

22 January 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets Israeli Prime Minister Mr S Peres, London; later hosts dinner in honour of Mr Peres

Prime Minister reads lesson at Sir Neil Marten's memorial service

Defence Select Committee continues to take evidence on future of Westland Plc

Health Select Committee takes evidence from Norman Fowler on the reform of social services

Tony Benn, Edward Heath and Patrick Jenkin give evidence to Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee on relations between civil servants and ministers

STATISTICS

WO: Index of production and construction for Wales (3rd qtr)

PUBLICATIONS

LCD: Legal Aid 1984-85 CFRs 15.30pm for publication 15.30
23 January

M&MC: Monopolies and Mergers Commission - British
Telecommunications plc and MITEL Corporation (09.30)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Environment; Scotland

Business:

10 Minute Rule Bill: Standing Charges (Abolition) (Mr M Welsh)

Local Government Bill: Remaining Stages

Motions on the Rate Support Grant (Scotland) (No 4) Order and the Revaluation Rate Rebates (Scotland) (No 2) Order

Adjournment Debate

The implications for the UK Merchant Service of the decision by British Petroleum Shipping to end direct employment of its seagoing personnel (Mr D Douglas)

PARLIAMENT (cont'd)Select Committees:

DEFENCE

Subject: The Defence Implications of the future of Westland Plc
 Witnesses: Officials of the Ministry of Defence

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: The Tin Crisis
 Witnesses: to be announced

HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Misuse of hard drugs
 Witnesses: Mr D Mellor MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Redundancy payments to university staff (HC 598)
 Witnesses: Sir D Hancock, Department of Education and Science; Sir P Swinnerton-Dyer, FRS, University Grants Committee; Professor E A Marsland, Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Reform of Social Security
 Witnesses: Rt Hon Norman Fowler MP

TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE SUB-COMMITTEE

Subject: Civil Servants and Ministers: Duties and Responsibilities
 Witnesses: Rt Hon Edward Heath MP; Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP; Rt Hon Tony Benn MP

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE ARMED FORCES BILL

Subject: Armed Forces Bill: Clauses 1 to 7
 Witnesses: Officials of the Ministry of Defence

ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Planning
 Witnesses: Department of the Environment officials

Lords

Short Debate on the problems facing the nation's schools

Short Debate on the case for a coherent policy on monopolies and mergers which safeguards the interests of consumers, shareholders and workers

UQ on whether HMG have received the advice of the Gaming Board on "telephone bingo" and whether they are now prepared to express a view about the desirability of this experiment by British Telecom

MINISTERS - See Annex

WESTLAND

- Mirror P1: Leon Brittan's position is back in deep danger. The leak of the Solicitor General's letter is believed to have been traced to a senior DTI civil servant. The question is whether Mr Brittan authorised the leak. If so, the civil servant could not be prosecuted. It is understood at Westminster that the civil servant was offered immunity from prosecution because of the circumstances. Mr Brittan would find it almost impossible to stay in office if this were true.
- Sun: The hunt for a Whitehall mole takes a dramatic new twist with MPs claiming that a top civil servant has been promised immunity from prosecution.
- Star: Columnist, Alix Patman, says people in charge of the country are supposed to be better than the rest of us. But when they fight and squabble in public, it is better to start again with another bunch of leaders.
- Express: Some MPs are expecting Sir Patrick Mayhew to make a statement tomorrow "offering the mole immunity if he or she will own up". Last night, inquiries to the DTI were being referred to No 10. An official in DTI was being named in Whitehall circles as the source of the leak.
- At last night's meeting of the Defence Select Committee it emerged that there may be a British demand for the Sikorsky Black Hawk after all.
- Mail: Attorney General is said to have met Sir Robert Armstrong on Monday to discuss the leak inquiry and whether to waive charges. Trouble is looming for you because two select committees will demand to see Cabinet papers.
- Times: Sir Michael Havers is to be asked whether he has granted immunity to a civil servant. Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, Labour MP for Workington, has tabled two questions to you (for possible answer today) and a "fall-back" question for Sir Michael for answer on Friday. In your statement on the Blunt affair in November, 1979, it is claimed you said you would expect to be informed in future if the Attorney General granted immunity from prosecution.
- "Thatcher locked in battle over release of key Westland memo" (4 October). Select Committee expects to be provided with all relevant documents.
- Guardian: Civil servants working for Sir Patrick Mayhew advised him not to get involved in the Westland affair.
- Telegraph: Opposition MPs expected to press for statement on unconfirmed reports that the leaker has been traced to DTI.

RATES

- Sun: Leader says when Francis Pym, James Prior and Sir Ian Gilmour are in total agreement, one thing is pretty certain - they are all wrong! In the past they have wept buckets over the unemployed and deprived but when it comes to it they object to the shires helping the inner cities.
- Express: Leader says "Robbing selected Peter to pay collective Paul is now the Government's policy on rates". It is 10 years since the Tory Party pledged to reform rates. Voters feel themselves betrayed.
- Mail: Ministers are warning that the Government is walking into a death trap with its plan to replace domestic rates with a poll tax. There are predictions the plan will quickly be dumped before it becomes law.
- Times: Leader says voting against the RSG is a rite of winter.
- Telegraph: Leader headlines - "Rebels without a cause".

RUSSIAN AGENTS IN CND

- Sun: Angry peace women at Greenham Common brand report that there are Russian spies in their ranks as "stupid". They would have "spotted them a mile off". Leader says that in trying to make Britain defenceless they are doing the Kremlin's work.
- Star: Washington is in a state of jitters over the claims by Jane's Defence Weekly.
- Express: You hinted in the House that the report of "red moles" could be true.
- Mail: Your reply at Question Time left many MPs convinced of the truth of the reports.
- Telegraph: MoD officials have told George Younger that there is some truth in reports that Russians have infiltrated the peace women.

EEC

- Express: "New crisis hits EEC as Danes block reform deal". Danes believe proposed reforms in the Treaty of Rome to increase powers of European Parliament and reduce the right of veto in Common Market decisions would be unacceptable infringement of their sovereignty.
- Survey shows that more than half the people in Britain believe the EEC has made life worse.
- Same survey shows that six Britons in 10 are ready to die for their country - but we are ahead of most European countries.

LAW AND ORDER

- Schoolboy, 15, ordered to be detained indefinitely for murder of social worker on a train.
- Star: A pools collector who cheated a woman out of a £215,000 pools win is fined just £50.
- Express: The police chief who is being criticised by subordinates for not taking action to avoid the Tottenham riot is backed by Bernie Grant.
- Several police stations in London are to have rape examination suites to ease the victim's trauma.
- Times: Home Secretary urged to reveal Yard riot findings.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Times: Unionist leaders threaten that they may withdraw from Westminster if Government continues to implement Anglo-Irish Agreement.
- Article by deputy editor of Belfast Telegraph says a crisis threatens. "The danger signals are flashing for those who care to see them."

TV VIOLENCE

- Mirror: BBC announces plan to have independent assessor who will analyse programmes. Producers will confer over violence and a committee will examine European TV guidelines.
- Sun: Viewers force BBC to launch telly clean up. Top American series may be edited, children's programmes will come under close scrutiny, news bulletins may be toned down and swearing curbed.
- Express: "BBC chiefs act after Maggie hits out".


ADEN

- Sun: Leader says action of Peter White, Embassy security guard who persuaded terrorists to lay down their arms, shows "The Bulldog spirit lives".
- Express: British Embassy devastated by artillery fire. Sensitive negotiations are going on to release remaining six Britons. Situation still extremely dangerous.
- Mail: Two Britons refused rescue and stayed ashore to help negotiate the evacuation of hundreds of people.

AIRPORT SECURITY

- Express, P1 lead: The Government last night promised tough moves to plug airport security loopholes exposed by girl reporter. Aviation Minister, Michael Spicer, says new measures will be taken.

INDUSTRY

- Mirror: Farley, the baby food firm hit by a poisoning scare, has gone into voluntary liquidation with, it is believed £4m losses. It now wants to restructure its business.
 - France is planning to build a "super" Concorde.
 - Three shipyards returned to private ownership yesterday. £5m buy-out of Swan Hunter, Newcastle, was spear-headed by its own management team.
 - Express: Austin Rover exports to Spain will be hit because of restrictions now that Spain has joined the EEC.
 - Guardian: A firm is said to have gained millions of pounds of Government credit from ECGD through bogus documents.
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MEDIA

- Mirror: Four national newspapers (Sun, Times, Sunday Times and News of the World) have been threatened by the print unions with a total shutdown next week unless negotiations over jobs and conditions resume.
- Express: Sogat and the NGA will strike unless their members are given jobs for life.
- Producer of "Spitting Image" programme is said to have received death threats from angry viewers.

ECONOMY

- Mirror: Britain's 6 million home buyers won a temporary reprieve yesterday after the Bank of England blocked a fresh increase in interest rates.
- Times: Sterling slides amid oil fears, but the Government will not change its policy.
- Guardian: Thatcher gives priority to inflation over base rates.
- Telegraph: You have ruled out a calculated fall in sterling. "Battle to defend the pound".
- Lawson's hopes of tax cuts boiled in oil.

UNIONS

- Star: "Maggie poised for new clampdown on unions". Civil servants are now working on proposals which could prove an election winner if they are shown as giving more rights to workers.
- Civil Service Union says that coastguards may lose a 30 per cent bonus received for working unsocial hours because of new Treasury ruling.
- Express: Lord Young believes action is needed to stop union bosses putting funds at risk. The use of union cash to finance a strike without a ballot may be outlawed and members may get the right to inspect union books.
- FT: IPCS will negotiate separately with Government if other unions reject long-term pay proposals.

MINISTER FOR CHILDREN

- Star: Leader says that in "fanfare of publicity" just before Christmas you committed yourself to take personal charge of a Government drive to help children in need. Nothing has happened and the position is getting worse. You should appoint a full time Minister for Children now.
- One third of Britain's children have a criminal record before they are 18, according to a report by the National Children's Home. Scotland is the black spot, with one in ten children in care.

PERES VISIT

- Times: Although Israel remains distrustful about pro-Arab bias in British policy they recognise that we enjoy considerable influence in Middle East, especially with Jordan.

USSR

- Times: Anglo-Soviet relations have improved dramatically as a result of the Aden liaison and talks with Soviet deputy foreign minister.

SARA KEAYS

- Sun: Sara Keays refused to reveal details of her talks with Cecil Parkinson and thus ruled out any prosecution over Government secrets.

GAS PRIVATISATION

- Express: Select Committee on Energy complain that watchdog set up to protect gas consumer interests is "toothless".

CHANNEL LINK

- Times: About £700m in orders for the construction industry should be placed soon.
- FT: The CEGB is looking at possible ways of using the Channel Tunnel.

KILLER BEDS

- Star: Consumer minister, Michael Howard, is said to be backing the Star's campaign to make beds more fire resistant.

ROYAL FAMILY

- Mirror: Burglar who plotted to make a daring raid on Windsor Castle while the Queen was staying there, is jailed for four years.

NHS

- Sun: Health Secretary orders nationwide clean up of dirty hospital kitchens in the wake of the report into Salmonella poisoning at Stanley Royd Hospital, Wakefield in 1984.
- Express: "Food poisoning hospital broke all rules". Mr Fowler pledges review of Crown Immunity.
- Mail: Leader says Government should support next month's Private Members Bill which aims to remove Crown Immunity.
- Times: Government coming under strong all-party pressure to abolish Crown Immunity.

EDUCATION

- Guardian: P1 lead exclusive. Government is planning to exert more central control over education by channelling significant amount of money it gives to local authorities for schools and colleges through direct grants tied to specific uses.

TIN

- Guardian: Japan presents its proposals for solving the crisis.

DEFENCE

- FT: George Younger is considering cancelling the Nimrod early-warning aircraft.
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JIM COE

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling attends Laurent Perrier Champagne awards, London
- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses Queen Mary College Conservative Association
- DTI: Mr Brittan attends Israeli PM dinner, London
- WO: Mr Edwards attends South Pembrokeshire holiday promotion reception, London
- DES: Mr Dunn attends first meeting of NACYS, London
- DEM: Mr Trippier meets International Hotel Corporation, London; attends ASTMS Seminar, Bishops Stratford
- DOE: Sir George Young visits Wandsworth Urban Housing Renewal Unit
- DOE: Mrs Rumbold attends official opening of 5000th council house, Portsmouth
- DHSS: Mr Newton visits Douglas Arter Centre (Spastics Society), Aylesbury
- DHSS: Lady Trumpington visits Stoke Mandeville Hospital
- HO: Mr Waddington addresses Data Protection conference
- HO: Lord Glenarthur gives interview to Central TV on schizophrenia
- OAL: Mr Luce visits Battersea Arts Centre
- SO: Lord Gray lunches with Chevron Petroleum, London
- DTI: Mr Pattie launches Surrey Industry Year, Air Products, Surrey
- DTI: Mr Howard addresses FT Conference on the City
- DTI: Mr Butcher launches a series of design projects for Society of Industrial Arts
- DTI: Lord Lucas launches Windsor Insustry year

TV AND RADIO

- "File on 4"; BBC Radio 4 (16.05): Repeat of Tuesday's programme
- "Diverse Reports"; Channel 4 (20.30); "Ulster will fight". Presents the views of Belfast working class Protestants who are fighting the Anglo-Irish agreement
- "Analysis: The Pace of Change"; BBC Radio 4 (20.15): "The Problem". May Goldring, in the first of four programmes on how industry copes with change, sets out the moral dilemma
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