

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets SDLP leader, Mr John Hume, PM ?

National Defence Industries Council meets

Result of Danish referendum on EC reform package

STATISTICS

DEM: Unemployment and unfilled vacancies (February)

DEM: Employment Gazette - January 1986

DEN: Energy Trends (December)

DTP: New vehicle registrations (January)

PUBLICATIONS

CO: Guide to Official Statistics (Provisional)

PAY

DEM: NHS maintenance workers; (24,000); discussions continue on restructuring including new grading and supervisory structures

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Northern Ireland; Agriculture, Fisheries & Food; Prime Minister

Business: Debate on Motions relating to recommendations in the Second, Third and Fourth Reports of the Select Committee on Procedure of Session 1984/85 (House of Commons Papers Nos 49, 396 and 623) and the First Report of the Select Committee on Procedure of this Session (House of Commons Paper No 42)

Adjournment Debate

The release from detention centre of Kevin Capenhurst (Mr G Janner)

PARLIAMENT (cont'd)Select Committees:

AGRICULTURE

Subject: The effect of pesticides on human health
 Witness: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

COURT OF REFEREES

Subject: Objections to locus standi of petitioners against the
 Shoreham Port Authority Bill and the Harwich Parkeston Quarry
 Bill

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): Third Reading
 Gaming (Amendment) Bill (HL): Third Reading
 Sex Discrimination Bill (HL): Second Reading
 Representation of the People (Variation of Limits of
 Candidates' Election Expenses) Order 1986. Motion for Approval

UQ on whether, on the basis of their observer status with
 UNESCO, HMG will maintain all possible contacts with
 Commonwealth and European delegations with a view to securing
 and monitoring further improvements in the organisation's
 programme and administration so as to ensure the earliest
 possible renewal of United Kingdom members of UNESCO

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTLABOUR PARTY

- Liverpool Militants to be summoned before special meeting of Labour Party NEC next month. If expelled, they will be able to appeal to party conference.
- Eric Heffer says decision to get rid of Hatton and Co an attack on people of Liverpool and unforgiveable.
- NEC votes 19-10 to launch disciplinary action.
- NEC votes 15-14 not to delay endorsement of Militant, Pat Wall.
- D/Star P1: Out! - Just as the Star revealed: Hatton and his henchmen are on their way out of the Labour Party; comment - hundreds of thousand of Labour supporters will applaud fact that at long last Labour's leaders have recognised Militant as an insidious faction. Let the witch hunt continue.
- Sun P1: Kinnock to expel Militant; comment: an exercise in futility. The Liverpool shambles could not be ignored but as fast as Militancy are pushed out of the front door they will be coming in at the back. Labour Party led by Kinnock is as far removed from the responsible moderate organisation of Attlee, Bevin and Gaitskell as a re-union of Millwall soccer fans is from a vicarage croquet party.
- Mirror P2: Neil nobbles the Militants. Showdown looms for Hatton. First steps towards expulsion.
- Express P7: Labour pulls punch over Militant purge. Comment - Militant's influence does not begin and end in Liverpool. It extends to Parliament itself. When will Kinnock and friends find the guts and inclination to eliminate all that?
- Mail P2: Kinnock wins vote to punish Hatton. Militants finally on their way out but no mention of expulsion for legal reasons. Comment: if Kinnock can use his authority to kick out Hatton and Co he will deserve some credit but it will take more than one medicated rinse to delouse Labour.
- Telegraph P1: Labour issues marching orders to Militant. Up to Whitty to decide how many of Liverpool 16 named in inquiry should face disciplinary charges.
- Guardian P1 lead - Kinnock wins NEC vote to fight Militant. Comment says yesterday's meeting does not rid Labour of the problem. Far from it. If Mr Hatton should go now in logic can Mr Wall and Mr Nellist and Mr Field be far behind? And if Militant why not other Extremist groups? There is much more still to do.
- Times: P1 lead: Labour lists 16 Militants for expulsion.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY

- Robin Oakley, in Mail, sees in Foreign Secretary's big speech to LSE Conservative Association a strong reminder he is a force to be reckoned with in any battle to follow you. Speech showed "uncharacteristic pugnacity".
- Geoffrey Howe sets out his vision of the future in speech to London School of Economics Conservative Association. Millions more people will share the benefits of capitalism.
- Telegraph: "Inflation tax too much, says Howe"; leader says his potentially Prime Ministerial talents have been there to see for years.
- No coverage of Sir Ian Gilmour's speech in "pops". Telegraph P2, says he launched a thinly disguised attack on your attitude to BL sale and on Mr Tebbit's style.

YOUR BROADCAST

- D/Star: Thatcher: Iron Lady is staying for election campaign.
- Nothing in Sun.
- Mirror P2: Maggie's BL blast - critics should put up or shut up.
- Express P2: Iron lady off again - you signal rebirth of image; leader says approvingly "That's our Margaret" in response to your remark that there are plenty of weak leaders to choose from. Better by far clear leadership than sludgy fudge of consensus politics. The Iron Lady is to be preferred every time to the Eoneless Wonders.
- Mail - a few lines on your determination to stay the Iron Lady and your saying you were deeply wounded by remarks during Westland.
- FT: You made clear that a buyer must be found for BL's commercial vehicles side as well as Land Rover. You were typically forthright.
- Telegraph P2: BL sale critics challenged by Thatcher: you tell them to put up or shut up
- Guardian longest piece of all on P3 - Iron Lady style not rusting. If you want someone weak you don't want me, you warn Tory opponents.
- Times P2: Thatcher upbeat on jobs.

MEDIA

- Print unions to make a single approach to Murdoch for talks after meeting with Willis (TUC). EETPU joins in.
- 5 pickets arrested at Wapping last night.
- Sun says 20 students at Bristol could be expelled for Left wing break in to Professor John Vincent's lecture - he writes for Sun.

HEATING ALLOWANCES

- David Winnick MP, who claims 10 old people dying each day of hypothermia failed again yesterday to win an emergency Commons debate on heating allowances.
- Meacher says 2m are in peril.
- Mirror leader says one good test of a civilised nation is how it treats its old people. In Britain hundreds are freezing to death. Each death is a stain on our conscience.
- Telegraph says more than 500 senior adjudicating officers have been specially designated by DHSS to decide when to award allowances.

SEX EQUALITY

- EuroCourt of Justice says it is against the law to force women to retire earlier than men. Telegraph says Ministers may go for age flexibility.
- D/Star says retirement age for men should be reduced to 60; think of the number of jobs that would create.
- Express says it is a double edged win for the woman who bought the case. The majority of women may end up wringing their hands if their retirement age is postponed.
- Mail says doubtless in our own good time and when we can afford it, we shall comply. But there is about the EC a ludicrous lack of proportion bearing in mind the huge food surpluses.
- FT: The European Court ruling means that arrangements for more than 20m public sector employees in five European countries are breaking EEC rules. There are profound implications for Britain. Increased costs could vary between £500m and £2.5bn. We have a history of defeats in the European Court over sex discrimination.

ECONOMY

- Best monthly balance of payments surplus (£1,140m) last month, for three years.
- Mail leads on a big home loans war launched by Midland Bank with cheap introductory loans.
- Manual pay rose 7.75% last year.
- CBI urges full membership of EMS.
- Construction orders in 1985 were 1% less than in 1984.
- Article by Sam Brittan says the blow to tax cut hopes is not final so long as public spending stabilises in real terms or rises more slowly than the national income.

INDUSTRY

- Peter Bruinvels MP wants subscribers to start suing B/Telecom for soft porn message service.
- Michael Spicer announces special study of airport security after Express campaign.
- Record 14.5m tourists visited UK last year, spending £5.4bn.
- Solicitors follow barristers in challenging in court Lord Chancellor's fixing of their pay rise at 5%.
- Mail says Coventry bus workers are being paid £500 compensation by West Midlands PTA for moving to a depot half a mile away.
- Firm complains its plan to dump nuclear waste in the safest possible place - under the seabed - has been rejected by Whitehall.
- British pop stars walk off with cream of US awards.
- TUC decides on the nod it is no longer an offence for a union to take Government money for ballots.
- FT: France believes it has lost the battle over Westland, but not necessarily the war. Aerospatiale believes Sikorski could back out in 18 months' time and the consortium would be willing to stage another rescue bid.
- Sir John Cuckney believes Black Hawk can replace NATO's planned NH90.
- Ford foremen vote 2-1 for strike action and railway workers reject a 4.5% pay offer.

INDUSTRY (CONT'D)

- FT: Michael Meadowcroft, Liberal MP, is to submit evidence to DTI alleging that US government officials have been involved in illegalities jeopardising Systime of Leeds, once Britain's second largest computer manufacturer.
- The cost of insuring against customers' lawsuits in the US has become another barrier to trade, according to some British companies.
- Reacting to the Government's announcement that it plans to introduce a levy on ITV companies' profits earned from the sale of programmes overseas, the Chief Executive of an ITV subsidiary says to introduce a tax on exports and call it an incentive is the economics of the madhouse.
- Scientists at UKAEA have been offered pay rises of up to 30% (£6,000) to discourage them from going to private sector.
- NUM given High Court leave to sue NCB over proposed closure of Bates Colliery.

LAW AND ORDER

- Home Office to mount second review in three years of police weapons procedures.
- Claims in a new book for "hackers" that computer frauds could be costing British business £2.5bn a year.
- Winston Churchill's attempts to reinstate his obscenity "laundry list" fails.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Loyalists plan to paralyse province on Monday (Sun) - no coverage in D/Star.
- Express says widespread electricity cuts are expected.
- FT: Molyneaux insists that Monday's strike will be peaceful and voluntary. It will be rigidly controlled by elected politicians. He denies bowing to hardliners. The period of reflection agreed with you has been shortened because the working party believed, in the light of your refusal to cease implementing the agreement, there was little point in going further.
- Telegraph reports an about-turn by Unionist leaders who had been subjected to strong pressure from hardliners; leader says the shattering of hopes on the return home of the Unionist leaders is not an uncommon experience in negotiations with them. They should think a third time before it is too late.
- Guardian: Loyalist opposition to Agreement enters potentially more inflammatory phase.
- Guardian leader thinks we might as well have been hung for a wolf as well as for a lamb by going for a United Ireland.
- Times leader says Unionists seem determined to confront the Government with a tactic which does not require any choice to be made. Nobody will benefit in the long run from a Government which allows itself to be broken.

EDUCATION

- NAS/UWT vote for pay settlement but employers may refuse to ratify a settlement tomorrow unless all teachers unions promise to call off ban on voluntary duties. But Express says strikes should be over this weekend.
- Express, on confusion in teachers' union ranks, says those who are supposed to teach our children are themselves in dire need of instruction on how to behave.

- Sir Keith Joseph rejects Conservative plans to retain 3 grammar schools in Devon (Express).

PEOPLE

- Paul Foot, in Mirror, reports a lot of problems with house finishings on your estate at Dulwich.
- At least 1000m people in the world now speak English.

DEFENCE

- Britain invites lead from USA for early warning 'plane because of problems over Nimrod.
- Telegraph: GEC given 6 months to get NIMROD right.
- FT: The tough new terms for completion of the NIMROD project put a temporary stop to months of uncertainty.
- France will participate in SDI as long as US secrecy rules do not prevent work for the French defence effort.
- Saudi Arabia still expects a substantial UK investment in return for the supply of 132 aircraft by BAe under the recently-signed £5bn government-to-government deal.

MEDICAL/WELFARE

- 'Flu virus blamed for 28 deaths in hospitals in Lincs/Cambs.
- Tory Mps according to Guardian, plan to defy the Government by seeking to stop newly arrived immigrants and unmarried couples with children receiving social security benefits.

EC

- D/Star, campaigning against cut price sell-off of surpluses, claims Community has been selling sugar cheap to world's largest sugar producers for 3 years.
- Denmark is set to vote a resounding 'Yes' to the EEC reform package.

EGYPT

- Peace restored after rioting by police conscripts in and around Cairo, said to have been fuelled by Moslem Extremists. Sun says some British tourists were mugged by rioters.

NEW ZEALAND

- Row over Queen's involvement in opposition to nuclear weapons and visits by nuclear warships in outlining legislative programme at Opening of Parliament.

GREECE

- British lorry drivers say they have been stoned and threatened with petrol bombs by striking truck drivers in Greece.

FRANCE

- Uproar over allegations that Mitterrand has let go an Arab bomber who killed 297 American and French soldiers in Beirut.
- Guardian says Mitterrand looks likely to deprive centre right of strong and effective majority.

PHILIPPINES

- Mail reports Russian Ambassador rushed in to congratulate Marcos on re-election. Surely some mistake. For once US diplomacy proved more than a match for Russians.

EAST/WEST

- FT: The White House has rejected Soviet suggestions that there would be little point to a summit meeting in the US this year if there was only a slim possibility of progress on arms control.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DOE: Mr Baker begins visit to Cornwall (to February 28)
- HO: Mr Hurd addresses Conservative Anglo-Asian Society, Birmingham
- DTI: Mr Channon meets Vice-Chancellor Steger of Austria
- DES: Mr Patten at Association of Colleges of Further and Higher Education AGM
- DOE: Sir George Young addresses the Lovell Builders Group Conference, Brighton
- DOE: Mr Tracey speaks at Recreation and Management Seminar organised by the Sports Council, Harrogate
- DHSS: Mr Hayhoe opens drug treatment centre, St Stephen's Hospital; later dines at Royal College of Pathologists
- FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses Southern Africa Association AGM lunch
- FCO: Mr Renton addresses the Anglo-Jewish Association at the Royal Commonwealth Society
- HO: Mr Shaw chairs meeting of Standing Conference on Crime Prevention
- OAL: Mr Luce speaks at opening of exhibition at Abbot Hall Gallery, Kendal
- DTI: Lord Lucas speaks at retailing event, London
- DTI: Mr Howard meets Ann Jacobs of The Sunday Times
- DTI: Mr Pattie meets Vice-Chancellor Steger of Austria, London
- DTI: Mr Butcher meets Joan Davidson of The Guardian
- DTp: Mr Mitchell attends BR Property Board presentation, London
- DTP: Mr Bottomley launches the "Play it Safe" adventure book on behalf of the British Institute of Traffic Education Research, HoC
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TV AND RADIO

"Women - Equal Sex"; BBC Radio 4 (09.35): Repeat of Wednesday's programme

"Medicine Now"; BBC Radio 4 (10.00): Repeat of Tuesday's programme

"Analysis"; BBC Radio 4 (11.00): Repeat of Wednesday's programme

"Red Herrings"; BBC 2 (19.30): 'Pop 'n Politics' looks at new protest music

"Union World"; Channel 4 (18.30)

"Far From Paradise"; BBC 2 (19.15): "Nowhere Else to Go" asks if the needs of different economies can be satisfied and the lives of poor people improved without damaging the planet

"Pillars of Society"; BBC Radio 4 (20.15): Peter Kellner examines Scotland Yard

"Brass Tacks"; BBC 2 (20.20): "Face to Face" examines developments which could give crime victims a say in sentencing

"Party Political Broadcast by the Conservative Party"; BBC 1 (21.00): ITV (10.00): BBC 2 (22.35)

"TV Eye"; ITV (21.30)

"Question Time"; BBC 1 (20.15): With the Rt Hon Michael Heseltine, the Rt Hon Roy Jenkins and the Rt Hon Tony Benn
