

19 February 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets Dr Fitzgerald

(Dr Fitzgerald addresses Press Gallery lunch)

Prime Minister gives interview to Jean Rook

M25 souther section opens (M25 southern section now complete)

Department of Employment announces changes in unemployment
statistic compilation

Tokyo Euromoney conference opens

Unit Costs statistics - Lord Young urges British industry to
become more competitive

STATISTICS

CSO: Gross Domestic Product (output-based) (4th
qtr-preliminary)

DEM: Average earnings indicies (December-prov); employment,
hours and unit wage costs (11.30)

PUBLICATIONS

FCO: EC No 5 (1986). Agreement in the form of exchange of
letters consolidating and modifying text protocol 3 to
an arrangement between EEC and Kingdom of Sweden (14.00)

FCO: Treaty Series No 14 (1986). Agreement between the
Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of
Panama on promotion and protection of investments (14.00)

HOC: 2nd Report Social Services Select Committee - Social
Services Resettlement Units (11.00)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Environment; Scotland



PARLIAMENT (cont'd)

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Amendment of the Constitution of the House of Lords (Bishops) (Mr R Holt)

Opposition Day (8th Allotted Day): Debate on the Strategic Defence Initiative followed by a debate on private rented accommodation, on an Opposition Motion

Motion on the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1984 (Continuance Order) 1986

Debate on a Motion to take Note of the EC Document No 7163/85 relating to new Community Energy Objectives

Adjournment Debate

The case of Ijaz Ahmed Malik and Gurmail Singh (Mr S Thorne)

Select Committees: WELSH AFFAIRS

Subject: Tourism in Wales
Witnesses: Mid-Wales Development Board;
Welsh Development Agency

DEFENCE

Subject: The defence implications of the future of Westland plc
Witness: to be announced

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: The Tin Crisis
Witnesses: Mr G J O'Neill and
Mr B Leeming; Hon Alan Clark MP,
Minister of Trade (at approx 11.30)

ENERGY

Subject: The Coal Industry
Witnesses: Rt Hon Peter Walker MBE, MP
and Department of Energy officials

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Prison Medical Services
Witnesses: Prison Reform Trust; MIND;
Dr M Rosen

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE ARMED FORCES BILL

Subject: Armed Forces Bill: Drug and Alcohol Abuse; homosexuality
Witnesses: Officials of the Ministry of Defence

ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Planning
Witnesses: Town and Country Planning Association; Council for the Protection of Rural England

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: Westland plc
Witnesses: Representatives from Westland plc:
Sir John Cuckney, Sir John Treacher KCB,
Captain W Gueterbock

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

DEFENCE

Subject: The defence implications of the future of Westland plc

Witness: to be announced

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: The work of the Department of Employment Group

Witnesses: Rt Hon Lord Young of Gratham, Secretary of State for Employment and Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke, QC, MP, the Paymaster General

JOINT COMMITTEE

Lothian Region (Edinburgh Western Relief Road) order Confirmation Bill

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL

Felixstowe Dock and Railway

Lords

Debate on the economic situation in the United Kingdom and in particular the impact of the fall in oil prices on Government revenues, the exchange rate and interest rates.

UQ on the difficulties of farmers in Green Belt areas who wish to diversify their operations

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTSELLAFIELD

- Garret Fitzgerald to raise Irish concerns about plant with you tonight - says he has lost confidence in operators of plant.
- New radiation leak brings calls for closure of plant - second leak in 12 days.
- BNFL says there was little hazard to workers.
- Mail leads with "Another leak at A-plant. Sellafield protests grow."

ECONOMY

- £ rallies strongly as continental dealers signal their approval of your Panorama performance (Telegraph).
- Cut in interest rates by the autumn seen as real possibility.
- Telegraph leads with new hopes for a tax cut in Budget after a huge surge in Government revenue in January because of Corporation Tax payments.
- But Telegraph political reporter says Conservative MPs made it clear to the Chancellor last night that they would accept a cautious budget.
- Claims that the Budget will contain tax changes providing incentives for donations to charities.
- Guardian: Surprise leeway for cut in taxes. City analysts baffled by PSBR figures.
- Times leads with: Budget tax bonanza planned for charities. Sarah Hogg says Chancellor should resist temptation to raise duty on petrol and so avoid giving petrol companies an excuse not to cut prices.

BL/AR

- March deadline for sale of BL - Mr Channon's revelation angers Labour MPs.
 - Express says 6 firms are queuing up to push in new bids for Land Rover but MPs believe it will be impossible for them to meet the deadline and GM will win.
 - D/Star: Government ready to give go-ahead for Land Rover to be sold to Americans. Only a better bid can stop it.
 - Sun: A rush to sell Land Rover - all out drive to push the company into the arms of GM.
 - Geoffrey Levy, in Express, says before opposition to GM's takeover turns to hysteria, we must remember the old tenet that sentiment must never interfere with business. The only judgment must be - if you had some savings to invest, who would you want to run the company?
 - Guardian leader says you have made it clear you are backing America. Yet you also tell us that politicians have no expertise to decide these matters. There is no reason, other than the Government's denial of funds for BL, why Land Rover should not have a prosperous future inside BL. Sale to Americans could only be contemplated by a Government which has lost faith in British industry.
 - FT says proposed sale to General Motors of Land Rover makes sense for a number of reasons, even though it is not the ideal outcome, especially in the political sense.
- .. Five millionth Mini will roll off production line today.

INDUSTRY

- Alan Lord appointed Chief Executive of Lloyds.
- Shell and BP announce another (2.7p) cut in petrol prices. Sun says its war at the pumps.
- Greg Knight MP wants Government to stamp out the widespread and dangerous racket in which registration plates of an unroadworthy vehicle are put on a roadworthy vehicle for an MOT test and then transferred back to an unroadworthy car.
- Railmen offered 4.5% pay rise.
- Geoffrey Goodman, in Mirror, says you have misjudged the mood of the country; there is a growing anxiety in Government that Brenda Dean's reasoned approach is helping to persuade people your drive against unions has gone too far. Labour law is now seen to be on the side of the powerful against the oppressed.
- Fank Organisation bids £740m for Granada.
- Rodney Tyler ghosting Ian MacGregor's autobiography, for publication in November.
- Bar Council gets go-ahead in High Court to sue Lord Chancellor over his refusal to negotiate on claim for substantial increases in criminal legal aid fees.

MEDIA

- Associated Newspapers - the Mail Group - hold talks with staff and unions on future; need for redundancies.
- Sun reports a catapult attack on one of its distribution lorries on the M1 from a van which overtook its truck and then opened up its shutters for a broadside from "rear gunners".
- 100 reports of parcels of the Sun being snatched or destroyed on newsagents' doorsteps.
- Sun leader on Benn's allegations of police setting on Wapping pickets says if you saw the scenes on TV and the armoury of weapons seized by the police and agree with Benn you must vote Labour. But if you think Benn is off his chump you should vote for anyone but Labour.
- Bob Reid, BR chairman, threatens to take railmen to court if they black Murdoch papers.
- So far 194 arrests at Wapping.
- Times leader on Wapping says it is a wrong view to argue that the whole balance of trade union law is unsatisfactory. Brenda Dean had recognised for some time that the sacking of print workers was an option. Wapping is just one brick in the wall which has risen inexorably between the unions and the public. The harsh face of trade union power is not to be hidden

POLITICS

- John Vincent, in Sun, thinks there are few winners, apart from employees of the firm, from the Westland affair. But the few scratches on your paintwork won't matter if the engine remains sound. As for Heseltine, he says one can understand a rat leaving a sinking ship but a rat that leaves a seaworthy ship to sink it is a different matter altogether.
- Jean Rook coins a new phrase in Express: "He who Heseltines is lost".
- Peter Walker's speech warning against a dangerous decline in manufacturing industry, ignored by D/Star, Sun and Mirror. Express: "Walker raps rundown of factories". Guardian plays it down. Times: "Walker lines up with Kinnock in attack on Thatcher's policies". Only 10 lines of "veiled attack" in Mail.
- Express leader, headed Kinnock has to whip Militant out, says nothing less than a total purge will be worth a damn. Process cannot stop with Hatton and his co-conspirators. If he contents himself with cosmetic surgery, ^{Kinnock's} brave words will be remembered with derision and contempt at a General Election. Nothing less than root and branch removal of Militant malignancy will persuade us that he is determined to make Labour fit to govern.
- Mail leader says speculation about your leadership now sounds fanciful to the point of futility. You have bounced back. Your performance on Panorama was resilient and robust. A confident re-assertion of leadership and political conviction. Friend and foe alike know where they stand with you. Your determination is the hallmark of the Thatcher years. If the Tories have any sense they should be devoting every ounce of energy to your election hat-trick.
- Guardian leader says predictions of your political eclipse must be re-appraised. But it claims you attacked in Panorama programme in order to leave no time for defence. But your confidence and balance is far from restored.
- Peter Riddell, in FT, says the pendulum has swung back and Tory depression has been replaced with optimism and even self confidence to judge from your Panorama interview. It was almost as if nothing had happened. In short, Conservative Party has regained its strength. But there is no assurance of a smooth road over the next few months.

FREE SPEECH

- Leeds MP calls on John Carlisle to abandon projected speech in Leeds tomorrow.
- D/Star says political hooliganism from Left and Right is rearing its ugly head again. But if all sides of the argument are not allowed to be put, proper democracy is dead. Bover boys of any side have no place in politics.
- Sun leader says universities and polys should be citadels of free speech, but this is not happening in Britain. Government should insist that in return for grants the Government should insist university authorities maintain the right.
- Telegraph, while not wishing to be unduly pompous about the exuberance of the young, says the attacks on Messrs Fallon and Carlisle are not to be dismissed as examples of sheer high spirits. They were deliberate and criminal attempts to suppress free speech. You are right to call on university authorities to maintain proper discipline and there is something to be said for imposing on them a statutory duty to defend free speech.

EDUCATION

- NUT votes for renewed strike action in spite of provisional pay settlement by other unions.
- John Vincent, referring to teacher opposition to introduction of GCSE, says clearly the children can't win.
- Express story on headmaster short of books who got £5 from Sir Keith, a letter from you saying you couldn't contribute, no reply from Kinnock and David Steel's autobiography signed by David Steel.
- Telegraph says the Government must ensure that never again can the union hold children's education up to ransom without penalty to themselves.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- TUC react badly to Government consultation paper confining compensation for industrial injuries to those exceeding 15% disablement.
- Sun says nurses, who want a 24% pay rise, are set to scrap their no-strike pledge in response to Government's refusal to find an increase over 5%.
- Times leader worries about the plight of pensioners keeping warm in cold weather and the nature of the special payments system.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Guardian says Liverpool is on the verge of another financial crisis,

LAW AND ORDER

- Government to introduce new clause in Drugs Trafficking Bill to outlaw sale of cocaine sniffing kits.
- Labour controlled Haringey council rejects Tory motion condemning Tottenham riot in favour of its own inquiry.
- Jamaican woman, 23, jailed for cannabis smuggling, is former secretary to Dolly Kiffin, founder of Broadwater Farm Estate youth association.
- 200 teenagers thrown off a train by police when night out in Surrey turns violent and destructive.
- Motorists may be able to claim back thousands of pounds in parking fines after being convicted under a wrong Act.

IRELAND

- US appeal court clears way for extradition to Britain of IRA man, William Quinn, wanted for murder of London policeman.

TURKEY

- Guardian: Thatcher backs Ozal's overtures to EC.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling opens Institute of Refrigeration Institution of Mechanical Engineers seminar, London; later hosts farewell dinner for Sir Richard Butler, President of the NFU (Mr Gummer, Lord Belstead and Mrs Fenner also attend)
- DES: Sir Keith Joseph gives history talk to Rugby Group of Schools, Oxford
- DEM: Lord Young attends ILEA Conference on education, training and employment for young adults, London; later speaks to Licensed Victuallers Association Conference, HoC
- DEM: Mr Clarke visits Peckham (inner city programme)
- DEN: Mr Walker addresses Coalfield Community National Conference, Wakefield appears before Select Committee on Coal
- HO: Mr Hurd unveils memorial in honour of PC Bishop, Frinton-on-Sea
- DTI: Mr Channon attends Morgan Grenfell lunch; later attends reception for Turkish Prime Minister (Mr Clark also attends)
- DTp: Mr Ridley opens Swanley/Sevenoaks section of M25
- WO: Mr Edwards attends dinner in honour of Sir Richard Butler, London
- MOD: Mr Stanley visits British Aerospace, London
- DES: Mr Walden attends Parliamentary and Scientific Committee's lunch, London
- DEM: Mr Trippier visits Southern Tourist Board, Starsholt
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave and Mrs Rumbold meet local Authorities Association, London
- OAL: Mr Luce visits Churchill Theatre, Bromley
- SO: Mr Ancram meets Mr Waldegrave on Association of Local Authorities and Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, London
- DTI: Mr Pattie visits West Midlands (to February 20)
- DTI: Mr Howard attends International Commodities Clearing House lunch, London (possible)
- DTI: Mr Butcher visits C S Taylor, Wokenham
- DTp: Mr Bottomley addresses Construction News luncheon club, London
- WO: Mr Robinson speaks at Wales Intermediate Treatment Forum, Llandrindod Wells
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TV AND RADIO

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

"Out of Court"; BBC 2 (19.30): On whether trial procedures should be changed to help child witnesses cope with court questioning in sexual abuse cases

"The Mind in Focus"; BBC Radio 4 (19.45): 'Public Opinion' - Peter Evans chairs a discussion on opinion polls

"All Our Working Lives"; BBC 2 (20.00): 'Cutting Coal' looks at changes in the coal industry during the 20th century

"Analysis: The Pace of Change"; BBC Radio 4 (20.15): 'When East meets West' asks "What do the Hong Kong Chinese feel about the implications of the London-Peking deal?"

"Diverse Reports"; Channel 4 (20.30): Martin Pawley of The Guardian explains how Britain's home owners are using mortgages and other forms of credit to turn property into cash
