

24 February 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets Prime Minister of Vanuatu; later meets industrialists

Result of NAS/UWT ballot on ACAS agreement expected

Home Secretary meets deputation including boys from Holloway assaulted by police

Robert Maxwell launches new northern daily newspaper

Lord Carrington visits UK

STATISTICS

CBI: CBI Monthly Trends Enquiry (February)

PUBLICATIONS

HOC: 15th Report Committee of Public Accounts. Excess Votes - Northern Ireland (Noon)

HOC: 1st Special Report Social Services Committee - UGC cuts and medical services report follow-up (11.00)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Transport; Wales

Business: Debate on the Second Report of the Select Committee on Social Services in Session 1983/84 on Children in Care, (HoC Paper 360) and the relevant response, on a Motion for the Adjournment

Motion on the Bishops (Retirement) Measure and the Ecclesiastical Fees Measures

Agricultural Holdings Bill (Lords): All Stages

Opposed Private Business: British Railways (Stanstead) Bill

Adjournment Debate

Admission of Mr Dennis Foskett to Goodmayes Hospital, Essex (Mr V Bendall)

PARLIAMENT (cont'd)Select Committees:PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Housing Benefits Scheme;
 Department of Health and Social Security Newcastle Strike;
 Statutory sick pay; Deleivery of benefits
 Witness: Sir Geoffrey Otton, KCB
 Department of Health and Social Security

Lords

Outer Space Bill (HL): Committee
 Local Government Bill: Committee (2nd day)
 Incest and Related Offences (Scotland) Bill (HL): Report
 Marriage Bill (HL): Report

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTPOLITICS

- Kinnock says a Labour Government would scrap all this Government's trad union legislation but reinstates some balloting provisions in a Bill of Rights. More protection for strikers. (Express).
- Militant supporters, facing a crucial Labour Party NEC this week on expulsions, threatens civil war in the party.
- D/Star under heading "Purge them all Neil" says that the Labour Party h just twigged that Militant Tendency is an evil cancer. Expulsion of Hatton and henchmen should be just a start. Kinnock has the opportunit but has he the guts?
- Sun leader, headed "Now we know" says it would be back to the bad old d of union bully boy tactics and blackmail. They would not have been able to move. If the country wants to turn the clock back and make Britain once more ungovernable it will vote Labour.
- Express says Kinnock must wipe out the far Left everywhere. He will be entitled to claim credit only when he has driven all fellow travellers out of the party.
- Mail says removing a few of the more prominent Liverpudlian Militants will not alone make Labour Party fit to govern. Militant Tendency is well dug in all over the country.
- Guardian says Militants will appeal to Party conference if expelled.

MEDIA

- Maxwell sacks journalists and printers on papers in Scotland after they refuse to produce a new colour edition for Ireland; no Daily Record in Scotland today.
- 32 in court after weekend demonstrations at Wapping.
- Lord Seiff agrees to become chairman of Andreas Whittam-Smith's new daily paper for launch in the autumn.

ECONOMY

- Times leads with Kinnock's pledge to raise £3bn from richest 1m taxpayer
 - CBI says business is about to boom with brightest forecast for months because of lower oil prices and cheaper £ - now wants interest rates cut.
 - London Business School raises growth and lower inflation forecasts.
 - "Boom, Boom, Maggie!" - Sun's headline.
 - "We're booming back say Britain's bosses" - Express; leader on Swedes going out of business as shipbuilders say they are not going around proclaiming this is the end of Sweden as an industrial nation - they are adapting and adjusting to the fact that nothing is for ever.
 - Mail - Industry picks up with help from £ and oil.
 - Saudis say they are taking action to reverse oil prices.
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- NatWest and Barclays to reduce interest rates on endowment mortgages.
 - Mail feature on efforts being made in inner city Bristol to help unemployed black youths.

BUDGET

- Philips and Drew say petrol will go up by 15p a gallon in the Budget - cigarettes by 6p, beer 2p a pint, road tax £5.
- Sarah Hogg, in Times, reports you are changing your tax tactics from raising thresholds to cutting basic rates.
- Treasury considering attacks on financial services industry.

- Mirror leader on "spectacular" spending of English Heritage which looks after ancient monuments. Its financial control is admitted to be inadequate and accounting procedures bizarre - inside feature on organisation whose chairman is Lord Montagu.

INDUSTRY

- UDM threatening to sue NCB because it will pay 7% pay rise only where its members are in a majority; rest will have to await settlement with NUM.
- Prince of Wales wants well off firms to plough some of their pre-tax profits into inner cities.
- Mail: Industry Year centre pages feature.
- British consumption of wine has nearly trebled in 10 years.
- Several areas of NUM are thinking of forcing Scargill to face re-election (Guardian).
- Civil Service unions preparing catch-up pay claims of up to 20%.
- Institute of Fiscal Studies says 1983 Energy Act failed to encourage private generation of electricity because it left nationalised industry too much discretion on pricing.

BL

- Heath says British people are bitterly opposed to selling off parts of BL to Americans - an unacceptable form of privatisation. City assurances by Americans would be worthless.
- BL unions want to keep Land Rover British; with support of management buy-out.
- Sun leader on a disturbing opinion poll showing anti-Americanism has become firmly rooted in Britain says it doesn't believe a word of it. Most of us recognise what marvellous friends the Americans have been to us.
- Express says that in response to GM pressure for a quick settlement Government should keep cool and wait for other offers.
- Mail: Maggie in reverse over EL sell-off - apparently because John Biffen says all options are open; Messrs Biffen, Fowler and Walker are on special committee; and statement that March 4 is deadline only for firm interest.
- Mail says management consortium is studying a £400m flotation for Land Rover. But will Government waive debts?
- But Telegraph says Mr Biffen made it clear Government will not be pressurised by public opinion poll clamour for a British solution; Charles Moore feature on two British hypocrisies - over ownership of BL and 'Sunday Trading'.

NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

- Greenpeace to monitor Sellafield discharges into Irish Sea.
- Government bracing itself for new row tomorrow with disclosure of NIREX sites.
- Left demand dismissal of John Cunningham as Labour's Environment spokesman.

SUNDAY TRADING

- Mail leader welcomes Home Secretary's determination to go ahead with Bill. The only worry now is that it will be watered down to appease Sabbatarian lobby. Government must not lose its nerve now.

EDUCATION

- Book published by former teacher says many parents haven't a clue about bringing up children.
- Guardian says you disclosed yesterday that you are planning to reintroduce direct grant schools after next election.
- Times says you are planning to go into the next election with a voucher or credit or access systems.

LAW AND ORDER

- 4 policemen charged in connection with alleged assault on 4 innocent youths after a tip-off via hot line.
- Case of 17 year old girl who has never been trouble before in jail for 11 days for stealing a pint of milk.
- Bill Cash MP wants Home Secretary to ban B/Telecom soft porn "hotlines".
- Express says policemen who are in fear of mob violence in London's streets, are secretly putting on knife and bullet proof armour before going on patrol; whose leader says it may be a sad commentary on "progress" but it is a sensible precaution. But shouldn't the authorities provide the equipment rather than the men buy it themselves?
- Home Secretary has turned down the idea of specialist armed police teams, according to Express.
- Home Secretary to be questioned over transfer of one of Britain's most liberal prison governors after campaign by POA.
- Winston Churchill MP has removed from his Obscene Publications Bill the list of acts automatically deemed obscene under pressure from broadcasting and arts. Times leader says Bill is bad and unnecessary and has shown the Commons at its worst.

LAW AND ORDER (CONT'D)

- Police Complaints Authority wants police authorities to consider new tactics in the use of guns.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Row forecast if pension rises only 45p (single) and 70p (married) in today's uprating.
- NUPE want a government-backed television advertising campaign on AIDS.
- Mirror claims hundreds of patients have been turned away from 28 London hospitals because of cash cuts.
- Tight fisted Government officials being blamed for refusal to help pensioners with fuel bills; Jack Jones, of National Pensioners' Convention, whom you meet this week, says system is "absurd"; wants universal heating allowance of £5 a week.

IRELAND

- Troops shoot dead hooded IRA gunman in Londonderry.
- Guardian leader says that to say there is confusion in the Unionist ranks does not mean there will be freedom from trouble, though the temper from a confrontation with Westminster has not yet been wholly proven.

PHILIPPINES

- Nation on brink of civil war, with Marcos refusing to go in face of huge popular demonstrations and defection of leading military.
- Guardian says Reagan is on the brink of an irrevocable breach with Marcos.

NEW ZEALAND

- Queen hit by egg at beginning of week-long visit.

EAST/WEST

- Reagan proposes scrapping of all US/USSR medium range nuclear missiles in Europe and Asia over 3 years.

MEXICO

- Expected to ask creditors to accept a cut in interest.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MOD: Mr Younger gives interview to Janes Defence Weekly
- DEM: Lord Young opens Chichester Visiting Group and Tourism in Area Group leaflet exchange, Arundel
- DEM: Mr Clarke visits Bristol (inner city programme)
- HO: Mr Hurd meets Met Police Commissioner and Chief Constables to discuss inner city policing
- SO: Mr Rifkind hosts New Year reception for Parliamentary Press lobby and Gallery, London
- DTI: Mr Channon hosts ECGD lunch and attends "SWITCH" meeting; meets Israeli Ambassador
- MAFF: Lord Belstead lunches with State Secretary, Spanish Foreign Affairs, London
- MAFF: Mrs Fenner attends Food & Drink Federation Conference dinner, London
- MOD: Lord Trefgarne visits Portsmouth Heritage Trust
- DEM: Mr Trippier speaks at Leeds Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Leeds
- DEN: Mr Hunt visits North West Gas
- DOE: Mr Patten gives interview to "Construction News" on housing and inner city regeneration
- DOE: Mrs Rumbold visits Channel Tunnel site
- SO: Mr Ancram meets representatives of church bodies about ecclesiastical exemption from listed building control, Edinburgh
- DTI: Mr Clark lunches with ECGD Advisory Council; meets Spanish Secretary for EC Affairs; later dines with Institute of Directors, London
- DTI: Mr Howard opens London Commodity Exchange Exhibition, HoC
- DTI: Mr Butcher addresses the Institution of Engineering Designers, HoC
- WO: Mr Roberts speaks at British Hoteliers, Restaurants and Caterers Association conference, Llandrindod Wells

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling and Mr Gummer attend EC Agriculture Council, Brussels (to February 25)
- FCO: Mr Renton departs for Geneva to address the Conference on Disarmament (to February 25)
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TV AND RADIO

- "Money Box"; BBC Radio 4 (10.00): Repeat of Saturday's programme
- "Food for Thought"; Channel 4 (17.30): Asks whether the Government and the food industry encourage healthy eating
- "Be Your Own Boss"; Channel 4 (18.30): David Trippier talks about schemes to help businesses in response to bosses' criticisms
- "Open Space"; BBC 2 (19.35): 'Last Link in the Chain?' follows men who marched from Gartcosh to No 10 in protest against the closure of the steel mill and the threat to Ravenscraig
- "World in Action"; ITV (20.30): Follows two young unemployed Northerners who cycle South to High Wycombe in search of work
- "Survive"; BBC 1 (20.00): 'Torture and Interrogation' features three people who resisted torture - in South America, USSR and South Vietnam
- "Panorama"; BBC 1 (21.30): Focuses on Crime in Islington as an example of Inner City problems
- "The Eleventh Hour"; Channel 4 (23.00): Discussion of questions raised by the series 'The State of Welfare' on the purpose, achievements and future of the Welfare State
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