

PRIME MINISTER

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HIGHLIGHTS

Weekend Interest

The weekend appears to be relatively quiet. Sunday papers are likely to further analyse censure debate speeches and speculate on the future course of sterling. Any moves on the coal dispute will also be watched with interest. LWT's "Weekend World" will deal with Gibraltar and feature the Foreign Secretary, Morran and Hassan.

In Parliament

The press will be watching the coal mining dispute debate on Monday and also the adjournment debate on the future of the BBC External Service later that evening. Three controversial Orders will also receive media attention: the Rate Capping Order on Wednesday, and the Water Authorities (Return of Assets) Orders and the Motion on the LRT (Lay) Order on Thursday. On Monday, the all-Party Rights Campaign will be launching a Bill with a public meeting in the Commons to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law. On Wednesday, the SDP Chief Whip, Lord Kilmarnock will open a Lords debate by demanding the introduction of generic prescribing by GPs.

Other Main Events

On Monday and Tuesday, the Foreign Secretary meets the Spanish Foreign Minister in Geneva for discussions on Gibraltar in preparation for the opening of the border on Tuesday. The Building Societies meet on Monday to discuss mortgage rates and on Tuesday the money supply figures are published. Monday's BBC Panorama programme looks at the problems of unemployment and job creation. Teachers in England and Wales have threatened disruptive action from Wednesday when Mr Ridley appears before the Transport Select Committee on the financing of Public Transport Services. On the same day, the Manpower Services Commission will be giving evidence to the Employment Select Committee on the Youth Training Scheme. On Thursday and Friday Mr Jenkin visits Liverpool where he will dine with Liverpool editors. Sir Geoffrey Howe begins a 5-day visit to Turkey, Rumania and Bulgaria. The Lord Chancellor announces the civil justice review on Wednesday.

Key Daily Events

- Monday: Prevention of Terrorism Act statistics 1984; Retail Sales and credit business (December); Publication of Third Report of the Treasury and Civil Service Committee - Budget of EC.
- Tuesday: Remaining Stages of Films Bill; remaining stages of Shipbuilding Bill; Mr Heseltine meets Egyptian Foreign Minister.
- Wednesday: Meeting of NEDC (pay and jobs); public meeting into proposed siting of Union Carbide factory at Livingstone New Town; provisional energy statistics; Hong Kong Bill remaining Stages.
- Thursday: Health and Safety Executive publish the Abbeystead Report into the waterworks explosion; Mr Lamont speaks on regional policy to the CBI, London.
- Friday: Princess of Wales visits the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths in Cambridge; Wildlife and Countryside (Amendment) Second Reading; inquiry into Todnorden railway accident. Mr Fowler appears on Channel 4's "A Week in Politics".

Christine Wall

CHRISTINE WALL
PRESS OFFICE
1 February 1985

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PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister unveils memorial to Wpc Fletcher (Home Secretary attends); lunches with Lloyds; later interviewed by Peter Jay for "A Week in Politics"

Princess of Wales visits Broadwater Farm Youth Association, London N17

Labour Party, local government conference, Birmingham (to 3 February)

Greenland leaves EEC

Local Government (Access to Information) Bill; second reading, House of Commons

Mr Channon attends International Management Forum, Davos (to 3 February)

New regulations concerning Northern Ireland prisoners' letters and visits come into effect

STATISTICS

DTI: Car and commercial vehicle production (Dec final)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS
Local Government (Access to Information) Bill: 2nd Reading
(Mr R Squire)
Water Authorities (Meetings) Bill: 2nd Reading
(Mr G Bermingham)
Controlled Drugs (Penalties) Bill: 2nd Reading
(Mr K Raffan)
Adjournment Debate
Dreadnought Seaman's Hospital, Greenwich (Mr G Barnett)

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTECONOMY/DEBATE

- You rebuff Kinnock's attack - he fails once again to ruffle you in spite of record unemployment figures which Tom King says are boosted by the coal strike.
- Sketchwriters say you trounced leader of the Opposition; Sun Maggie beats off Little Sir Echo - Kinnock floored. You claim standard of living is best ever; but emphasise need for wage moderation.
- Chancellor, winding up, puts attack on inflation before tax cuts.
- Meanwhile, £ strengthens - to \$1.1315 and 71.6% - oil prices rise on spot market, but expected cut in British base rates fails to materialise.
- Telegraph leader says central economic issue confronting Government is still unemployment. There is an urgent need for the Government to develop and apply policies which are cost effective and have a direct impact on jobs.
- D/Star also says unemployment is top priority and it is about time Tory MPs rebelled over this as well as Stansted.
- Trevor Kavanagh in Sun says you wiped the floor with Kinnock as he launched a suicidal attack; Labour MPs watched in dismay as he muffed a golden opportunity.
- Mirror concentrates on "fury" over unemployment rise and Chancellor's tax warning saying he backed off from his plan for a tax cutting budget. In a leader it says the nation has become numbed by unemployment. Criticises your description of the figures as "disappointing" and says unemployment is appalling, tragic, horrific and unnecessary. Government lacks the will, foresight and imagination.
- Express reports a clear triumph for you over "Little Sir Echo" Kinnock.
- Mail says you hit at wage rises in row over jobless record and says Chancellor's backtracking on tax reductions seemed to snatch defeat from what should have been a famous victory over the Opposition; in a leader Mail on the real cause of unemployment, says all too often British businessmen cannot be bothered to expand because of the hassle over employment protection laws, planning permission, regulations etc. Opposition seems hardly to realise that the problem exists.
- Guardian says Tories were accused of deliberately orchestrating a successful effort to wreck Kinnock's opening speech. He failed to make the impact he needed. It says Bank of England opposed a cut in lending rates yesterday, though market points to a 1-1.5% cut.
- Guardian leader finds scant comfort for unemployed in yesterday's debate.
- Times leads on Chancellor dampening hopes of a tax cutting Budget. Julian Haviland says the censure motion united the Tories and made you dangerous. MPs of all parties agree that after yesterday's speech it may be some years before another censure is attempted.
- FT says you brushed off Labour's challenge. Opposition ploy backfires. It adds that oil producers outside OPEC appear to be edging towards conformity with new pricing structure.

COAL STRIKE

- Norman Willis, TUC General Secretary, trying to get talks going, but NUM still jib at uneconomic pit closures being on the agenda.
- You blame NUM for any humiliation of miners.
- Search for the NUM assets - £2.7m - moves to Dublin.
- Leaders of Colliery Officials Staff Area receiving "floods" of motions to break away from NUM.
- Allegations that working miners have links with NCB and Government.
- House coal prices go up £2.50 a ton.
- 100 Labour MPs back "amnesty" call for miners sacked for offences during strike.
- Sun says the strike has become a fight to the bitter end; MacGregor ended haggling yesterday by refusing negotiations without a NUM guarantee to discuss uneconomic pits.
- Geoffrey Goodman, in Mirror, says it is clear the NUM want out and are exhausted. But you are bent on humiliating them and want Scargill's head on a pike. A crazy way to run a coal industry.
- Express leader says there must be no amnesty for miners sacked for committing serious offences.
- Mail front page lead - Pits: No deal - you've not moved, Board tells union Board is expecting a "deluge" of new faces at work on Monday.
- Guardian leader understands alleged desire to rub Scargill's nose in it but there are downside risks, one of which is NACODS.
- Times thinks Norman Willis's task is insuperable.

INDUSTRY

- Post Office orders 2000 vans worth £9.6m from Ford Halewood.
- British Rail Engineering to cut 700 jobs at Springburn works, Glasgow.
- ASLEF say they intend to pull out of flexible rostering deal, but BR has no intention of reverting to more costly system.
- Telegraph says Labour MPs are blocking Felixstowe's port development, which would create 1,100 extra jobs, by opposing a Private Members Bill to facilitate £100m investment.
- Plans for management buyouts of Yarrow and Hall Russell shipyards in Scotland abandoned because of abstentions in ballot.
- Sir Frank Tombs becomes chairman of Rolls-Royce.
- Bass exporting their brewery know-how to China.
- Unions accuse Government of wilful neglect of British shipbuilding industry whose extinction is now imminent.

EC

- Record beef mountain - up 62% in 1983.

TRANSPORT

- Telegraph says Ministers are divided over whether Government now should press ahead with development of Stansted after Tory rebellion.
- Guardian says Ministers are dismissing the idea of developing regional airports as an alternative to Stansted.
- Guardian, on Buses Bill, says Nicholas Ridley unveils a free-for-all plan.

POLITICS

- Malcolm Rutherford, in FT, says you are still way ahead of the pack and says you have arrested our decline but not wholly reversed it.
- MORI poll gives you a 4% lead - 39/35/Alliance 24 who have picked up 3%.
- Ian Aitken, in Guardian writes about Lord Young and confesses that he/himself can't see the justification for paying high levels of social security benefit to out of work teenagers.

MEDIA

- You appear to be changing your mind on televising Commons, according to Telegraph, being prepared to allow it for great occasions.

LOCAL AUTHORITY

- Black activist appointed Camden director of social services recommends whites should be barred from providing homes for black children in care.
- More than half Islington ratepayers questioned on its £200,000 anti-Government publicity think it spends too much on activities that do not benefit residents.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Norman Fowler to ease restrictions on presenting drugs on NHS - list to be extended. Times says doctors are outraged because 7 advisers on the limited list have been made to sign Official Secrets Act.
- Comprehensive Bill on surrogacy and Warnock proposals being prepared for the autumn.
- Chelmsford Prison chaplain - described as a homosexual by D/Star - dies of AIDS; prisoners being questioned about their relationship with him.

EDUCATION

- Teachers threatening industrial action over pay from Wednesday.
- Sun leader says teachers used to put duty to children before their own interests. Now they demonstrate a positive eagerness to turn classroom into an industrial battlefield. Do they want to make themselves pariahs?
- Express says the NUT is showing its usual dedication to the educational well-being of our children by arranging disruptive action.
- FT says teachers' stance is fuelling speculation of a confrontation across the broad front of public sector pay.

OXFORD DEGREE

- Max Beloff contributes an article on Oxford's decline to the Telegraph and says it arises from the university's eradicating its primary purpose of serving Church and State.
- Telegraph letters column has 6 castigating University for its illmanners and stupidity.
- Sun carries an article by an ex-milk monitor at a Manchester junior school on how well the dons live.
- George Gale says Kinnock's unprecedented attack on you - "an instinct for making nothing short of evil" - and the Oxford vote have one thing in common: the words and votes of men against a woman; in short, male hatred and jealousy of a powerful and successful woman.
- David Watt in Times says Oxford contrived to make itself look silly by hopeless timing but he apparently thinks it could speak for the nation's feelings which have been distracted by the coal strike.

LAW AND ORDER

- 4 charged over Heathrow £26m gold theft-
- Wealthy builder and wife charged with pitchfork murder of Scotland Yard detective keeping their home in Kent under surveillance.
- George Gale says Myra Hindley must never be allowed to go free.
- Great British Telecom theft of 50p coins from 'phone boxes netted more than great train robbery - court case.

MIDDLE EAST

- After his £1.8bn arms aid package to Israel, President Reagan freezes other arms sales to Middle East for a few months - King Fahd of Saudi Arabia could cancel his visit to Washington.

DEFENCE

- Express finds Weinberger a help in trying to justify its story that Russian Migs had to shoot down a missile, wrongly targeted on Hamburg. Other newspapers sceptical of the whole thing.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling addresses Cumbria Society dinner
- CO: Lord Young presents the 'Fit For Work' awards, Polytechnic of Wales, Pontypridd
- DES: Sir Keith Joseph opens design and technology exhibition, Leeds
- DEN: Mr Walker addresses Association of American Correspondents, London
- DEM: Mr King opens new Hi-tech plant, H J Barnett & Sons, Somerset
- HO: Mr Brittan addresses Oxford University Conservative Association luncheon
- WO: Mr Edwards visits J R Freeman & Son Ltd, Cardiff
- MOD: Lord Trefgarne sees change of Command of Admiral Holcomb, Deputy Commander in Chief US Naval Force, Europe
- DEM: Mr Bottomley visits Felixstowe
- DEM: Mr Morrison visits North-East; Durham University Business School; Sunderland Polytechnic; Northumberland Police HQ
- DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith attends opening ceremony of Odfjel Drilling and Consulting Co, Aberdeen
- DEN: Mr Goodlad attends opening ceremony of the 100th Community Insulation Project, Market Drayton
- DOE: Sir George Young speaks at Stock Exchange on local authority finance
- DHSS: Mr Newton attends conference for the disabled, Kettering
- DHSS: Mr Whitney visits Portsmouth ILO and Newport, Isle of Wight ILO
- HO: Mr Shaw visits N Yorkshire police (all day)
- SO: Mr Stewart visits MSC's funded projects - Edinburgh Zoo; later meets Scottish TUC about education resolutions, Edinburgh
- DTI: Mr Fletcher attends Glasgow Herald dinner
- DTI: Mr Lamont addresses British Institute of Managers dinner, Kingston
- DTI: Mr Butcher opens Computer Aided Engineering Consortium Centre exhibition, Loughborough
- DTp: Mr Spicer visits Westland Helicopters, Yeovil (all day)
- HMT: Mr Rees addresses Swindon Chamber of Commerce
- WO: Mr Stradling Thomas visits HTV studios, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTI: Mr Channon visits Switzerland (to 3 February)

TV AND RADIO

"What the Papers Say"; Channel 4 (20.00)

"A Week in Politics"; Channel 4 (20.15); interview with the Prime Minister

"Any Questions"; Radio 4 (20.45); Alex Carlisle, Patrick Nuttgens, Frank Field, Virginia Bottomley

"The London Programme"; LWT; (22.30) Rate capping, and some Labour councils refusal to set a rate