

3 February 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

HM Queen visits RAF Marham

Prime Minister attends Winter Ball, London

OPEC meets, Vienna

EC/Front Line States meeting continues in Lusaka

Court of Appeal hears case of Ernest Clarke (following BBC TV programme 'Rough Justice' intervention)

STATISTICS

DTI: Credit business (December)

DTI: Retail sales (December-final)

PUBLICATIONS

ECGD: Export Credits Guarantee Department trading accounts
(11.00)

HOC/HOL 8th Report Joint Committee on SI's (11.00)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions Transport, Wales

Business: Debate on a Motion to approve the special
Supplementary Estimate 1985/86: Budget of the
European Communities, Class II Vote 9

Australia Bill (Lords): Second Reading

Museum of London Bill: Remaining Stages

Adjournment Debate

The scotch whisky industry (Mr M Bruce)

Select Committees: HOME AFFAIRS: SUB-COMMITTEE ON RACE
RELATIONS AND IMMIGRATION
Subject: Bangladeshis in Britain
Witness: Tower Hamlets Borough Council

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Trading Accounts 1984-85

Witness: Export Credits Guarantee
Department

PARLIAMENT (CONT'D)

Lords Animals (Scientific Procedures) Bill (HL): Third Reading

 Patents, Designs and Marks Bill (HL): Second Reading

 Marriage Bill (HL): Committee

 UQ on what relation HMG consider SDI research stands in to SDI procurement and deployment, and to the viability of the ABM treaty

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTNO TIMESPOLITICS/WESTLAND

- Most papers concentrate on alleged plots to replace you as leader, but few come up with anything more substantial than Sir Anthony Meyer.
- Sir Anthony Meyer says he is prepared to nominate an alternative candidate for leadership.
- Sun P2: "Top Tories battle to keep Maggie in job" says senior Conservatives denied rumours that MPs are secretly plotting to get rid of you. Chief Whip says he knows of no plots - overwhelming support for you; leader, headed "Shy Tories", asks who are these Tories who are declaring you are on trial? If they had a particle of guts they would reveal themselves now.
- Express P2, says you may be asked to go before the Select Committee. Meanwhile leading Tories denounce those sniping at you as "wets and wimps" and challenge them to come into the open and fight.
- Mail - P9: "Maggie should quit says senior Tory" - ie Meyer. But you will get strong support this week when Norman Tebbit returns to the fray.
- Telegraph P1 lead: Thatcher shrugs off Tory critics - third poll victory still the aim; on the Select Committee hearing it says pressure grew over the weekend for the Government to make concessions about witnesses.
- Guardian says you were on the defensive against last night over Select Committee witnesses even though majority of members appeared ready to accept Sir Robert Armstrong. Another story says officials at DTI are understood to be furious at the way B. Ingham has tried to distance himself from the leak.
- Ian Aitken, in Guardian, under heading "the persistent question - what has she to hide?" says you are trying to hide my role in it.
- FT says you have a tough week ahead.
- Mail feature on Douglas Hurd, "the safest pair of hands in the Tory party".
- Teenagers vote you top of the pops in Pepsi-Cola survey; Geldof ahead of Steel and Owen as potential premier.
- Telegraph feature suggests Kinnock needs to tame the wild ones in his party or lose the votes at the next election.

OTHER POLITICS

- Kinnock has banned members of the UDM from holding Labour Party posts in Notts; Scargill appeals to those miners who left the NUM to return.
- Mail says TUC's Norman Willis and Labour's Employment Spokesman, John Prescott, have had a row over Labour's refusal to sweep away all trade union laws - and Kinnock is backing Prescott.

ECONOMY

- Confusion over role Saudi Arabia will play in OPEC - Express says it will rein in the falling price. But FT says leading members of OPEC determined to press ahead with the price war in spite of growing resistance within its ranks.
- Mexico cuts oil price by \$4.
- Newspapers asking why petrol prices have not fallen in view of big drop in oil prices.
- Express says oil companies risk losing an enormous amount of goodwill by their apparent profiteering. Mail says Chancellor is not thinking about the cost of living but how hard it is going to be for him to bang up the tax on petrol.
- Personnel director of NABISCO says it is time to scrap annual wage rises the deals focus solely on the cost of living and the going rate.
- Guardian leader says employer power in British wage negotiations has been found wanting in an area where most was expected of it by Government. It makes incomes policies look better by the hour.
- CBI to propose changes in the tax laws to encourage self employment.

INDUSTRY

- Roy Hattersley demands Commons statement on plans to sell of BL to foreigners - Mail leads with report that American and Japanese firms are negotiating to buy BL.
- 24 Japanese women store buyers at Birmingham International Spring Fair.
- Publishers Association claims copyright piracy in the Third World is costing £1bn in lost sales.
- Telegraph raises modest glass to the Wages Bill but this tinkering reform will create far fewer jobs than if Wages Councils had been abolished.
- Government financing a study to determine whether radioactivity has driven black-headed gulls from an old breeding colony on Ravensglass estuary.
- Guardian claims that there has been a large increase in the number of radiation incidents at Dounreay over last 8 years.

MEDIA

- SOGAT threatens to step up action against Murdoch newspapers; seeking help in Australia after Murdoch on TV says he will not move his papers back to Fleet Street or allow traditional unions into Wapping.
- Millions of copies of News of the World and Sunday Times lost yesterday through production difficulties and strike in Manchester.
- Road haulage company Times Newspapers Transport and TCWU hoping to approach Murdoch for settlement of dispute.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Express leads with plan by GLC and Metropolitan counties to give away £140m before the end of March. Their behaviour, it says, proves conclusively that the Government is entirely right to scrap them.
- CABX appealing for more money following abolition of GLC and Metropolitan counties.
- Telegraph says Labour is planning a radical increase in the powers of town and country councils combined with the scrapping of many of the controls over their spending, mainly on public services.
- Jack Straw, Labour spokesman, says Alliance local councillors are the "scavengers of British politics".

EDUCATION

- D/Star attacks Militants for insisting on strikes while teachers vote on offer and exams go ahead.
- Mail wants a touch of generosity from the Government towards LEAs which have had the gumption to make a deal with the teachers possible. The Cabinet should empower Sir Keith to give them more money before he bows out.

CHARITIES

- Complain that their work is being hampered by Government's refusal to exempt them from VAT.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Mirror leader says a hospital with too little money to provide night nurses is having a facelift for a visit by Princess Diana.
- Doctors, Nurses and NHS administrators seize upon a statement by Health Minister that the NHS needs and extra 2% a year to meet its commitments.

LAW AND ORDER

- 15 arrested when National Front supporters attack a commemorative "Bloody Sunday" march from Hyde Park.
- Bomb planted outside NCB HQ at Cardiff.
- Sun says it was outrageous enough when an expelled Libyan was allowed back into Britain; but there will be even greater public anger at the disclosure that he is receiving £125 a week on social security.
- Reports that the Special Patrol Group is to be eliminated because of shortage of cash.
- Scotland Yard investigating internal complaints that detectives have been obtaining false confessions from criminals in jail to enhance their performance records.

SPIES

- Mail says hopes are rising that Scharansky will be freed in big exchange of spies across Iron Curtain.

IRELAND

- UDR soldier shot in leg in Co Tyrone ambush.
- Guardian says Unionists are to force the Government to set a rate in 17 local authorities in protest against Anglo/Irish Agreement.

PEOPLE

- Sun leader says it is wrong and disturbing that Prince Charles is involved in a fund raising dinner in California to send youngsters on adventure trips; handing round the begging bowl should be left to pop stars.
- Princess Michael in hospital for treatment for a knee injury.

EC

- Teddy Taylor MP on the warpath about alleged plans to store the British beef mountain overseas or in refrigerator ships.

HAITE

- 50 reported killed, 100 injured, in anti-Government demonstrations.

SHUTTLE

- Scientists believe they know the cause of Challenger explosion - hot flame from faulty booster rocket; crew died unaware of danger, according to NASA.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Government takes advertisements in newspapers to explain its proposals for reform.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling holds conference on Farm and Countryside Initiative, London
- DEN: Mr Walker launches 'Transmittons' - British Airways project, London; signs Memorandum of Understanding with Greek Energy Minister Mr Veryvakis
- DTI: Mr Channon dines with Plessey, London
- WO: Mr Edwards visits Hitachi; Hirwaun; Sony; Bridgend; Matsushita, Cardiff
- MAFF: Mr Gummer meets Israeli Ambassador
- DES: Mr Patten addresses SCDC dinner
- DEM: Mr Trippier addresses Consort Hotels AGM, London
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave with Mr Jopling launch Community Programme for Farm and Countryside initiative, London
- SO: Mr Ancram attends opening of Kincardine Bridge
- DTI: Mr Howard opens Society of British Gas Industries' exhibition, HoC
- DTI: Mr Butcher visits Union Carbide, Sheffield
- WO: Mr Robinson visits Gwent District Health Authority
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTI: Mr Pattie departs for Geneva (to February 6)
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TV AND RADIO

- "Money Box; BBC Radio 4 (10.00)
- "Drugs for All?"; ITV (12.30): "Pain". Looks at ways of receiving pain
- "Be your Own Boss"; Channel 4 (18.30): considers the successes and failures of Sir Freddie Laker's career
- "Horizon"; BBC2 (20.10): "Outbreak: The Microbe Masters the Mould". Examines the problem of dealing with a microbe resistant to anti-biotics.
- "World in Action"; ITV (20.30)
- "Panorama"; BBC1 (21.30): "Wendy Savage: The Battle over Britain's Babies". Follows an enquiry into the conduct of Wendy Savage a consultant obstetrician accused of being a danger to her patients.
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