

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Westland shareholders meet formally to postpone decision until Friday

Statement on Roskill

Transport Secretary meets French Transport Minister on Channel Link

International Tin Council meets

2nd Reading Financial Services Bill

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STATISTICS

DTI: Provisional figures of vehicle production

DTI: Retail sales (December-prov)

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PUBLICATIONS

MAFF: Annual Review of Agriculture 1986 (15.30)

MET POLICE: Metropolitan Police Commissioner's Strategy Report

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Defence; Employment; Prime Minister

Business:

10 Minute Rule Bill: Leasehold Reform (Mr G Wardell)

Financial Services Bill: Second Reading, Money and Ways and Means Resolutions

Debate on a Motion to take Note of EC Document 7283/85 relating to vehicle gaseous emissions

Ajournment Debate

The terms of reference for the planning inquiry into the proposed European Demolition Fast Reactor Fuel Reprocessing Plant (Mr J Wallace)

Select Committees: COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL  
Felixstowe Dock and Railway

Lords Education (Amendment) Bill: Second Reading  
Salmon Bill (HL): Second Reading

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTWESTLAND

- Heseltine springs trap (Mirror) for Leon Brittan who is seen to be fighting for his political life after qualified apology to House over Pearce letter; Government in disarray. Much speculation of contents of letter.
- Extensive anticipation of your Question Time and debate tomorrow.
- Westland shareholders' meeting delayed until Friday at Royal Albert Hall to house them all.
- Sikorsky still favourite, according to some; mystery buyer gets 5% of Westland stock; Euros have 23.3%.
- City says delay is to allow Cuckney to get enough votes behind Sikorsky.
- D/Star P4: You can run but you can't hide - Kinnock's challenge to Maggie over 'copter affair. You will go into the dock tomorrow - and you will come out with guns blazing.
- Sun P1 lead: "I'm so sorry. Brittan humbled over hushed-up heli letter. Political career in tatters. You are accused of aiding and abetting his "misleading" of the House.
- Mirror P1 lead: Government in turmoil over Westland letter. Brittan is humiliated. Maggie to face grilling; leader says Industry Secretary must go - he deliberately misled the House.
- Express P1 lead: Another day of drama in affair. Brittan at bay in "secret letter" row. Resign call as he is forced to apologise. Heseltine half way to pulling down Leon Brittan if not you as well. Tories divided over whether Mr Brittan has given adequate apology; leader says even before yesterday it was obvious the affair was crying out for a detailed, firm, frank and fearless statement by you. You should put the case without equivocation in Question Time today.
- Express feature says Mr Brittan gave replies suited to a barrister doing his best for a client in court. But it would not do for the Commons; it was too clever.
- Another Express feature "inside the Heseltines' bunker in SW1". Getting 500 letters a day.
- Mail P1 - A new demand - Maggie must apologise to MPs now. Controversy raging out of control. Shambles will strengthen Heseltine's view that you and Mr Brittan have been biased in favour of Americans; leader headed "Not a pretty performance" says it will not do for Mr Brittan to say he was protecting confidences. His squirming performance was not a pretty one. For his sake and your own, you will need to be forthright and more frank.
- Telegraph says your standing has been dented by Heseltine's resignation; he is suddenly the favourite to succeed you, according to ITN poll. 10% stake in Westland changed hands yesterday at premium price, but supporters of both camps denied they were buyers.

WESTLAND (Cont'd)

- Guardian lead - "Abject Brittan apologises to Commons". Westland camp adamant it has enough support to win necessary 75%. Parliamentary sketch headed: "Brittan holed in one by Heseltine"; leader says there remains a cavernous gap between Mr Brittan's testimony and the Lygo impression. It is time to start being frank and on the record.
- Hugo Young, in Guardian, on the man (Heseltine) who gave up a job to promote himself, says we should be clear what Mr Heseltine is about - his intention appears to be so to discredit you that there is a chance of your being supplanted. What happened in the last few weeks raised no constitutional question, it was a story of old fashioned power play and he lost. If anyone has affronted the constitution, it is Mr Heseltine breaking every rule that governs Cabinet confidentiality.
- Times P1 lead - Brittan apology to MPs over Westland letter.
- Times says Mr Brittan got the benefit of the doubt from Tory Backbencher and the general view was that he would survive.
- Two thirds of voters think Mr Heseltine was right to resign.
- Times leader says Mr Brittan fell into Mr Heseltine's trap. However, Labour MPs who mocked the very mention of words private and confidential brought no credit to themselves. Wants the clearest possible answer on National Armaments Directors point since it is clue to even handedness.
- Peter Riddell, FT, says the Government is in deepening political trouble after Mr Brittan's apology. Heseltine continues to force the Government on to the defensive.
- FT diary says Westland affair has also split Italian Ministers.

DEFENCE

- Guardian reports build up at Molesworth cruise missile base.

ECONOMY

- Inflationary pressure, in form of raw materials and industrial prices are at their lowest since 1960s - 'Maggie's double joy over prices' - Sun. But £1bn wiped off value of shares and concern about interest rates.
- Sun leader on comments by NatWest's David Lomax says that according to him the Government is doing darned well in achieving prosperity for Britain. January weather may be bleak but outlook for Britain never brighter.
- Richard Ryder MP, in Telegraph, wants the Government to look lively and cut taxes.

INDUSTRY

- D/Star complains about BR and LT fares going up way beyond inflation - guaranteed only to clog our roads; a misguided policy.
- Cadbury Schweppes selling off its food division to its own managers for £80m.
- Future of Goldcrest, the film company, in doubt last night.
- Guardian says colliery managers have withdrawn from an independent pit closure inquiry because they say retention of a Durham pit cannot be justified.
- Four MPs, including Robert Jackson, to lodge early day motion today accusing Government policies of destroying civil science and undermining technological future of Britain.
- Guardian sides with NUM over Scottish miners whom the NCB refuses to take back even though an industrial tribunal has awarded their reinstatement.

UNIONS

- Fleet Street heading for a major showdown with Murdoch- unions balloting on strike.
- Three officials have left TGWU in Isle of Man in protest over a Militant takeover by people organised by Hatton's friends.
- Agreement reached in long running electricians' dispute which threatened ITV.
- Demands for you to see Gartcosh marchers.

CHANNEL LINK

- Government will decide on Thursday who will build Tunnel (D/Star).
- Telegraph thinks it doubtful whether an outright choice can be made by next Monday.
- Guardian says final decision was narrowed to two tunnel schemes.
- Times reports a setback (no agreement) as deadline nears; we are insisting project should include a road as well as rail option.
- FT says Euroroute seems to be ruled out.

EDUCATION

- Parents appeal to teachers' unions, on eve of ACAS talks, to accept latest 7.5% offer; list 27 ways in which dispute has affected children.
- Express says teachers should seize their chance before their support in the country vanishes altogether; Sir Keith is perfectly reasonable in requiring concession on quality assessment of teachers.
- Mail leader says teachers' most powerful allies - parents - are deserting them; they should settle and Sir Keith should then give them a review.
- Guardian says teachers could face legal action from parent-teacher associations if disruption in schools is escalated.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Sun says Hatton has created jobs for yobs on Merseyside - referring to jobs he has found for those convicted of violence.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Two privately owned old people's homes in Bromsgrove closed after claims of cruelty.

POLITICS

- Swansea Labour Party rejects a GMBTU motion to expel members of Militant - a third of Swansea Labour Association are thought to be Militant supporters.
- Peter Shore expected to be re-selected.
- Times says Heffer called Hattersley "a stinking little swine" at a labour Party row over Liverpool last night.

LAW AND ORDER

- Woman county court judge resigns claiming that she should have been promoted circuit judge six years ago but was passed over because she was a woman.
- Bernie Grant asks how can the public believe any of the police report on Tottenham riot which shows it was pre-arranged.
- Sun says if only £3,550 compensation can be paid to family of W. Midlands boy shot in police raid the rules should be changed.
- John Tyndall, National Front leader, sent for trial accused of conspiracy to publish race hate material.
- MPs make seat belt law permanent.
- Express says Government's £2m anti-drug campaign is money well spent.
- Telegraph reports a Government review of legal aid scheme.
- Telegraph, commenting on Tottenham report, says 'Never again must the police, for however honourable and reasonable motives, allow a situation to develop which allowed a lot of people to believe they could run Broadwater Farm Estate and treat it as their kingdom.
- Guardian front page piece is blunt:(Bernie) "Grant says police lied."

LIBYA

- Sun quotes Foreign Secretary as saying Britain has damning evidence of a direct link between Libyan and Rome and Vienna airports massacres - if so how much longer can we have any dealings with Gaddafi?
- Mirror says Gaddafi is in trouble because he is running out of money through falling oil prices.
- Abu Nidal speaks up in praise of Gaddafi - a great help to us.



EC

- Italy has swindled Commission of £15m in grants for non-existent training schemes.

EAST-WEST

- USA and Russia set to rescue air service links.

ANTARCTICA

- Sun hails the team of 3 who got to the South Pole as Britain's three brand new heroes.

IRAN

- Armed Iranian sailors now board British merchant ship looking for arms bound for Iraq.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEN: Mr Walker visits Yorkshire Electricity Board's HQ Leeds

DEN: Mr Hunt addresses British Institute of Management, Royal Commonwealth Society

DEN: Mr Goodlad visits Urenco, Marlow

DOE: Mrs Rumbold visits Channel Fixed Link exhibition, London

DHSS: Mr Whitney visits British Association Adopting and Fostering, London

OAL: Mr Luce addresses Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme

DTI: Mr Pattie attends Performing Rights Society lunch, London; visits Nine Elms district office

DTI: Mr Morrison visits Strines Printing Co Disley; Chloride Ferrostatics Ltd and addresses Glossop businessmen lunch

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TV AND RADIO

"Concorde"; BBC Radio 4; (19.20): Looks at Concorde ten years after its first commercial flight on 21 January 1976

"4 What It's Worth"; Channel 4 TV; (20.30): Energy Special (Part 2)

"Today in Parliament"; BBC Radio 4; (23.30):

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