

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

HM The Queen visits The Times to mark its bicentenary

Soviet Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko begins visit to Spain (to 29 February)

Provincial Assembly elections, Pakistan

German-French summit meeting, Paris

Micheldever train collision public inquiry opens, Basingstoke

STATISTICS

DEM: Unemployment and unfilled vacancies (Jan-detail)

DEM: Employment and earnings by industry (Dec-prov)

DEN: Energy trends (Dec)

DTI: Overseas Travel and Tourism (Dec)

PUBLICATIONS

HoC: Trade and Industry Select Committee report on ECGD (11.00)

LCD: Law Commission 19th annual report for year 1983/84 (14.30)

RCoHM: Royal Commission on Ancient & Historical Monuments and Construction of England; 42nd interim report - non-conformist chapels and meeting houses in England (14.30)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Home Office; Northern Ireland; Prime Minister

Business: Debate on Welsh Affairs
Companies Consolidation (Consequential Provisions) Bill (HL):
Second Reading
Companies Bill (HL): All Stages
Company Securities (Insider Dealings) Bill (HL): All Stages
Business Names Bill (HL): All Stages
Adjournment Debate
Liver transplants at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Select Committees: ENERGY

Subject: Government Oil Price Policy

Witnesses: HM Treasury (at 10.30); Foreign and Commonwealth Office (at 11.30)

JOINT COMMITTEE

Petition Against Okehampton Bypass Special Procedure Orders

Lords Highland Region (Kinlochbervie) Order Confirmation Bill:
Third Reading
Prosecution of Offences Bill (HL): Third Reading
New towns and Urban Development Corporations Bill:
Third Reading
Mineral Workings Bill: Report
Agricultural and Horticultural Co-operation Scheme 1985:
Motion for Approval
UQ on whether HMG Have any intention of taxing occupational pension schemes or benefits from them

MINISTERS - See AnnexPRESS DIGEST

Some newspapers link the return of more than 50% of miners and the pound's bounce back as "a double dose of joy" for you.

£/\$/ECONOMY

- International bankers seen to have sprung a trap on speculators, causing dollar to drop, pound and other currencies to rise.
- Threat of higher interest rates seem to have been lifted.
- Sun say it was a spectacular comeback for the £ as banks fleeced speculators; leader says we all owe something to Paul Volcker and the dollar's fall is good news for all of us, including the USA.
- Mirror and Mail say it was a £1bn rescue operation; Mirror reports Peter Tapsell as describing the Government's policies as "the economics of the madhouse" and says Britain would be better off if we had followed Reagan's policies.
- Express sees the £ standing proud again; in another report it says MPs have greatly swollen postbags over the Budget and are taking it as a sign that Parliament is enjoying a revival as the people's forum.
- Mail says yesterday's astonishing happenings show the big central banks still pack lots of muscle; in another report it says Labour is making a fuss over Treasury's revelation that the value of British assets overseas has mushroomed from £12.5bn in 1979 to £70bn.
- Telegraph Europe's banks blast \$; money market in turmoil. They dumped more than \$1.5bn on unsuspecting speculators.

£/\$/ECONOMY

- Guardian say it was a massive and successful onslaught on the dollar by European central banks, followed by James Baker appearing to indicate USA may join fray.
- Guardian wants US to reduce its obese budget deficit simultaneously with Japan and European countries easing their tight fiscal policies.
- Times: Day of panic as bankers attack dollar.

COAL STRIKE

- Scargill seen to be fighting to keep a grip on the strike in the face of a growing clamour for a return to work.
- Over 50% now back - another 1342 returned yesterday. More full page adverts telling men what they will lose by staying out.
- Union executive meets today, with Scargill claiming victory in stopping closures in 1984. A day of difficult decisions. Special conference on Monday?
- NU Seamen blockade of coal ships from the North East broken.
- Sun say it is D-Day for NUM leaders - make or break. Peter Walker expected to report to Cabinet there won't be a Scargill surcharge, no amnesty for sacked offenders and no return to work without an agreement. In another feature the Sun lists the price of Scargill at £2.93m - £52.36 for each man, woman and child.
- Mirror says leaders of the militant mining areas will demand an organised return to work without a settlement.
- Express says you aren't claiming victory yet, for the dispute isn't over and might go on for weeks; two page feature inside on the force of Scargill's war in human and industrial terms. Jack Warden says the Cabinet never wanted a scrap. Scargill miscalculated the Thatcher factor and you have re-written the golden rule for Governments - never take on the miners.
- Mail P1 lead: Scargill's day of reckoning. Pit union chiefs face an agonising choice; leader says NUM has one decision to take today - lead the remaining strikers back or be flattened in the stampede.
- Telegraph says the NUM meets today knowing it cannot afford to dither about the disintegrating strike. You are very pleased the 50% landmark has been passed. But while you were restrained many of your Backbenchers see it as a momentous victory with far reaching implications for union attitudes in the public sector.
- Guardian says the solutions being mooted last night included a ballot, abandonment of the strike without a settlement or a final appeal to the NCB to meet the full executive for negotiations. But most widely canvassed - a national delegate conference next week.
- Guardian say Government is determined to oppose any widespread amnesty for convicted strikers. Feature on Peter Walker, 'the tough guy who came in from the damp'.
- Times say Government is now admitting cost of strike has probably passed £2bn.
- Ronnie Butt, in Times, says you will need to respond with sensitivity and imagination when the strike is over, but it will be a great opportunity for you.

INDUSTRY

- High-tec firms in Cambridgeshire can't keep up with orders because of staff shortages.
- Vauxhall reports a £6.8m loss last year.
- Tailors' union attacks Government report on sweat shops for only scratchin the surface of abuse; most are operating within law, says report.
- Sales of new cars last month were down on January 1984.
- Michael Spicer calls for a common market in air travel open to every airline in Europe.
- English Tourist Board condemns Government for lack of policy and support for tourist industry.
- Times says TUC/Labour Party has scorned the Government's ideas that a reduction in pay increases would boost employment.
- Leaders of Britain's nationalised industries resisting Government proposals to create common financial and management standards.

CIVIL SERVICE CODE

- Guardian says union and Opposition leaders are sharply critical of it for failure to consult; feature calls for a code for Ministers as well as Civil Servants.
- Times says the code has caused widespread dismay.

MEDIA

- BBC giving Dr Who a year's rest to save money - "a nasty little stunt" says Sun.
- Express leader attacks BBC for "awe-inspiring arrogance" with ideas such as car radio licences, a licence for each TV set we own, and the "inexplicable" decision to suspend Dr Who.
- Guardian reports Director General of IBA as saying IBA had no contact with Government or Whitehall before banning MI5 film.

LOCAL AUTHORITY

- Government has majority of over 100 on capital spending curbs, even though 30 Tory MPs abstain and one votes with Labour.
- Berkshire rates increase 5.6%.

EDUCATION

- More 3-day strikes by teachers planned for next week.
- Pupils at a Reading School padlocked teachers taking industrial action inside the building - say they were fed up with missing out on school meals and teachers deserved to miss the pub at lunchtime.
- Education authorities offer to bring in an independent conciliator to break deadlock.
- Solihull drops idea of further legal action against NUT because of its decision to ballot nationally.
- Telegraph leader says teachers should be given hope; Sir Keith's strategic purpose should be to restore their sense of professional dignity, insist they do their job properly and ensure a salary structure which rewards talent and endurance.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Telegraph says Government is expected to stand firm on its SERPS commitment.
- Audit Commission say some Social Services Departments could increase support for elderly by 20% without spending any more money.
- Times says prescription charge may rise to £2 and maximum dental charge for routine treatment from £14.50 to £18.

DAILY STAR AWARDS

- D/Star devotes six pages to its Star Awards, and on the front page has a picture of smiles, you holding Luke Milligan above the heading: Luke makes us all walk tall, thanks to the Prime Minister. In the centre page prints most of your speech.
- In a separate piece about Bob Geldof's award it says you are looking at other ways of helping in Ethiopia.
- Leader reports you taking up the Prince of Wales' theme at the Institute of Directors of putting the great back into Britain.
- Sun devotes a third of a page to Bob Geldof's butter mountain plea to you, with picture. Mirror in a small piece says Geldof clashed with you over famine relief.
- Express says Geldof struck a discordant note yesterday on Ethiopian famine relief and use of butter mountain.
- Times uses picture of you arguing with Geldof.

PEOPLE

- Prince Charles earns plaudits in Mirror as a sensitive and caring man for recognising the desperate plight of some areas of Britain - let's hope, it says, you learn there is a world beyond Finchley.
- Sir Iain Moncrieffe of that ilk dead.
- Viscount Tonypany defends himself and is surprised self-appointed guardians of open government should protest even at the tip being exposed.

LAW AND ORDER

- Government launches £2.4m attack on heroin abuse; Mail says controversially the Government has decided that soft advice is better than shock horror- worth trying but more aggression needed against pushers.
- Sun says Ponting may be charged with perjury; Paul Foot, in Mirror, says that at a Bar students meeting last September that he would regard Attorney General as a fool if he were to start, on his own, prosecutions wich involve grave matters of public concern.
- Telegraph says MoD police inquiries into whether Ponting committed perjury have been referred to DPP.
- Times says Ministers have decided there must be no prosecution of those who made MI5 film.

IRELAND

- Sun asks if Father Andrew McCluskey is proud of himself for saying three IRA terrorists were victims of "ruthless execution" after which tere was a riot with 150 petrol bombs thrown.
- IRA car bomb explodes 200 yards from World Cub football ground, but no-one injured.

NEW ZEALAND

- Express Defence correspondent says Lange has flown into London for a showdown with you; he will get a rocket at No 10. Express leader says New Zealand is attempting to enjoy the fruits of a relationship while refusing the obligations. It would be tragic if Mr Lange's proposals should threaten our long standing friendship.
- Telegraph says at the root of Lange's difficulties is a desire to keep New Zealand in the ANZUS pact on his own terms. In Russian eyes his New Zealand must now represent a brightly coloured flag on the map.
- Guardian says the fact that you uphold and expand Britain's role as a nuclear missile carrier gives you no right to join in the attempt to make New Zealand knuckle under.

FALKLANDS

- Prince Andrew forced to land in a field when his helicopter develops a fault.

MIDDLE EAST

- Israel and Egypt step up diplomatic efforts to end stalemate.

EC

- France, West Germany and Benelux agree to scrap all police and customs formalities at common borders.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

MAFF: Mr Jopling lunches with agricultural journalists, London
MOD: Mr Heseltine on Capital Radio 'phone-in programme
MAFF: Mr MacGregor attends International Food and Drink exhibition, London
DEM: Mr Morrison meets Mr Rory Quinn, Eire Minister, London
DEN: Mr Hunt attends energy efficiency breakfast meeting, Cambridge
HO: Mr Mellor meets New Zealand Minister for Internal Affairs
SO: Mr Stewart lunches with Marathon Oil, London
DTI: Mr Trippier addresses Students Industrial Society, Hull University
DTI: Mr Pattie addresses IT advisory panel's lunch; visits Whitbread plc, Davy Co Ltd and Sheffield University
WO: Mr Edwards attends Institution of Electrical Engineers annual dinner, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

ODA: Mr Raison meets European Commissioner, Mr Natale, Brussels
DTI: Mr Channon meets Commissioners, Brussels

TV AND RADIO

"Forty Minutes"; BBC 2; (21.30): Whose House is it anyway? - On compulsory purchase orders

"TV Eye"; Thames (21.30)

"Question Time"; BBC 1; (22.20): Norman Lamont, Jonathan Porritt, Elizabeth Rees, Norman Willis
