

PRIME MINISTER

HIGHLIGHTS

Weekend Interest

The Libyan detainees' release is likely to attract considerable Sunday newspaper analysis. Sunday papers are also likely to be watching out for your speech on Saturday to the Young Conservative Conference.

LWT's "Weekend World" on Sunday will feature Arthur Scargill while Lord Gowrie appears on "Face the Press", Channel 4, Kenneth Clarke is interviewed on BBC1 "This Week, Next Week".

In Parliament

Mr Ridley is likely to come under considerable attack in the Commons on Tuesday when the Transport Bill comes before the House (before the Select Committee has had time to report to the House). The Representation of the People Bill rolls through its Committee Stage on Wednesday and Thursday. The Alliance are expected to trigger the first full-scale debate on proportional representation for some time, with the addition of a new clause to the Bill.

On Monday, Edward Leigh MP initiates a backbench debate on abortion and Enoch Powell's Private Members Bill to ban experiment on human embryos comes before the House on Friday.

Other Main Events

Monday is of course your 10th Anniversary as Party Leader and biographical "snap-shots" will abound on TV, radio and newspapers. In the evening, you attend the Commonwealth Youth Exchange reception. There will obviously be the usual plethora of photographers on hand to photograph arrivals of the Prince and Princess of Wales at their first visit to Downing Street.

On Tuesday, Civil Servants lobby Parliament on the closure of skill centres and the first session of the Belize/Guatemala talks open in New York. The EC Dooge Committee sits in Brussels on Wednesday until 14 February. You meet Signor Craxi on Thursday and the Spanish Defence Minister on Friday when you will record, for broadcast on Sunday, the LBS "60 Minutes" programme interview.

Key Daily Events

- Monday: Retail sales (January); Pay - primary and secondary school teachers in England and Wales.
- Tuesday: Home Office publish Commission for Racial Equality - Operation of Immigration Control; Pay - further education teachers in England and Wales; Mr Walker attends press launch of Milton Keynes Energy Park, London and meets Australian Minister for Resources and Energy; Mr Patten gives press conference on the misuse of drugs.
- Wednesday: Pay - NHS Ancilliary workers; Mr Channon begins trade visit to the Camerouns to 18 February.
- Thursday: Car and commercial vehicle production figures (January); adjournment debate "Government policy on British air transport" Sir Edward du Cann.
- Friday: TUC youth conference Congress House; Lord Young visits Bradford; Mr Mackay presents Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) awards in Edinburgh.

CHRISTINE WALL
PRESS OFFICE

8 February 1985

Christine Wall

8 February 1985

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets Nicaraguan Vice President

Princess of Wales visits the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, Cambridge

US Defence Secretary, Caspar Weinberger gives on the record news conference, London

Wildlife and Countryside (Amendment) Bill; second reading; House of Commons

Inquiry into Todmorden railway accident begins taking evidence, Manchester

Social Services Secretary appears on 'A Week in Politics'; Channel 4 TV; 20.15

Trade and Industry Secretary presents "What the Papers Say Awards"; Channel 4; (20.00)

EC Informal meeting Social Affairs Ministers, Venice

Environment Secretary visits Liverpool

Cruft's Dog Show, Earls Court (to 10 February)

PUBLICATIONS

DTI: "British Business"; 5th of 6 articles on Lower Gulf; construction; O&A; vehicles

PAY

DEM: Municipal buses, platform and non-craft maintenance grades; (15,444); an offer of 4 per cent on rates has been rejected - negotiations to continue; settlement date January

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS'S BILLS
Wildlife and Countryside (Amendment) Bill: 2nd Reading (Mr D Clark)
Education (School Budgets) Bill: 2nd Reading (Mr D Madel)
Adjournment Debate
Public enquiry into the Potato Marketing Board (Mr R Gale)

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTCOAL STRIKE

- NACODS join NUM in calling on NCB to open immediate negotiations.
- You say NACODS deal with NUM stands.
- NCB rejected any new talks unless Scargill faces up to closure of uneconomic pits; they feel their demands for an explicit statement from NUM has been reinforced by latest events (FT).
- Scargill seen to have outmanouevred his executive once again "he picked another rabbit out of the hat" (Sun); now asking for a public inquiry.
- Another 202 miners abandoned the strike yesterday.
- Left wing London Labour Briefing attacks Kinnock for refusing to back the strike and calls on Benn to stand against him.
- FT says the war of attrition is set to continue and reveals that BACM, the managers' union, agrees that further talks must be ruled out at present; it wants more than half the miners back at work first because this will bring the smoothest end to the strike and least victimisation.
- Sun says Scargill yesterday continued his well known impersonation of Canute. He tries desperately to pretend the strike is not crumbling and his latest ploy, involving NACODS, will achieve nothing.
- Mirror leader says the last rites may be long drawn out, but the end is not in doubt. Board will get its way with pit closures - that is the economic reality after 11 ruinous months. But Government must accept social realities.
- Express: Snubbed Scargill stays on hook; leader says the NCB's right to manage is what the dispute is about and the strike will drag on until enough strikers drift back to work. NACODS' reappearance is an irrelevance and their claim absurd. NCB could do no other than reject their blustering demand.
- Telegraph leads with NCB ruling out fresh peace talks. Michael Eaton says "We have no ground whatsoever to re-enter negotiations". Oil demand up 25% last year because of the strike. Remaining 1500 jobs at Seafield/Frances complex in Fife now in jeopardy.
- Guardian says NACODS could consult its members about strike action next week; in another report it says whatever the outcome of the strike Britain could be forced to close uneconomic pits by Euro legislation which forbids unfair competition through subsidy and state aids.
- Guardian leader says that if you want to be magnanimous in victory you should offer more substantial funds for job creation as an inducement for an early return to work.
- Geoffrey Smith, in Times, wants NCB to publish what it wants on the agenda about economic pits so that the country can know precisely what the sticking point is.

ECONOMY

- Institute of Directors want £2.5bn tax cuts in budget - say Chancellor can afford it because of increased North Sea oil revenue.
- Electricity supply unions demand "substantial" pay rise.
- Consortium of 5 shipping groups decides to return to Southampton now that dockers have agreed to make port more competitive.
- HSE says Abbeysteads blast was due to design shortcomings.
- £910m Tern oilfield development gets go-ahead - first for more than a year.
- Daily Mail expected to warn staff of closure if action is not ended.

UNIONS

- Geoffrey Goodman, in Mirror, says the road back to national credibility for the unions will not be easy but the Government would be unusually misguided if it felt their defensive posture will remain unchanged. There will be a reaction to its policies.

YOUR SPEECH LAST NIGHT

- No coverage in 'pops'. Telegraph does half a column, and says you played down role of oil in our overall economy.
- Guardian features your glowing tribute to working miners and Britain's all round energy strength.
- FT says you praised oil and gas industry.

TRANSPORT

- Bishop of Durham calls bus privatisation "immoral" and perhaps "criminal widening gap between haves and have nots.
- Work starts on East Coast main line electrification.

WATER

- 19 Conservative MPs vote against and 20 abstain - but Government majority of 104 on water charges
- Ian Gow says Government is considering privatising water authorities - a move which the Express says damped down the rebellion.

PHONE TAPPING

- Plans for new statutory regulations announced. Sun says it revealed the amazing extent of 'phone tapping. FT says Government has tapped currency deal 'phone calls. Mirror says the Government revealed yesterday it spies on big business. Guardian also leads on commercial operations and its leader says it is not a breakthrough for civil liberties.
- Times says Home Secretary disclosed that successive Foreign Secretaries have been conducting economic espionage.
- FT says the proposals are deeply inadequate for a Government committed to enhancing the freedom of the individual. Under pressure it is doing the minimum possible.

LOCAL AUTHORITY

- Stoke-on-Trent Council giving mortgage loans up to £11,000 to unemployed provided they have a chance of getting a job.
- FT suggests battle over ratecapping is over bar the shouting - unlikely that more than one or two will fail to make a legal rate.

HOUSING

- Prices up 9.4% last year, according to the Halifax. It forecasts cheaper rates by the summer.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Liverpool pub chain bars homosexuals for fear of AIDS.
- Senior researcher says 15% of homosexual men in London are infected with the virus.

EDUCATION

- Employers threatening to take NUT to court for breach of industrial relations law by holding industrial action before a ballot.
- Swann report on education of ethnic minorities rules out special treatment for black pupils, according to the Express.
- Record numbers of women applied for and were accepted by universities last year.

ARTS

- National Theatre to close Cottesloe theatre with loss of 100 jobs; Sir Peter Hall accuses Arts Council of betraying it.

LAW AND ORDER

- Express describes as "bizarre" the idea that offenders should be able to offer direct reparation to their victims. Mr Brittan should drop the "absurd concept".
- All party group urging Government to act against cults who bend children's minds and steal them from their parents.
- 25% of criminals sentenced to life imprisonment and released on licence return to jail.
- Lord Scarman to bring in Bill to incorporate Euro Human Rights with English law.

LIBYAN HOSTAGES

- The 4 fly home to Gatwick.
- Your tribute to Archbishop and Mr Waite reported.
- Sun leader says No 10 issued a factually accurate statement at the time of the release of the hostages saying you suggested Terry Waite should go to Tripoli last October. Then the Archbishop huffily declares he had the idea first. "Tut, tut, your grace, isn't vanity a sin?"
- George Gale, in Express, says the hostility between you and the Archbishop is remarkable, but the Church of England is exceptionally cold towards you and your Government. Its instincts are no longer Tory.
- Telegraph says Gaddafi seeks the return of his opponents in Britain. Jim Wightman also sets the record straight about the allegations that you tried to win credit for the release of the hostages - we spoke about your correspondence only reluctantly and after it had been disclosed by a Church source.

IRELAND

- Douglas Hurd says John Hume could face charges if his proposed meeting with the IRA takes place in the UK.
- Level of terrorist activity in Northern Ireland lowest last year since records first kept in 1971 - 64 deaths lowest since civil unrest began.
- Guardian says bilateral with Fitzgerald has been delayed until after May local elections to avoid embarrassment for politicians in province.

PEOPLE

- Now the Sun, after the Times, prints Rodney Tyler's profile of Denis Thatcher. Guardian sees Rodney Tyler as part of the "burgeoning public relations industry" that surrounds your family.
- Admiral Fieldhouse new Chief of the Defence Staff.
- D/Star discovers Bongo land - where in West and Central Africa the Bongo antelope lives and says Alan Clark won't be sacked; but D/Star says he must have known his alleged remarks were out of order and that his holier than thou critics could be relied upon to exploit them.
- George Gale, in Express, says Mr Clark isn't supposed to talk like this, but we all do.
- The British jeans industry wants you to wear them off duty.
- Matt Monro, singer, dies.

MOLESWORTH

- Barbed wire fence costs £1m.

POLITICS

- Telegraph marks your 10th anniversary as leader by reprinting your manifesto for the leadership election and says it illustrates a marked constancy in your character.
- Ian Aitken in Guardian reviews your 10 years of living dangerously.
- Malcolm Rutherford in FT says the next few weeks are a major testing time for your second administration because of the number of decisions coming up; he adds that Michael Heseltine is emerging as the front runner for succession.

EC - gives us a £10m loan to create more jobs.

POLAND

- 2 secret policemen who murdered Solidarity priest jailed for 25 years each - two juniors get 14 and 15 years.

USA

- Joins the hunt for Nazi Mengele.

RUSSIA

- Reports that Chernenko has been brought back to life after heart attack; and that he attended a Kremlin meeting yesterday.

ANZUS

- Kinnock praises New Zealand for closing its ports to US warships which might be carrying nuclear weapons.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MOD: Mr Heseltine attends Ditchley Park Conference, meets Casper Weinberger
- DEN: Mr Walker meets Director-General, European Commission Energy Directorate
- DOE: Mr Jenkin visits Liverpool
- HO: Mr Brittan speaks at Huddersfield Polytechnic
- SO: Mr Younger hosts, Mr Ancram attends reception for Chairman of Prison visiting Committees, Edinburgh; Mr Younger meets Mdm Haulpetit-Fourichon, Edinburgh
- WO: Mr Edwards opens Innovation and Technology Seminar, Cardiff
- BOTB: Lord Jellicoe addresses British Industries Group AGM luncheon
- DES: Mr Brooke visits Newcastle Polytechnic
- DEM: Mr Morrison attends YTS Business Game presentation, Liverpool followed by Fit for Work presentation, Chester
- DOE: Mr Macfarlane visits Avon Ring Road
- SO: Mr Stewart visits Glenmore lodge to promote mountain safety, Aviemore
- SO: Lord Gray visits Moredun Animal Research Institute, Edinburgh
- DTI: Mr Lamont visits Zandra Rhodes textile factory, London
- DTI: Mr Channon addresses European Business Centre, London
- DTp: Mr Spicer visits Bristol (all day)

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe visits Turkey, Romania and Bulgaria (to 13 February)
- DTI: Mr Pattie visits Munich (to 11 February)

TV AND RADIO

"What the Papers Say Awards"; Channel 4; (20.00); Norman Tebbit to present
 "Law in Action"; Radio 4; (20.20); Lord Scarman on Bill of Rights
 "A Week in Politics"; Channel 4; (20.30)

"Any Questions"; Radio 4 (20.45); Marghanita Laski, Michael Meacher, Margaret Clay

"The London Programme"; LWT; (22.30)