

26 February 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister on Jimmy Young programme, BBC Radio (10.30)

Prime Minister meets group of Church of Ireland leaders

Soviet Communist Party Congress (new five year programme)

Labour Party NEC considers report on Militant

TUC Youth Conference, Congress House, London

Deadline for NI local authorities to set a rate

Northern Ireland Assembly meets

EC Economic and Social Committee Plenary Session, Brussels
(to February 27)

Leon Brittan gives evidence to Trade and Industry Select
Committee on Westland plc

Students link DES and DHSS in protest over grants

NAS/UWT hold press conference on teachers' pay

Sir Robert Armstrong gives evidence to Treasury and Civil
Service Select Committee on duties and responsibilities between
civil servants and Ministers

Department of Education and Science hosts 'PICKUP' Conference,
Luton

STATISTICS

DEM: Detailed analysis of employment unememployment, earnings,
prices, hours and unit wage costs

DEM: Overseas travel and tourism (December)

DOE: Construction - new orders (December)

SO: Statistical Bulletin on Crime (Scotland)

DTI/CSO: Balance of payments current account and overseas
trade figures (January)

PUBLICATIONS

FCO: Treaty Series No. 15 (1986) Agreement between Government
of UK and Government of Republic of Senegal on certain
commercial debts (resulting from Paris Conference of
21.12.83) (14.00)

PUBLICATIONS (cont'd)

- FCO: Treaty Series No. 16 (1986) Agreement between Government of UK and Government of Republic of Senegal on certain commercial debts (resulting from Paris Conference of 17-18.1.85) (14.00)
- HOC: 12th Report Committee of Public Accounts - Common Agricultural Policy: achievements and policies (Noon)
- HMT: Treasury Minute in response to Public Accounts Committee's 29th, 30th, 36th-38th Reports 1984/85 (15.30)
- LCD: Law Commission (LC 155) 20th Annual Report 1984/85 (14.30)

PAY

- DEM: Further education teachers in England and Wales: claim expected to be presented

PARLIAMENTCommons

- Questions: Scotland; Foreign & Commonwealth Office
- Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Noise Abatement (Mr D Dixon)
- Debate on the Royal Air force on a Motion for the Adjournment
- Motion on the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order
- Adjournment Debate
- The employment situation in Nuneaton in the light of the proposed closure of the iron foundry at Sterling Metals (Mr L Stevens)

Select Committees:

DEFENCE

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

ENERGY

- Subject: The Coal Industry
Witness: National Coal Board officials

EMPLOYMENT

- Subject: The Manpower Services Commission's Corporate Plan 1986-90
Witness: The Manpower Services Commission

SOCIAL SERVICES

- Subject: Prison Medical Services
Witness: Howard League; NACRO; NCCL

TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE SUB-COMMITTEE

Subject: Civil Servants and Ministers: Duties and Responsibilities

Witness: Sir Robert Armstrong, GCB, CVO Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service

ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Planning

Witness: British Property Federation; the Housebuilders Federation

DEFENCE

Subject: The Defence implications of the future of Westland plc

Witness: Rt Hon Leon Brittan, QC MP

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Subject: Overseas Development Administration Spring supplementary Estimates 1985-86

Witness: Overseas Development Administration

Joint Committee

Lothian Region (Edinburgh Western Relief Road) Order Confirmation Bill

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL

Felixstowe Dock and Railway

Lords

Short Debate on the increase of serious crime in London, particularly the trafficking in narcotics, and the case for the provision of additional resources to support local crime prevention schemes and for a significant increase in the establishment of the Metropolitan Police

Short Debate on the relationship of Government and Parliament with the Civil Service

UQ on whether HMG are satisfied that the existing procedures for public objection or support to be followed before a final decision is taken on the proposed closure of the Settle/Carlisle railway line will offer adequate opportunity for the social and environmental issues to be fully discussed.

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTNORTHERN IRELAND

- Times: (only paper to have story on P1) 'Breakthrough on Ulster Deadlock' There was some 90minutes of tough talking. Unionist leaders distance themselves from Monday's threatened strike. They hope you will chair any round table conference on devolution.
- Star: 'Ulster devolution hint as Maggie sticks with deal'.
- Express: "Maggie drags Ulster away from anarchy". New peace hopes after No 10 talks. Leader says the Unionists should seize the opportunity given them.
- Mail: "Ulster hope as Unionists step back from the brink." The Unionists believe devolution is the key to smashing the London-Dublin pact.
- FT: Unionist leaders decided last night to have no further talks with you, in spite of their earlier conciliatory tone. This announcement came after three hours of talks with the joint steering committee set up by the Official Unionists and Democratic Unionists. A strike on Monday now looks likely.
- Telegraph: "Round Table Conference for Northern Ireland", but the Ulster joint steering committee will decide what happens next.

NUCLEAR WASTE

- Times: John Wakeham protests and another Conservative MP, Michael Brown (Brigg and Cleethorpe which covers the South Killingholme site) threatens to resign. The announcement is said to have been greeted with anger by local residents (but there are precious few quotes).
- John Baker, Chairman of NIREX, says rate rebates may be awarded to people living close to nuclear dumps.
- Leader says the hazards posed by nuclear waste are small and the 'Not in my backyard' politics must be resisted.
- Star: 'Storm over atom dumps' short piece on P4.
- Mirror: "Village fury over A-dumps".
- Express: "Tory boss joins nuclear dumps protest."
- Mail under the headline "Nuclear shadow" examines the four possible sites Villagers go into battle. "Stay out of here" says a top Tory. Picture of John Wakeham.
- Guardian: The nuclear industry is proposing financial incentives for householders and local authorities to ensure it gets the dumps it wants. John Wakeham's statement receives prominence. Leader says Government has to be satisfied that risk of death is less than one in a million a year.

COLD WEATHER PAYMENTS

- Star: P1 lead headed "The Ice Lady", says you have ruled out any extra help for old folk suffering in the big freeze.
- Mirror: "Thousands may die in the big freeze up". You reject calls for extra cash. There is a story of a widow dying of cold for fear of a gas bill.
- Express: "Killer freeze cash crisis fury grows. MPs tell Maggie to end DHSS chaos". An expert on hypothermia says the Government should declare a state of emergency. Several stories of elderly "freeze victims" Leader demands action.
- Mail: Two elderly women die in a Welsh cottage without heat.

ECONOMY

- Times: The economy is slowing down, according to the National Institute for Economic and Social Research, but inflation will fall to 4 per cent and unemployment will come down gently.
- Telegraph: Dollar's slump boosts hopes of UK rates cut.

BL

- Times: Senior managers at Land Rover lodged a firm bid to buy the company yesterday as you refused to extend the March 4 deadline.
- Sun: Columnist John Vincent suggests an independent Land Rover could make GM its US partner.
- Mirror: Land Rover managers may already have the support of some City institutions.
- Guardian: Although ministers believe that the GM bid will succeed, some are convinced that the political difficulties will force the Government to give great encouragement to a British alternative. Comments by an unnamed senior minister are referred to.
- FT: Union leaders yesterday left a meeting with DTI ministers unconvinced the Government is getting sufficient guarantees from GM.

SUNDAY TRADING

- FT: Employment protection provisions inserted in the Shops Bill when the Government was defeated in the Lords are likely to be removed in the Commons, Lord Glenarthur, Home Office minister hinted last night.

BUSINESS

- Times: Tough new curbs on insurance companies were called for yesterday by the Marketing of Investments Board Organising Committee. It calls on the Government to include in the Financial Services Bill powers to make investment salesmen join a central register and pass an examination.
- FT: British Aerospace needs up to £500m launch aid from the Government for its proposed participation in the new generation of Airbuses. A tough battle is expected.
- The Government has given the go-ahead for a £650m plan to develop three North Sea gas fields.
- FT: Neil Kinnock is backing an 11th hour campaign to save Bates colliery
- Leading article examines progress into the Government's bus policy.

POLITICS

- Times: A big demonstration will be staged today outside Labour's national headquarters as the party's national executive decides whether to purge Militant Tendency.
- In an attack on Britain's form of Cabinet decision-making and civil service hierarchy, Sir John Hoskyns tells the Institute of Directors that we are trying to solve live problems of the eighties with a system of the thirties.
- Mirror article by political editor (P6) looks to Fulham by-election and analyses poll which gives Labour "convincing" lead: Labour 41%, Tory 38% SDP 19%. 47 per cent think you should resign before the next General Election.

UNIONS

- Times: Lord Chapple, former general secretary of the electricians' union, attacks extremists in the trade unions and Labour Party and criticises the Government for not going far enough in its employment legislation.
- Guardian: Up to 5,000 council staff could be made redundant when the GLC and the six English Metropolitan County Councils are axed next month, says NALGO.

EDUCATION

- Times: The education budget should be doubled to £10bn a year by the early 1990s in an attempt to create an information rather than an industrial economy, Tom Stories, Professor of Science and Society at Bradford University says. This would create at least a million jobs.
- Sun: Leader attacks head teachers' decision to close schools at lunchtime. "Once they have sacrificed public trust, they may never get it back."
- FT: Leader says ministers need to show by action that they mean to put their promised improvement in the education system into force.
- FT: A coordinated strategy for jobs and industry has been called for by the Tory Reform Group. They warn that failure to tackle unemployment more aggressively could put your third term at risk.

SOCIAL SECURITY

- Times: Supportive leader on benefit upratings refers to the benefits of low inflation.
- Star: DHSS have stopped paying cash to the Victim Support Unit in Clapham's 'Muggers Mill' and now it faces closure.

NHS

- Times: The Royal Masonic Hospital's school of nursing may have to close because of a ruling by the English National Board of Nursing that teaching is not sufficiently varied.

CHILD ABUSE

- Times: The Government appears intent on opposing a Conservative MP's attempt to bring in a law which would require a court's approval before a child in the care of a local authority is returned to its parents.

LAW AND ORDER

- Times: A substantial increase in the strength of the Metropolitan Police has been recommended in an internal Home Office inquiry. No decisions have been taken but Mr Hurd is sympathetic.
- Spain issue expulsion orders against 15 Britons wanted by Scotland Yard for murder and robbery.
- Mirror P1 lead: The 17-year-old girl, jailed for stealing a pint of milk, is freed after 12 days in Holloway.
- Telegraph: The Home Office is consulting law and order pressure groups and the public about whether criminals who make amends for their crimes should be able to make a personal apology and offer to perform services for their victims.

DEFENCE

- Times: George Younger announces major shake-up in defence procurement spending programme to increase value for money and improve efficiency in private industry.
- Addressing the Institute of Directors, Mr Younger said the need for the European defence industry to collaborate and get its act together was not anti-Americanism.
- Fifteen companies have bid to manage the Royal Dockyards.
- Mail: France claims the British Secret Service was behind a planned military coup in Sierra Leone.
- Guardian: Denis Healey wants the Government to publish the SDI Memorandum of Understanding.
- FT: Many British high-technology companies are pessimistic about getting SDI contracts, believing they will be squeezed out by US firms.

GORBACHEV SPEECH

- Times: Yesterday he launched a crusade to modernise the nation by eliminating such ills as red tape and inefficiency, which he blamed for having retarded social and economic progress.
- Reagan's response to the plan for scrapping nuclear arsenals is attacked. Gorbachev hints that the second superpower summit may be in doubt if Washington fails to show more willingness for concrete new agreements on arms control.
- Mail: "Gorbachev leads new revolution".

EEC

- Times: Britain may be forced to bring in a flexible retirement age for both sexes because the European Court is expected to rule today that retirement for women at 60 breaches EEC law.

ROYAL FAMILY

- Times: In New Zealand, Maori leaders have pledged loyalty to the Queen and spurned protestors.
- Mirror: Princess Anne says firms should give more to charity.
- Express: "Beat slum misery, Anne tells Bosses".

PHILIPPINES

- Times: Marcos quits and flies to Guam. President Reagan sends congratulations to Mrs Aquino. Manila goes wild. The presidential palace is looted. In the Commons you wish Mrs Aquino well, as does the EEC.
- Express: "Battling Cory takes over".
- FT: Washington is aware that it may have a more difficult and nationalistic ally. It congratulates itself - and crosses its fingers.

JIM COE

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

MOD: Mr Younger addresses House of Lords Defence Study Group

DEM: Mr Clarke visits Middlesbrough (inner city programme)

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses LSE Conservative Association

DTI: Mr Channon attends CBI Council meeting; meets OECD Secretary

MAFF: Mr Gummer visits north east region (to February 27)

DEM: Mr Trippier meets Editor of The Telegraph

DEM: Mr Lang visits Sheffield

DEN: Mr Hunt visits Morganite Ceramic Fibres Ltd, Bromborough, Wirral; visits Merseyside Voluntary Services and 500th home to be insulated, Mount Vernon Green

DOE: Mrs Rumbold visits Harwell

DOE: Mr Waldegrave attends reception for the Royal Society for Nature Conservation

DHSS: Mr Hayhoe dines with members of MENCAP, London; later addresses 'October Club', London

DTI: Mr Morrison launches Industry Year poster competition

DTI: Mr Howard lunches with Percy Tarbutt & Co, London

DTP: Mr Mitchell addresses Ashford Chamber of Commerce on Channel Fixed Link

HO: Mr Shaw visits Tower Hamlets police

DTP: Mr Spicer addresses annual dinner of the Aerodrome Owners' Association, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

MAFF: Mrs Fenner begins visit to South America (to March 14)

TV AND RADIO

"Jimmy Young Show"; BBC Radio 4 (10.30): The Prime Minister is guest of the day

"Woman's Hour"; BBC Radio 4 (14.00): Guest of the Week is Eddie Shah

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

"Women - Equal Six?"; BBC Radio 4 (19.20): 'A Woman and the Law' looks into allegations of a gulf between theory and practice in the law on discrimination at work

"Out of Court"; BBC 2 (19.30): Programme investigates the recent increase in horse rustling

"All Our Working Lives"; BBC 2 (20.00): 'Working the Land' farm workers talk about changes in their work

"Analysis"; BBC Radio 4 (20.15): 'Moving the Colossus'. Mark Frankland weighs the chances for a transformation in the Soviet Union

"Diverse Report"; Channel 4 (20.30): Asks why the Left has lost ground on the issue of civil liberty

"Passing Clouds"; ITV (21.00): The story of the rise and fall of the cigarette
