

13 February 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Royal College of Nursing lobby Parliament

Memorial Service for Martin Stevens, MP, St Margaret's,
Westminster

Commonwealth Games Federation reception, Buckingham Palace

Foreign Secretary addresses Pilgrim Society

STATISTICS

BOE: . London sterling certification of deposit (January)

BOE: UK bank assets and liabilities and the money stock
(mid-January)

DTI: Provisional figures of vehicle production (January)

PUBLICATIONS

DHSS: Government response to 5th Report Social Services
Committee 84/85 (15.30)

HMT: Spring Supplementary Estimates 1985/86 (14.30)

PAY

DEM: NHS ancillary workers; (204,700); substantial pay
increase sought; settlement date 1.4.86

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Treasury; Home Office; Prime Minister

Business: Debate on the Multi-Fibre Arrangement, on a Motion
for the Adjournment

Debate on the Report of the Fraud Trials Committee
Chaired by Lord Roskill, on a Motion for the
Adjournment

Adjournment Debate

The unemployment situation in Doncaster
Metropolitan Borough area following the closure of
Youngs Seafoods and other undertakings (Mr M Welsh)

PARLIAMENT (CONT'D)

Select Committees: JOINT COMMITTEE
Lothian Region (Edinburgh Western Relief
Road) Order Confirmation Bill

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL
Felixstowe Dock and Railway

Lords

Salmon Bill (HL): Report

Agriculture and Horticulture Grant (Variation) Order 1986.
Motion for Approval.

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTECONOMY

- Shares at an all time record at 1206.6 - up 17.3. Price of oil falls another \$1.40.
 - Sun on Cabinet Budget discussion, says it should ponder your words - "Let me tell you, a nurse on £140 a week pays £40 in tax and national insurance contributions and I think she pays too much". There must be tax cuts.
 - Institute of Fiscal Studies says lower oil prices have dashed Chancellor's hopes of tax cuts.
 - Graham Mather, in Times, wants more borrowing and tax cuts, including higher thresholds and lower standard rate.
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- John MacGregor says that VAT would have to rise to 41% to pay for Labour's programme if there was to be no rise in income tax.
 - Express says a survey of the NSC of 16 year olds who chose idleness rather than YTS shows most of them turned training down because they saw it as "slave labour" or "not a proper job".

WESTLAND

- Shareholders vote 2-1 to accept Sikorsky rescue offer but who are the 'mystery six' shareholders who swung the vote. Express reports a new storm over their identity - were they acting in concert? No excuse for allowing the fate of a company to be decided in such a secretive manner.
 - Michael Heseltine says the vote will be seen as a mistake.
 - Sun: Westland victory for Americans. Mail: Cheers as US rescue goes through.
 - Mail leader says Westland should now be left alone to work out its future and make helicopters not news.
 - Guardian on 'grubby power struggle', Heseltine is quite right: it is unacceptable that the ownership of an important defence contractor, let alone the future of European collaboration, should be decided by unidentified shareholders hiding behind Swiss bank accounts.
 - FT says it is unclear whether the EuroConsortium can seek redress in the courts or through the Stock Exchange concerning its complaints about the 6 "mystery" bidders. It may not have the stomach to continue a political battle.
 - B/Aerospace accepts the shareholders' verdict. They say: "unless there is something technically wrong, it is the end". Aerospatiale is said to be angry and is expected to start withdrawing sub-contracting work from Westland. GEC and Agusta have no comment.
 - The Stock Exchange is continuing its inquiry into last month's frantic share-dealing.
 - Sir John Cuckney is making inquiries about the identity of the 'secret six'.
 - Sir Robert Armstrong has written to Defence Select Committee saying that the 5 civil servants involved in the leak controversy do not want to add to the account he has given the Committee.
 - Times says EuroConsortium threatens to carry on fighting.
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- Defence Select Committee MPs claim victory over getting Government papers - John Gilbert says Government is just trying to save face in saying only extracts had been released.
 - Telegraph says it is now regarded as unlikely that the Select Committee will call the 5 civil servants in the case.
 - Telegraph says that there is pressure on the Government Information Service after Westland that future Directors of Information should be professionals.
 - Guardian says an official in Cabinet Office is believed to have been rebuked for contacting private offices over the meeting that never was.

INDUSTRY

- Cracks found in 3 B/Airways jumbos.
- Toxic leak from ICI's Grangemouth, Scotland, plant.
- NUM moves tomorrow to ballot on 5.9% pay offer.
- Hanson permitted to pursue Imperial takeover and MMC asked to look at proposed Imperial/United Biscuits link-up.
- SSEB say CEGB's plans to build PWR at Sizewell could increase electricity charges and does not offer economic advantage.
- FT: Leyland took the lead in heavy truck sales in January. Ford, which has held first place since 1977, dropped to 5th.
- General Motors has timed its bid for Land Rover very well. The BL subsidiary is now through its bad patch and performing well (FT).

OIL

- FT: The forward market in N Sea oil is in danger of disintegrating because some traders will not honour obligations to buy cargoes of Brent crude. A series of law suits is threatened.

SUNDAY TRADING

- Sun leader on two old men - Macmillan and Denning - who impose a "time wasting setback" on progress of Bill. Could there be any more devastating indictment of the way we govern ourselves than this farce?
- Mail leader says the Government must not allow itself to be deflected on Sunday opening. The Lords' defeat must be reversed.
- Guardian wants Government to pick up the Bishop of London's amendment restricting the hours and sizes of shops that may open.
- FT Unions and employers agree that Lords amendment will not significantly hinder shops from opening on Sundays.

CHANNEL LINK

- D/Star: Maggie faces protest at Chunnel signing; Sun: Tunnel boos for Maggie from 200 furious demonstrators. Mirror: Chunnel fury as Maggie signs deal. Express: Stormy start to Tunnel pact.
- Express leader thinks Canterbury Cathedral was a very old place to choose to endorse Link agreement, though more tactful than Waterloo Station or Trafalgar Square.
- Mail: Vive le Chunnel. It will change all our lives, says Maggie.
- Telegraph: Big front page picture over Chunnel Treaty protests; leader expresses some concern at the size of the commitment of public funds for supporting infrastructure.
- Guardian: Channel signing rewrites history - a reference to the fact that a press release described the Chapter House as 15th Century when it is 13th and 14th C - with front page picture.
- Times uses picture and reports the pilgrimage to Canterbury.
- FT: Dover Chamber of Commerce has launched a national appeal to raise £100,000 for proposed action in the European Court aimed at forcing the Government to hold a public inquiry.

MEDIA

- Kenneth Clarke says "incompetence" and "pigheadedness" of Left is leading Murdoch's ex-printers to disaster. Mirror says Mr Clarke also criticised Murdoch for being not an instantly popular figure.
- CPSA votes to ban members from talking to Murdoch journalists.
- Militant miners drafted in to help printers picket.
- Telegraph says Government unease that the printing unions may be winning the propaganda war at Wapping led to Kenneth Clarke's speech.
- Hugo Young, in Guardian, feels that Wapping has made trade unions respectable once again and Brenda Dean the acceptable face of those who fight for it.

POLITICS

- Express says Kinnock will soon face the acid test of his leadership - within two weeks he will have to decide whether to back demands for expulsion of 20 Militants.
- Gallup puts Labour ahead 35.5/SDP/Libs - 33.5/Conservatives 29.5%; your popularity at its lowest level since before Falklands war.
- Frank Chapple thinks the Government is a case for the psychiatrist's couch after Westland, BL, Health and Safety laws and bloodletting among Conservative MPs over your leadership.
- Mail says Benn, in Madrid to urge Spaniards to vote against NATO, was escorted by American woman journalist who once looked after Sinn Fein members.
- Speculation that an Ulster Unionist will stand as a Conservative candidate in Fulham.
- Ronnie Butt, in Times, describes the Tories as their own worst enemy having embarked on a course of self destruction.
- In long leader post-Westland, the Times says you may not have done all you might have done to achieve social change but there is at least the prospect of your doing so. That is the difference between moving forward under your leadership and moving forward under those who think quite enough has been done already.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Judge, at the instigation of Westminster Council, blocks GLC's terminal give-away.
- Oxfordshire CC levies 31.5% increase in rates.
- Kenneth Baker signals his intention to outlaw all creative accountancy which has enabled LAs to avoid worst effects of spending cuts (Guardian).

EDUCATION

- Liverpool headmaster tells 10 white boys to stay at home because he could not guarantee their safety from racial attacks by blacks; ludicrous moves to promote racial harmony in the school have led to blacks imposing a rule of fear.
- SDP leaders say they will get tough with strike-happy teachers in the IL as they open their election campaign.
- Sir Keith Joseph admits he is worried about the brain drain.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Sun says there must be an inquiry at Rotherham Hospital, where woman gave birth in doorway because door was locked, to ensure it never happens again.
- Mirror reports secretary to Casualty Surgeons Association, in letter to Times, calling for security guards to patrol hospitals to protect staff.
- Times says Health Ministers are seeking urgent legal advice on GMC's guidance in contraception for under-16s.
- FT: Commons Select Committee on Social Services says Government should delay its plans to change SERPS until it has more comprehensive proposals.

DEFENCE

- Express makes a front page story out of admission by a Civil Servant at Select Committee that MoD does not know how many servicemen are absent without leave.
- Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall wins temporary reprieve.
- Foreign Secretary says it would be quite wrong to cancel Trident.

LAW AND ORDER

- Police files on Derek Hatton, Liverpool Militant, sent to DPP.
- Car and helicopter chase over Dartmoor after woman raped and abducted when he and his band stop to help stranded motorist.
- Five life sentences imposed upon 'the Terror of Tooting' - black rapist.
- New Statesman publishes Question of Procedure for Ministers. Guardian says Jim Callaghan believes Official Secrets Act should be repealed and Lobby abolished.
- Douglas Hurd says police attack on 5 innocent youths in London - police can't be identified - was deplorable and a disgrace to the force.
- Jon Akass, in Express, on the barristers' "hopeless" case of pleading poverty; Telegraph leader worries about the decline in the quality of service from the Bar.

SPIES ETC

- D/Star says it has been a good week for freedom what with Scharansky and ending of Baby Doc's regime in Haiti. But the continued incarceration of Nelson Mandela can only make the end of apartheid more bloody.
- Telegraph says Russians fattened up Scharansky before his release.

NIMROD

- FT: The Government has agreed that MoD should cost alternatives to NIMROD. Yesterday, George Younger got the agreement of colleagues at OD Committee to ask US aerospace companies to quote for aircraft. But the Cabinet has not yet decided whether to continue with or to cancel NIMROD. A leader examines the options, including possibility of renting US planes, but does not see much difference in cost or effectiveness.

LIBYA

- US jets intercept Libyan 'planes 18 times in war of nerves.

BOTSWANA

- Guardian says SAS are to train troops there to resist South African raids and guerrilla infiltration.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

MOD: Mr Younger opens new software Sciences Building,
Farnborough

DES: Sir Keith Joseph begins visit to Surrey local education
authority (to February 14)

DHSS: Mr Fowler addresses Royal College of Surgeons dinner,
London (Mr Hayhoe also attends)

HO: Mr Hurd meets representatives of AMA on policing

SO: Mr Rifkind lunches with "The Times" , London

DES: Mr Walden visits Royal College of Art

DEM: Mr Trippier addresses London Visitor and Convention
Bureau annual conference, London; later lunches with
Lloyds Bank, London

OAL: Mr Luce visits Merseyside

DTI: Mr Clark visits BOTB conference, Harrogate

DTI: Mr Pattie addresses commercial officers course
organised by Society of British Aerospace Companies in
conjunction with FCO, London; attends Royal Institute
in Chartered Surveyors lunch, London

DTI: Mr Morrison tours Chatham Dockyard and Sheerness Steel
plant, Kent

DTP: Mr Mitchell attends presentation by BR on freight,
London

WO: Mr Robinson visits Pembrokeshire District Health
Authority

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTP: Mr Ridley and Mr Spicer visit Washington for talks on
US/UK aviation and international shipping issues

MOD: Mr Stanley visits Berlin

TV AND RADIO

"Medicine Now"; BBC Radio 4 (10.00): Repeat of Tuesday's programme

"Analysis: The Pace of Change"; BBC Radio 4 (11.00): Repeat of Wednesday's programme

"Red Herrings"; BBC (17.30): On young people in East Germany

"From the Inside - The Unions"; Channel 4 (18.30): Follows telephonist and active union member Dorothy Burnett as BT goes private

"Opinions: Misrule Britannia"; Channel 4 (20.00); Lord Scarman looks at the inner cities

"Pillars of Society"; BBC Radio 4 (20.15): Michael Elliott on the General Electrical Company

"TV Eye"; ITV (21.30)

"Question Time"; BBC 1 (22.00): with Ian Picton, Digby Anderson, Gwyneth Dunwood and Lady Grimmond
