

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Education Bill published

Firemen lobby Parliament

The Prime Minister hosts a reception to celebrate 75th anniversary of the Royal National Institute for the Deaf

STATISTICS

CSO: Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (January)

DTI: Capital expenditure by the manufacturing and service industries (4th qtr-prov)

DTI: Manufacturers' and distributors' stocks (4th qtr-prov)

PUBLICATIONS

HOC: 13th Report of the Committee of Public Accounts - excess votes

OAL: Museums & Galleries: The Merseyside Museum Order 1986 (SI)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Home Office; Northern Ireland; Prime Minister

Business: Debate on a Motion to take Note of the Government's Expenditure Plans 1986-87 to 1988-89 (Cmd No 9702)

Adjournment Debate

The order of the Chief Constable of Northern Ireland cancelling Regulation 35 of Section 22 of the RUC Act (Sir Eldon Griffiths)

Select Committees: JOINT COMMITTEE

Lothian Region (Edinburgh Western Relief Road) Order Confirmation Bill

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL

Felixstowe Dock and Railway

Lords

Statute Law (Repeals) Bill (HL)(Consolidation): Committee (on recommitment) (? to be discharged).

Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1984 (Continuance) Order 1986. Motion for Approval.

Legal Aid (Scotland) Bill (HL): Second Reading

Museum of London Bill: Second Reading.

SELLAFIELD

- Safety experts (NII) to audit plant. Squad of 12 start work today.
- Argument over who ordered inquiry - you or HSE.
- D/Star says you and Dr Fitzgerald had a blazing row over the leaks.
- Sun: "Garret rages at leaking A-plant" - clashes head on with you.
- Mirror P2 - Safety squad moves in to probe A-plant; Mirror feature on how safe is the plant - BNFL responds to questions alongside Friends of the Earth. Mirror asks readers to write in to say who they believe.
- Express P2: Maggie orders top level probe into A-plant leaks. Irish call for shut-down.
- Mail P1 lead - Action today - team of experts at nuclear plant. Safety check at Sellafield. You do not share mounting concern over plant's safety.
- Mail leader says Sellafield must clean up its act. Belatedly and many will think only in response to Dr Fitzgerald's anger, the Government has announced a check. If the persistent, though low level leaks from this nuclear dustbin do not amount to a scandal, the maladroit PR of its management do.
- Telegraph: You promise Fitzgerald a full report on state of affairs at Sellafield. Feature on "bunker mentality of Atom workers at Sellafield" £250,000 paid by BNFL in compensation for 5 deaths.
- HSE inspection could last six months. You are understood to have rejected Garret Fitzgerald's request for an EEC inspection (FT).
- Guardian leads with safety inquiry. Greenpeace claims BNFL has lied in the past.
- Times leads on inquiry and says you clashed with Dr Fitzgerald over the dangers of Sellafield.
- Con Allday replies to critics in the Times.

ANGLO-IRISH TALKS

- Virtually ignored in D/Star, Sun and Mirror. Express does short piece on Republic's decision to sign Euro Convention, and its leader describes it as a timely decision. Mail gives only 5 lines to meeting.
- Telegraph leads on Dublin terror pledge; European pact to be ratified - 10 years resistance ends; leader says Unionists should continue to be suspicious but should eschew precipitate policies which will do their case nothing but harm.

BL/AR

- Michael Heseltine attacks Government's handling of issue; BL should be kept out of GM hands unless there are firm guarantees on jobs and production.
- Telegraph leader says the way the Government has chosen to sell Leyland Trucks and intended to sell ARG, has allowed the Opposition its first real chance to mount an effective challenge to privatisation. Commercially it makes no sense to talk with only one purchaser in private; it hands aces to the buyer and politically raises doubts whether the Government has got the best deal.
- FT: David Andrews, BL director responsible for the commercial vehicle division, has formed a consortium to attempt to raise finance for a management buy-out of Land Rover. But it may have difficulty assembling its proposals by 4 March.
- The West Midlands Enterprise Board will hold talks with Land Rover management tomorrow to see if it can help finance a British bid.
- Hugo Young, in Guardian, says you have made patriotism something the British believe a political leader at last understands. But the sale of BL will reverse the patriotic card and you will pay for it.

ECONOMY

- Pay rises running well above inflation; Government issues new plea for restraint.
- Sun leader says the the then Chancellor dangled the prospect of 25p standard rate in front of us in 1979. Instead the tax take has gone up from 34% of national income to 39%. Chancellor should insist his colleagues spend less. If there are not substantial tax cuts and soon, the Tories will come to a sticky end at the polls.
- Express says the Chancellor should not hesitate over allowing individuals and companies to set donations to charities against tax; Mail: Let us hope the Chancellor has the fiscal courage of his colleagues' charitable convictions. It is the pure Gospel of Thatcherite Toryism that it is better for the soul of citizens to do their own giving rather than have the State do it for them. Times wants right balance between public & private giving.
- FT: The Treasury has tightened its control over this year's round of public spending negotiations in an attempt to avert some of the threatened battles with spending Ministers. Routine bids for extra cash will be banned.
- FT: Paul Volcker has disagreed with Reagan officials who are calling for further falls in the value of the dollar. He said it could endanger inflation prospects.
- FT: British companies spent £3,64bn on acquisitions in the US last year - 33% more than in 1984. A total of 160 US businesses were acquired compared with 142 in 1984 and since 1978 we have bought 812 US firms.
- Guardian feature says the coming bout of elections in the West will lead to increased growth throughout the world.

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES

- D/Star: Jobless cut at a stroke (by 65,000).
- Mirror: Fiddle storm over jobs - Government accused of cooking the books.
- Express: Row over "fiddled" dole queue cut.
- Mail: New system for counting jobless "a Tory fiddle".
- Telegraph: Jobless total cut by date switch.
- Guardian: "Massage" storm over new jobless figures.
- Times: Changes to jobs figures "a fiddle".
- FT: A pressure group, the Unemployment Unit, says the change in counting procedures is a further artificial reduction in the jobless total. It says the total is underestimated by around 400,000.

INDUSTRY

- Chinese want to buy 1300 London-type buses.
- Mirror leads with a story of MPs' outrage over B/Telecom "hotlines" exploiting sex and soft porn; leader says BT would never have tried to get away with this when it was publicly owned. You should give Paul Channon a call today and tell him to end it.
- Consumers' Association lawyer says Church leaders campaigning against Sunday opening are flouting the law by selling books, ties and Bibles in holy bookshops.
- Express feature says the fine line between real life and soap opera is blurred by the takeover mania. Guardian says this year may be seen as an inexplicably demented period in industrial history.
- Express says B/Cal shuttle took off yesterday with a sticky tape patching up a crack in the window; company chose to do this twice rather than hold up flight by replacing window. Plane flew only at 15,000 ft to avoid pressure problems.
- Eritons grumbling more about shoddy goods and services.
- FT: Peter Walker warns that coal production still exceeds demand and the problem will become acute if oil prices continue to fall.

DEFENCE

- Express says the Government is about to sign a Trident contract that will commit Labour to spend billions on submarines if it regains power - Vickers insisting on watertight cancellation clauses to guarantee jobs if Labour wins next election.
- Express leader says it looks as if Labour's plan to save billions by scrapping Trident is still born. So if Labour means to increase conventional defence to make up for surrendering our nuclear deterrent, taxes will soar. In short, we would get extravagance without security.
- FT: Oman has asked British Aerospace to delay delivery by 3 years of 8 Tornado aircraft because of financial difficulties caused by the oil price fall.
- The army's new rifle has had to be redesigned because it could fire if dropped on its muzzle.
- FT: British industrialists wishing to gain SDI contracts will be invited to a meeting in Washington next month to try to match them with US contractors already working on the programme.

MEDIA

- 3000 demonstrators at Wapping last night. One policeman slightly hurt by missile.
- TUC issues peaceful picketing code to member unions.
- Frank Chapple, in Mail, says Wapping is turning out to be the TUC's Waterloo. Printers are paying the price of TUC's head in the sand policy.
- Unions say Murdoch set up 6 satellite companies in year before moving to Wapping to make blacking more difficult.

- D/Star says its circulation has increased by 150,000 in six weeks because of new owners' - United - support.

POLITICS

- Douglas Hurd launches new "soft sell" formula to win election (Express). Represents a growing consensus mood in Cabinet on contrast with your conviction politics.
- Telegraph says Home Secretary canvassed a radical change in Government's style.
- Times: Election warning from Hurd.

- Times has profile of Peter Walker.
- Nicholas Ridley attacks over-eager Tories who want your job; not even a pale shadow of you.
- Labour moderate in Haringey joins SDP.
- Callup Poll shows 66% of public feel Government policies are aimed mainly towards better off; MAFPLAN gives Labour lead with 36/SDP/Libs 35/Cons 27.
- FT: The TUC is to seek an urgent meeting with Lord Young over what it claims are restrictions on union political activities and on the Government Wages Bill.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Suffolk to increase rates by 26.5% - highest rise in its history.
- D/Environment withdraws LA's code of conduct on political activity to start consultations.

WESTLAND

- FT: Extensive extracts from official minutes of meetings about Westland's future were published yesterday by the Commons Defence Committee.
- Sir John Cuckney gives the Trade and Industry Committee the names of the 6 "mystery" buyers of Westland shares.

RACE

- New Society feature says open racial prejudice by both blacks and whites seems to be becoming more acceptable. Express presents survey much more positively - teenagers reckon its great to be alive in Britain to day.
- Hackney Council bans nursery rhyme Baa Baa Black Sheep.
- Bernie Grant accuses Hattersley of "racism".

FREE SPEECH

- John Carlisle MP calls off meeting at Leeds Poly because of fears for his safety.

LAW AND ORDER

- Judge fined £200 for kerb crawling.
- British Armed Forces waging war on drugs with urine detection kits.
- Armed police go into Handsworth after feuding breaks out between rival drug gangs.
- Lord Chancellor proposes to streamline civil justice.
- West Midland police authority refuse to allow Chief Constable to equip force with plastic bullets.
- Commissioner Newman will re-open case of police who assaulted innocent youths, given the slightest chance.
- Lord Chief Justice to issue guidelines on tougher sentencing for rape.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- National Consumer Council says patients should have right to see their medical records:

PEOPLE

- Sir Walter Clegg has heart attack in Commons.
- Jean Rook's centre page feature on you in Express.
- Telegraph says Defence Select Committee are to decide whether to call B. Ingham to give evidence while in mid-air on way to meet SACEUR.

FALKLANDS

- Sun says visiting Argentine MPs want to meet the Belgrano Bore, Tam Dalyell. They should get on well together and should take him home with them.

MIDDLE EAST

- Hussein's talks with PLO end in stalemate; radical Moslems claim they have executed one if Israel's soldiers held captive.

EC

- FT: Jacques Delors yesterday signalled the start of another financial dispute with a warning that budget resources are going to run out.

PHILIPPINES

- FT: President Marcos implies closer cooperation with USSR if America doesn't get off his back.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling attends dinner with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, London
- DEM: Lord Young addresses Association of Consulting Engineers, London
- DEN: Mr Walker addresses National Union Trade & Industry forum, London
- DTI: Mr Channon meets Mr Gyllenhammer of Volvo; later attends Trade and Industry Forum, London
- DES: Mr Patten meets Chief Education Officers/Industrial Society
- DEM: Mr Trippier meets PA consultants, London
- DEM: Mr Lang visits Easington and Peterlee including visit to unemployment office, jobcentre and colliery villages
- DOE: Mr Patten presents National Housebuilders Federation 'Pride in the Job' awards
- DOE: Sir George Young opens Institute of Environmental Health Officers Seminar; later addresses Institute of Housing dinner
- DOE: Mrs Rumbold visits West Sussex
- HO: Mr Waddington addresses IMS Conference on data protection
- OAL: Mr Luce visits York (possible)
- SO: Lord Gray opens Scottish Fish Farming conference, Inverness; later meets Highlands and Islands Development Board officials, Inverness
- DTI: Mr Morrison addresses S W Society of Chartered Accountants lunch, HOC
- DTI: Mr Butcher launches NCC Conformant Testing Facilities, London
- DTP: Mr Bottomley launches "Door-to-Door" leaflet, London
- WO: Mr Robinson visits Gwynedd District Health Authority

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DES: Mr Dunn attends CERN Council meeting, Geneva
- FCO: Mrs Chalker departs for discussion with the Netherlands Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (to February 21), The Hague
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