

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets National Pensioners Convention

EC Environment Council, Brussels

World conference of General Motors Union leaders opens with emergency debate on BL, Liverpool

Electricity supply manuals - pay negotiations resume

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STATISTICS

DTI/CSO: Balance of payments (1985)

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PUBLICATIONS

HO: Criminal Justice - Plans for legislation (10.30)

NAO: Royal Hospital Chelsea - Army Prize money and legacy funds account 1984/85 (11.00)

NAO: Legal Aid Fund account 1984/85 (11.00)

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PAY

DEM: Water Service manuals; (24,000); claim for substantial flat-rate increase to give at least £20 a week rise

DEM: NHS hospital pharmacists; (3,700); offer of up to 15.7% for basic grades, worth 6.25% on average earnings under consideration

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Treasury; Prime Minister

Business: Opposition Day (9th allotted day): 'Plight of the Elderly'

Opposition Prayer on the Local Government Reorganisation (Compensation) Regulations Order

OPPOSED PRIVATE BUSINESS

London Docklands Railway (City Extension) Bill

Adjournment Debate

Drugs misuse and the spread of AIDS (Sir B Braine)

PARLIAMENT (cont'd)Select Committees:

## AGRICULTURE

Subject: The effect of pesticides on human health  
 Witness: Health and Safety Executive

## JOINT COMMITTEE

Lothian Region (Edinburgh Western Relief Road) Order  
 Confirmation Bill

Lords

Legal Aid (Scotland) Bill: Committee

Protection of Military Remains Bill: Second Reading

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGEST

EL

- Graham Day, B/Shibuilders, to take over EL - says of pleas to keep EL British: "Emotion often costs money". Sun feature on him says he won't pull his punches.
- FT: Graham Day says he has received no formal remit from the Government on its objectives for the group after the commercial vehicles operations have been separated.
- D/Star says politicians are quite right to question the Government's handling of the EL affair. But that is no excuse for the infantile behaviour of Terry Davis MP with his unsubstantiated smear against a member of the Cabinet. Contrast this with sober and reasoned approach of West Midlands Tory MPs.
- Mirror reports EL management revolting over Government's determination to sell Land Rover and trucks to GM. You appointed Day yesterday to cover up the revolt in place of Roy Perrocks, obvious successor to Austin Rover.
- Express says you will decide future of Land Rover and trucks by Easter.
- Mail says Government is planning to sell off AR by the end of 1987; workers will be given shares; Honda will be able to buy up to 15% and Ford will be able to buy a slice, too.
- Telegraph front page reports storm over appointment of Day - causes some concern among Tory MPs that a Canadian has been appointed.
- FT: Profile of Day says his approach will be radically different to that of Bide.
- FT: The Laird Group is interested in only one of EL's bus plants and then only its fixed assets. It's proposals represent a "ruthless, brutal plan, but the only way of bringing the British bus industry back to life".
- Guardian backs Mr Heath and makes the point that there is no need to do anything at all about EL, Land-Rover is a successful company and if trucks division needs rationalisation present management have more experience of it than anyone else.

INDUSTRY

- House of Holland furniture store up for sale, over £10m
- Rail unions say 5% is not enough.
- Sun says Ian MacGregor last night denied he was going early; coal industry expected to break even next year.
- Mirror is still waiting for prices of petrol and heating oil to fall, not to mention cost of holidays abroad in view of fall in oil prices. BP says average price of 4-star has dropped to 178p, down 14p.
- Mirror say Nissan plans to produce 15,000 cars from Durham factory this year.
- Two senior Government officials summoned to appear before Select Committee which claims they never informed Ministers that £350m of public money was at risk in tin crisis.
- FT: A leading Hong Kong clothing manufacturer is to open a factory on Merseyside in a link with Littlewoods.
- A dramatic deterioration in Britain's trade position, leading to a current account deficit of £20bn or deflation and even higher unemployment in 1995 is forecast by Professor Godley.
- FT: Phillip Hares, new chairman of British Shipbuilders, sees a drive for orders for loss-making yards but no other major changes.
- FT: A Whitehall review has concluded that privatisation of Crown Suppliers would not be in the public interest.
- FT: The NCB has been urged to introduce US-style management techniques, including longer-term agreement with unions, according to an internal report prepared during the pit strike. Yesterday, the Association of Colliery Managers strongly criticised the Board's market-based strategy.
- Select Committee report next Tuesday will challenge continued operation of Sellafield.
- Bank of England stops Morgan Grenfell/Exco merger.

MEDIA

- Maxwell agrees to negotiate on his demand for 300 redundancies in Scotland; print workers end Glasgow sit-in.
- FT: The Peacock Committee on the financing of the BBC is considering a draft report suggesting that the role of the BBC be sharply constrained while ITV should be opened up more to market forces.

WESTLAND

- Times: Armstrong on defensive over leak.
- Sun: "No sacking" row over Westland - a reference to Sir Robert Armstrong's heated clash with Dr Gilbert in Select Committee over impunity of officials involved in leaks.
- Mail: Cabinet chief in angry clash on Civil Servants' Westland leak.
- Guardian: "Cabinet Secretary in sea of outrage".
- Telegraph: Westland leak outrage surrounds head of Civil Service. Labour still determined to get E. Ingham before Committee, Guardian says.
- In evidence to the Trade and Industry Select Committee, Michael Heseltine said Westland had been "carved up by the gnomes of Zurich". Sir John Cuckney, attempting to put together a Sikorsky rescue bid asked the Government for financial assistance of between £125m and £165m.

ECONOMY

- FT index at new record - up by £3bn yesterday in anticipation of bigger profits and Budget tax cuts (Mirror).
- Cambridge University economists suggest unemployment is in danger of rising to 4,750,000 within 10 years.
- Frank Chapple, in Mail, hopes Chancellor is not thinking of changing the tax laws to discourage women from working. People don't understand how much we rely on women.
- NEDC yesterday discussed ways to speed the creation of more service industry jobs.
- FT: There is increasing speculation that the recent fall in the pound's value against the mark may prompt Britain to join the EMS. Leader says the case for joining is looking stronger.

POLITICS

- Sun leader on Matthew Parris's decision to leave the Commons for LWT asks what would have been the reaction of the voters in West Derbyshire had he told them at the last election he was honoured to serve as their MP until something better came along.
- Another Sun leader on Ted Heath says he fools no-one with his waffle about consensus politics. He landed us in the economic mess from which you are rescuing us. He has ceased to be a Tory and yearns for a coalition.
- T E Utley, in Telegraph, says Tory strategy should not be to restrain Mr Tebbit from savaging Labour. Labour is not now under effective moderate leadership. But savaging the Alliance would at best look like cruelty to children. Alliance should be presented in its true light as offering but a repetition of failed policies.
- Mr Heath claims his latest criticism of the Government was positive and constructive.
- Ronald Butt says for the first time since 1951 we have a wholly unpredictable general election coming. Government has no reason for despair but every reason for worry and action.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- 8 Labour councillors banned from holding office for 5 years for failing to set a legal rate; 28 days to appeal. Face surcharge bills of up to £3,000 each, plus costs of £3,500.
- Eatton claims they have been found guilty of creating jobs, building houses and keeping rents down.
- Eric Heffer describes it as "class law" originally intended to stop corruption.
- Sun leader says "Lucky Liverpool. Fortunate Lambeth. For the next 5 years at least they are going to have councils which are a darned sight better".
- Mail front page lead headed "Not fit to rule" - a reference to Appeal judges view that they have been guilty of "wilful misconduct"; leader on "a punishment well deserved" says mercifully their exercise in anarchy has failed. It is right and proper these irresponsible councillors should be hit where it hurts them most - in their political careers.
- Telegraph says Audit Commission expects district auditors to report on extent of any losses sustained in Camden, Greenwich, Hackney, Islington, Sheffield and Southwark last year because of late setting of rates.
- Douglas Murd says Labour policies are throttling the life out of Lambeth.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CONT'D)

- Guardian says 200 face new wave of rate penalties. Kinnock says he will not give retrospective indemnity.
- Times: Judge condemns political posturing. Trade union leaders in Liverpool now call one-day strike in support of councillors.
- Times leader says such abuse of trust deserves penalty, but it is another thing to bankrupt a group of common people standing behind Hatton and Knight. The judgment may have hastened the decline of local government.
  
- Bernie Grant's Haringey Council prevented by Government from starting new building work by DLO after losses of £5.5m on projects over last 4 years.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- PAC forecasts shortage of nurses within a few years. 60% of doctors want cuts in defence and social security spending to make more money available for NHS; nearly 9 out of 10 doctors say resources are inadequate.
- Sainsbury announce they are cutting out all unnecessary additives from 3000 products - best news health conscious have had for years (Mirror).
- Typical smoker spends £20,000 on a lifetime's puffing (Mail).
- Deaths jumped by more than 1000 at peak of cold weather in week ending February 21, according to OPCS.
- Times says Wandsworth health authority chairman who was effectively forced out of Labour Party for pursuing Government policies is not to have appointment renewed.

HOUSING

- Halifax and Abbey National building societies scrap extra premium on endowment mortgages following banks' lead.

EDUCATION

- None of 14 candidates to succeed headmaster Ray Honeyford in Bradford found suitable.
- FT: Public concern over education sharply increased in the first two months of this year, according to MORI poll.
- Scottish teachers have given the Government two weeks to settle the dispute.
- Disruption continued in many schools yesterday in spite of settlement.

CHARITY

- Bob Geldof now introduces Sportsaid - a world jog on May 16 to raise money for Africa.

LAW AND ORDER

- Manchester United fan, 16, stabbed in chest in clash with West Ham supporters last night.
- David Waddington says rules will be changed immediately to prevent men bringing in child brides to Britain; Express says the ban is right. It was foolish of British officials in Tehran to issue Iranian couple, girl aged 12, with travel documents.
- George Walden pushed and shoved when protestors clashed with police at Bolton Higher Education Institute where he was talking with industrialists about education/industry links.
- Mail claims detectives have been forging prisoners' confessions to thousands of unsolved crimes, according to Scotland Yard report.
- GLC report on civil defence gets little coverage; it cost £475,000. Guardian says one third of Londoners would try to leave capital before any attack, throwing civil defence into chaos.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Express welcomes Botha's decision to lift state of emergency even though it has not halted Black protest and violence.

IRELAND

- Frank Chapple, in Mail, says he supported the Anglo-Irish Agreement but he still finds it hard to disagree with Ulster Protestants who ask why Falkland Islanders are allowed to have a veto over what happens while Ulstermen are told to like or lump a deal with a foreign power.
- Telegraph says you rejected last night a cooling off period for the Agreement. Harry West, according to Telegraph, yesterday launched a plan by a Loyalist fringe group to replace Agreement with devolved Government.
- Guardian says you were firm on the Agreement continuing to be implemented last night.
- Guardian says Unionist leadership has painted itself into a corner. If they do not jump out of it the logic of their position is the end of the union. The Agreement had one of the largest majorities for a significant measure ever recorded in Parliament and the showdown Unionists insist on is not with you alone.

EAST/WEST

- Mail says Reagan-Gorbachev summit this year is in doubt; Russians playing hard to get and Reagan threatening to pull out of 1987 summit.

DEFENCE

- FT: DTI and MoD have added to the confusion over the privatisation of the Vickers warshipyard by asking questions of the bidders about the Trident submarine programme. Trafalgar House describes the intervention as "amazing". Guardian says Ministers have accepted Trafalgar bid.

EEC

- FT: New figures on the growing European Community cash crisis suggests that over £1bn could be added to the cost of this year's farm budget because of the fall in the value of the dollar.
- Bonn may defy the EEC by offering special national aid to its militant farmers.

BELGIUM

- FT: The Belgian Government is trying to turn the tide of speculation linking Cabinet members to the biggest tax fraud ever seen. It centres on gold bullion transactions and non-payment of VAT.

FALKLANDS

- Telegraph says Lady Young was unable to offer any encouragement for the introduction of controls to prevent over-fishing during her visit.
- Port Stanley brewery in liquidation because of lack of demand.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Lord Young and Mr Clarke meet Labour and Industrial correspondents lobby group

DEM: Mr Clarke visits Notting Hill (inner city programme)

DOE: Mr Baker opens Thames Water Ring Main

SO: Mr Rifkind and Lord Gray dine with Scottish NFU, Aviemore

MOD: Lord Trefgarne visits Royal Army Medical Corps, Mychett

DES: Mr Patten addresses Association of Principals of Sixth Form Colleges, London

DEM: Mr Lang visits Dundee

DEM: Mr Trippier presents Resort 2000 awards

DOE: Mr Tracey attends "topping out" ceremony, Tooting Sports Hall, London

FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses the European Democratic Group

DHSS: Mr Whitney opens "Turning Point ROMA project", London

HO: Lord Glenarthur visits psychiatric wing, Holloway Prison

OAL: Mr Luce speaks at Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme Award Presentation, London

ODA: Mr Raison addresses Commonwealth Institute Caricom Conference on aid for small island states

DTI: Mr Butcher meets Angela Gordon, The Times

DTI: Mr Pattie attends launch of BEST Database

DTI: Mr Morrison attends ERDF seminar

DTI: Mr Clark lunches with political editor of TODAY

DTP: Mr Mitchell addresses Channel Fixed link open forum arranged by Institute of Physical Distribution and Management, London

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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

"Union World"; Channel 4 (18.30): Programme for and about trade unionists

"Hijack"; BBC Radio 4 (19.40): Tom Mangold reviews the history of hijacking and explores the role of the media

"TV Eye"; ITV (21.30): Reports on North Sea oil in the context of falling oil prices

TV AND RADIO (CONT'D)

"Question Time"; BBC 1 (20.00): With the Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe, John Cunningham, Brenda Dean and Sir John Harvey-Jones

"4 What it's Worth"; Channel 4 (23.45): Joan Shenton talks to women who have suffered from using the Dalkon Shield contraceptive device and explores their legal rights

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