

PRIME MINISTER

LIAISON COMMITTEE - DECISIONS REQUIRED

The last meeting of the Liaison Committee (February 24) asked me to prepare:

- (i) a list of points for decision (as a regular feature of the meetings); and
- (ii) a list of leader-writers/opinion forming journalists who might be briefed by Ministers on economic/industrial issues.

These lists are set out below:

Annex I sets out the issues to Easter; and Annex II the diary to the end of the year. Each of these Annexes is substantially the same as those considered on February 24.

POINTS FOR DECISION

Issues likely to be topical at the end of the week are:

Budget: Here Ministers are constrained; nor do we wish to encourage dissidents. Do we need to mobilise constructive Backbenchers for weekend articles/programmes?

Law and Order: It might be useful to distract attention at the weekend from the Budget, especially if the Home Office has prepared a note; the future of the cane, and how St Saviour's School settles down (or does not) could increase topicality.

Ireland: Speculation about new Republic Government meeting March 9; and implications for Northern Ireland; relevance of Belfast South by-election?

← Mortgages: Prospects for Building Societies' Association meeting March 12.

Industry: Times Newspapers; gas and electricity prices.

Points to be decided:

- 1. Topic for weekend?
- 2. How to get over topic - newspaper articles/radio/tv? Who?

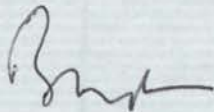
3. Should Backbenchers be mobilised on Budget speculation?
4. How to follow up Budget? NB: Treasury Ministers should be given as clear a field as possible on radio and tv on Budget Day; other Ministers should ensure the implications for their public are fully explained to specialist media groups on Budget Day and subsequently.
Speaking note.
5. Should efforts be made to "talk down" mortgages in advance of BSA meetings?

LEADER WRITERS/OPINION FORMERS

As a preliminary to agreeing approaches by Ministers, Liaison Committee asked for a note of leaderwriters/opinion formers. The list below is not exhaustive, but is intended to identify those who might be helpful. It goes without saying that contacts with Editors are invaluable.

<u>FT:</u>	Sam Brittan; Anthony Harris.
<u>Times:</u>	Peter Stothard; Adrian Hamilton; Ronnie Butt.
<u>Sunday Times:</u>	Ronnie Butt; Sarah Hogg; Graham Serjeant.
<u>Guardian:</u>	John Torode; Victor Keegan.
<u>Telegraph:</u>	Andreas Whittam-Smith.
<u>Sunday Telegraph:</u>	Ivan Fallon.
<u>Mail:</u>	Robin Oakley; Patrick Sergeant.
<u>Express:</u>	<u>James McMillan</u> ; George Gale.
<u>Sunday Express:</u>	John Junor.
<u>Sunday Mirror:</u>	Woodrow Wyatt.
<u>News of the World:</u>	Derek Jameson; Gordon Leak.
<u>Sun:</u>	Kelvin Mackenzie; Peter Rose.
<u>Economist:</u>	Andrew Neil.
<u>Spectator:</u>	Ferdinand Mount.

There seems to be little prospect of effectively influencing the Observer (though William Keegan ought to be exposed to the idea); Mirror; People (though Nicholas Lloyd, the new Editor might be interested); and least of all the Daily Star which has its own distinctive approach to fact.



B. INGHAM

1 March 1982

LIAISON COMMITTEE: DIARY TO EASTERMARCH

- 3 NEDC; Queen opens Barbican conference centre;
Mitterand in Israel; Times Newspapers' deadline; Teachers pay
- 4 BELFAST SOUTH BY-ELECTION; Liberal PPB; Powerworkers' talks.
- 9 BUDGET (Social Security uprating); Dail meets after^{pay} talks.
election.
- 10 Labour PPB on Budget.
- 11 Liberals on Newsnight on Budget.
- 12 YOUR VISIT TO SUNDERLAND; YOUNG CONSERVATIVES CONFERENCE;
BUILDING SOCIETIES ASSOCIATION CONSIDER MORTGAGE RATE.
- 13 CONSERVATIVE PARTY LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE, London.
- 14 GLC London fares rally.
- 15 CHILD BENEFIT PAYMENT GOES MONTHLY.
- 16 Glasgow rape case private prosecution decision.
- 17 Sultan Qaboos' visit; Labour PPB.
- 18 TUC Women's Conference, Bournemouth (to 19).
- 19 SCHMIDT BILATERAL, CHEQUERS; INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES;
DEADLINE FOR BR/ASLEF FLEXIBLE ROSTERING PROCEDURE.
- 21 LONDON TRANSPORT FARES RISE.
- 22 EC Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels; MRS GHANDI's
VISIT (to 24th).
- 23 UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES.
- 24 TUC General Council; Labour Party National Executive.
- 25 ? HILLHEAD BY-ELECTION; FCO BI-CENTENARY LECTURE,
LORD CARRINGTON.
- 26 DEADLINE FOR DE LOREAN RESCUE; FIRST ANNIVERSARY, FOUNDING
OF SDP; National Consumer Congress, Guildford (to 28).
- 27 CENTRAL COUNCIL SPEECH; Boat Race.
- 28 ELECTION, EL SALVADOR; Clocks go forward.
- 29 EUROPEAN COUNCIL, BRUSSELS (Mandate etc) with AG. AND
FISH COUNCILS (to 30); Two tier motor cycle test starts.
- 30 NUJ Conference, Coventry.
- 31 SDP/Liberal Alliance deadline for seats share out;
Conservative PPB.

APRIL

- 1 Gas, electricity and dental charges up.
- 3 Grand National; ACTT conference (to 4th).
- 5 TUC CONFERENCE ON CAMPAIGN AGAINST EMPLOYMENT BILL;
EPEA (Engineers' & Managers' Assn) conference, York (to 7th)
- 7 PM'S FCS SPEECH, Loughborough; NEDC.
- 8 EASTER RECESS (? to 19th).
- 9 Good Friday; Co-op Party conference, Ayr (to 12).
- 10 NUT conference, Scarborough (to 15); Labour Party Young
Socialists conference, Bridlington (to 12).
- 12 NAS conference, Blackpool (to 16).

LIAISON COMMITTEE: DIARY FOR 1982 (AFTER EASTER).APRIL

- 17 Association of Broadcasting Staff conference (to 19).
18 Banking, Insurance and Finance Union conference, Blackpool, (to 21).
19 European Trades Union Confederation Congress, The Hague (to 23); SCOTTISH TUC ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Perth (to 23); AMALGAMATED UNION OF ENGINEERING WORKERS conference, Eastbourne (to 23).
20 SPAIN/GIBRALTAR BORDER OPENS: negotiations begin.
21 AFGHANISTAN DAY.
22 PM's CIVIC TRUST DINNER SPEECH.
23 INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES.
25 SINAI WITHDRAWAL/MFO; USDAW conference, Eastbourne (to 28).
26 PM's PANORAMA INTERVIEW.
27 UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES.
Council of Europe, Strasbourg (to 30); AUEW Foundryworkers' conference (to 30); NATKE conference, Guernsey (to 30).
28 TUC General Council; Labour Party Executive.
30 PM's VISIT TO BEDFORD (speech); Wales TUC, Llandudno (to May 2).

MAY

- 2 Launch of "Mail on Sunday",
3 Bank Holiday.
THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF GOVERNMENT.
4 Queen on Merseyside; Institute of Personnel Management Conference (to 6).
5 Queen visits Manchester; NEDC; PM's reception for World Cup teams.
6 LOCAL ELECTIONS.
8 EC Foreign Ministers' informal week-end.
10 CPSA conference, Brighton (to 14); SCPS conference, Southport (to 14); TSSA conference, Bournemouth (to 14).
11 IRSF conference, Peebles (to 13).
12 Colliery Managers' conference, Scarborough (to 14).
13 Assn. of First Division Civil Servants conference.
14 PM's SPEECH TO CONSERVATIVE SCOTTISH CONFERENCE.
15 FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL, EDINBURGH; APEX conference, Blackpool (to 18).
16 SOGAT conference, Bournemouth (to 21).

- MAY
- 17 Visit of French Prime Minister; NATO MINISTERIAL meeting (to 18); IPCS conference, Bournemouth (to 20); National Union of Seamen conference, Tenby (to 21).
 - 18 Mugabe visits UK; ASLEF conferences, London (to 26).
 - 19 Western European Union Ministerial Council; Fire Brigades Union conference, Bridlington (to 21).
 - 20 OPEC, EQUADOR; Association of University Teachers' conference, London (to 22).
 - 21 INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES.
 - 22 FA Cup Final; Amalgamated Society of Textile Workers' conference, Leek; ASTMS conference, Harrogate (to 24); National Union of Dyers, Bleachers & Textile Workers Conference (to 25).
 - 23 GMWU conference, Eastbourne (to 27); NUPE conference, Scarborough (to 27); Union of Communication Workers (postmen) conference, Bournemouth (to 28).
 - 24 UCATT conference, Gt Yarmouth (to 28); Prison Officers' Assn. conference, Southport (to 28); AUEW/TASS conference, Bournemouth (to 28).
 - 25 UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES.
 - 26 PM's CONSERVATIVE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE SPEECH; Queen opens Kielder Reservoir; TUC General Council.
- END MAY
- POPE'S VISIT TO BRITAIN
 - 29 National Association of Teachers in Further Education, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (to 31).
 - 31 Bank Holiday.

JUNE (ROYAL BIRTH)

- Recess to June 6.
- 2 International Labour Organisation, Geneva (to 23).
- 3 SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY CONFERENCE (to 5).
- 4 ECONOMIC SUMMIT, PARIS (to 6); TUC Trades Councils conference, Bournemouth (to 6).
- 6 Bakery workers' union conference, Bridlington (to 9).
- 7 NEDC; EEPTU conference, Scarborough (to 11); POEU conference, Blackpool (to 11); Society of Post Office Executives conference, Southport (to 11).
- 8 VISIT OF PRESIDENT REAGAN (to 9).
- 9 11 and 20p coins introduced.
- 10 NATO SUMMIT, BONN; Educational Institute of Scotland conference, Oban (to 12).
- 11 Mauritius General Election.
- 12 Trooping The Colour.
- 13 Labour Women's Conference (to 15).
- 14 Western European Union Parliamentary Assembly (to 17); National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers conference, Bournemouth (to 17).

JUNE

- 14 COHSE conference, Bridlington (to 18); NALGO conference Brighton (to 18).
- 15 UN CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT, NEW YORK.
- 18 INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES.
- 21 Wimbledon Fortnight opens; NACODS conference, Cardiff (to 25); ISTC conference, Cardiff (to 25).
- 22 UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES.
- 23 TUC General Council; Labour Party Executive.
- 27 NGA conference, Eastbourne (to July 2).
- 28 EURO-COUNCIL, BRUSSELS (to 29); NUR conference, Plymouth (to July 5).
- 29 Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, Llandudno (to July 2).
- 30 Assn. of District Councils' Conference (to July 2).

JULY

- 1 Princess of Wales stamps issued.
- 2 Prime Minister visits Montgomery, Brecon and Radnor.
- 3 PM AT GLOUCESTER/WEST MIDLANDS RALLY.
- 4 Blasfurnacemens' conference, Blackpool (to 8).
- 5 NUM CONFERENCE, Inverness (to 8); Royal Show opens.
- 6 Eisteddfod, Llangollen.
- 7 Association of County Councils conference.
- 14 Visit of UN Secretary General; Council of Local Education Authorities, Sheffield (to 16).
- 16 INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES; Prime Minister's Regional Tour.
- 22 PRIME MINISTER AT 1922 COMMITTEE.
- 26 PM gives ASHBY MEMORIAL LECTURE.
- 28 TUC General Council; Labour Party National Executive.
- 30 PRIME MINISTER, GUILD OF BRITISH NEWSPAPER EDITORS' DINNER, Hendon.

AUGUST

- 13 Recess.
- 25 TUC General Council; Labour Party National Executive.
- 30 Bank Holiday.

SEPTEMBER

Recess.

Early Sept: Prime Minister visits Scotland and Balmoral.

- 6 TUC CONGRESS, Brighton (to 10).
- 16 PRIME MINISTER STARTS FAR EAST TOUR; Scottish Prison Officers' Assn, conference, Peterhead (to 17).
- 17 INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES.
- 20 LIBERAL PARTY ASSEMBLY, Bournemouth (to 25).
- 22 TUC General Council; Labour Party National Executive.
- 27 LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE, Blackpool (to Oct 1).

OCTOBER

- 5 CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE, Brighton (to 8).
- 8 PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH TO PARTY CONFERENCE.
- 11 SDP CONFERENCE at Cardiff (to 12).
- 13 SDP CONFERENCE at Derby (to 14).
- 15 SDP CONFERENCE at Gt Yarmouth; INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES.
- 19 PLAID CYMRU CONFERENCE (to 21).
- 20 INTERNATIONAL MOTOR SHOW; Institute of Personnel Management conference, Harrogate.
- 24 Clocks go back.
- 27 TUC General Council; Labour Party National Executive.

NOVEMBER

- Early: Queen's speech.
- 12 INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES.
- 13 Lord Mayor's Show.
- 14 Remembrance Sunday.
- 15 PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH, LORD MAYOR'S BANQUET.
- 16 Visit of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands.
- 17 PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH TO NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY, London.
- 24 TUC General Council; Labour Party National Executive.
- 26 St Andrews' Night Dinner, Glasgow.

DECEMBER

- 3 EURO-COUNCIL, COPENHAGEN (to 4).
- 8 PRIME MINISTER OPENS CONFERENCE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, Barbican.
- 15 Association of University Teachers' conference, Bradford (to 17).
- 17 INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES; PM's Regional Tour.
- 22 TUC General Council; Labour Party National Executive.

LIAISON COMMITTEE - MAIN ISSUES TO EASTER

The main issues affecting presentation during the period to Easter may be summarised as follows:

BUDGET: relevance to unemployment problem; how it reinforces recovery; extent to which it satisfies the various lobbies.

ECONOMY: US interest rates; mortgage rates (meeting of BSA, March 12) unemployment and IRP figures; evidence of recovery.

INDUSTRY: Rail rostering (deadline March 19); Times Newspapers; De Lorean (deadline March 26); gas/electricity charges up (April 1).

LABOUR LAW: TUC conference to plan campaign against Employment Bill (April 5).

PAY ROUND: Nurses, gas, electricity, Civil Servants with railways to come.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Run up to local elections in May; cuts, rates and fares; teachers' unions' conferences (Easter).

NATIONAL POLITICS: Hillhead by-election; First anniversary of founding of SDP (March 26); SDP/Liberal Alliance deadline for share out of seats (March 31).

DEFENCE: Trident, its cost and its effect on conventional forces.

NORTHERN IRELAND: New Republic Government; possibly White Paper on rolling devolution; Belfast South be-election (Thursday, March 4).

EUROPE: European Council, Brussels (end March) - Mandate row.

INTERNATIONAL: Patriation of Canadian constitution; Poland; Middle East; El Salvador elections (March 28).

The Prime Ministers's speaking engagements are:

March 6-7 - Pete Murray Show (mostly personality stuff).
 March 13 - Conservative Party Local Government Conference.
 " 27 - Central Council.
 April 7 - FCS Speech.