

12 February 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets President Mitterrand to sign Anglo/French Channel Fixed Link Treaty, Canterbury; later attends Queen's Award for Industry reception, Buckingham Palace

EC Political Committee, The Hague (to February 13)

Strike by hospital electricians

Students lobby Parliament over grants

Westland shareholders meet

Labour Party NEC meets on expulsions of Militant Tendency

Signing of Goose Bay Memorandum of Understanding

Home Secretary attends meeting of the Parliamentary All Party Penal Affairs Group

PUBLICATIONS

FCO: EC No 3 (1986). Trade and economic co-operation agreement between EEC and the Peoples Republic of China (14.00)

HOC: 1st Report Social Services Committee; Reform of Social Security (11.00)

HOC: 10th Report Public Accounts Committee on the Urban Programme (Noon)

HOC: 2nd Special Report Environment Committee; Leak of draft report on radioactive waste (11.00)

NAO: National Audit Office - maternity pay fund account 1984/85 (11.00)

NAO: National Audit Office - Foreign Compensation Act 1950 - Foreign Compensation Commission account 1984/85 (11.00)

PAY

DEM: University Computing Operating Staff; (800); 15% pay increase sought; 4% rejected; settlement date 1.7.85

PARLIAMENTCommonsQuestions: Trade & Industry; EnvironmentBusiness: 10 Minute Rule Bill:
Protection of Animals Act 1911 (Mr K McNamara)Opposition Day (7th Allotted Day); Debate entitled
"Government Economic Policy and the Level of
Unemployment" on an Opposition MotionMotion on the Housing Support Grant (Scotland)
Variation OrderMotion on the Housing Support Grant (Scotland)
OrderOpposition Prayer on the Housing Revenue Account
Rate Fund Contributions Limits (Scotland) OrderOPPOSED PRIVATE BUSINESS

Peterhead Harbours (South Bay Development) Bill

Adjournment DebateSubterranean coal-seam fires (the case of
Oakthorpe) (Mr D Ashby)

Select Committees: TRADE AND INDUSTRY
Subject: The Tin Crisis
Witnesses: The Co-ordinating Committee of
13 Ring Dealing Members of the L.M.E.; Mr
R Kestenbaum, Mr M W Metcalf and Mr H P
Wiltshire (at 10.45);
Rio Tinto-Zinc plc; Mr P C F Crowson,
representatives of Medway Tin Ltd (at
approx 11.30)

SOCIAL SERVICES
Subject: Prison Medical Services
Witnesses: Women in Prisons; P.R.O.P.,
Radical Alternatives to Prison;
I.N.Q.U.E.S.T.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Subject: Intervention Storage (HC171)
Witnesses: Sir Michael Franklin, KCB,
Ministry of Agriculture, Intervention
Board for Agricultural Produce

TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE SUB-CTTEE
Subject: Civil Servants and Ministers:
Duties and responsibilities
Witness: Rt Hon James Callaghan MP

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE ARMED FORCES BILL
Subject: Desertion; Discharge Procedure;
Drug and Alcohol Abuse
Witnesses: Officials of the Ministry of
Defence

ENVIRONEMNT
Subject: Planning
Witness: Royal Town Planning Institute

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Select Committees: (Cont'd)

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: Westland plc

Witnesses: Representatives from the Aerospace Sub-Committee of the Federated Ship-building and Engineering Unions (at 4.45); Representatives from T.A.S.S. (at approx 5.30)

JOINT COMMITTEE

Lothian Region (Edinburgh Western Relief Road) Order Confirmation Bill

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL

Felixstowe Dock and Railway

Lords

Short Debate on the changes taking place in the economy of the People's Republic of China and the possibilities of the expansion of international trade to the mutual advantage of the Republic and the United Kingdom.

Short Debate on the case for making changes to the Parliamentary and democratic systems of the United Kingdom if they are to endure.

UQ on whether HMG will reconsider the decision to relocate the Royal Military School of Music from Kneller Hall to Deal.

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTPOLITICS

- You had a good day in the Commons - Battling Thatcher back on top form/ (D/Star)
- Benn wages war on Kinnock after the latter's interview with Brian Walden, putting forward moderate policies; Mail says Benn accused Kinnock of throwing his hand in with Establishment.
- D/Star leader tells the Tory party to stop internal squabbling and back stabbing and get on with the job they were elected to do. You have stuck to your promises probably more successfully than any other Prime Minister and people know where they stand with you. Nearly all the candidates to succeed you are compromise candidates.
- D/Star news story says you crushed Kinnock in the House. Vintage Maggie.
- Sun: Neil caned by Maggie. Left floundering; leader on "Watch out behind you, Neil" says if Kinnock, God forbid, ever got to Downing Street it would be as a Marxist puppet.
- Mirror says you tried to sweep any speculation about your future.
- Mail feature says DT is said to be appalled at the thought of another five years in No 10. Lynda Lee Potter hopes for both your sakes you soon decide to quit; news story: "I'll see you off, Maggie promises Kinnock".
- Telegraph: "Thatcher lifts MPs' morale". Crisp put down of Kinnock.
- Guardian says atmosphere at Westminster is still one of turmoil but few MPs think a challenge to you is likely in the autumn; leader says tide is now running strongly against the Government and the more the Tories frighten voters off Kinnock the more they drive them into SDP/Liberal arms. Thus the Government has to fight a political war on two fronts and differently in different parts of the country.
- Sir Hector Laing's supportive letter in Times.
- Express leader on "Socialism with a pasty face" refers to the Alliance, in association with Labour in Devon, wanting to get rid of 9 grammar schools.
- John Vincent in Sun dubs Michael Heseltine as the Tony Benn of Toryism.
- William Davies' interview with Norman Tebbit-"the coolest cat" on the pop record industry after he presented awards.

WESTLAND

- £20m order for 5 Lynx helicopters by West German Navy on eve of shareholders meeting.
 - Heseltine wants Westland meeting to be adjourned. Mirror describes the meeting as a grudge match.
 - Stock Exchange says six mystery shareholders hold the key to today's meeting.
 - Guardian: Sikorsky closes in on deal for Westland as mystery investors gain crucial stake.
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- Press says Government is to release two documents, summaries of which Heseltine says are incomplete, to Select Committee.
 - Bristow offers to give evidence to Defence Select Committee.
 - Sir Eric Sharp's supportive (of you) letter on Select Committee's investigation of leak, in Times.

INDUSTRY/ECONOMY

- £ up 30 points in spite of renewed pressure on oil prices.
- No price reductions for holidaymakers because of fall in oil prices; travel agents say public are being conned.
- Ian MacGregor tells miners that with the fall in oil prices the new benchmark for productivity is 5 tonnes a man shift instead of present 3.
- Cracks found in 3 British Airways jumbos.
- David Owen, writing in Times, on incomes policies, says that incomes strategies can work to curb inflation.
- FT says a senior Minister has circulated papers to Cabinet for tomorrow's pre-Budget discussion suggesting there is twice the amount (£2-2.5bn) the Chancellor says is available for tax cuts.
- Vickers and Cammell Laird workers offered free shares worth £150 for every £500 bought if management buy-out succeeds.

AGRICULTURE

- Not much coverage of your speech. Telegraph: "Thatcher pledge on CAP costs".
- Times: Thatcher warning on food surplus.
- Express says angry farmers attacked Michael Jopling yesterday over price restraint.
- Telegraph: A fierce and probably unparalleled attack by Sir Richard Butler on Michael Jopling.

MEDIA

- SOGAT decides to continue defying High Court; £12 a week strike pay will be one of first casualties of sequestration.
- EETPU declines confrontation with TUC over Wapping; John Vicent, in Sun, believes the EETPU, with its concern to provide services to its members, points the way to a more classless Britain.
- Coventry Council bans the Sun.

EDUCATION

- Express says NUT has signalled a climbdown over pay dispute; ready to join talks.
- Dr John Rae, headmaster of Westminster, says Britain has worst State-maintained education in developed world.

SUNDAY TRADING

- Harold Macmillan votes against Government in its one-vote defeat; Lords vote to keep existing laws which prevent workers being forced to work on a Sunday.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Sun, commenting on Norman Fowler's claim that screening of blood donors is producing results in the fight against AIDS, asks whether it wouldn't be simpler and safer to have a total ban on homosexual donors. Medical expert says 20,000 could have AIDS virus in Britain.
- Case of woman who gave birth in Rotherham hospital doorway when she and her husband find the door locked after they had told the hospital they were on their way at 3.15am; inquiry launched.
- GMC gives doctors discretion to tell parents if they think an under-age girl is not sufficiently mature to make a judgment on the pill herself.
- Newcastle Health Authority closing 2 hospitals to balance the books.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Black pensioners being offered sunshine holidays by Camden - following Haringey's lead.
- Merseyside CC says Government unemployment figures for area understate unemployment by 14% (Guardian); and is 35%.

ARCHITECTURE

- Architects and consultant engineers agree to pay £1.3m in settlement of negligence claim brought by Liverpool RC Cathedral for leaking roof.

LAW AND ORDER

- Increase of £52m in police spending to provide 2,000 more police; Labour MPs want Home Secretary to reject armoured cars for use in policing London.
- Woman tells how her fiance, a supermarket manager in Putney, was shot down in cold blood by black raiders; forced her to search his pockets for keys after they had shot him.
- Case of plain clothes police in London who bundled an innocent 11 year old boy into back of unmarked car, because he fitted a description, and refused to tell his mother he was in custody.
- Home Secretary acts on abuses of immigration procedure by MPs.

SPIES

- Scharansky flies to Israel with his wife; Express leader says Russians will be judged on what they do in other cases, including the 23 emigration cases the FCO is pressing.
- Tom Stoppard, in Mail, says Russians have used Scharansky as a poker chip. Mail leader says this compromising transaction between hope and cynicism is justified but one bird tipped out of the cage does not make the end of totalitarian tyranny.
- Telegraph says the KGB sacrificed Scharansky for stronger pieces on the board and so could be said to have got the best out of it. West should watch out.

IRELAND

- 2 killed, one an RUC policeman, by gunmen who burst into a pub in Fermanagh.
- Dail ready for Anglo-Irish Parliamentary Group.

SPORT

- Professional Footballers' secretary calls for a ban on football fans travelling to away games after Liverpool gas incident.

NICARAGUA

- Reagan accused of being on the brink of ordering an invasion.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Times diary says Nelson Mandela may be flown to London within a few days

AUSTRALIA

- Royal Yacht Britannia in another sea rescue - saves two men in broken down launch off N. Australia.

IRAN claims a victory over Iraq in Gulf war.

POLAND

- Slander charges against Walesa dropped.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DES: Sir Keith Joseph meets FRG Education Minister

DEM: Lord Young addresses Personnel Services lunch, London

SO: Mr Rifkind lunches with BBC Regional Controllers, London

DTI: Mr Channon and Lord Lucas attend N W Members' Group reception, HOC; later attends Queen's Awards for Export reception, London

MAFF: Mr Gummer visits Midland and Western Region (to February 13)

DES: Mr Walden visits Great Yarmouth and Norwich Art Schools

DEM: Mr Trippier visits Thames and Chiltern Tourist Board, Ascot and Windsor

DOE: Mr Patten visits Blackburn and Lancaster

DOE: Sir George Young addresses Association of Researchers in Construction Management, Watford

DOE: Mrs Rumbold presents Caravan Clubs Certificated Location of the year, HOC

DHSS: Mr Whitney opens Brent and Harrow FPC's new premises

DTI: Mr Pattie addresses London and South Eastern Library Regions Conference

DTI: Lord Lucas launches Stroud Industry year, Gloucestershire

DTP: Mr Bottomley chairs Northern Regional annual consultative committee, Newcastle

WO: Mr Robinson visits Powys District Health Authority

TV AND RADIO

"File on 4"; BBC Radio 4 (16.05): Repeat of Tuesday's programme

"All Our Working Lives"; BBC 2 (20.00): 'Planemakers' on the history of aircraft design

"Analysis: The Pace of Change"; BBC Radio 4 (20.15): 'The Politics' - Mary Goldring on whether the Government should step in to help industry cope with change - and whether it can afford to

"Diverse Reports"; Channel 4 (20.30): Reporter Christopher Hird argues that the Channel Tunnel is a waste of money
