

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Defence Select Committee takes evidence from Civil Servants on Westland affair (?)

Princess of Wales visits Ridgeway House Elderly Persons Home, Towcester; later visits Northamptonshire Centre for the Deaf, Northampton

Unemployment figures (11.30)

STATISTICS

DEM: Unemployment and unfilled vacancies (January) (11.30)

PUBLICATIONS

DEM: Employment Gazette

DEM: International Labour Conference CFRs 2.30pm published Friday 2.30pm

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Northern Ireland, Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Prime Minister

Business:

Debate on the Army, on a Motion for the Adjournment

Adjournment Debate

Poverty in Barnsley (Mr R Mason)

Select Committees:

AGRICULTURE

Subject: The disposal and storage of cereal surpluses

Witnesses: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce

JOINT COMMITTEE

Lothian Region (Edinburgh Western Relief Road) Order Confirmation Bill

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL

Felixstowe Dock and Railway

Lords

Salmon Bill (HL): Committee (2nd Day)

2.
PRESS DIGEST

NO TIMES. NO SUN

WESTLAND

- Civil Service head of DTI to give evidence to Select Committee - not John Mogg and Colette Bowe who are "gagged".
- Dr John Gilbert, a member of the Committee, says it is a piece of incredible insolence.
- One source says "We can get them (officials) in handcuffs, if necessary"
- Meanwhile the European consortium tempts small shareholders with a high priced bid for shares; Westland board rejects new Euro rescue offer.
- GEC and B/Aerospace opt out of share buying in response to political pressure (Telegraph)
- Mail sees a constitutional clash between Parliament and No 10 looming; it says the Whitehall report on the leak reinforces the suspicion that people acted in the full knowledge of your raging irritation about Heseltine's unilateral behaviour.
- Guardian says it has emerged that senior colleagues significantly altered the tone of your speech on Monday.
- Guardian leader says we seem, however ephemerically, to have entered a question-free zone. But it says it takes your use of the words "in general terms" about being informed No 10/DTI contacts as saying that you knew the essence of the hapless conspiracy the morning after the leak.
- Frank Chapple, in Mail, wonders what Heseltine is up to - "If the PM had treated me like he claimed she had treated him, I wouldn't have got over it within a fortnight."

MEDIA

- Kinnoek in row with Lobby after Labour Party decides to boycott Murdoch titles; Lobby withdraws its invitation to him to address them weekly - says it cannot allow conditions to be imposed upon its meetings. SDP/Liberals accuses Labour of interfering with press.
- Murdoch wins High Court injunction against TGWU preventing them from instructing lorry drivers not to cross picket lines in Wapping and Glasgow.
- Express plans to "axe" 160 journalists in Glasgow, Manchester and London "totally opposed" by union officials - wants 2,500 Fleet Street job cut
- Eric Hammond, EETPU, says he will not obey a TUC summons to its inquiry today into his union's allowing its members to take jobs at Wapping.
- Telegraph says it is likely that both unions and Labour Party are heading for a confrontation over Wapping, with the consequences of all the years of Luddism. For it is the resolute refusal of successive generations of leadership, of party and TUC alike, to move with the times, at least as much as "Thatcher's laws", which have brought them to their present pass.

SHUTTLE

- Rocket blows up in the air to prevent it landing on towns after disaster.
- Mail asks whether the shuttle was launched too soon after icing problems.
- D/Star says the future does not belong to the faint hearted; sadly, as history shows, dangers are only overcome by dangers.
- Mirror - those who died were pioneers, explorers and in the finest, bravest sense, adventurers. Space exploration doesn't end because the quest for new heights is unquenchable.
- Mail says those who are not moved (after his words on the disaster) to comprehend why President Reagan continues to hold a unique place in the hearts of Americans must be emotionally tone deaf.

ECONOMY

- Express says still the economy fizzles in spite of the recent Government crisis and jitters about North Sea oil prices. Why? Our December trade surplus; last year's best strike record for 50 years; Government's determination not to be panicked into an interest rate rise.
- Mail says for most of us life materially continues to get better and better. But there is a cloud on the horizon - Government is beseeched to help the workless but those who are doing very nicely in work could do much more to help the unemployed by taking a little less in their pay packets.
- Telegraph says trade union membership is down 17% from its peak in 1979 of 13,289,000.

RATES

- Express describes the Government's proposals as bold and fair. It will help curb spendthrifts and rescue hard pressed businesses from Left wing councils who treat them as milch cows.

EDUCATION

- University dons accept 5.25%. Guardian says Government wants to hold pay deals for nurses below 5%.
- Two main teachers' unions describe 1986 pay offer as inadequate and below inflation rate.
- FT says the DES and Scottish Office wanted a full inquiry into conditions pay structure and negotiating procedures for teachers, but the Government put its faith in last week's ACAS solution.

TRANSPORT

- B/Rail to cut its "saver" fares for young people by up to 30% in February.

POLITICS

- Frank Chapple, in Mail, pointing to the selection of Militants in Bristol and Bermondsey and Labour's CND candidate in Fulham writing for Communist paper "7 Days", says if your team looks disunited, Kinnock's seems determined to score own goals.
- Gordon Greig, in Mail, says today you face a Cabinet deeply troubled and divided on whether you can lead Tories into next election and win. Some fear Westland has irretrievably cracked your successful image - reference to ITV poll showing 55% do not believe your account about the leaked letter.
- Guardian says a majority in the Cabinet wants to turn you and Chancellor away from direct tax cuts in Budget - raise thresholds instead. The fact that that they are making their views known shows your relative weakness after Westland.
- Labour Party said to be speeding up its preparations for a General Election.
- Hugo Young, in Guardian, says some Conservative politicians are now quite certain that they would like you to quit the party leadership.

POLITICS (Cont'd)

- Peter Riddell in FT says Tory MPs from all wings of the party, not just the disillusioned and dissident, have been heard to wonder whether their party's prospects at the next election might not be better under a new leader. But so far this is only a few. There are no plots or cabals.

LAW AND ORDER

- Three Libyan secret agents are among 181 Libyan "students" who have a free run of B/Airways maintenance sheds at Heathrow, according to dissident granted asylum in Britain (Express); another 22 Libyan students work for B/Caledonian at Catwick; 13 are at Stansted.

DEFENCE

- MoD gives GEC a deadline of July 31 for Nimrod project - must establish by then whether it can complete it and if so at what cost.
- FT says George Younger is expected to seek formal Cabinet approval next week to examine alternatives to Nimrod.

FRANCE

- A heat seeking missile from a French fighter shot down an Italian airliner, with 81 on board, in Mediterranean in 1980, according to a leaked report by American/Italian investigators.

IRELAND

- Most heavily taxed country in Europe hit by stinging new budget yesterday: standard VAT up 2% to 25%.

EC

- Agriculture ~~Comm~~ Commissioner recommends a general freeze on prices in 1986-7.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling visits Wye College, Kent
- DOE: Mr Baker meets delegation from Liverpool City Council, London
- MOD: Mr Lee meets General Lee from Singapore
- DEM: Mr Trippier lunches with B/TEC, London; later addresses British Incoming Tour Operators Association AGM, London
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave addresses the EC Directive on Environmental Assessment Conference, Royal Society of Arts, London
- DOE: Mr Patten attends inner city partnership meeting, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
- DOE: Mrs Rumbold lunches with David Lewis, Chairman of "Keep Britain Tidy" campaign
- DTI: Lord Lucas visits Peterborough Technical College computer building
- DTI: Mr Pattie hosts dinner for Turkish Minister
- DTP: Mr Mitchell visits Dartford Tunnel
- DTP: Mr Spicer hosts official dinner for Indian Minister for Civil Aviation, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling addresses German Farmers' Cereals Conference, Berlin

TV AND RADIO

"Medicine Now"; BBC Radio 4 (10.00): Geoff Watts reports on developments in medical care

"From the Inside - The Unions"; Channel 4 (18.30): "Just an Ordinary Man". Features Bill Pringle a Newcastle upon Tyne shop steward

"Far From Paradise"; BBC 2 (19.15): "The Poisoned Apple". Examines the problems caused by modern industrial processes

"The Plastic in Your Purse"; BBC Radio 4 (19.40): Alison Mitchell explains how to use credit cards to advantage

"Opinions: Misrule Britannia"; Channel 4 (20.00): "To BBC or Not to BBC?" Lord Annan looks at the future of the BBC

"Pillars of Society"; BBC Radio 4 (20.15): "The Bishops". Robert Carvel finds the Church in ferment

"Brass Tacks"; BBC 2 (20.20): "Taking to the Streets". Peter Taylor looks at the fine line between becoming vigilant and a vigilante.

"TV Eye"; ITV (21.30)

"40 Minutes"; BBC 2 (21.30): Looks at the lives of three student nurses

"Question Time"; BBC 1 (22.30)
