

25 February 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets Ulster Unionist MPs; later hosts "Better Made in Britain" seminar

EC Political Cooperation Ministerial meeting, The Hague (Foreign Secretary attends)

Indian aid talks, Delhi (also possible signature of aid agreement for Westland helicopters)

27th Soviet Party Congress

Sports Council meets, Harrogate (to February 27)

NIREX decision announced

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PUBLICATIONS

NAO: National Audit Office - Commission for Racial Equality account 1984/85 (11.00)

NAO: National Audit Office - Redundancy Fund Accounts 1984/85 (11.00)

NAO: National Audit Office - Tithe Act 1986 accounts 1984/85 (11.00)

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Social Services; Education & Science; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Promotion of Alternative Energy Sources (Mr F Cook)

Motion on the Local Government Rate Limitation (Prescribed Maximum) (Rates) Order

Opposition Prayer on the Local Government Reorganisation (Designated Councils) (Pensions) Order

Adjournment Debate

Government action following the imposition of US export controls on Systime plc, Leeds (Mr M Meadowcroft)

PARLIAMENT (cont'd)Select Committees:

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS

Subject: Achievement in Primary Schools

Witnesses: The Board of Education of the General Synod of the Church of England (at 10.30 am); Mr Peter Newsam, Mr Clifton Robinson, and Professor Bhikhu-Parekh (at approx. 11.45 am)

## DEFENCE

Subject: The defence implications of the future of Westland plc

Witness: to be announced

## PROCEDURE

Subject: Use of time on the floor of the House

Witness: Mr Andrew F Bennett, MP

Chairman of the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

## JOINT COMMITTEE

Lothian Region (Edinburgh Western Relief Road) Order  
Confirmation Bill

## COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL

Felixstowe Dock and Railway

Lords

Shops Bill (HL): Third Reading

Salmon Bill (HL): Third Reading

MINISTERS - See AnnexECONOMYPRESS DIGEST

- Shares rise to new peak; £ up to 1.75c to \$1.4625.
- Sun leader says the outlook is bright for industry with order books filling up and optimists among business chiefs outnumbering pessimists 3-1. But Treasury should not put a heavy new tax on petrol. (BMA and Royal College of Surgeons want 20p more tax on packet of cigarettes.)
- Express says we are always better off with cheap oil. What we lose as a producer is massively outweighed by what we gain as a consumer.  
Telegraph drawing on your Written Answers yesterday, has a front page piece which says you put your record on inflation at the fore of a long list of achievements. Guardian describes your Answers on Government achievements as a campaign guide.
- Iran, Algeria and Libya are pressing for a meeting of OPEC and other producers to discuss ways of stopping the slide in oil prices.
- UK outpacing Germany in productivity rise (Times).
- Peter Rees says Kinnock's tax plan for 'rich' would hit husbands and wives jointly earning less than £20,000 a year - a sell-out to trade union leaders.

INDUSTRY

- Anglian Water to start disconnecting supplies this week to 3000 bad payers.
- Health officials give all clear to Farley's baby food factory in Kendal.
- National Consumer Council says banks and finance companies guilty of reckless lending should be penalised.
- Jaguar inaugurate school for employees who want to better themselves by evening study.
- Chairman of Schreiber found dead in his car with hose from exhaust.
- FT: ICI won a potentially important victory against the Government in a Court of Appeal ruling on proposed tax concessions on ethane used by rivals Shell, Esso and BP.
- British Caledonian has called for an urgent review of government policy on competition in civil aviation, arguing that the latest attempts at reform have failed.
- FT Haggling over financial details of the proposed/rescue plan is set to continue today and tomorrow. Still more money may be wanted from the British Government.
- FT: Two of Britain's best known builders of warships - Vickers and Cammell Laird - go under the hammer today. Offers have to be in by late afternoon and the Government should be told of the choice of purchasers this week.

BUDGET

- FT: The Chancellor could still afford tax cuts almost as large as he predicted last year despite the drop in oil revenue, according to Professor Patrick Minford of Liverpool University.

BL

- Thousands of Land Rover workers reject any takeover.
- FT: Kenneth Gooding examines how the GM/BL merger proposal came about. In 1984 commercial vehicle output in the UK plummeted to its lowest level for 35 years. An alarmed Government called together BL, Ford and GM to discuss ways of strengthening the industry. BL and Ford quickly came to the conclusion they were incompatible. GM continued the talks.

MEDIA

- Scottish Daily Record fails to appear again today in Maxwell's dispute with unions over a new paper for Ireland.
- Matthew Parris MP invited by LWT to take over from Brian Walden (Telegraph).
- International bidding war for Scharansky's memoirs which will make him a millionaire.
- FT: Saatchi and Saatchi have bought a US agency for £51m.

NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

- Peter Walker orders shake-up in Sellafield management, according to The Star.
- FT: Several potential nuclear waste sites are expected to be named today. The short list has been selected from about 2000 locations mainly in the clay deposits of the Midlands and the North.
- Leading article considers the "make or break year" for Britain's nuclear industry. If Sizewell B fails the future looks doubtful.
- Guardian says Peter Walker is to face questions about an alleged 4-hour delay in alerting staff at Trawsfynydd power station to release of radioactive gas.
- Guardian finds people living near supposed Nirex sites, to be announced today, "down in the dumps".

UNIONS

- Mirror says Kinnock must be careful not to shift the law too far back towards the unions. A new Bill of Rights is OK provided it is also a Bill of Duties; Express describes his proposals as a sure loser. He seems to have forgotten what irresponsible union power can do.
- Several branches of SOGAT refusing to reveal to sequestrators where their cash is; they say court order affects only national funds.
- Sun backs campaign to require Scargill to submit to re-election - he is an irresponsible extremist who has been a disaster for the miners. Telegraph says NUM conference will try to ensure a strike is never again called without a ballot.
- TUC tomorrow formally to accept unions can take Government money for ballots.
- 3 unions launch inquiry into safety of pesticides in use in Britain.
- CPSA to give authority for passport staff to disrupt offices over withdrawal of allowance.
- E/Caledonian record £21.7m pre-tax profit in 1984-85.
- The NUM and NACODS are to meet in London tomorrow, the day before the loss-making Bates Colliery in Northumberland is due to close.

WELFARE

- D/Star: "Scrooge" fury at 4Op on pensions. Many Tory MPs believe this is another bananaskin. Sun: "Scrooge fury over rise in benefits".
- Mirror P1 lead - This was justice in Britain yesterday - 1Op a mother's rise for bringing up the kids; £60 payout for Yank caught with a callgirl - reference to judge ordering return of American Tourist's callgirl fee when he was interrupted by vice raid.
- Express: "Penny rise" pension rap for Fowler. Help the Aged says rise is morally indefensible.
- Mail: 1Op rise to help old fight cold, Fowler "the Scrooge".
- FT: Child benefit is to be increased by more than expected as part of a Government attempt to take the sting out of backbench pressure. It represents a partial victory for Mr Fowler over the Treasury.
- Telegraph: Benefits rise will be held to 1.1%.
- Guardian: 1Op child benefits rise stills Tory revolt.
- Times says leading Conservatives yesterday disclosed party is considering advice to reform NHS with greater emphasis on private care and charges for those who can afford.
- FT: The Social Security Bill is unlikely to provide a stable pensions policy, according to the Joint Pensions Legislation Committee of the Institute of Faculty of Actuaries.
- Express leads with "Killer cold - old folk risk their lives by switching off." Cold spell threatens to become a big killer through bureaucratic confusion over who should get heating benefits.
- Mail leader says pensioners must have help with fuel bills; we do not do enough or spend enough to help the old keep warm in winter and we never have.
- Children under 4 in care of Staffs CC to get 1p rise in pocket money in line with inflation.

CHILD CARE

- D/Star says yesterday's statement on plight of children in care was, to put it mildly, pathetic. Everything apart from action. The only solution will come with the appointment of a Minister for Children, preferably with a seat in the Cabinet.

EDUCATION

- Your alleged plans for next election (and Parliament) speculated upon.
- Meanwhile, head teachers vote to lock children out from school meals for a week - their first national strike in their union's history.
- D/Star: Maggie wants firms to back new schools, as part of biggest shakeup since comprehensive education.
- Sun: £1000 to pick a kid's school - amazing cash voucher plans to enable parents to send children to school of their choice.
- Express: Pay up for super schools. Maggie tells top tycoons who will be encouraged to endow new schools following example of Elizabethan merchants who founded grammar schools.
- Mail: City is asked to finance schools - you want top City firms to plough some of their profits into inner city schools - Fred Jarvis, NUT, says your plan is 'ludicrous'.
- Telegraph: Thatcher woos business cash for students - linked with report of "Switch" meeting.
- Guardian: You are ready to invite City financial institutions to put money into schools particularly in inner cities.
- Times says senior Conservatives were delighted with its report of your plans to improve education.
- Telegraph leader in praise of Sir Keith - few holders of his office have given greater thought to the needs and goals of education.

POLITICS

- Militant Tendency threatening legal moves if they are expelled by Labour Party NEC tomorrow
- But Express says Kinnock has drawn back from an immediate purge; legal experts claim it would be a threat of natural justice. Those under threat must be given a personal hearing.
- Mail says Kinnock's plan to purge Militant has run into serious legal problems.
- Telegraph says 4 of the 9 members of Labour's Liverpool inquiry team wanted to expel 16 for links with Militant Tendency; agreement reached to charge only 10.
- Guardian leader says Kinnock is right to grab at the prospect of lasting union reform. But he now has a distinctive, difficult and decidedly high risk policy to define and sell as much to his own supporters as to the electorate.
- FT: The Government will decide within the next day or two whether to hold the Fulham by-election before Easter. The most likely dates are March 20 or 27.
- Hugo Young, in Guardian, wonders whether the Left, which in a sense your conviction politics have legitimised, will keep Kinnock in power when Tory laws go unrepealed and American bases unexpelled.
- Times leader says Kinnock has made a start on the threat from the hard Left but his attack on Liverpool infiltrators only touches the tip of the iceberg.

LAW AND ORDER

- Lord Kagan paying £375,000 fine imposed in 1980, on never-never - so far only £2000 paid back. MPs up in arms.
- Telegraph leader wonders why if New York can do it, we can't recruit more black policemen.
- Guardian says the rapid success in securing 4 arrests in the police assault case suggests the earlier inquiries lacked urgency and determination. It is hard not to feel Met moved fast because of fears for its image. Reform of the system of control of police must be a priority for successor to this Government.



NORTHERN IRELAND

- FT: Peter Barry, Irish Foreign Minister, delivered a stinging attack on the Unionist leadership yesterday, ending Dublin's conciliatory tone. He said Unionist people were being misled and it was a "scandal and a tragedy". Today, you are expected to offer Unionists a role in policy-making.
- Ireland signed the European Convention on the suppression of terrorism in Strasbourg yesterday.
- Molyneux warns you that you will be "pushing the red button" if you reject this call to suspend Anglo-Irish agreement.

DEFENCE

- Mail says a six-page "Dear Margaret" letter from Reagan told you of his dazzling new peace offer to Gorbachev. Downing Street sees it as an ingenious way to win back the initiative.

SPORT

- Weather is estimated to have cost sport £5m so far.

PEOPLE ETC

- Norman Tebbit, in Woman's Own, tells how he pulled through after Brighton by working hard.
- Labour MPs demand investigation into waste of taxpayers' money by English Heritage, chaired by Lord Montagu, after Mirror revelations.
- Several papers celebrate the Spitfire's 50th birthday.
- Telegraph has a full page advert in memory of L Ron Hubbard, Scientologist "friend of millions".

NEW ZEALAND

- Queen hit by egg on first day of New Zealand tour; Lange to apologise.

PHILIPPINES

- In turmoil with rival presidential inaugurations. Reagan tells Marcos to go.
- Reports that troops guarding presidential palace fire on crowd.

RUSSIA

- Soviet Party Congress to bring big shakeup in Communist Party bosses, according to Express.

USA

- US officials suggest we are half hearted about SDI and have a rather mercenary approach.

EC

- Michael Jopling says he will demand agricultural price cuts.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Lord Young makes keynote speech at College of Estate Management Conference, Reading; attends "Better Made in Britain" seminar
- DEM: Mr Clarke visits Notting Hill (inner city programme)
- DEN: Mr Walker meets Dutch Deputy Prime Minister, Dr Van Aardenne, London
- DHSS: Mr Fowler address Association of British Laundry Cleaning and Retail Services Ltd annual banquet, London
- SO: Mr Rifkind lunches with Soviet Ambassador; meets Israeli Ambassador
- DTI: Mr Channon attends "Better Made in Britain" reception
- MOD: Mr Lee dines with representatives of Swan Hunter
- DES: Mr Patten addresses Educational Publishers' lunch
- DES: Mr Dunn addresses South Thames Youth Service
- DEM: Mr Lang makes presentation to half-millionth CP entrant, Iron Bridge Gorge Museum
- DEM: Mr Trippier dines with Royal Marines Parliamentary Group, London
- DOE: Mrs Rumbold attends first meeting of Channel Fixed Link Group
- DHSS: Lady Trumpington attends Association of Amusement Parks, Piers and Attractions Parliamentary function, London
- HO: Mr Mellor attends presentation of result into research of drug abuse, London
- DTI: Mr Pattie meets Mr Aardenne, Dutch Deputy Prime Minister, London
- DTI: Mr Morrison visits Albright & Wilson, London
- DTI: Mr Pattie visits Chase Manhattan Bank, London
- DTI: Mr Howard lunches with political editor of TODAY (Sue Cameron), London
- DTP: Mr Mitchell chairs Channel Fixed Link Consultative Committee, Kent

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe attends Political Co-operation meeting, The Hague
- DTI: Mr Clark visits Oslo (to February 28)
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## TV AND RADIO

"Brian Hayes"; LBC Radio (10.00): Includes discussion between three Fulham by-election candidates

"File on 4"; BBC Radio 4 (19.20): Hugh Pryson-Jones reports on property prices and explains risks with the Government 'daren't' abolish mortgage interest tax relief

"The Money Makers"; BBC 2 (19.30): Profile of Italy's Giovanni Agnelli, the most powerful private industrialist in Europe

"South East Reports"; BBC 2 (20.00): "The Dungeness Disaster" tells the 'inside story' of what went wrong in the development of the Dungeness 'B' power station

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

"Nothing But the Best"; BBC 1 (22.50): 'To What Degree?' Beverly Anderson explores higher education options

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