

PRIME MINISTER

THE WEEK AHEAD

The Belgrano debates and the Ponting investigation, the coal strike and your visit to Washington are this week's highlights. All three are germane to your Questions in the House tomorrow. The Index of Retail Prices is published Friday. Wednesday is "No Smoking Day".

Other details:

INTERNATIONAL

- Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon first stage completed (today)
- UN Development Programme governing council, New York (today)
- US/Soviet talks on Middle East open, Vienna (tomorrow)
- Primate of Poland, Cardinal Glemp begins visit to UK (Thursday - to March 3)

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

- Home Secretary in Rome for Interior Ministers' meeting (today)
- People's Europe Committee (today and tomorrow)
- Foreign Affairs Council - enlargement (today and tomorrow)

PARLIAMENT

- Bills: 2nd Reading, London Regional Transport Bill (tomorrow); Peter Fry's national bingo Bill and W Powell's computer software copyright Bill (Friday)
- Debates: Belgrano (today); rate capping orders (Wednesday, when 3 IAs will be in court); Prevention of Terrorism Order (Thursday)
- Select Committee: Chief Secretary on Public Expenditure White Paper (today)
- Lords: TV returns Wednesday when Len Murray is introduced; Lord Tonyandy's book published (Thursday)

PUBLICATIONS ETC

- Financial assistance to De Lorean, NIO memorandum (today)
- DTI Green Paper on combatting pirating of audio and video tapes (tomorrow)
- Extradition Green Paper (Wednesday)
- Government reply to Foreign Affairs Select Committee report on Falklands (Wednesday)
- 10th Report of Standing Advisory Committee on Human Rights (Thursday)

INDUSTRY

- B/Caledonian results for 1984 (today)
- CBI Council (Wednesday)
- 11 striking miners in court at Eridgend on criminal damage and endangering life charges (Thursday)

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

- today: PSBR; CBI/FT survey of distributive trades
- Wednesday: Cyclical indicators; average earnings and unit costs
- Friday: PPI; trade figures; engineering sales and orders (November); steel consumption and stock figures

MINISTERS

- Lord Young at London Business School (today)
- Mrs Fenner for Moscow Agro-industrial exhibition (to Friday)
- Mr Jenkin at British Property Federation/National Association of Pension funds dinner (Wednesday); in North East (Friday)
- Mr Ridley at Association of Consulting Engineers dinner (Thursday); meets local authorities on bus policy, Bristol (Friday)

MEDIA

- Mr Hurd on TV South's "Questions" programme (tonight)
- BBC Panorama tonight on AEW Nimrod
- ITV World in Action tonight on money wasted on generic drugs
- BBC Radio 4 Analysis, Wednesday, on spending on infrastructure versus tax cuts
- Royal Television Society Awards (Thursday)

MEDIA (CONT'D)

- BBC TV Question Time, Thursday, with Tom King, Ken Livingstone, Antonia Fraser and Michael Hancock
- BBC Radio 4, Friday, includes Joan Hall and Lord Vinson.



BERNARD INGHAM
18 February 1985

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PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Princess of Wales visits British Steel Corporation's operational areas, SW Scotland and NW England; later Asian Feast of the Women's Council, Royal Nepalese Embassy

Debate on the sinking of the General Belgrano, HoC

EC Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels (to 19 February)

Completion of final phase of Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon

People's Europe Committee, Brussels (to 19 February)

Northern Ireland Secretary appears on TVS "Questions"

UN Development Programme Governing Council, New York

Chief Secretary, Treasury appears before Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee on public expenditure white paper

BBC "Panorama" programme features AEW Nimrod (21.25)

STATISTICS

HO: Statistical Bulletin: Mentally disordered offenders, England and Wales 1983

PUBLICATIONS

PAC: Financial Assistance to De Lorean Motor Cars Ltd - Memorandum from Department of Finance and Personnel Northern Ireland (11.00)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Energy; Transport

Business: Debate on the sinking of the General Belgrano

Motion on the Agricultural and Horticultural Co-operation Scheme

Adjournment Debate

The Proposed new London taxicab

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Select Committees: TREASURY AND CIVIL DEFENCE

Subject: The Government Expenditure Plans 1985-86 to 1987-88

Witnesses: The Rt Hon Peter Rees QC MP,
Chief Secretary to the TreasuryLords:

Cinemas Bill (HL) (Consolidation) Committee

New Towns and Urban Development Corporation Bill:
Committee

Mineral Workings Bill (HL): Third Reading

Charities Bill (HL): Third Reading

Straw and Stubble Burning (Control) Bill: Second Reading

MINISTERS - See AnnexPRESS DIGESTPONTING/BELGRANO

- Today's debate widely trailed with John Stanley put in the dock for alleged cover up. MoD considering Ponting's resignation letter.
- Michael Mates MP active in the media in support of MoD Ministers; he claims 3 Navy ships only an hour away from Belgrano when sunk.
- Mail leads with Mr Mates' claim that Navy was in peril - information which dramatically alters all previous arguments. Mr Mates says he has this from crews of ships.
- Sun leader hopes authorities decide to take no further action against Ponting - we wish to speed the day this sanctimonious little creep vanishes back into the obscurity from which he should never have emerged.
- Express says John Stanley will be fighting for his political future and is out to discredit Ponting; Commons shaping up for one of the darkest nights of the year.
- Paul Johnson, in Mail, says Tory strategists are not worried by Labour (and Alliance) attacks for even mention of the word "Belgrano" serves to remind the public of the Falklands factor - that the Conservatives are the patriotic party and Labour, assisted in varying degrees by Alliance, can usually be counted upon to oppose British interests and put the foreigner first.
- Telegraph reports an outspoken attack on Ponting by John Wilks, general secretary of MoD staff association. Accuses him of letting the side down. Ponting's reasoning stood the democratic system on its head and put bureaucrats above politicians.
- T E Utley, in Telegraph, says you beat Galtieri, you are about to beat Scargill and after tonight's debate you will be seen to have beaten Kinnock, but he thinks you are going to let him down over the BBC licence fee because of your love for accountants!

PONTING/BELGRANO (CONT'D)

- Telegraph says Labour's purpose has been quite simply to get its own back on you for winning the war and to try to puncture the popularity that came with victory. Labour's daunting task today is to try to prove a Government Minister behaved exceptionally badly.

- Hugo Young says the reason the Government is in the dock today because of its deep, occupational and uneradical belief in secrecy. And he says this Government is not to be trusted with reform of Official Secrets Act.

COAL STRIKE

- TUC ask for meeting with you as gap between NCB and NUM narrows - but problem of uneconomic pits remains.
- Scargill calls NUM delegate conference for Thursday after saying he will never be signatory to closure of any part of the industry.
- Sun says TUC feel talk with you is the only way of speeding up a solution.
- NCB expects less than 100,000 miners to be still on strike at the end of this week; says its offer is fair, reasonable and final.
- Mail thinks Thursday's NUM conference might call the strike off; leader says that as a strike leader Scargill is in a class of his own. He cannot win but he is determined that no-one in the NCB, TUC or NUM executive should cheat him of his consolation prize: prolonging the agony beyond all expectation.
- Telegraph says NCB expects its undistributed stocks of coal to last two years and is currently moving 900,000 tonnes a week - 200,000 tonnes more than it is producing.
- Guardian says immediate future of the dispute hinges on today's return to work, adds that David Owen attributes rise in SDP polls standing to his stand on pit strike.
- Geoffrey Smith, in Times, says Peter Walker has now reasserted full Ministerial control over the NCB's negotiating tactics.

INDUSTRY

- 7,000 apply for 50 skilled jobs with BP in Shetlands.
- The Rail Users Association says only 60% of first class post arrives next day - Post Office says it is better now - 86-87%.
- Shop stewards at Cammell Laird attack Eric Heffer for backing sit-in militants who nearly closed the yard - tell him to keep his mouth shut until he has visited the yard and learned the facts.
- Telegraph says British farmers are to make a fortune from the development of a new strain of oilseed rape.
- Victor Keegan, in Guardian, wonders whether you will have the courage to take on the farmers after the miners.
- IPCS having informal talks about a link up with ASTMS.
- Govan set to win £40m ferry order - FT.

ECONOMY/BUDGET

- TUC says tax cuts will do next to nothing to help low paid and poor; wants output expanded.
- Charterhouse Group predict pension funds will be taxed.
- CBI says pay deals are marking time at 6.2%.
- Lord Harris of High Cross attacks Bishop of Sheffield for suggesting that a community in which large numbers are unemployed is sinful.
- Fears that inflation will be at 6% by the end of the year.
- Express reports a new drive by the Inland Revenue on tax cheats, especially seaside landladies, racehorse owners, yachtsmen and taxi drivers.
- Nigel Forman and John Maples, in pamphlet, argue more could be done to reduce unemployment.
- Survey of 45 Tory MPs shows that opinion has swung against a radical Budget with major tax changes - FT.

YOUR VISIT TO USA

- Your CBS broadcast - and its appeal to Americans to cut off money to IRA - given wide coverage.
- Sun leads with your describing Denis as a lover of strength; and Express says - Don't make fun of my Denis. On another page a story from America says you will be surrounded by a massive security ring and NORAIID is planning to bus in 3000 supporters. State Department has denied Gerry Adams a visa.
- Mail takes the line that you blamed Left for Oxford honorary degree snub. Dons say this is "rubbish".
- Telegraph front page piece: Thatcher tells Americans: "End IRA aid" and goes on to give a fairly full account of the interview. In a separate economic piece from Washington, it says the richest and strongest nation in the world is on brink of becoming a global debtor for the first time since 1914, but few Americans seem to know or care.
- Guardian back page says Tory MPs want you to take a hard line over US interest rates and the deficit.
- Times leads with you declaring yourself Reagan's greatest fan and gives a light summary of the interview.

IRELAND

- Prison Officer murdered outside Armagh Cathedral after mass in front of his children and their grandmother.
- Princess Diana's brother has left his house in London, according to the Sun, because the building is a security risk.
- Guardian says Anglo-Irish summit is now unlikely until the summer.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Concern over spread - and possible contagion of AIDS - especially in prisons intensifies. Government expected to declare it a notifiable disease this week.
- Wardens want to ban movements between gaols.
- Firemen worried about giving kiss of life; Anthony Beaumont-Dark thinks it all rather hysterical.
- Mirror leader wants DHSS to publicise clearly and frankly what the dangers are; it has been slow to respond to menace.

- Boy 13 rescued from council flat where his mother and sister were killed of cold also dies.
- Express wants to know why they died but rejects Harriet Harman's claim that Government cuts responsible; Southwark Council one of the most spendthrift. Mail speculates that it wasn't cold but fumes that killed them.

SURROGACY ETC

- Britain's first frozen embryo baby on the way.
- Mail leader comes out in favour of Enoch Powell's Bill banning experiment on embryos; there is a feeling the men-in white coats are going too fast. But Guardian wants a public debate and says Warnock should not be subjected to Enoch Powell's legislative abortion.

ANIMAL RIGHTS

- Government to try to head off Animal Libbers with a White Paper proposing new curbs on animal experiments.

LAW AND ORDER

- Police investigating £12m crash of Budget holidays.
- 3 arrested after Zola Budd is prevented from completing race by anti-Apartheid protestors.
- Sun says all their nasty little stunt does is to cheapen and discredit the cause. Express takes same view.
- 4 British seamen cleared of trying to smuggle £27m worth of cannabis into the USA.
- Government has ruled out possibility of charging political parties for policing rallies under review of Public Order Act.

PARLIAMENT

- Telegraph says a growing number of MPs are demanding that essential Commons business should be confined to 3 days a week because of pressure of constituency business, travel difficulties and desire to spend more time at home.

MEDIA

- Sheffield Tory councillor organising petition asking you to get Dallas back on both BEC and ITV screens.

SPORT

- Welsh hockey girls cause controversy by agreeing to play in inter-continental tournament in Argentine.

LOCAL AUTHORITY

- West Midlands County Council drops idea of round the clock assistance to illegal immigrants facing deportation. Shelved because feasibility study shows there were simply not enough who needed help.

EDUCATION

- Bradford headmaster, at the centre of a race row, now creates a new storm; says Britain's educational system is dominated by Marxist and socialist thinking; new drive by Left to get him suspended.
- Telegraph sees teachers' pay dispute as threat to summer term exams. West Midlands Council joins Sheffield in supporting teachers.

EC

- Enlargement negotiations are running our of time with a number of technical details still to be agreed - FT.

AFRICA

- Prince Philip to visit 5 famine stricken African countries next month to examine causes and environmental damage caused by drought.

FALKLANDS

- Hit by mini crime wave caused by airport worker.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling attends Worshipful Company of Farmers Livery dinner, London
- CO: Lord Young addresses London Business School
- SO: Mr Younger lunches with Northern Lighthouse Board, "Pharos" Leith Docks, Edinburgh
- MOD: Mr Stanley visits Earls Court for RFA presentation
- MOD: Mr Lee visits Dowty Group, Cheltenham; meets Dutch Defence Minister
- DEM: Mr Bottomley attends CBI dinner for London MPs, London
- HO: Mr Waddington receives UKIAS delegation
- SO: Mr Ancram opens 200th House (Angus Housing Association), Montrose
- DTI: Mr Pattie visits Picker International, Wembley
- DTI: Mr Trippier opens small business units, Littlehampton; addresses the Federation of Sussex Industrialists

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe departs for Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels (also Mr Rifkind and Mr Channon (DTI)) (to 20 February)
- MAFF: Mrs Fenner visits Moscow to attend Agro-industrial exhibition (to 22 February)
- MOD: Mr Butler in Australia and New Zealand

TV AND RADIO

- "Panorama"; BBC 1; (20.10); Problems with Nimrod
- "World in Action"; Thames TV; (20.00); Money wasted on generic drugs. Pharmacists agreeing with limited list of NHS drugs
- "Pictures of Poland"; Channel 4; (21.00); Confrontation at Gdnask shipyard
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