

14 February 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister visits Remploy HQ

'The Secret Rally' - to "celebrate" 75th birthday of the Official Secrets Act, among those attending are - Roy Hattersley, Sarah Tisdall and Clive Ponting

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STATISTICS

BSC/ Usable steel production (January)  
BISPA:

CSO: Index of output of the production industries (December)

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PUBLICATIONS

FCO: Treaty Series 13 (1986). Convention of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Government of the Kingdom of Norway for avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and capital (14.00)

FCO: EC No 4 (1986) Co-operation agreement between EEC and Kingdom of Norway on research and development programme in field of metals and mineral substances (14.00)

FCO: EC No 6 (1986). Immunity costs consertation agreement on five conserted action projects in field of environment (cost projects 611; 641; 681; 647; 612) (14.00)

HO: Channel Islands - Airport Authority report (10.30)

DTI: 'British Business' includes market report on food/drink standards in USA

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

Surcharge and Disqualification of Councillors (Abolition) Bill: 2nd Reading (Mr R Loyden)

Drainage Rates (Disabled Persons) Bill: 2nd Reading (Sir Gerard Vaughan)

Tobacco Products (Advertising) Bill: 2nd Reading (Mr L Pavitt)

Adjournment Debate

The current state of the British paper industry (Mr A Burt)



BUDGET

- Mirror suspects your damping down of expectation as an elaborate bluff to give extra impact to a taxpayers' treat.
- D/Star: Maggie dashes tax cut hope (with talk of caution and prudence).
- Sun: Tax cuts sabotaged by "angry" oil sheikhs - acting out of spite because Britain refused to join their cartel last year.
- Express: Slump in oil cash sinks tax cut hopes; some indirect taxes may have to go up; leader on John MacGregor's estimate that Labour's spending so far proposed would cost £24bn, says Kinnock needs to deal himself a better hand if he is to stand any chance of winning power.
- Mail: Oil fall sinks hopes of cut in taxes, best now expected is small increase in tax threshold; leader says failure to cut taxes will be a shattering blow to the many Government supporters who have been looking forward to the day when Tory promises to reduce the tax burden would be redeemed. This underlines how far the Government has fallen short of its aim to control state expenditure.
- Telegraph: Prospects for tax cuts deliberately deflated.
- Guardian says a neutral budget will defer a battle over spending. Several Ministers have now made it clear they intend to use PES this year to change the Government's strategy; Foreign Secretary said to be sympathetic to attack on unemployment.
- Times: Thatcher dashes last hopes of Budget tax cuts.
- FT: Thatcher dampens Budget tax hopes. Only significant challenge in Cabinet from Peter Walker with partial support for Kenneth Baker; leader says the main focus of the Budget should be job creation and reduction of long term unemployment and it calls for robust initiatives.
- Express says softly-softly approach to dole cheats - inviting those out of work for over a year to an interview - has cut dole registers by up to 20%.



ECONOMY

- D/Star says Government is predicting massive unemployment for next four years, according to MSC.
- FT says Government is likely to strengthen a City regulation system after Tory Backbench pressure.

INDUSTRY

- B/Rail to sell off its £60m catering business; Express says travellers will be heartened by this news.
- Princess Anne complains about the poor response by firms to charity appeal.
- Institute of Directors sets up a hot-line against red tape - members in Greater Manchester and West Country being invited to 'phone in examples in pilot scheme so that they can be taken up with Government.
- Guardian reports a new BL crisis with Volvo displaying interest in Leyland Bus; leader says no one objects to foreign investment as such, what is wrong is the scale on which companies are being taken over.
- Government, according to Guardian, bows to food industry and makes only labelling of fat content compulsory.
- Times says Guinness bid for Distillers looks certain to be referred to MMC.

UNIONS

- TUC does big U-turn over taking Government money for ballots - decides unions which do will no longer face disciplinary action. Mail: a humiliating retreat; union leaders would be wise to give politics a rest.
- Speculation that Yorkshire miners will vote for an overtime ban against 5.9% pay offer.
- Institute of Directors says Government should tighten law on union use of members' subs for political purposes.

SUNDAY TRADING

- D/Star says our laws are totally out-dated and unenforceable. The Government should not hesitate to deal with the Lords' amendment. Lord Stockton's band of humbugs and mischief makers must not be allowed to win the day.

WESTLANDS

- Heseltine, in interview with New Society widely reported, says his rebellion has probably cost him the chance of leading Tory party. Government has blown its North Sea oil assets and the Tories will eventually reject Thatcherite policies.
- Telegraph says Europeans are ready to concede defeat because heavy vote against the makes alternative strategies not to seem worthwhile.
- Telegraph leader says things would have been far worse had Labour been in power; Westland would be nationalised without access to Sikorsky orders and a lame duck. But Government must never again try creating dual bids as an industrial policy.
- Times says Lloyds Bank are seeking a Stock Exchange takeover panel inquiry into allegations of a concert party operation over shares.



MEDIA

- Murdoch Newspapers at Wapping beseiged by 3,000 pickets, including Kent miners; one policeman injured. More than 40 arrested. But the newspapers get through. Now Murdoch agrees to ACAS talks.
- Maxwell plans to launch a new daily from Glasgow to compete with Sun and Shah.
- Telegraph leader on 'Wapping Worries' is not particularly impressed with Kenneth Clarke's criticism of Murdoch's public image.

- BBC considering whether to take American Cable network from midnight to 6am.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Islington Council paying a woman clerk £8,000 a year to stay at home after being found guilty of failing to ask a black worker to a Christmas lunch.
- Sun wants to know what Commission for Racial Equality is to do to protect white pupils being bullied by blacks at Liverpool school.
- Architects to consult council tenant on design of houses in Oxford.
- Halifax Building Society intends to build 3,000 houses a year in inner cities by 1990.
- Gallup finds a mixed response to Government's plans to reform rating system, but Conservatives vote 68/20/13 (Don't Know) saying they are a good idea.

POLITICS

- George Gale, in Express, says talk of replacing you is idle and dangerous nonsense; if the Tories wish for a third term there is no alternative to you. And just as Tories have no alternative to you, so country has no alternative to Tories.
- Times says there is now increasing certainty among Tory Backbenchers that you will not only stay on to the next election, but also that the election will be delayed until 1988.

DEFENCE

- FT says Government is close to finalising its biggest ever arms export deal with Saudi Arabia.

SPIES

- Express leader on the 380,000 Jews wanting to leave Russia, suggests a fair exchange - 10,000 of them in exchange for Derek Hatton.
- Scharansky says KGB tried to break him.



LAW AND ORDER

- John Carlisle MP punched and kicked at Bradford University meeting by Asian finger broken by "imported hit squad".
- Gerald Howarth MP calls for return of birch after attack on his home.
- Woman working in Plymouth hospital laundry shot dead by man.
- Policewomen to be put in the riot front line from April.
- Express campaigns for strict licensing controls over the sale of crossbows which in trained hands can be deadlier than shotguns.
- Court of Appeal approves a new form of injunction banning defendants in civil cases from leaving the country until they have complied with court orders.
- Guardian says doing nothing cannot be one of the Home Secretary's options in the case of the unidentified Met policemen who beat up innocent youth

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Mirror, on under-age pill controversy, says the GMC's ruling is welcome a commonsense decision. Times leader says in counselling teenagers about sex without the involvement of parents, doctors are required to make the best of a bad job. The GMC has clarified the ground but possibly at the cost of young patients.
- Comptroller & Auditor General wants more efficiency savings in NHS where economies worth £153m are being achieved.

ROYALS

- Sun, complaining about the cost of Britannia refits', says if the Queen wants to keep her pleasure craft she should be respectfully asked to pay for it.

EC

- Italy refuses to sign reform package because reforms are too modest.
- FT leader wants farm prices reduced and social assistance to farmers handled separately.

SWEDEN

- Announces closure of last merchant shipyard.

GIBRALTAR

- Benn, in Spain to campaign against NATO, urges Britain to hand Gibraltar back to Spain.

IRELAND

- Fitzgerald re-shuffles Cabinet to try to restore popularity.

ARGENTINE

- Telegraph says it has not yet been decided which Minister should meet a high level group of Argentine politicians visiting UK privately from Monday.

PHILIPPINES

- Tension rising as Parliament tabulates election results.



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Lord Young visits Crawley and Horsham; later appears on BBC Radio 4's 'Any Questions'

DEN: Mr Walker opens B & Q Superstore, Bristol

DOE: Mr Baker visits Chester

SO: Mr Rifkind addresses annual Consular Corps dinner, Edinburgh; later gives interview to Glasgow Evening Times (Rosemary Long)

WO: Mr Edwards visits Biotechnica, Cardiff; opens collaborative research and development programme seminar, Cardiff

MOD: Mr Lamont visits Royal Signals Research Establishment, Malvern

DES: Mr Walden visits Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

DEN: Mr Hunt visits Land Securities Ltd.

DOE: Mr Patten attends NALGO water members seminar

SO: Mr Stewart addresses AGM of Scottish Region of Engineering Industries Association, Glasgow

DTI: Mr Howard lunches with Sir Gordon Borrie of Office of Fair Trading, London

DTI: Mr Pattie visits University of Kent to open their new space science research unit

DTI: Mr Butcher opens Savant Research Centre, Coventry Polytechnic

DTP: Mr Bottomley visits roads around Stansted Airport with Alan Haselhurst MP

DTP: Mr Mitchell opens Bus & Coach Council Symposium business session followed by Q & A session, Birmingham

HMT: Mr MacGregor addresses Eastern Electricity Seminar, Norwich

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

MOD: Lord Trefgarne visits SHAPE & NATO HQ

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TV AND RADIO

"Pillars of Society"; BBC Radio 4 (11.00): Repeat of Thursday's programme

"A Question of Economics"; Channel 4 (14.30): 'Is Big Business Out of Control?' asks if the multi-nationals are now too big to be controlled by the Government

"Micro Live"; BBC 2 (9.00): Views on the impact of information technology on newspapers, the Stock Exchange and the law, featuring Andrew Neil and Eddie Shah

TV AND RADIO (Cont'd)

"A Week in Politics"; Channel 4 (20.15): Parliamentary style debate on proportional representation with about 30 MPs

"Law in Action"; BBC Radio 4 (11.00): Repeat of Thursday's programme

"Any Questions?"' BBC Radio 4 (20.45): with Lord Young, Ken Livingstone, Ann Burdus and John Pardoe

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