

PRIME MINISTER

Main events:

Conservative Party conference, Blackpool.

Chairman of British Shipbuilders meets union leaders for pay talks.

Opening of the Joint Service Defence College, Greenwich, by Sir Edwin Bramall.

European Nations' Football championship - Hungary v England.

"Laboratory '83 exhibition opens, Barbican Centre.

Frankfurt International Book Fair opens (until 17 October).

International Sakharov hearings on human rights, Lisbon.

Statistics:

Index of production and construction for Wales.

Publications:

Monthly Economic Progress Report.

Report on safety on construction sites.

Pay:

British Shipbuilders/CSEU - discussion of opposition to national pay freeze since April 1983.

Ministers - see Annex

PRESS DIGEST

Conservative Party Conference

- Cecil Parkinson given big ovations when name mentioned and Edward du Cann sees Ivor Stanbrook MP who creates a row by saying Mr Parkinson should resign.
- Leon Brittan announces tougher sentences for violent crimes and drug trafficking; child killers to serve 20 years.
- Guardian makes point that fairly cool applause for Mr Brittan is in stark contrast to reception, including barracking, for Mr Whitelaw in past.
- Conference wants stronger measures on law and order; fairer rates system; a simplified tax system; and Government to ensure British firms do not pay more for energy than competitors.

- Ian Gow criticises Conservative local authorities which are dragging their feet over council house sales.
- Peter Rees warns people not to expect big tax cuts in Spring; Government hopes however to raise threshold.
- Peter Walker, worrying about ^{two} nations, tells fringe meeting of dangers of extremist policies.
- Times says Miss Keays (who goes home to father) was nearly candidate for Bermondsey by-election.
- FT finds hint of an alliance between Michael Heseltine and Peter Walker in working together in Cabinet to present alternative views.

Comment:

Sun, under heading "Leon the Lion", says at last country has found a Home Secretary who recognises he occupies the bulwark in the war against crime; does not merely talk about duty to protect public - does something about it. Only reservation is that 20 year minimum sentence should extend to all killers; on another talk it says "Isn't Francis Pym priceless?" He goes on radio to attack you for denouncing Russian tyranny but says what you say is true. In that case why shouldn't you say it?

Mirror, under heading "Brittan's Law", says it sounded good and tough and like a solution but it was no more than a lot of sound. Far from reducing violence outside he runs risk of increasing it inside. Why doesn't he take simple step to reduce armed violence - make it difficult to buy shotguns; Terence Lancaster says in private more and more MPs agreeing that Mr Parkinson's career could be nearing its end; Parkinson affair has come at a bad time for you and contributes to general feeling you are no longer in control of events or colleagues.

Express welcomes the law and order crackdown. Home Secretary has echoed public cry: "Enough is enough"; George Gale says Ivor Stanbrook's call for Mr Parkinson to resign is not general or widespread.

Mail, under heading "The true voice of the people", says at last people's voice is being heeded over law and order. Mr Whitelaw may have done much to boost police manpower and morale but he was a lamentable waffler on tougher sentences. Yesterday was day waffling stopped. But it would have preferred to see minimum sentences laid down in statutes to bind Mr Brittan's successors.

Telegraph deals with taxation and says Chancellor has a notable opportunity today to clarify the Government's approach - tax cuts at all costs or not? - and make continuity and consolidation theme of this Government.

Guardian says effect of Mr Brittan's package will be different from delegates' expectations. Atmosphere in prisons will dramatically worsen. May prove one gesture too many to keep conference quiescent; Peter Jenkins says Mr Brittan's performance was distressing and repellent spectacle of man betraying his own humanity and intellectual integrity that once led him to different and better view.

Times says to combine tougher sentences for violent crime with attempt to clear prisons of lesser offenders must be right and will be widely supported. But in the end violence is not merely determined by detection and penalties. It is a cultural phenomenon. Easy violence on TV, film and video is part of this. Public denial of support for culture of violence would be at least as beneficial as Mr Brittan's measures; on defence, Times says, among other things, that Britain's Rhine Army should be reduced and Air Force redeployed.

Law and Order

- Martin gets 15 years on day Leon Brittan announces stiffer sentences for violent criminals.
- Martin's father had 2 meetings with son in London stores while he was on run (D/Star).
- Police accused of attempting to murder man they thought was Martin - case opens today.
- 3 lifers abscond from Leyhill open prison, but soon recaptured.
- More than 9,000 weapons found on passengers at Heathrow in second quarter of this year.
- Mirror says headquarters of travel firm which is at centre of attempt to recruit Irish couple is exposed as secret intelligence base in Vauxhall Bridge Road.
- Labour MP for Carmarthen arrested on suspicion of importuning; says he will plead guilty.
- High Court rules that Welsh solicitor who overcharged client by £131,000 was not guilty of deliberate fraud.
- Savoy Hotel to be prosecuted for selling short measure drinks.

Northern Ireland

- Mr Prior says he will resign if Maze escape inquiry establishes that it was his responsibility.

Unions/Pay

- Sunderland shipyard workers whose pay strike has cost an order continue out; work may go to Harland and Woolf.
- D/Star says similarity between Sunderland Shipbuilders' strikers and ostrich is striking; dismal example of purblind, pig-headed, bloody-minded obstinacy; "madness" says Express - perhaps they are demonstrating Kinnockian version of patriotism.
- Scottish miners reject 5.2% pay offer; Michelin men at Stoke on Trent get 14.5% to January 1985.
- Sun says firemen are to blaze through Premier's 3% pay limit, next week; will get 6%.
- BBC and Association of Broadcasting Staffs agree talks on expenses row which has blacked out some programmes.
- B/Telecom engineers step up action against privatisation after fruitless meeting with management; Express feature says POEU has quite simply embarked on that rare happening in Britain - a political strike; and Guardian leader agrees action is almost certainly illegal and without doubt an affront to any classical concept of democracy. This is a battle union cannot and should not win.

Economy

- Money supply falls to well within target range - first fall since Government took office in 1979.
- But Guardian says public expenditure is increasing faster than Government would like.
- TUC to soften economic policy line today.
- Times interview with Jim Prior who sees far less argument in the Tory Party now over economic policy.
- Jock Bruce-Gardyne comes out in Times for shelving of new British Library.
- Regan says US trade deficit will make \$ weaker.

Industry

- B/Caledonian to buy 7 Airbus 'planes for £150m - could secure 8,000 B/Aerospace jobs - well done, says Express; B/Airways should follow suit.
- Ian MacGregor turns down Scargill's idea of joint approach to Government on pit closures - no point unless they can agree on common strategy.
- Stock Exchange votes for lay members on Council.
- Jaguar unveils new open-topped version.

Local Authority

- £200m owed in rent arrears in Britain.
- Plan being hatched to set up 3 all black schools in Brent, London.
- ILEA appoints sex equality officer at £18,500 a year.
- Social workers vote to step up their action which is disrupting lives of children in care.
- GLC set to instruct London Transport to increase mileage operated by trains and buses contrary to its cost cutting plans.

Health

- You turn down Kinnock's request for debate on NHS in Government time; now Stockport refuses to implement cuts.
- Mail attacks our folly in playing Florence Nightingale to world - giving free medical treatment to visitors without requiring their countries to reciprocate.

Defence

- Russia reported threatening to pull out of all nuclear talks if USA goes ahead with Cruise and Pershing deployment; seen as test of nerve in West.
- Royal Marines taking part in NATO ^{Turkey} exercise carrying up to £150 worth of their own equipment because issue kit, they say, is unsatisfactor

EC

- Some slight encouragement from attitudes at special Budget reform council.
- Hundreds of British (and other) farmers will have subsidy payments delayed because EC has run out of money - or so it seemed until Thorn announced Commissioner Dalsager had exceeded his authority and cancelled decision.
- Allegations of big racket in kangaroo, camel and donkey meat being sold as beef and pork.

International

Israel: Mad shopping scramble as economic measures raise prices 50%.

Burma: Police hold Korean terrorist for bomb outrage, according to report.

China: admitted to International Atomic Energy Agency.

B. INGHAM
12 October 1983

Ministers:

Mr Biffen speaks in Conservative Party conference debate on proportional representation.

Mr Heseltine speaks in Conservative Party conference debate on defence.

Mr Lawson speaks in Conservative Party debate on economic policy.

Sir Keith Joseph speaks in Conservative Party debate on education.

Mr Morrison speaks in Conservative Party conference debate on employment.

Mr Mellor speaks in Conservative Party conference debate on electoral law.

Mr Fowler attends breakfast meeting with Child Poverty Action Group, Imperial Hotel, Blackpool.

Lord Trefgarne speaks at "Peace through NATO" fringe meeting at Blackpool.

Mr Baker speaks at opening of new Whessoe factory, Durham.

Mr Roberts speaks at Age Concern conference, Llandrindod Wells.

Mr Ridley visits European Parliament, Strasbourg.

TV/Radio

'20/20 Vision': Channel 4 - "Judge for Yourself"; examination of how the judiciary in Britain is selected (2030).