

3 March 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

One-day strike in Ulster over Anglo/Irish Agreement

EC Industry Council, Brussels

Deadline for responses to National Association of Head Teachers' consultative document on ban on full-time work for children under 18

Passport Office hit by strike by CPSA members over 'withdrawal of allowance'

Lady Young attends Council of Europe Ministerial Conference on "Equality Between Men and Women", Strasbourg (to March 4)

HMSO bicentenary Exhibition (1786-1986), Design Centre (to April 9)

Mr Lamont visits Cameroon (to March 7)

Visit from Syrian Foreign Minister

PUBLICATIONS

HOC/HOL: 12th Report Joint Committee on SI's (11.00)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Wales; Energy

Business: Debate on Welsh Affairs on a Motion for the Adjournment

Debate of a Motion to take Note of EC Documents relating to the European Social Fund

Adjournment Debate

The newspaper dispute at Wapping (Mr R Leighton)

Select Committees:

HOME AFFAIRS: SUB-COMMITTEE ON RACE RELATIONS AND IMMIGRATION

Subject: Bangladeshis in Britain

Witness: Federation of Bagladesh

ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Planning

Witnesses: Law Society (at 4.30 pm);

Planning Bar (at approximately 5.15 pm)

TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE

Subject EC Budgetary Discipline

Witnesses: HM Treasury officials

PARLIAMENT (CONT'D)Lords

Outer Space Bill (HL): Third Reading
 Museum of London Bill: Committee
 Debate on the Report of the EEC on Television without Frontiers
 (4th Report 1985-86 HL 43).

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTNORTHERN IRELAND

- All police leave cancelled because of threatened strike; Tom King appeal to Loyalists not to join it.
- Sun suggests the 24 hour stoppage could be followed by a 3-day strike.
- Express reports power workers preparing to switch off Ulster today.
- D/Star says the strike shows all the signs of being as unproductive as anything Scargill organised. Unionist leaders should bear in mind that UK taxpayers are subsidising the North to tune of £1.5bn. You know most Britons heartily sick of the whole business.
- Sun advises us all to let's wait and see what happens today.
- Express - strike promises to be another of those masochistic exercises in futility for which Loyalist leaders seem to be developing real flair Turmoil is the last thing the racked province needs.
- Telegraph leads with police fears of violence.
- T E Utley, in Telegraph, regards it as a signal failure by Molyneaux and Paisley to turn down inter-party conference you offered. But that does not mean the strike is irresponsible. One solution has not been tried - treating Ulster as ordinary part of UK.
- Guardian says Loyalist hardliners will argue in favour of an indefinite Ulster wide strike later this year if today's strike is judged a success
- Times says Protestant extremists are trying to outmanoeuvre Unionist political leaders; widespread intimidation reported yesterday; leader says today's strike will settle nothing. But there is no better recruitment sergeant for terrorist organisations than a British Government that cannot make its own political initiatives work.
- FT says Unionists are far from confident over the strike.

ECONOMY

- Michael Heseltine, on TV, wants power of Chancellor reduced and that of Secretary of State for Trade and Industry increased
- Sun asks readers if they remember Heseltine - never did anyone become yesterday's man so quickly.
- Building employers say black economy costs Exchequer £4bn and threatens law abiding building companies.
- Average family spending up 7% to £151.92 a week in 1984.
- Peter Hordern, in Telegraph, says the fall in oil prices and of other commodities will give world trade a considerable boon. This could yield Chancellor more revenue than generally supposed so that the virtuous cycle of tax cuts and economic growth of the '50s may be repeated.
- Small Business Research Trust says unemployment would be 25% higher but for new jobs in small businesses created over last 6 years.
- Terence Beckett, CBI, in Times, says reducing unemployment must be Budget priority.
- Times says collapse of North Sea oil price ensures a neutral Budget.

POLITICS

- Ted Heath gives you a massive snub on TV, according to Sun; refuses to back your decision to lead party into next election. Predicts a possible Tory/SDP Lib coalition (Express).
- Mail leads with Heath giving you a "triple snub" - three times refusing to endorse you as leader of the party into the next election; leader says this is the longest running hate story on the political stage. It makes point Mr Heath "loftily deplored politicians who bash each other" - about as hard to take seriously as a lecture on food additives by the late Dr Crippen.

POLITICS (CONT'D)

- Labour Party NEC goes for an image-building strategy this week, using advertising agents (Guardian).
- Kenneth Baker says SDP/Libs now main challenge to Tories in South.
- Some speculation about Tory MPs wanting conscription to be bought back.
- Telegraph says Kinnock is taking soundings about a pact with Scots and Welsh Nationalists and Ulster Unionists in the event of a hung Parliament.

INDUSTRY

- National Consumer Council says Sunday trading is already taken for grant in England and Wales - it has collected over 3000 adverts for Sunday opening. Bishop of St Albans says if the English Sunday loses its distinctive character we shall be admitting Mammon is the only God to be acknowledged in our country.
- Mail says opening of Terminal 4 will not mean any more flights this summer from Heathrow.
- British Tory Euro MP says Britain's get rich quick hotels are a blight on the country's reputation; leading a Strasbourg inquiry into Europe's tourist industry.
- Mail says one of Britain's biggest food groups - Imperial - has admitted it illegally sold radiation treated prawns from Malaysia in contravention of health regulations.
- Further falls in petrol prices, now down to below 18Op in many parts of the country, expected.
- You are to see Ian MacGregor tomorrow - this may lead to his early departure (Telegraph).
- Telegraph says our Merchant Navy would be halved this year from 600 to 300 ships.
- Times leads with report that Government is considering limiting opening on Sundays to 4 hours to appease critics of Shops Bill.

UNIONS

- NACODS to ballot members on strike to try to save Bates Colliery.
- Ian MacGregor, in interview, says "Scargill is a consummate actor as Hitler was. This makes him very dangerous". He will remain an important figure in the Labour and TV movement.
- Mail expects B/Rail unions to accept 5% this week.
- MORI poll for Industry Year says trade union members are increasingly unhappy with the way their unions represent them.

BL

- Ted Heath accuses you of stacking the odds against a British management buy out.
- Top directors of GM flying to London this week to make their case.
- Management buy out team for Land Rover say they have backing of four big financial institutions.

NUCLEAR

- Kenneth Baker says there are no plans to close Sellafield.
- 5 of 12 workers contaminated in weekend incident at Sellafield to have more tests.
- Three women arrested during weekend demonstration at Sellafield.
- Mail says Government is launching a propaganda campaign to convince Britian nuclear industry is safe.

MEDIA

- Rivals gearing themselves up to meet the challenge of the Daily Shah - notably the Express, Mail and Telegraph.
- Snowball packed with broken glass rips policeman's face outside Wapping during Saturday night demo; 32 arrested; Mail says rent-a-mob is blamed.
- Murdoch, in New York Times interview, says British printing unions completely messed up their handling of transfer to Wapping.
- Maxwell warns of severe job cuts in Mirror Group in Scotland - his plan to launch an Irish colour edition again thwarted.
- Guardian claims a 41,000 increase in sales over 1985 to a record 530,534.
- Telegraph considering introducing a circulation boosting "bingo" game.
- Refusal of some public libraries to handle Murdoch newspapers may be challenged in court.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Man leading campaign against Hatton in Liverpool claims he has received a series of threats by telephone.
- Express claims your intervention will stop doomed GLC/MCCs from paying out £75m in golden handshakes at expense of ratepayers. But 3 authorities succeed; leader says every dying act of these authorities confirms the wisdom of scrapping them.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Mirror: front page lead alleges a baby has been sent home from Middlesex Hospital to die because of cash cuts.
- Express says Age Concern is sending out survival kits to help old people survive cold weather, while pressure for inquiry into deaths of elderly from cold builds up. Gallup Poll in Telegraph says 75% believe pensioners should be exempted from standing charges. Meacher wants extra payments of at least £5 a week to all vulnerable elderly and disabled. Senior Conservative urges more aid.
- Mail says cervical cancer screening in UK is still **shambolic**.
- Guardian says benefit offices are to be ordered today to start shredding files of thousands of unemployed people who are owed up to £2m in illegal deductions.
- Guardian says NHS is to sell surplus blood on the international market.

EDUCATION

- Institute of Economic Affairs says school vouchers could stop teachers' strike by making teachers directly accountable to parents.
- Guardian says NAS/UWT is threatening full disruption after letters from 70 education authorities saying teachers must do voluntary duties or have pay docked.
- Times says until money and reform of conditions of service are linked there should be no basis for settlement.
- FT says a far reaching review of education policy leading to new Department of Education and Training is under way.

LAW AND ORDER

- Big search for 6 year old girl missing in Northants.
- 10 prisoners barricade themselves in cell at Strangeways, Manchester, after seizing fellow inmate; complaining about overcrowding.
- Man in court today for demanding £250,000 by menaces from Bernard Matthews, turkey tycoon.
- Express says vets are calling for controls over sales of crossbows because of the way louts are using them to kill and maim animals.
- Bankers criticising cuts in Scotland Yard's cheque fraud department.
- Police want stop and search powers at soccer matches after 36 policemen were temporarily blinded when Manchester United fans cause trouble after defeat at Southampton.
- Cost of keeping protestors out of Greenham Common over £5m; £2.176m at Molesworth.

SWEDEN

- Olof Palme may have been assassination victim of international terrorist plot.
- Sun say that in a democratic society politicians can never be given total protection; they have to be men and women of courage and Palme was one of the brave.
- Mirror says even in a world which seems almost unshockable by further acts of violence the murder of Olof Palme is numbing in its senselessness.
- Express says our Cabinet Ministers are buying their own body armour hidden in jacket or waistcoat.
- Guardian says Sweden has had a tragic demonstration that wealth, neutrality and devotion to social and international peace confer no immunity from the ills which plague the rest of the world.
- FT describes it as the end of an age of innocence in Sweden.

ISRAEL

- Palestinian Mayor of Nablus shot dead; Foreign Secretary pays tribute to him; Express leader says the killing is a depressing reminder of the way Palestinian terrorists have often literally killed off hopes for peace in Middle East.

PHILIPPINES

- Mirror says a British crime boss helped Marcos to smuggle millions of dollars out of the Philippines; Hawaii customs detain riches worth £20m.

RUSSIA

- Speculation that Shevardnadze is to be promoted this week.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

MOD: Mr Younger hosts press reception, London

DES: Sir Keith Joseph visit Physical Chemical Laboratory, Oxford

DEM: Lord Young speaks in debate at University College, London

DEM: Mr Clarke visits Kings Lynn and Bircham Newton

DEN: Mr Walker presents Energy Efficiency Competition prizes, Ideal Home Exhibition; opens Wimpey Show House Complex

DOE: Mr Baker meets heads of building societies re-tenanted housing estates (Mr Patten also attends)

MAFF: Mr Gummer visits Seed Crushing Operations, Liverpool

DEM: Mr Trippier visits TVEI project, Stoke-on-Trent

DEN: Mr Hunt gives interview to Mark Newham on renewables; later opens Urisol Exhibition, HoC

DOE: Mr Waldegrave opens Exhaust Emissions Laboratory, Ford, Essex; later meets Channel Tunnel Group

DOE: Sir George Young launches Home Improvement video, Halifax Building Society stand, Ideal Home Exhibition

SO: Mr Stewart visits Linn Products Ltd, Glasgow; meets Scottish TUC about Scottish Tertiary Education Advisory Council report, Glasgow

SO: Mr MacKay attends Health Services Policy Board, Edinburgh

DTI: Mr Butcher attends ITSA forum, London

DTI: Mr Howard attends Energy Group lunch, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTI: Mr Channon attends EC Industry Council, Brussels

DHSS: Mr Hayhoe departs for Czechoslovakia (to March 5)

FCO: Mrs Chalker departs for EC/ACP meeting, Brussels (to March 4)

FCO: Lady Young attends EC Council of Europe Ministerial Conference, Strasbourg (to March 4)

TV AND RADIO

"Money Box"; BBC Radio 4 (10.00): Repeat of Saturday's programme

"Food for Thought"; Channel 4 (17.30): Looks at the development of new foods and the structure of the food industry, investigating demands for a co-ordinated food and health policy

"Reporting London"; ITV (18.25): Reveals findings of a report on what would happen if the bomb dropped on London

"Open Space"; BBC 2 (19.40): Investigatges the increase in mortgage default and possession actions

"World in Action"; ITV (20.30): 'BT - The Sale of the Century' questions the Government's method of selling off nationalised industries

"Panorama"; BBC 1 (21.30) Reports on the Jamestown Foundation which looks after defectors to the USA

"The Eleventh Hour"; Channel 4 (23.00): 'Mazimbu' looks at the African National Congress's social and educational activities at its college complex in Mazimbu, Tanzania
