

24/3

PRIME MINISTER

DIARY

Darlington by-election.

President Kaunda hosts state banquet, Claridges Hotel.

Prince and Princess of Wales in Canberra.

New Guatemalan President sworn in.

EC/ASEAN Council, Brussels.

EC Economic and Social Plenary, Brussels.

NATO Economic Committee.

Labour Party NEC and Shadow Cabinet discuss draft manifesto.

Publications:

The Law Commission and Scottish Law Commission Report on the Medical Bill.
Policy Statement on the efficiency of Schools Inspectorates for Scotland.
Policy Statement on the efficiency of Schools Inspectorates for England
and Wales.

Ethnic Monitoring in the Civil Service - Vol II.

HM Customs and Excise, Annual Report (year ending 31 March 1982).

Statistics:

Trade Figures (Feb).

New vehicle registrations (Feb).

Capital expenditure by the manufacturing, distributive and service
industries (4th qtr revised).

Manufacturers' and distributors' stocks (4th qtr revised).

Parliament

Commons

Questions: Treasury, Prime Minister.

Business: Motion on the Easter Adjournment.
Consolidated Fund (No 2). Bill: All stages.

Select

Committees: AGRICULTURE: Organisation and financing of agricultural
research and development. (Witnesses: Massey-Ferguson
Corporation; Professor B Crossland).
ENERGY: Energy Research Development and Demonstration in the
UK. (Witness: Mr Clive Grove Palmer).

Lords: Data Protection Bill: Third reading.
Pilotage Bill(HL)(Consol): Third reading.
British Fishing Boats Bill: Third reading.
Debate on the 8th report of the European Communities Committee
on Rational Use of Energy Industry.
UQ on the fall in the numbers of library books for
universities etc. and public libraries and on the Government
proposals to ensure a restoration and improvement upon the
levels of 1978-79 etc.

Ministers - see Annex

PRESS DIGEST

Darlington

- D/Star quotes bookies quoting Labour 7-1 on to win; Tory said to be finishing strongly; SDP going downhill.
- Newspaper telephone poll gives Labour 26% lead over Conservatives - 36/34/SDP29.
- Sun leads with Tories only 2% behind - an amazing photo-finish.
- Express says Tories get a poll day boost but makes point a 'phone poll is generally felt to be less reliable.
- Mail says Tory Party's face may yet be saved; Fallon claims he is coming through to win.

Politics

- Foot accuses you of evil and callous ways; of turning Conservatism into evil philosophy - foreword to election document.
- Express says left wingers in Brent East have turned against Livingstone
- Mary Kenny in Mail says Labour Party is increasingly allowing itself to be seen as anti-family party.
- Gallup shows Tory lead of 11% unchanged after Budget.

Labour Economic Manifesto

- Morning Star attacks new style pay curb - reeks of class collaboration. ideas which animated social contract.
- D/Star - a small piece - Worker power pledged; unions to be given new powers over running of industry.
- Sun - Unions fire off pay warning to Foot - don't try to curb wages.
- Mirror - New deal to get Britain back on its feet; but what will it mean in reality? Geoffrey Goodman says Foot and Murray vague in details.
- Express says it is an invitation to disaster - why should voters buy a policy which has already failed miserably.
- Mail front page lead - Foot gives power to unions; no guarantee over pa
- Telegraph reports huge expansion of trade union power in return for vague promises of greater union responsibility; will not convince a single person and still has a great big hole in the middle - why have so many spent so much time producing something so absolutely valueless?
- Guardian says Labour should expect its critics to put a magnifying glass to programme, warts and all.
- Times says Labour sees revival plan as vote winner.
- FT feature on "a deal with snags attached".

Unions/Pay

- TUC refuse to allow Scargill to split NUM to retain 2 seats on General Council.
- || Centre for Policy Studies says strikers who put people's lives or limbs at risk should be gaoled.
- Retail Food Wages Council bows to Government ^{pressure} ~~programme~~ over 8%.
- TUC agrees by vote to give seats automatically to moderate medium-sized unions.
- Scottish teachers accept just under 5%.
- BSC unions want refusal to make national pay offer put to binding arbitration.

Industry

- Aston-Martin production at stop over planned pay freeze for third year running.
- Security staff join Ford Halewood strike; Express says it could spread to other plants; Ford now not able to compete with BL as stocks dry up.
- Sun critical of failure to cut prices of oil based products with falling prices; won't be any prices ^{5.50} will there? when oil price goes up
- Government has abolished 3,500 official forms and re-designed 2,700.
- 28 workers at Blyth take £7.50 cut in bonus and change shift system to create 13 new jobs.
- 2 Asians join governing body of Institute of Directors.
- Labour Party to consider report next month recommending halt to nuclear energy programme - good chance of being accepted.
- Laker sells stud farm £0.5m to pay off debts.

Economy

- £ down to yet another new low (\$1.46) - could sink to \$1.40 in next few months; could lead to 7% inflation at end of year - Sun.
- CBI Deputy Director General says confidence is growing and future of industry looks brighter.
- Mail says French set out to rebuild economy your way - defeating inflation.
- US inflation down to 3.5%.
- EC relaunches £60m investment in Ulster plan.
- Times says £ slide raises fears interest rates could rise again and cause inflation to accelerate.
- Euro Parliament to inquire into how Britain is to spend £231m rebate.
- FT says OPEC may soon have to lower price again, according to market indicators.

Transport

- Select Committee wants 10% increase in spending on roads.
- Prudential cuts motor insurance rates to try to win back business.

Media

- IBA approves Jonathan Aitken's appointment to TV-AM for strictly limited period; "normally unacceptable as matter of policy" for sitting MP to be in post.
- Channel 4 aims to win back viewers by showing repeat after repeat.
- Daily and Sunday Telegraph seek 500 redundancies.

New BBC Chairman

- Sun presents Stuart Young as tough no-nonsense moneyman, virtually unknown; you are determined to take on trendy-left influence.
- Mirror says Labour MPs on the attack because of Young's close links with Tory party.
- Telegraph "Unknown" is next BBC chairman; greeted at Westminster with mixture of hope, concern and ridicule: concern over his commitment to Zionism.
- Guardian speaks of the "quiet man" taking over.
- Times accountant appointed chairman.

Medical/Welfare

- BMA claims 3,500 doctors could be out of work in a year's time unless Government policies are changed.

Education

- Andover parents club together to hire maths teachers because school can't get qualified staff.
- Sun attacks Euro Court of Human Rights award to families because children threatened with strap - a grievous mistake ever to pass a law which allows a pack of foreigners to sit in judgement on us.
- Mirror says scores of parents telephoned its office yesterday after its shock education issue - and Neil Kinnock writes after issue about "this Government of dunces and bullies".

Law and Order

- Boy of 14 from North London arrested in connection with a letter bomb sent to you at No 10; bomb in book sent to CND HQ.
- Pictures of battered face of policeman attacked 5 years ago by man who died after incident at Coventry police station - D/Star says Davey won't be mourned by many outside his family but there must be a full inquiry into his death; Sun says Davey was hired for contract killing while in prison.
- Sun says, of CRE complaints that black mugging figures are unfair to ethnic minorities, that truth is best weapon into tackling causes of violence; Labour MPs critical of publication; Mirror leader says Tory MPs who exploit statistics about black crime but do nothing about conditions which help it to flourish only make matters worse.
- Mail says Scotland Yard has compiled another set of figures showing most of victims of coloured assailants in heavy street crime areas are white; leader says these statistics should be taken seriously.
- Telegraph says Harvey Procter MP says black and white vigilante groups will be fighting it out in London before long unless there is tighter policing of street crime; leader says crimes by blacks are as great a problem for blacks as for whites and if they are known about they may be better dealt with; report says police have made considerable progress in efforts to cut crime in Brixton.

Keith Report

- Sun, D/Star says tax fiddlers are costing Britain £4bn a year and doubled since you came to office; Keith wants no expense spared in hunting down moonlighters.
- Mirror reports a move to curb down tax raids and more safeguards for taxpayer.
- George Gale, Express, says simple conclusion evaded Lord Keith - that too much tax means too many tax dodgers.
- Mail says crackdown urged on black economy; leader says Whitehall warriors will never understand that oppressive taxation destroys far more wealth than it yields.
- Telegraph stronger powers urged for taxman; would like to see easing of tax traps.
- Guardian: action on tax cheats urged ; fairly straight reporting.
- FT says moonlighters' days may be numbered.

Defence

- Reagan plans super technological defence for next century; new disarmament initiative expected next week.

Ministers:

Mr King chairs meeting of the consultative council on local government finance.

Mr Pym attends EC/ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meeting, Bangkok (until 25/3).

Mr Walker and Mr Buchanan-Smith meet Mr Simitis, Greek Agriculture Minister.

Mrs Fenner speaks at Pet Food Manufacturers Association annual lunch, Tallow Chandlers Hall.

Lord Avon at the Lighting Industry Federation awards, London.

Mr Waddington meets National Council for Voluntary Organisations, London.

Mr Mellor visits the inner London probation and after-care service.

Mr Sproat opens tourist information centre, Victoria Station, London.

Mrs Chalker visits Devon.

Mr Fletcher speaks at festival of films and television in the celtic countries, Glasgow.

Mr Raison launches "EEC and Third World: The Atlantic Rift", University of London.

Lord Cockfield meets Madame Chen, Chinese Trade Minister (until 30 March).

TV/Radio:

Sir George Young on BBC Question Time.

- Guardian says US bows to NATO line on missiles; Reagan expected to announce next Thursday his readiness to seek interim agreement on Euro missiles provided Russia agrees to eventual elimination of all such weapons from region.

Sport

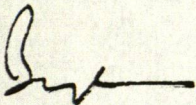
- Neil Macfarlane calls on British sportsmen to turn down cash offers to play in South Africa.

International

Poland: Pope will not be allowed to go to Gdansk, Stetten, Lodz or Lubin.

Zimbabwe: Telegraph says Nkomo is planning to return home, though didn't say when - wife; Mugabe bans Guardian correspondent.

Australia: Hawke softens his public line against monarchy.



B. INGHAM
24 March 1983