for approval
Appropriation (NI) Order 1983: Motion for Approval
Licensing (International Airports) (NI) Order 1983: Motion for
Approval
Rates Amendment (NI) Order 1983: Motion for Approval
European Assembly Elections (Amdt) Bill (HL) Second Reading
UQ on violence in Northern Ireland

Ministers - see Annex

PRESS DIGEST

BUDGET

D/Star: Page 2 - Chancellor waiting nervously for OPEC news; but there
will be good news for family - increased child allowances; mortgage
relief up; stamp duty scrapped; new tax thresholds.

Sun: Page 2 - Howe all set to spring big Budget boost to pensioners,
taxpayers, unemployed, families - £3.50 extra a week for family of
2 children; around £2bn available; leader says Chancellor is man of
principle, but contrary to promises in 1979 we are paying more tax
and he must get back on course; want meaningful tax cuts.

Mirror: Page 2 - Howe's basket of Budget goodies - family share out.
£2bn to give out. Higher tax thresholds, child allowances, tax relief
on mortgages; no claw back and to make good 5%; leader: anyone who read
yesterday's papers will have a good idea of what Chancellor is to say
tomorrow - who is doing the leaking?

Express: Page 1 - Good news Budget to feed poll fever - not a banquet but
enough to whet general election appetite for October; suddenly
Government - Parliament look like running out of steam; Ministers admit
they cannot plan ahead with any certainty; leader: the less Parliament
has to do the more successful your administration will have been - good
news it is running out of work.

Mail: Page 2 - Gambler Howe's budget gifts - good news tomorrow for taxpayers, pensioners, parents and home owners; Peter Shore says all Chancellor will be doing is lift a little of burden he has imposed; leader says that while doggedly responsible, Chancellor is no hair-shirt hermit - he will do his political as well as financial duty tomorrow though not with the conspicuous extravagance of the Opposition parties.

Telegraph: Page 1 - Says OPEC deal limits Chancellor's flexibility - modest stimulus expected; statement will aim to reassure exchange market and to encourage Tory voters.

Guardian: Page 1 - Mortgage tax relief at Thatcher urging - Shore says this is "entirely unsatisfactory"; raising of personal tax thresholds; increase on child benefit; restoration of 5% abatement; index linking of excise duties. Guardian prints views of three economists, Andrew Britton (NIESR) who wants a big hand out; Messrs Cripps and Godley (Cambridge) who want oil money to be used for re-industrialisation; and Alan Budd (LBS) who says it would be tragic to throw away hard won gains in reduced inflation on premature dash for growth.

Times: Page 1 - Howe will help families with £2bn handout - drafted to please voters and reassure jittery financial markets - raising income tax allowances, mortgage relief, child benefits, restore 5%. Tim Congdon, Times, says Government could legitimately claim 87% in work have never had it so good; don't cut taxes indiscriminately because economy does not lack demand; use tax cuts to help 13% out of work; leader asks where do we go from here? - propose a macro-economic agenda for next five years in way easy to understand and respect with commitment to balanced budget and price stability.

FT: Page 1 - Have to keep option for Budget re-think; will warn of exceptional uncertainties about oil price and exchange rate - increase in thresholds and allowances by 10-12%; generous increase in social security and child benefit; no cut in NI surcharge; package of enterprise measures; 15 economists closely associated with SDP want Britain to take lead in reflation.

EC

- France again raising obstacles to our 1982 rebate; concern that if it is not sorted out this week you will mount a furious assault next week.

Economy

- OPEC talks expected to end successfully today; D/Energy denies Mr Lawson has promised OPEC that BNOC would not lower prices before next week; 15% OPEC price cut envisaged.
- LWT poll shows that overwhelming majority of trade unionists believe unions should try to preserve jobs rather than secure pay increases.

Unions/Pay

- McCarthy rail inquiry expected to recommend BR to pay up - and more; with £42m back pay.
- Scargill gets NUM backing for putting pension fund investments out of foreign and into British firms.
- Bickerstaffe says any law against strikes in public services would be broken.
- Left-winger Knapp wins NUR general secretaryship.
- Labour Research Department says some bosses have won pay rises up to £600 a week.
- New rail union looks likely to have double target membership of 1000 by May 1.
- CPSA among first to respond to call to support Labour from Trade Unions for Labour victory.

Industry

- MacGregor says he is no butcher; rather a plastic surgeon mending damaged features.
- D/Star objects to his references for need for pruning to get growth - people cannot be compared to rose bush.
- BL planning to step up Maestro production to meet demand - 2 month delivery; meanwhile Ford Halewood in deeper trouble as men threaten strike over greater mobility; Ford America reported to have worked out job security for life contract with unions in return for changes in working rules.
- BR denies report it is to scrap Advanced Passenger Train; to launch a new version.
- 500 more steel redundancies in Lanarkshire expected today.
- Graham Day to be appointed British Shipbuilders' chairman this week.
- Plans for commercialising Ordnance Survey to be abandoned.
- Guardian says CPRE has been given copy of embarrassing D/Energy report; suppressed by Mr Lawson, which contradicts Government's claim there is no case for devoting more resources to energy conservation.
- MARPLAN poll in FT says managers see British industry marginally more competitive as a result of £'s fall, but feature piece is very gloomy and doubts whether some sectors can ever recover international competitiveness,

- Government has shelved plans for an early statement to clarify merger policy.

Politics

- Some reporters suggest Labour is likely to lose Darlington to Alliance; but Labour claims to be comfortably in lead.
- Leon Brittan gets seat but Jock Bruce-Gardyne still out in cold.
- Mail leader on attacks on you, says we don't have a plot; only imitative yobboism says nothing about you but a lot about the despair, frustration of Labour Party. Morning Star interestingly attacks "serious miscalculation" in describing Tories as fascist.
- Times says there are early signs Conservatives stand to do surprisingly well in council elections.

Local Authorities

- Telegraph City page on piece on Success of Wandsworth's privatisation of cleansing.

Education

- Academic proposal for university dons to be paid piecework and to be made to compete for research funds.

Welfare

- Tadworth Court reprieved - announcement today.
- Stoke Mandeville hospital authority wants to cut staffing because overspent by £700,000.

Media

- Press Council re-opens Ripper inquiry into cheque-book journalism after receiving new information; D/Star paid a five figure sum to Peter Sutcliffe's two brothers.
- TV-AM reverses slide in viewers.
- Press Council concern about damage to confidence between journalists and informants of Police Bill powers.

Law and Order

- More than 6m crimes in Britain last year.
- Police investigating disappearance of confidential tapes from National Computer Centre - Civil Servant suspended and report sent to DPP.
- Unqualified medical students being forced to put patients' lives at risk by prescribing drugs and even operating because of shortage of doctors - BMA investigating.
- MP wants inquiry into row at Coventry police station which leaves man in murder inquiry unconscious and on life support machine.
- Now a women's peace camp outside Porton Down research centre - plan to stay there 6 months.
- Police asked to investigate extended guarantee insurance cover on household goods; Lloyds make request.
- Mr Heseltine, in pamphlet on inner cities, says black people still face job discrimination.
- Motorists suspected of drinking and driving will not be able to refuse a breath test after reaching home after May 6.

Northern Ireland

- Most Ulster politicians rejecting Dublin's political forum initiative; Paisley accuses Irish Government of being in cohorts with IRA.
- Telegraph writer suggests Troops Out movement would unleash 20,000 well armed Ulstermen for a long and exceptionally bloody civil war.

Defence

- Kohl follows Colombo in saying it is time for USA to produce new arms reduction proposals.
- FT leader calls for new US initiative seeking interim solution with mor limited Cruise and Pershing deployment.

Falklands

- 8 SAS saved hundreds by listening operation on Argentine mainland, monitoring air movements; you kept operation under personal control.

Nkomo

- Given temporary (one week) admission to Britain- Zimbabwe Government say meaningful discussions can only take place in Harare.
- Guardian says next week Kaunda can expect to find himself in mediation role.
- Times says we should make him welcome.

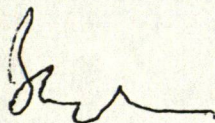
International

Rome: Italian police say they can prove Jeanette May and companion were killed about 10 days after they disappeared.

Germany: Allegations that Greens party linked with Gaddafi; Green MP Vogel, 75, resigns from House because he was once Nazi Stormtrooper; Kohl retains Schleswig Holstein.

France: Socialists make strong recovery in local elections but unlikely to delay devaluation.

New York: New Governor of New York and New Jersey refuses to join St Patrick's Day parade because of Flannery's association; 9 Roman Catholic High School bands to boycott parade.



B. INGHAM
14 March 1983

MOD: Mr Heseltine speaks in Darlington

DEM: Mr Tebbit speaks at the Economist Newspaper dinner

DOI: Mr Jenkin opens "The Young Creators" exhibition, Design Centre

WO: Mr Roberts visits Glanrhyd Hospital and Parc Hospital, Bridgend

DOI: Mr Baker speaks at Royal Overseas League

MOD: Mr Stewart meets deputation from Strathclyde Regional Council on Clydeside Shipbuilders

ODA: Mr Raison meets British Parliamentary Group (4.30 pm)

HO: Mr Mayhew meets TUC delegation on Police & Criminal Evidence Bill (4.15 pm)

HO: Mr Waddington meets TUC delegation on Data Protection Bill (4.45 pm)

DOI: Mr Butcher opens BMA "IT and Disabled Exhibition".

DOT: Mr Sproat opens British Tourist Authority Conference, London

DEM: Mr Gummer visits ICI Paints, Slough

SO: Mr Stewart meets Renfrew District Council on housing - Edinburgh

MAJOR VISITS (INWARDS AND OUTWARDS)

DTP: Mr Howell meets the New Zealand Minister of Transport (9.30 am)

FCO: Mr Pym and Mr Rees (DOT) at Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels (until 15 March)

MAFF: Mr Walker and Mr Buchanan-Smith at EC Agriculture Council, Brussels (until 16 March)

DOT: Mr Rees at Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels (until 15 March)

DOT: Lord Cockfield visits Egypt (until 21 March)

TV/RADIO

HO: Mr Mellor on LBC 'Nightline' (9-10 pm)
