

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

HM The Queen holds an Investiture, Buckingham Palace
TUC monitoring group meets Prime Minister
Prime Minister departs for USA (Defence Secretary, Foreign Secretary also accompany)

Princess of Wales visits Derby

US/Soviet talks on the Middle East begin, Vienna (and 20 February)

STATISTICS

CSO: Gross Domestic Product (output-based) (4th Qtr prelim)

PUBLICATIONS

DES: HMI report on initial teacher training, Christ Church College, Canterbury

DTI: 'The Recording and Rental of Audio and Video copyright material - Green Paper (16.00)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Education and Science; Defence; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Protection of national energy resources (coal) (Mr K Barron)

London Regional Transport (Amendment) Bill: Second Reading

Water Fluoridation Bill: Remaining Stages

Motion on EC document on the Milk Supplementary Levy Scheme

Adjournment Debate

Battery-powered wheelchairs on NHS prescriptions for the chronically disabled

Select Committees: EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS
Subject: Achievement in Primary Schools
Witnesses: The Mathematical Association (at 10.30); Association of Teachers of Mathematics (at 11.45)

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Select Committees: (Cont'd)

DEFENCE

Subject: Defence commitments and
resources: Sea systems
Witness: Ministry of Defence

JOINT COMMITTEE ON STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

Lords:

Hong Kong Bill: Second Reading

Industrial Development Bill (HL): Second Reading

District Salmon Fishery Boards (Scotland) Bill (HL):
Second Reading

Licensing (Amendment) Bill (HL): Second Reading

UQ on taxation of pensions

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTPONTING DEBATE

- Mail tends to sum it up - Mr Heseltine yomped all over him and them.
- Telegraph says he savaged Ponting and Conservative MPs gave him a hero's reception.
- Ponting's resignation accepted; ticked off by Commons officials for misbehaving in Strangers' Gallery, according to Sun. He claims almost all Mr Heseltine's evidence was heard at trial which acquitted him.
- Guardian says he will keep his 'preserved' pension.
- D/Star - Ponting in 'double dealer' fury - Heseltine mauls the mole as MPs back Maggie on Belgrano.
- Sun: Tarzan torpedo for Belgrano 'sneak'. Labour critics scuppered. Devastating attack on Ponting. And he clears John Stanley.
- Mirror 'Turncoat' Ponting - Heseltine hits back over Belgrano leaks - a merciless attack.
- Express: Exposed - the two faces of Ponting. Branded as a hypocrite. Unprecedented decision to disclose confidential advice given to Ministers.
- Mail: Ponting torpedoed. Heseltine slams Civil Servant "in such a position of trust". A devastating case against leaker. His performance gave Government one of its biggest Parliamentary boosts since the election. Tory MPs however have doubts about John Stanley's self pitying tone and his future progress; leader says no Argentine battle cruiser set a more erratic course than Ponting. He got what he deserved yesterday. Maybe the Law Officers will realise now it is more effective to put Civil Servants who betray their trust to the Parliamentary pillory than

PONTING DEBATE (CONT'D)

to take them to court. Mr Heseltine destroyed Ponting as a threat and rendered foolish all those Opposition leaders who have been fawning on the leaker.

- Telegraph sketch writer says by sunset Dalyell shuddered like a listless wreck; leader says Mr Heseltine met the assault head on and rebutted it with vigour and lucidity. But Ponting's motives do raise doubts. Must his protest simply be seen as part of the campaign for greater freedom of information.
- Guardian says Government introduced an entirely new factor into the argument - that the facts had to be concealed to protect our submarine warfare capacity; leader says all the twists and turns in the world cannot quite dispose of the issue that sustained the Opposition. Government got it wrong at the start and declined repeated opportunities to get it right.
- Times leads on Government's decision to publish internal papers to discredit Ponting whose solicitor criticises Mr Heseltine for his attack.

COAL STRIKE

- Not much hope expected in your talks today.
- NCB maintain that there is still 'a yawning gap'.

- Mirror says TUC leaders suspect you have not fully appreciated just how far NUM has moved; majority want a settlement but not a surrender.
- 1044 back at work yesterday.
- Striking miner jailed for 2½ years for series of attacks on working miners and police - "a common thug and bully".
- High Court orders NUM's £9m should remain sequestered.
- D/Star says we are only one word - uneconomic - away from peace.
- Sun says you will give TUC a message for Scargill: the game is up; leader says step by step NUM executive is moving to break the extraordinary spell of Scargill. It hopes executive will discover their courage and reach an honourable settlement. Scargill has proved a leader to disaster.
- Mirror says TUC's mission will not be to negotiate an end to the strike but to sue for peace. You should resist your instinct to squeeze the last ounce out of victory. TUC should remind you your duty is to unite not divide. All that it needs is a spark of humanity at No 10.
- Express - TUC likely to get short shrift - every indication visit will be brief and fruitless. You will not waver on uneconomic pits issue; leader says it is difficult to see the basis for Willis's optimism - there is no way of splitting the difference over the right to manage.
- Mail says Scargill is a man alone with the pit strike virtually taken out of his hands. Mounting evidence of deep and widening split in NUM executive. South Derbyshire gives leaders power to assume greater independence from NUM. Viscount Tonypany says he is ashamed of striking miners' violence; leader says you are sensible to see the TUC but there must be no fudge. It is not a case of finding the ambiguous word, but of introducing sound commercial practice in a grossly over-subsidised industry.
- Telegraph says you will tell TUC you are not prepared to compromise on closure of uneconomic pits; leader sees people flinching unnecessarily at the prospect of inflationary abdications over beer and sandwiches. The TUC's objective is to try to shift the blame for the NUM's discomfiture - Willis will tell the world that it is your vindictiveness alone which stands in the way of an honourable settlement. That is the downside potential and it was not avoidable.
- Guardian says you will offer no pit concessions; leader writes two alternative scripts for you, one dismissive of the TUC and the other demonstrating a wish to be reasonable.

COAL STRIKE (CONT'D)

- Times leads with NCB's reference to yawning gap and says although there may be minor tinkering with drafting errors the NCB is adamant the NUM must concede the main issue.
- FT also expects you to maintain tough line.

ECONOMY

- Sun expects interest rates and home loans to rise after £'s slump to \$1.0927.
- Inflation expected to rise to 5% on Friday; Guardian says PSBR figures were worse than expected.
- Peter Rees tells Select Committee spending plans for next tax year are already out of date, limiting room for tax cuts (Telegraph); concern in the City that weakness of the £ will force abandonment of all tax cuts.
- Institute of Fiscal Studies challenges Treasury view that raising income tax allowances would be a good way of increasing the incentive to work.

INDUSTRY

- B/Caledonian profits up from £3.5m in 1983 to £15.5m - workers to benefit; urges expansion of Gatwick.
- Price of tea due to raise to pay for investment in new plantings.
- Judge upholds Southampton docker's claim to backpay which could bring £500,000 to share between ports labour force in action ~~over~~ reduction of basic pay during dispute.
- Travel agents to remove 1m holidays from market unless summer demand improves soon.

YOUR VISIT TO USA

- Sun applauds USA's decision to keep out Gerry Adams and so protect its good name.
- D/Star leader says it is a very proud mission. Greatly to your credit you seem determined not just to enjoy the plaudits on the evidence of your CBS broadcast's reference to NORAIID. If American hosts really want to honour you they should join same crusade against IRA.
- Express report from Washington says Reagan is bracing himself for some plain speaking from you over the dollar. An aide says you have a legitimate complaint; George Gale, rehearsing the agenda, says you go secure in the strength of your position as Prime Minister. We are fortunate you and Reagan are so much in tune.
- Express and Telegraph interested in your "full" and "non-stop" itinerary.
- Guardian from Washington says the visit is taking on the allure of a Royal tour and Reagan will attend your dinner tomorrow night.

MEDIA

- Fleet Holdings, Express publishers, report increase in pre-tax profits from £6.4m to £11.2m in first 6 months - a rise of 75%.
- BBC caves in and brings back Dallas next week - taken aback by strength of viewer reaction.
- NUJ general secretary ordered to leave his office as Left mounts another investigation into his pensions increase.

ARTS

- Sir Peter Hall and National Theatre board will consider resigning if GLC withdraws £760,000 annual grant because of ratecapping.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Now NUPE bans ambulance crews from giving kiss of life method and theatre cleaners threaten to boycott a group of gay actors in London for fear of AIDS. First woman victim died in Oxford two years ago. Express says Government must make disease notifiable.
- Guardian says the real plague is panic.
- Fumes may have killed woman and two children who died apparently from hypothermia in Kennington; or it may have been leaking gas.

HOUSING

- Prices rising because of a shortage of homes for sale - Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

EDUCATION

- Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association decide against striking over pay for the present.
- Solihull top of NUT's 'hit list' after threatening to go to court over strike.

LAW AND ORDER

- D/Star says Moors murderess, Myra Hyndley faces at least another 10 years in prison and Ian Brady seems certain to die there.

ANIMAL RIGHTS

- Royal College of Surgeons found guilty of cruelty to a monkey used in medical research; fined £250 but plan to appeal.

LEBANON

- Moslem gangs run riot in Sidon after Israelis depart.

EC

- Row in the EuroParliament with Left wingers dubbing others who globe trot at Community's expense "playboys".

NIGERIA

- Two British aircraft engineers detained in Lagos to face trial on theft charges.

SOUTH AFRICA

- 5 blacks killed in shanty town riots.

ARGENTINE

- Economic Ministers and Governor of Central Bank resign - most serious Cabinet crisis.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling attends Horticultural Trades Association dinner, HoC
- OAL: Lord Gowrie speaks at the opening of Crafts Council exhibition, London
- MOD: Mr Stanley and Lord Trefgarne to American Charter of Commerce
- MOD: Mr Lee visits Singer
- DEM: Mr Morrison visits Lucas Industries, Henderson Diamond Tool Co and Midland Group Training Services, Coventry (all day)
- DEM: Mr Bottomley visits HSE, Bootle
- DEN: Mr Goodlad visits Yorkshire Electricity Board, Leeds
- DHSS: Mr Clarke addresses National Federation of Master Steeplejacks and Lightning Conductor Engineers, London
- DTI: Mr Pattie visits ICL, London
- DTI: Mr Lamont addresses the "Better made in Britain" lunch, London
- DTI: Mr Butcher visits Scotland
- DTI: Mr Trippier addresses the Imperial College Industrial Society, London
- HMT: Mr Rees speaks at London School of Economics
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TV AND RADIO

- "File on 4"; Radio 4; (19.20); Hazardous industrial sites, Sir Douglas Black
- "A Touch of Midas"; Radio 4; (20.30); Robert Maxwell
- "Crisis in Education"; Radio 4; (23.00); Professor Ted Wragg
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