

8
1 January 1985

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister visits Science Museum

EC Political Committee, Rome (to 9 January)

Control of major industrial hazards order comes into effect

STATISTICS

BOE: Provisional estimates of monetary aggregates (mid-December)

CLCB: London clearing banks' monthly statement (mid-December)

PUBLICATIONS

PAY

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

HO: Mr Brittan attends Financial Times Economic Writers reception

MOD: Mr Butler visits Marconi, Stanmore

SO: Mr Stewart hosts reception for Japanese businessmen, Edinburgh

DTI: Mr Butcher opens CAD/CAM international conference, Birmingham

HMT: Mr Rees addresses Westminster Industrial Brief

DEn: Mr Hunt launches Monitoring and Target System for British Independent Steel Producers

TV AND RADIO

'Open to Question': BBC Radio 4 (1850) Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson MP faces questions from a young audience

'Crisis in Education': BBC Radio 4 (2030) Professor Ted Wragg looks at the curriculum and examinations systems, in the second of four programmes

PRESS DIGESTCOAL STRIKE

- Times says NCB's attitude to talks has hardened because more than 1200 miners - a surprising number -- abandoned the strike.
- But Scargill says this scale of return was a disaster for the Board and Mirror says return was not a significant break-through.
- Nine striking miners and a farmworker jailed for up to 3 years for setting fire to 5 NCB buses in Derbyshire.
- Sid Vincent, Lancs NUM leader, given a unanimous vote of confidence by his executive after his sunshine holiday in Tenerife, but working miners still critical of him.
- Electricity industry coped comfortably with surge in demand because of cold.
- Express says yesterday's big return was a new blow to Scargill no matter his bold front; leader adds that the only question now the strike has failed is how much more damage the diehards are going to do themselves and their industry.
- Mail leader says slowly, tragically slowly, the NCB is winning the war of attrition and sees the striking miners rather as the First World War's "lions led by donkeys".
- FT says NCB officials expect a new surge back to work of November proportions after yesterday's encouraging figures.
- FT says British coal exports this financial year are expected to be 75% up on last year's level in spite of strike - overseas customers supplied from Continental stockpiles.

ANTARCTICA

- Express leader says we should resist pressure to put Antarctica's development under UN control because this would allow the Third World to grab a share of resources which can in the main only be exploited with Western money and knowhow.

INDUSTRY

- Motorists bought the second highest number of cars on record last year 1,749,650 compared with 1,691,699 in 1983. Ford Escort best seller.
- Talbot car workers at Coventry reject £18 a week increase over 2 years.
- Sun criticises Southampton shop steward who led a strike against containerisation which has closed the port since October and has now taken £25,000 redundancy pay-off; 900 dockers volunteer for redundancy, bringing port labour force down to 1,300.
- Terry Duffy, replying to threats of suspension from the AUEW and the EETPU for taking government money for ballots, says the 2 unions might merge to form a powerful moderate group.
- Telegraph expects Transport Secretary to announce that flotation of B/Airways has been put back to the end of the year; Times says Government has already reached its target for asset sales this year with the total in excess of £2bn.

ECONOMY

- "Pops" say interest rates are set to soar because the £ continues to sink. Telegraph also sees pressure for higher rates increasing.
- But cold weather firms up oil spot market and this gives new hope for £.

£ NOTE

- Sun continuing its campaign to save the £ note says an Audience Selection survey shows 69% want to retain it.

POLITICS

- Labour Party's Organisation Committee votes 9-6 against any inquiry into Militant Tendency and other far left groups; Telegraph says it was a significant defeat for Kinnock.
- Sun leader attacks Left wing lecturer who is trying to stop you getting an honorary degree in Oxford - what is a man with such a tiny, closed mind doing at Oxford or any other university?
- Patrick Cormack MP, writing in the Birmingham Post, wants you to talk to the nation more and show you really care about unemployment.
- Express feature on union ballots over political funds says the day of reckoning for the Labour Party is at hand.

LOCAL AUTHORITY

- Left wing Hackney Council's social services committee is recommending that homosexuals should be encouraged to adopt or foster children.
- Sun leader says if there were any justice those responsible for latest GLC "anti-racial" posters would end up in the dock for inciting racial division.
- Merseyside CC votes to exceed ratecapped spending limit by £23m.

EDUCATION

- Mail's education correspondent says there is little doubt that in the UK, as in the USA, parents are in favour of teacher assessment. It is clear educational standards will not improve without a major shake-up of teacher complacency.
- Times leader suggests NUT leaders have learned their rhetoric from Scargill; Sir Keith must refuse their claim for more money not matched by change.

PRINCESS MARGARET

- Part of left lung removed for tests but no evidence of malignancy; Princess told to give up smoking.
- Several papers lead with the "All Clear" news. She is expected to go home soon.

MEDICAL/WELFARE

- Row over the decision by Oxford doctors to stop giving a kidney patient treatment because the down-and-out has become "disruptive", and his life is not of sufficient quality.
- Chemist who cleared Debendox for use says on television she would never have given it the go-ahead had she seen all the facts.
- Remarkable story of Sunderland girl, 11, for whom surgeons have saved her leg by juggling with parts of the limb, having at one stage removed the limb entirely; now she may be able to skate again.
- Guardian says Ministers are blocking the appointment of NHS staff to general management posts to try to win recruits from business.

SURROGATE MOTHERS

- D/Star claims there are 3 more on the way, but the women fear they could literally be left holding the baby because of the present legal wrangle; leader continues to attack Barnet council's behaviour.
- Lady Warnock suggests the child should be handed over to new parents.
- Telegraph leader says Parliament will have massive public support on legislating quickly to stop what otherwise may become "a fashionable lark".
- Barnet Council trying to find out more about couple who plan to receive baby.
- Guardian leader says the commercial dimension is unacceptable from almost everyone's point of view but it would be dangerous for Mr Fowler to rush into legislation on surrogacy, shorn of commercialism. The baby should be allowed to go to the couple who want it and surrogacy debated with greater calm.

LAW AND ORDER

- 5 arrested in anti-corruption raids at Rolls Royce and Jaguar.
- Mirror leader decides to address animal rights fanatics in the only language they might understand - they are, it says, as crazy as coots, as dumb as oxen as blind as bats and as sick as parrots; David Mellor gets a flood of "hate messages"; Guardian says the campaigners are making fools of themselves and enemies of others.
- Campaign to provide Britain with a Bill of Rights, incorporating the Euro Convention, launched by Constitutional Reform Centre of which Lord Scarman is President.

IRELAND

- Home Secretary agrees to detention of retired woman psychiatrist for 3 more days under Prevention of Terrorism Act; four held at Liverpool now charged with plotting to cause explosions.

ARMS CONTROL

- Not much coverage of Geneva talks, partly because of an information clamp down, but most feel there is a good atmosphere.
- Times suggests US is prepared to compromise on anti-satellite weapons.

EC

- Telegraph says that surplus butter will be sold in UK well below 42p maximum set by MAFF - likely to be 33p a packet.
- Delors pledges to develop EMS.

USA

Husband of Mrs Ferraro pleads guilty to plotting a fraud "to spare family publicity".

ISRAEL

- Pledges to rescue remaining Falashas in Ethiopia.

LIBYA

- Terry Waite returns with hopes of bringing 4 British hostages home.