

PRIME MINISTER

MEDIA MEETING - FRIDAY, 6 MAY

7

A G E N D A

1. The Weekend.
2. Broadcasting.
3. Press Digest.

THE WEEKEND

There is only one topic: the election - the follow-up to the local elections; your World this Weekend broadcast; the gathering at Chequers; and when (and whether) will an announcement be made.

LWT's Weekend World will analyse the prospect for a June election. Denis Healey will be on Channel 4's Face the Press on Sunday.

Other events:

- OECD and IEA Ministerial meetins, Paris;
- 10,000th issue of Observer (second instalment of your interview);
- Spanish local elections.

Calm down

## BROADCASTING

### Saturday, May 7

Radio 4	10.05am	<u>The Week in Westminster</u> : Details not yet available.
Radio 4	2.35pm	<u>But, Chancellor</u> : The Power House of Whitehall (repeat).
Channel 4	7.00pm	<u>A Week in Politics</u> : Looks at Prime Minister who got the election date wrong. Interview with Sir Harold Wilson; the problems which face the Queen in case of hung Parliament.

### Sunday, May 8

LWT	12.00	<u>Weekend World</u> : The Chequers' decision: prospects for a June election.
Radio 4	1.00pm	<u>World this Weekend</u> : Interview with the Prime Minister.
Channel 4	2.30pm	<u>Report to the Nation</u> : Monty Finniston talks to Norman Payne of British Airports Authority.
Channel 4	5.00pm	<u>Root and Branch</u> : Whither the Movement? MORI poll gives public's opinion of trade unions.
Channel 4	5.30pm	<u>Face the Press</u> : Talks to Dennis Healey.
LWT	11.15pm	<u>Men of Science</u> : Sir George Porter.
Radio 4	11.15pm	<u>Inside Parliament</u> : Interviews with Edward du Cann, Christopher Price and Renée Short. Looks at Transport and Social Services Committees.

PRIME MINISTER

DIARY

New drink and drive provisions in force.

President Reagan presented with ITC recommendation on special steels.

Trade Unions for a Labour Victory conference.

Mr Mayhew at BMA conference on medical effects of nuclear war.

CND festival, Brockwell Park.

Civil Service Unions' statement on restructuring of Property Services Agency.

ABA Finals, Wembley.

Inquiry at Albert Docks Basin on docks' airport.

Statistics:

Unemployment (April-prov).

Unfilled vacancies (April-prov).

Car and Commercial vehicle production (March-final).

Publications:

British Business Supplement on British Overseas Trade Board.

Six HMI reports.

Pay:

Gas supply staff and senior officers: claim for 9.5%. First negotiating meeting.

Further education teachers (England and Wales): claim 13-18%. Offer expected.

Parliament

Commons

Business:

Private Members' Motions.

Solvent Abuse (Scotland) Bill: Remaining stages.

Charities Bill: Remaining stages.

Dog Licences (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill: 2nd reading.

Age Discrimination Bill: 2nd reading.

The development and effects of the Aire Valley trunkwood (Adjournment debate).

Lords:

Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Bill: 3rd reading.

Parochial Charities (Neighbourhood Trusts) Bill (HL):  
2nd reading.

Copyright (Amendment) (No 2) Bill: 2nd reading.

Ministers - see Annex

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PRESS DIGEST

Election

- Mr Parkinson says they are good results, given that local voting tends to go against party in power in Westminster.
- Labour claims trend is in their direction; SDP perform weakly; crushing defeat for Greenham Common peace camper at Greenham Common.
- Sun says local elections give you an amber light for June, a disappointment.
- Mirror, under heading "Divided Britain" says prospect of June election hanging in the balance - Labour does well in North and Tories strong in South.
- Express says voters seemed to be telling you not to go to country just yet - a national vote of confidence but not a clear cut signal for June.
- Mail - "Poll boost for Maggie".
- Telegraph: Midlands boost Tories; Labour suffers poll setbacks.
- Guardian says you get boost from first results; Ian Aitken says you are embarrassed by overwhelming Backbench support for June 9; says a potential drawback to June is revelation by Treasury that man on average earnings with mortgage will suffer £3 a week drop in take home pay a year ahead.
- Times - voters stay loyal in Labour and Tory heartlands - no clear signal for you; Julian Haviland says Conservative MPs fear you may have lost the initiative - want announcement next week.
- FT says Tory vote holds up despite Labour gains; early results confirm Tory hopes Alliance being squeezed.

People

- Mirror investigates whether Mr Whitelaw leaked a poll date of June 9.
- D/Star says there will be 3 new faces in the Lords after the election - Gerry Fitt, Mr Whitelaw and Joel Barnett.
- Reagan rambles on Nicaragua - White House dismayed by confused performan which is put down to tiredness.

### Policy

- Sun says you are right to insist on rate reform in manifesto - and it suggests an absolute ceiling on increases next year of inflation minus 1%.
- Express interprets your remarks yesterday as the impending 'chop' for GLC.
- Foot calls for emergency help to save shipyards; also says Queen could be dragged into major constitutional crisis if Britain is faced with coalition.
- Student
- Telegraph finds it difficult to take all this talk of rate reform seriously but none of the problems are attached to abolition of GLC and Metropolitan Counties.
- Labour Party has written to Andropov asking him to say in detail how he would respond to Britain's unilateral disarmament; wants answers before election.

### Local Authorities

- Scout Commission tells GLC that it will give up £60,000 grant rather than accept homosexual leaders. - Labour claims slur is work of Tory dirty tricks department.

### Economy

- Building Societies Association does not foresee early cuts in basic rates; but housebuilders will have their busiest year for 10 years.
- Express says hundreds of jobs were offered to 74 job marchers in Carnforth but turned down; leader says the really significant thing about the march is that it is short of people - and their bluff was called yesterday with offer of 3 times as many jobs as marchers, public will not be swayed by this phoney crusade.

- Mail says Japanese have just experienced a sudden spurt in unemployment from 2.2 to 2.8% but real figure is probably nearer 4%; country is simply not prepared financially, psychologically or by social tradition for unemployment - so beware.
- Guardian trails poor money supply figures next week.

### Industry

- Norman Siddall says Britain is producing too much coal too expensively - hopeless pits must be closed.
- Black and Decker announce closure of plans in London and Eire with loss of 1,000 jobs because of slump in orders.
- 800 Aveling Barford workers in Grantham vote down productivity scheme - now told they will be made redundant.
- Taxi fares up from May 29 - up by 20%.
- Railways heading for £174m loss - five times loss in 1981; would have broken even without strike.
- Employee shareholders in National Freight have seen their shares more than treble.
- Fiat/Goodyear issue warning about tyres on some Fiat and Alfa Romeo cars.
- BBC & ITV withdraw £5.4m offer for TV soccer rights in another breakdown in negotiations with Football League.
- Suit of armour bought by American at Sothebys for £2m.
- Jaguar sales boom may bring night shift - Times.
- BP to develop Andrew oilfield.
- Governor of Bank very cautious and discouraging about building society expansions.

Unions/Pay

- Bank staffs accept 5% by 2-1 in ballot.
- North Sea divers' strike spreading, with NUSeamen encouragement.
- CPSA losing 450 members a week because of loony left policies; Left routed in elections, according to Mail.
- Tilbury dockers vote to end 8-week strike - accept 3.5% and bonus scheme; cost port £6m and lost business; whole future of port now in doubt.
- Talks on devolution of water pay bargaining fail to agree.
- Telegraph says MPs likely to settle for 3% on understanding they catch up after the election.
- Guardian dispute over.

Law and Order

- Parliamentary Answer shows that nearly half people caught mugging in London were coloured.
- Further charges being prepared against 14 year old boy who sent letter bomb to No 10.
- Retiring Chief Constable of Sussex advocates whipping for rapists and attackers of old people.
- Lord Chancellor warns magistrates not to give violent criminals lenient sentences.
- Mail leader supports Kenneth Newman in seeking to cultivate closer relations between police and community - only if they have support of public that they will be effective in war against crime.
- Mail says Reading police inspector who predicted a summer of racial unrest after black mob attacked police likely to be severely reprimanded

Ireland

- Republic lodges protest over Mr Heseltine's criticisms of its policy of neutrality - being neutral will do them no good.

Defence

- D/Star "Andropov a cheat" - you accuse him of trying to trick Britain; wants to include our submarine based missiles but not his own.
- Cracked decks on 6 Type 21 frigates. 3
- Times says control of Cruise has been clarified - will extend to when they are deployed beyond bases.

Medical/Welfare

- Pensioners will get a Christmas bonus; object to unreasonable repair and replacement charges by gas and electricity - £12 to change a light bulb.
- Sun leader: the title "Town without a heart" is more appropriate for Teignmouth because of its objections to handicapped holidaymakers; Mr Rossi offers to act as consiliator.

Spies

- Father-in-law scoffs at double glazer who claims to have uncovered 30 Russian spies.

Falklands

- Ed Meese says Britain's Falklands victory had boosted American morale and restored confidence in West.
- Telegraph says abortive Falklands trip has rebounded fiercely on Destefanis; his behaviour strongly criticised in Argentine press; public rows on board.



- Plans drawn up to tour off the shelf harbour to Falklands drawn up by Consortium.
- Chile cool on requests for staging post to Port Stanley.

EC

- Sun and Mail say Britain's contributions could be halved if new proposals get go ahead - welcomed as a step forward but not good enough yet; Times says we are £350m richer.
- Contributing £119,000 to feasibility for wonderland park at Corby.

Middle East

- Telegraph says Begin is preparing to fight hard liners in his Cabinet for withdrawal from Lebanon.

Paris

- Mail leads on "white collar riots" - 30,000 shopkeepers march on National Consumer Office to protest about austerity measures which have forced up prices and taxes.

Russia

- Chernenko ill with pneumonia.

Italy

- General Election - June 26.

B. INGHAM  
6 May 1983