

18 February 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister gives interview to Turkish TV; has a meeting with Mr Czal, the Turkish Prime Minister and later hosts dinner for him

European Commission "Drugs Carriers" conference hosted in Brussels, to be chaired by HM Customs

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STATISTICS

CBI: CBI/FT survey of distributive trades (end January)

HMT/CSO: Public sector borrowing requirement (January)

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PUBLICATIONS

DHSS: SI-NHS Superannuation Special Provision Amendment Regulation 1986

HOC: 2nd Special Report Scottish Affairs Select Committee (11.00)

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Employment; Social Services; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Greater London County Hall (Mr S Hughes)

Drug Trafficking Offences Bill: Remaining Stages

Motion on the Representation of the People (Variation of Limits of Candidates Election Expenses) Order

Opposed Private Business

Adjournment Debate

The future of the workforce at Land, Range and Freight Rover (Mr D G Bevan)

Select Committees: EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS  
Subject: Achievement in Primary Schools  
Witnesses: National Union of Teachers (at 10.30 am); Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Schools (at approx 11.30 am)

DEFENCE

Subject: The defence implications of the future of Westland plc

Witness: to be announced

PARLIAMENT (CONT'D)Select Committees (Cont'd)

## JOINT COMMITTEE

Lothian Region (Edinburgh Western Relief Road) Order Confirmation Bill

## COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL

Felixstowe Dock and Railway

Lords

Gaming (Amendment) Bill (HL): Report.

Atomic Energy Authority Bill (HL): Consideration of Commons Amendment.

Local Government Bill: Committee (1st Day).

Marriage (Wales) Bill: Second Reading

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTYOUR INTERVIEW

- You are seen to have hinted that thresholds will be raised in Budget. And you vow to battle on.
- No coverage in Sun.
- D/Star P8: 2 stories - Tax cuts for low paid, says Thatcher. "Confident PM says "I'll fight to keep my crown". Your uncompromising message will send a chill through Cabinet rivals.
- Mirror P2: "Maggie: I'll see 'em off". You'll take on all-comers if challenged.
- Express P1: "Maggie - caring doesn't mean throwing money at our problems". At your most devastating about leading "wets" who want a change of course. You vow to battle on; leader says there are 3,407,729 compelling (unemployed) reasons for tax cuts on March 13. Alas, reports from the Cabinet Room suggest only you and Chancellor are in favour of them. This is bitterly disappointing. You must show your mettle.
- Mail P2: "I'm still on my way up - Maggie"; you fire out a defiant "we'll go on doing it my way".
- Telegraph P1: "Thatcher: I'll fight to stay". You were in characteristically confident, combative mood.
- FT: You were at your most self-confident; declared you still had a lot to do and were willing to fight any challenge to your leadership. You hinted that any relief in the Budget would be directed at the lower paid. You gave no indication about whether help would be in the form of higher thresholds or a cut in basic rate tax.

YOUR INTERVIEW

- Guardian P1: Thatcher confident of capitalism popularity.
- Times P1 lead: Thatcher intends to fulfil political targets. You declare your total determination to complete the Government's political tasks. A performance designed to reassert your authority. (Digby Anderson, in Times, wants you to stay, after Westland, just as you were before).

LABOUR PARTY

- Speculation that up to 12 Militants, including Hatton, could be expelled from Liverpool City party.
- Hatton says there will be "a mass outcry" if this happens following "kangaroo court".
- Express says Kinnoch faces a Militant backlash against any purge; MPs Nellist and Fields attack "witch hunting atmosphere prevalent in Party leadership". Promise a mass demonstration outside Labour Party HQ tomorrow week when NEC meets on expulsions.
- Telegraph leader says that in the coming months Labour will tell the world that it has cut out the Militant cancer altogether and that the newly responsible respectable party is fit again for Government. Such a line is dangerously misleading. The cancer has spread throughout the entire body of the party.

WESTLAND

- Mail says B. Ingham is now likely to give evidence to Select Committee to end the deadlock. Guardian says the Select Committee wants B. Ingham to give evidence and are anxious to press their constitutional battle.

ECONOMY

- Retail sales down 1.1% in January. £ up to \$1.4207. Shares reach record.
- Roy Hattersley calls on local authorities, NHS etc to prepare spending plans to create jobs if Labour is returned. Mirror: Labour in £5bn job plan.
- Peter Shore claims that without the sale of British Gas Government would have to raise standard rate of income tax 5p or slash public spending.
- FT: The leading oil companies are preparing to rescue the forward market in Brent. Several proposals are being considered.
- Saudi Arabia's oil output has fallen well below its OPEC quota.
- The Government will learn today whether its N.Sea oil exporting policy, which in effect bars sales to Israel, is to be condemned as a breach of EEC law.
- Times says the legacy of oil at \$30 a barrel for UK is one of the highest ratios of external assets to GNP of any leading industrial country, earning \$5-7bn a year.

BL/ARG

- Sun says John Smith claims GM is trying to buy Jaguar as well; DTI says this not a matter for Government,
- Mirror: "Successful" Land Rover firm must be kept in British hands, MPs from both sides demand; Anthony Beaumont-Dark MP says it should not be offered to GM as a sweetener.
- Express says British firms are queuing up to buy BL.
- Mail: An extraordinary tug of war develops over Land Rover. 5 Midlands Tory MPs demand of Paul Channon that it stays in British hands.
- FT: The Government is seeking to complete negotiations "very soon" over the future of BL's commercial vehicles subsidiaries, including Land Rover and Leyland Bus, in spite of the disclosure of further possible purchases.
- The TGWU yesterday challenged the Government to refer GM's bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The Union is to complain to the European Commission.
- BL's commercial vehicle output rose by nearly 25 per cent last year.
- BL executive director says there are franchise and technical reasons why Land Rover should not be sold separately from other parts of BL.
- Guardian: British buyers move to save BL.
  
- Sun leader says absenteeism at the Vauxhall car plant is running as high as 30% - the real mystery is why Americans, Germans, Japanese and French, or any other foreigners, should even be interested in a British car firm.

## INDUSTRY

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- Fector Laing bids £2.54 bn for Imperial for whom Hanson bids £0.5bn more - ie £2.34bn.
- £5bn arms deal with Saudi Arabia signed; Mail says it could eventually be worth £20bn.
- Sun leader in praise of National Freight Corporation's success - the Labour Party sneered that employees, when offered shares, were wasting their money. Giving a man a stake in his job can be the golden road to riches for him and his company.
- Mail: Anger as BNFL orders ship in Japan.
- Telegraph says Government is under renewed pressure to improve safety checks at nuclear establishments after Sellafield. Irish Government to urge Britain to halt all discharges into Irish Sea and is to seek action by EC on safety standards. Guardian accuses nuclear industry of obfuscation.
- Nature Conservancy draws up code to prevent on-shore oil and gas development from damaging the countryside.
- Sir Nicholas Henderson, Chairman of the Channel Tunnel Group, is to stand down in favour of Lord Pennock Chairman of BICC.
- Guardian says Lord Young has taken MSC from Kenneth Clarke and implies they are not working well together.
- Times says one of your Answers has revealed that heads of nationalised industries have had pay increases 50 to 100% ahead of the rate of inflation since 1979.

## MEDIA

- FT: News International is considering further legal action against the print unions to increase the print run of the News of the World, which has been badly hit by industrial action in Manchester.
- Sun reports Benn's accusation of police bullying Wapping pickets; Douglas Hogg makes cuckoo noises while Benn speaks in House.
- Brenda Dean wants to negotiate a "whole new agreement" with Murdoch.
- Results of NGA ballots on blacking expected today.
- Sun says thieves in Swindon stole thousands of its copies from six newsagents and burned them in a garage.
- Sun feature on "Rent-a-mob" says the Socialist Workers' Group is the Commando Unit of the Left.
- SOGAT president says workers in Sweden and Canada could black newsprint supplies to Murdoch papers.
- Sir George Young, in written answer, suggests razor edged barbed wire surrounding Wapping plant may be illegal, according to Mirror; London Docklands Development Corporation has taken matter up with Murdoch.
- Max Madden MP asks you to ban Government advertising in Murdoch papers.

UNIONS

- Left puts up a list of candidates to try to keep control of TGWU.
- FT: The First Division Association is expected to lodge a separate pay claim if other civil service unions decide on a flat-rate emphasis for their common claim.
- BR yesterday offered 140,000 railway workers a no-strike pay rise of 4.5%.
- Merseyside's image as a highly strike-prone region is exaggerated, according to a new study.

LAW AND ORDER

- Man who pledged to buy up and destroy trappings of Devil-worshippers cons £200,000 from wealthy Christian, including Mrs Timothy Sainsbury (£2,500); he used money for fast living.
- Labour Party steps up its campaign to outlaw crossbows after man, 60, is shot in chest by thug in Tyne & Wear who rams his car.
- Sun leader says one of the most foolish decisions of Parliament in the last decade was to prohibit the disclosure of the identity of men accused of rape. Open justice is almost always the best justice. Mail says the clincher in the argument is that the present legislation prevents the police from naming or publishing the photo of a man on the run they believe is a dangerous rapist. But idea wins little support from organisations helping rape victims.
- Bernie Grant appoints Left-wing Lord Gifford to head £250,000 inquiry into Broadwater Farm riot.
- Sir Kenneth Newman records a determination to root out violent policemen.
- Government announces cuts in entitlement to legal aid - Law Society critical.

TRANSPORT

- D/Star says that when it comes to looking a gift horse in the mouth (Philips' offer to light M25 for annual charge) Whitehall is in a pathetic class of its own; Express says Government gave cautious approval to Philips' offer; Peter Bottomley says it's a good idea.
- D/Transport considering jail for motorists who kill under the influence: Mail not very happy with the idea, canvassed by Peter Bottomley, of convicted drunk drivers attending day prison centres - better to see what can be done within existing law.

ANIMAL WELFARE

- RSPCA reports worst animal cruelty figures in its 162-year history.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Disabled ex-Servicemen to lobby MoD to abolish S10 of 1947 Crown Proceedings Act which prevents Servicemen injured in accidents caused by negligence from suing.
- Guardian says Government will offer no extra help to poor and elderly to meet higher fuel bills during cold weather.



EDUCATION

- Sun feature on teachers who have had their lives made a misery by loony Left.
- Radical changes to library service foreshadowed by Richard Luce.

FREE SPEECH

- John Carlisle MP now prevented from speaking in Oxford; Michael Fallon MP punched in the face in a student's bar in Sunderland and has to leap out of way of a speeding car outside.
- Express says John Carlisle was run out of (Oxford) town. Mail says riot students chased him around Oxford.
- Heseltine said to be planning a Parliamentary attack on your pro-Americanism.

PEOPLE

- Press is now saying Princess Anne is not expecting; she is to race as an amateur jockey this Spring.

IRELAND

- Guardian says Dr Fitzgerald is to suggest a committee drawn from both Parliaments to examine establishment of Anglo-Irish Parliamentary Committee

SPORT

- 400 British schoolchildren on educational cruise caught up in row between two Greek ship owners in Port Said.

ARGENTINE

- Tim Eggar to meet Argentinian Parliamentarians. Mail says anyone who gets hot under the collar at this junior Minister meeting the Argentines, must have a very low boiling point indeed. It makes sense to work at all levels for more normal relations.
- Times sees Eggar meeting as first olive brance to Argentina.

ETHIOPIA

- Britain to send 31,000 tonnes of food this year.

SRI LANKA

- Express reports a traffic in babies specially bred for sale to British and European couples.

CHAD

- Showdown expected as France orders more troops there in confrontation with Libya.

RUSSIA

- Express feature on Armand Hammer - "Gorbachev's go-between".

DIPLOMACY

- Mail feature on the spread of the English language - now the first or second language in more sovereign states than any other.

DEFENCE

- The US hopes to finalise by the summer SDI research agreements with Germany, Italy Israel and Japan, along similar lines to those settled with Britain. Today, classified aspects of SDI will be given to about 100 UK companies at a meeting in London.

SOUTH AFRICA

- FT: Violence is escalating, with further riots, deaths and bombings in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Port Elizabeth.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEN: Mr Walker meets Norwegian Energy Minister, London

SO: Mr Rifkind lunches with Country Landowners Association, London

MAFF: Mrs Fenner addresses UKASTA conference dinner, Solihull

MOD: Mr Stanley meets Norwegian Defence Minister Mr Hammerstadt

DEM: Mr Trippier attends Engineering Employers Federation dinner, London

DHSS: Mr Newton attends Regional Controllers Conference, Kennilworth

OAL: Mr Luce speaks at Lancaster House reception for American authors

SO: Lord Gray attends meeting on tourism co-ordination, London

SO: Mr Stewart meets working group on financing of safety improvements to sports grounds, London

DTI: Mr Morrison attends dinner for Turkish Prime Minister

DTI: Mr Pattie visits Micronet 800; addresses SMARTEX Conference, London

DTI: Lord Lucas attends CBI Conference

DTI: Mr Butcher visits London Commodity Exchange

DTP: Mr Bottomley attends launch of the NW Counties Road safety initiative for European Road Safety Year, Manchester

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

HO: Mr Hurd meets French Minister of the Interior, Mr Jox, Paris

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TV AND RADIO

"File on 4"; BBC Radio 4 (19.20): 'Whither BL?' considers British Leyland's future

"South East Report"; BBC 2 (20.00): 'Living with the Link' investigates the effects of the Channel Tunnel and the fears of Kent residents

"Medicine Now"; BBC Radio 4 (20.00): Geoff Watts reports on medical issues

"Party Political Broadcast by the Labour Party"; BBC1 (21.00); ITV; (22.00); BBC 2 (22.50)

"Nothing But the Best"; BBC 1 (23.30): 'School Leavers - What's Next?'

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