

31 January 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister attends Centre for Policy Studies Conference  
Lunch, House of Lords

Prime Minister attends Lady Davidson's Memorial Service (?)

Labour Party, local government conference, Norwich (to February 2)

GLC ban on heavy lorries at night and weekends comes into force

South African President makes key speech  
OECD Report on the economy

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STATISTICS

DTI: Car and commercial vehicle production (December-final)

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PUBLICATIONS

DEM: International Labour Conference (14.30)

HOL: EEC Sub-Committee G - 5th report disposal of waste oils  
(08.30)

FCO: Haiti (No 1) (1986) Agreement between Government of UK  
and Government of Republic of Haiti for promotion and  
protection of investments (14.00)

FCO: US (No 1) (1986) 32nd annual report of Marshall Aid  
Commission for year ending 30.9.85 (14.00)

FCO: EC (No 2) (1986), Agreement between EEC and Kingdom of  
Sweden in field of hearing impairment disabilities  
thrombosis and nutrition (14.00)

DTI: 'British Business' - new freighting procedures at  
Customs & Excise

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PAY

DEM: Gas Supply manuals; (35,800); settlement date 19.1.86;  
unions have submitted a claim as yet unspecified

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PARLIAMENTCommonsQuestions:Business:PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Children and Young Persons (Amendment) Bill: 2nd Reading  
(Mr D Walters)

Protection of Military Remains Bill: 2nd Reading (Mr M Mates)

Tobacco Products (Sales Restriction) Bill: 2nd Reading  
(Mr J Home Robertson)

Adjournment Debate

London Borough of Sutton and the Rate Support Grant  
(Mr N Macfarlane)

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTNO TIMES NO SUNWESTLAND

- Westland Board advises shareholders not to respond to Euro consortium's new offer. Guardian suggests that Government may be forced to intervene openly to resolve the stalemate over the company's future.
- D/Star P3: Brittan keeps silent on leak.
- Mirror P2: Thatcher faces cover up storm; leader under heading "Anything to hide?" says your ban on civil servants appearing before Select Committee looks like a cover up. If you have told all, why pull the shutters down?
- Express P1 lead: Defiant Brittan sparks new row.
- Mail P2: Brittan's silence; second leader thinks the affair has been brought back to life by Leon Brittan's refusal to answer questions. The attempt to stop further inquiry will be counter productive because it gives the impression that there is something to hide. Government's persistence in trying to keep parts of Westland affair under wraps could yet end in disaster.
- Telegraph P1 lead: Obstruction now over Westland. Thatcher refuses to tell more. Tory MPs begin to worry again about the electorate's view of the affair; leader says whether to proceed with Nimrod is much more important than Westland.
- Guardian P1: PM provokes new "cover-up" row with MPs. Open confrontation between you and outraged Select Committee. Cabinet Ministers said to be critical of your "inept" tactics.

WESTLAND (CONT'D)

- Guardian claims that relations between you and your senior civil servants have hit a new low because of the way you have distanced yourself from the decision to leak extracts of the Solicitor General's letter; leader on "The affair that won't go away" says stupidly the Government's hatch batteners have tried to act as though the inquiry no longer exists. The Committee now has an obligation to press ahead with its investigations; this will be difficult for the Tory majority but if MPs are to be treated as anything more than lobby fodder they have little choice.
  
- FT P1 lead: Thatcher in clash over witnesses at Westland hearing. Discussions over weekend aimed at securing a compromise, possibly allowing officials to give evidence in private sessions since several of the committee members do not want to force an unnecessary confrontation.

UNEMPLOYMENT/ECONOMY

- OECD report says even if unemployment edges slightly down over next 18 months, Government has limited scope to cut the jobless total much further.
- Iran and Nigeria trying to persuade OPEC to cut production to boost prices.
- Falling orders cause loss of 831 jobs at two Royal Ordnance factories in Durham and Lancs, but they may be eased by new contracts.
- D/Star says you are at the centre of a political storm over the new record level of unemployment.
- Mirror says there are more people on the dole than in the hungry Thirties.
- Express P2: Gloom for Maggie as jobless hits new peak - a severe blow to your economic policies; leader says the figures are depressingly bad. The Government must respond, not by changing its basic economic strategy but by pursuing it more vigorously. Chancellor must harden his resolve to cut taxes and raise thresholds.
- Mail P1: Massive jobless leap is shock for Maggie - a body blow. Government was completely unprepared for the shock. CBI says it wants priority in next Budget to measures tackling long term unemployment and not to personal tax cuts.
- Telegraph P1: Ministers shocked by jobless rise.
- Guardian P1: Worst January rise since depths of 1981 recession. Roy Hattersley gives low inflation higher priority than expanding the economy rapidly; leader says what is worrying is your deep complacency about these figures and it does not seem to occur to you that your own policies may be responsible.
- FT: Unemployment rises sharply to record level.
- Inside FT says the pace of wage increases is seen by OECD as root of persistent unemployment.
- FT leader, on jobs, pay and politics, says yesterday's awful unemployment figures are a sharp reminder of the central challenge facing your Government. It would be wrong to place excessive weight on two months' statistics but they hardly support the view that the upward march of unemployment has been halted. OECD is in no doubt our relatively worse position is due to wage-push inflation. Its verdict seems to be that the British are different and will have to live with exceptionally high unemployment until demographic trends provide relief in the 1990s. More direct efforts to curb pay should not now be ruled out.

MEDIA

- Consensus that EETPU is close to suspension from TUC.
- EETPU leaders summoned to TUC "court" next Wednesday. Feature in Mail explains why TUC fears Eric Hammond, EETPU and say it is a near certainty that the EETPU's days of affiliation to TUC are numbered.
- Express attacks Labour's NEC for calling on MPs, councillors and staff to boycott journalists on Murdoch newspapers. What possible good can this appallingly petty piece of spite do for anyone? More to the point, what does this tell us about the Labour Party's real view about this country's tradition of a free and diverse press?
- Mail says the men who are depressed by Kinnock's showing as Labour leader will not be reassured by his latest escapade - boycott of Murdoch journalists. All it has done is to bring down on his head the wrath of the Parliamentary press lobby. It shows him shamefully ready, indeed eager, to interfere with press freedom at the bidding of the union barons.

INDUSTRY

- Roy Hattersley says the next Labour Government will buy British - Government could do the same as Marks and Spencer.
- FT says the phenomenon of the "temp" is spreading upwards to management with backing of CBI.

POLITICS

- Mail: The Church of England is now the Alliance at prayer; Gallup poll among C of E clergymen shows 49% plan to vote SDP/Lib; 24% Tory.
- Mail leader says one reason for this is that our clerics are now so obsessed with politics that they do not appreciate what a quaint thing it is for them to do.
- Telegraph leader says it has been a rude awakening for many clergymen to discover that if they start behaving like politicians they are treated like them as well/
- Militant Tendency cancels its annual conference for fear of unwelcome media interest.
- Telegraph says Sir Keith meets his constituency association tonight amid growing speculation that he intends to retire at next election.
- Malcolm Rutherford, in the FT, says you will stay in spite of recent events but you will probably never be the same again. Style of Governme likely to become more collegiate. Maybe your revolution is almost complete. The real revolution was to change the political ground. All parties have now adopted more market oriented policies and more or less come to terms with Europe. Your main achievement has been to prevent th country's relative economic decline from becoming absolute and to clear up some outstanding problems.

LAW AND ORDER

- Fines for motoring offences vary widely in different parts of the country, according to AA.
- National Association of Head Teachers say children as young as 9 are becoming regular drug users; one headmaster says drug mad youngsters are robbing their grannies to buy "kicks".
- Express, continuing its campaign against Libyans in Britain, says an Arab student in hiding from Libyan hit-men has given a chilling insight into how Gaddafi's terror network is on the increase in Britain.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Two Conservative councillors on Humberside spend £1000 of ratepayers' money flying home from foreign holidays to vote on appointment of Chief Executive.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- T E Utley, in Telegraph, says you think you can sit out of Ulster rebellion. But the truth is that Ulster Unionists are well placed to sit out a British betrayal. The only source of Unionist destruction is Unionists themselves.

SPACE SHUTTLE

- More than 1000 lbs of debris recovered. Control panel found in sea. Memorial service today in Houston for astronauts.

EC

- Row in EuroParliament over £480m grant to Greek and Italian tobacco producers when only £4.2m is spent on lung cancer research.

INDIA

- Militant Hindus threatening to sabotage Pope's 10-day visit to India from tomorrow - calling for a boycott of tour.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Express asks of PW Botha's speech today - are we at last to glimpse the formula that will end 28-years of apartheid.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

MOD: Mr Younger attends Shell Training Centre Seminar

DEM: Lord Young opens Centre for Policy Studies conference on employment, House of Lords

DEM: Mr Clarke opens factory in Wellingborough

DEN: Mr Walker launches Energy Efficiency BSI Building Regulations, London

DOE: Mr Baker visits West Midlands

DHSS: Mr Fowler and Mr Hayhoe attend Regional Health Authority Chairmen's meeting, Birmingham

SO: Mr Rifkind attends Clyde Cablevision opening ceremony, Glasgow,; later attends SIDAB dinner, Edinburgh Castle

WO: Mr Edwards attends service of thanksgiving for Baroness Northchurch, Westminster Abbey

MAFF: Mr Gummer lunches with UKASTA, London

MAFF: Lord Belstead visits Severn Trent Water Authority

MAFF: Mrs Fenner visits General Foods, Banbury

MOD: Mr Lamont visits British Aerospace, Hatfield

MOD: Lord Trefgarne visits Services Sound and Vision Corporation, Chalfont St Giles

DOE: Lord Elton visits South and West Yorkshire

DOE: Mr Waldegrave opens DOE's endangered species branch computerisation project, Bristol

DOE: Sir George Young addresses lunch for National Joint Consultive Council for Building

DOE: Mrs Rumbold lunches with Sir Harry Seacombe and the Young Peoples Trust for Endangered Species, London

HO: Mr Waddington visits University of Salford

SO: Lord Gray attends meeting with Convention of Scottish Agricultural Colleges

SO: Mr Ancram gives interviews on rates, Glasgow

DTI: Mr Pattie addresses Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument Makers at their 'Achievements Awards' ceremony, London

DTI: Mr Butcher opens JBA (UK) Ltd new HQ, Midlands

DTI: Mr Morrison addresses Leeds Chamber of Commerce dinner

DTI: Mr Howard visits Barclays Merchant Bank, London

DTP: Mr Spicer visits Smiths' Industries, Cheltenham

HMT: Mr Brooke addresses business dinner for Sir Peter Horder, Wilton Park

WO: Mr Robinson visits blood testing laboratory, Cardiff

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTI: Mr Channon departs for Geneva

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TV AND RADIO

"Here to Stay"; ITV (12.30): Trevor Hyett talks to a group from London's Arab Community

"A Question of Economics"; Channel 4 (14.30): "Public or Private Enterprise?" The arguments for and against privatisation

"What the Papers Say"; Channel 4 (20.00): With John Lloyd of the "Financial Times"

"A Week in Politics"; Channel 4 (20.15)

"Law in Action"; BBC Radio 4 (20.20): Weekly magazine on legal matters

"Any Questions?"; BBC Radio 4 (20.45): With the Rt Hon Selwyn Gummer, Dr Elizabeth Cottrell, the Rt Hon Denzil Davies and Jack Boddy

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