

10 February 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

EC Agriculture Council, Brussels (to February 11)

EC Energy Council, Brussels

Mr Rifkind meets representatives of Church of Scotland/Roman Catholic Church who are acting as intermediaries in Scottish teachers dispute

Electricians begin walk-out at selected hospitals

FRG Defence Minister Herr Wurzbach visits UK

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STATISTICS

DTI:     Producer price index numbers (January-provisional)

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PUBLICATIONS

HOC:     7th Report Select Committee - European Legislation  
(11.00)

HOC:     2nd Report Energy Committee - mining subsidance -  
damage costs and their economic consequences (11.00)

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions:   Wales; Energy .

Business:    PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Education and Training (Mr A Haselhurst)

Caring for the Carers (Sir David Price)

South Warwickshire Coalfield (Mr J Pawsey)

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Business: (Cont'd)

Debate on a Government Motion to approve the White Paper on the Channel Fixed Link

Australia Bill (Lords): Remaining Stages

Motion on the Precept Limitation (Prescribed Maximum) (ILEA) Order

Adjournment Debate

The future of Orpington Hospital (Mr I Stanbrook)

Select Committees: HOME AFFAIRS: SUB-COMMITTEE ON RACE  
RELATION AND IMMIGRATION  
Subject: Bangladeshis in Britain  
Witness: Tower Hamlets Association for  
Racial Equality

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
Subject: Major capital works-courts  
(HC189)  
Witnesses: Property Services Agency; Sir  
Derek Oulton, KCB, Lord Chancellor's  
Department

Lords

Debate on the Report of the Fraud Trials Committee (Roskill Report)

UQ on whether HMG, in response to representations which have been made to them by members of the construction and building industries and others, are prepared to introduce legislation concerning limitation of actions which, while falling outside the terms of reference and recommendations of the 24th Report of the Law Reform Committee, would produce greater certainty in the law.

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTPOLITICS

- Press portrays weekend as of hats being thrown into the ring for Tory leadership succession.
- Michael Heseltine calls for caring capitalism amid some heckling.
- John Biffen says he is unaware of any significant element in Parliament's party who want you to resign.
- Norman Tebbit dismisses Westland as throwing mud without any dirt.
- Kinnock, at the prompting of Brian Walden, talks in terms of a Roosevelt. New deal if Labour were elected. Mirror leads P2 with how Labour will fight the slump FDR-style.
- D/Star P2: Tarzan swings back at Maggie; show us you care. Joe Ashton wants you to come out fighting; he says the Labour Party needs you.
- Sun P2: Get off! Tarzan jeered as he calls for Tory changes; Tebbit backs Maggie; leader says no Prime Minister this century has done more than you for Britain and the Tory Party. Rank and file Tories ought to be down on their knees in thanks for such a general.
- Mirror P2: Fury as Tarzan braves Young Tory jungle. Deep divisions in Tory Party out in the open; Joe Haines says the vultures are gathering. After nearly 7 years you are being forced to abandon your style of Government. Tory party is facing a simple issue - do they have a better chance of winning the next election with or without you? Increasingly the answer is without.
- Express P1: Tebbit rallies the Tories behind Maggie as Heseltine stakes his claim. Rivalry for your job is developing into long distance race. Any choice about resigning is for you alone; there will be no push; leader says the childish booing of Heseltine was a disgrace to the YCs and their party. Is Heseltine's caring capitalism so different from your people's capitalism? Too much is being read into every little political twist and turn. Tomorrow you begin your 12th year as leader and your party should mark this achievement by ending the back biting and self indulgent sniping at you.
- Mail leads with Tories fight for Maggie's crown. Heseltine on Left; Tebbit on Right; Biffen in the middle. Tory Grandees watching position closely - if there is to be a change it will have to come by the end of this year; leader headed "Baffling Biffen" says the real Tory crisis stirrer this weekend was not Heseltine but Biffen with an "ineptly-timed plan for a softer Tory line. But what do the Biffens want?
- Sun says the rock group behind Kinnock's attempt to woo young voters are part of the Loony Left and are now openly supporting the Trots.
- Mail diary says DT is so concerned to get you to finish that he has told friends your decision to stand again could end your 35 year old marriage! Clearly, it says, he is exaggerating.
- Telegraph P1 lead: Threat to Thatcher discounted - Heseltine feels Tory backlash. Your admirers confident your leadership not under serious threat.

POLITICS (CONT'D)

- Telegraph leader says the weekend air was thick with hats flung ringwards. It is now apparent for the first time that the possibility of retirement forced on you in months not weeks is taken seriously in the highest circles of the Tory Party. They had better think it through with care. If the Tory Party were to allow itself to panic into palace revolution in response to momentary disarray, then the likelihood must be that Mr Kinnock wouldn't even have to wait 18 months
- Telegraph diary writes off Peter Walker as a contender for leadership - 'a remarkable eclipse'.
- Guardian says your authority was further weakened by open squabbling among Ministers about your style and by Heseltine's unashamed long-term challenge.
- Guardian leader says the Tory Party is starting to behave in the same way as when Macmillan was in hospital - though you are not languishing on your sick bed. Now simply a matter of time before the challenge is thrown down to you.
- Times P1 lead: Tebbit calls for unity and loyalty to Mrs Thatcher as battle for style and direction of Government rages openly.
- Times leader says it is business not boxing that will in the end decide your future and that of the Government's. It says water privatisation White Paper was long on water basin management and short on spirit of distribution of wealth to householders.
- FT P1: Ministers clash over Tory election strategy. Biffen's the most significant intervention. The clashes are partly about presentation but reflect a growing debate within Cabinet about whether the party needs to modify its policy.
- FT says your administration continues to have an unhappy time but it is not that your Government fails to take big decisions or has run out of ideas. You have, however, been the Prime Minister a long time and the strain is beginning to tell, not so much on you but more on your Ministers, some of whom might have hoped by now to be serving or leading a rather different Conservative Party. It is imperative Conservatives provide responsible government for the next two years because there is no alternative. If only the Party would settle down, its prospects might not be too bad. There are things to be done. On the whole the Government is still doing them, but it cannot proceed indefinitely in conditions of internal strife.
- Jim Prior writing his memoirs for publication this autumn.

ECONOMY

- Your CBI interview a month ago attracts attention.
- Sun says you have given the signal that low paid workers will be first in line for tax cuts.
- Mirror says you gave a strong hint low paid will benefit most from Budget tax cuts.
- Mail: Time to think of have-nots, Maggie tells CBI.

- Express says small and medium sized firms report building industry is pulling out of a slump.

INDUSTRY

- Mirror joins call for faster fall in petrol prices; another 10p off is the least it expects.
- Japanese say dexterity and productivity of Welsh girls in their Wrexham factory beats that of their rivals in Japan, S. Korea and Taiwan.
- Anti-Sunday opening pressure group says Sunday shopping will end the traditional Sunday roast.
- Mail says GM will sign a deal to buy BL commercial vehicles this month and aims then to secure a no-strike agreement.
- Fresh talks soon between Paul Channon and BL after last week's furore.
- Sir Richard Body MP says a policy change by NFU favouring quotas could endanger small farmers and beginners.
- Guardian says firms offering 2 year YTS training are threatening to withdraw in protest at increased bureaucracy.
- Political considerations are delaying the announcement of nuclear waste disposal site (Guardian).

MEDIA

- Sogat faces contempt hearing today in Wapping dispute over instructions to its members in wholesalers not to handle Murdoch newspapers.
- B/Rail meeting Murdoch today to try to keep its £10m contract for transporting papers.
- Mirror suggests that Rupert Murdoch is up to no good over printing in Manchester in demanding changes at short notice, ignoring terms of his contract.
- Guardian says electricians in Glasgow and Southampton want EETPU executive to discipline two full time officials accused of helping Murdoch recruit.
- Murdoch claims Times and Sun are selling more copies now than before switch to Wapping and the consequent strike.

UNIONS

- UDM recruiting in Leicestershire where miners have voted 2-1 to stay in NUM.

HOUSING

- John Patten advocates major legislation to abolish rent contro

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Sun says Kinnock is to be shown round Broadwater Farm Estate by Bernie Grant - it says there is embarrassment in the Labour Party.
- Sun says Leicester Council is proposing to rename a park Nelson Mandela Park; Peter Bruinvels MP says it is "scandalous". (Mrs Mandela speaks of her husband being freed.)
- Sir Godfrey Taylor, supervising hand over after abolition of GLC, tells Express he regards it as criminal that Livingstone is handing over £90m to way-out groups when it could be used to cut rates.
- Telegraph says first 18 returns from Shire counties show they are planning rate increases four times projected level of 3.4% inflation.
- Telegraph leader says money is not the solution to inner city problems. Mr Baker's announcement that grants are to go direct rather than through councils is to be welcomed. So is Lord Young's change of emphasis from finance to people.

EDUCATION

- Adam Smith Institute says Britain's universities and colleges must be privatised to raise standards.
- Food expert claims after 5 month survey that school meals are junk which can lead to ill health in later life.
- Association of County Councils says children would get far more out of school if they had four terms instead of three.
- Chris Patten says a lack of public pressure is why he and Sir Keith Joseph failed to secure more resources for education.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Man suffering from heart attack died in an ambulance after being turned away from a Manchester hospital because it is trying to economise.
- Express claims new wonder slimming pills are a fantastic hoax.
- Times says Commons Select Committee is to urge Mr Fowler to withdraw his hasty plans to amend SERPS.

LAW AND ORDER

- Woman prison officer under suspension for allegedly helping a woman prisoner to escape in Staffs.
- D/Star returns to what it describes as the law and order crisis. Call for tougher policing and harsher sentencing from Home Secretary. Government is resisting police demands for more manpower on grounds of cost. What a poor country we must be if we cannot find the money to make our streets safe.
- Sun learns that 16 year old son of French military attache who caused £3,000 damage to cars with a catapult and ball bearings and then sheltered behind diplomatic immunity, has gone home. It quotes his mother as saying "He has left because he hates your filthy country." Sun says she should go too, along with her henpecked husband.
- Mail leader on barristers taking Lord Chancellor to court over fees, admires their style but fears for their future. The more of them plead poverty the fewer of them it may be concluded are needed for the dispensation of justice.
- Mail claims that fraud investigations have uncovered a big insurance racket in which many Asians have faked their own deaths.
- Sixth man accused of murder of policeman in Tottenham riot.

SPORT

- 22 injured when soccer hooligans sprayed with what is believed to be tear gas at Liverpool - one Manchester United player affected; 12 year old boy taken to hospital.

PHILLIPINES

- Election ends in chaos with both sides claiming they are winning. British and US observers accuse Marcos Government of massive electoral fraud. Express says the news from Manila does not make good reading for the West because the election has produced a crisis not a result. If Phillipines fall into chaos and Communism the South Pacific could be destabilised.

ITALY

- 474 Mafia go on trial today in Palermo.

HAITI

- Baby Doc takes refuge in luxury hotel in French Alps; he is to be allowed to stay for only a few days and will not be given political asylum.

USA

- More delay in Congress for extradition treaty with UK.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

MOD: Mr Younger gives interview to Janes Defence Weekly

DES: Sir Keith Joseph visits Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, Egham

DEM: Lord Young addresses Prestige Hotels AGM, Chester

SO: Mr Rifkind lunches with CBI (Scotland), Edinburgh

DTI: Mr Channon meets Canadian Trade Minister; later Israeli Ambassador

MAFF: Lord Belstead lunches with members of East Riding NPU

MAFF: Mrs Fenner addresses National Consumer meeting, London

MOD: Mr Stanley and Lord Trefgarne sign Memorandum of Understanding with FRG Defence Secretary on reserve forces

DES: Mr Patten launches £1/2m 'PICKUP' Scheme for continuing education in nursing and professional health care

DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith opens Wind Energy Exhibition, HOC

DOE: Sir George Young, Chief Executive PSA and Mr Jenkin among those attending premiere of film "80 weeks to touchdown" - the building of the Falklands Airport, London

DOE: Mr Tracey attends Sports Aid dinner, London

DOE: Mrs Rumbold visits Nottinghamshire on regional visit

OAL: Mr Luce speaks at opening of Ango-Lebanese art show

SO: Lord Gray meets NPU, Edinburgh

SO: Mr Mackay meets Master Bakers Association, Edinburgh

DTI: Mr Butcher visits London International Financial Futures Exchange; attends British Phonographic Awards, London

DTI: Mr Clark meets Mauritius Finance Minister

DTI: Mr Pattie meets President of State Commission for Technical Development in Hungary

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Mrs Chalker departs for Africa Heads of Mission Conference, Nairobi

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## TV AND RADIO

"Money Box"; BBC Radio 4 (10.00): Repeat of Saturday's programme

"Drugs for All?"; Channel 4 (12.30): 'Spoilt for Choice' on whether apparently 'new' drugs are really new

"Food for Thought"; Channel 4 (17.30): Asks how far agricultural policies recognise consumers' needs

"Horizon"; BBC 2 (20.05): 'the Wrong Stuff' on human error as prime cause of commercial airline crashes

"World in Action"; ITV (20.30): 'As the Dust Settles' explores the causes of the Mexico City earthquake and asks if many of the deaths could have been avoided

"Panorama"; BBC 1 (21.30): On Ulster Unionists

"The Eleventh Hour"; Channel 4 (23.00): Women and the Welfare State

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