

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Education Secretary attends National Association of Head Teachers conference, Oxford

STATISTICS

DOE: Housing starts and completions (Jan)

DOE: House renovations (4th qtr)

DTI: Car and commercial vehicle production (Jan-final)

PUBLICATIONS

FCO: Treaty Series No 17 (1986). Co-operation agreement between EEC and Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and agreement between member states of European coal and steel community (14.00)

HO: British Nationality Fees Regulations

DTI: 'British Business' includes feature on Commission for New Towns; market report on Southern Germany

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business:

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Employment Rights (Mr J Evans)

International Crime and its implications for the policing of London (Mr S Chapman)

Long term and post YTS unemployed (Mr G Lawler)

Adjournment Debate

The decision by the National Coal Board to close Bates Colliery (Mr J Ryman)

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTCRIMINAL JUSTICE WHITE PAPER

- D/Star: At best half a step in the right direction but not adequate. Life for armed gangsters won't in practice mean they serve much longer sentences, if at all. Why shy away from minimum sentences? We need to get tough with judges. Yet alongside this leader is a summary of the White Paper - 'Tough Justice' is its heading.
- Sun P4: New crime laws to hit gun thugs; leader says the menace of the gunman is growing in Britain. Home Secretary's move to increase penalty on them to life will be applauded.
- Mirror P2: Gun thugs get life in crime crackdown.
- Express P2: Police fear new Government law will trigger shootouts because armed robbers will feel they have nothing to lose, according to Police Federation; leader, on Kaufman's dismissal of the Government's proposals, says he doesn't know whether they will prevent crime. Until experience shows their effect we should give them the benefit of the doubt.
- Mail leads with 'Crime 86' - the rape of the vicar's daughter on the one hand and a report of your war on crime being taken a major step forward with the White Paper; leader says lawyers are bringing the jury system into contempt with their challenges. Home Office reform of the abuse is welcome but it is against denial of the right of some to trial by jury except perhaps in major fraud cases.
- Telegraph P1: Reforms to cut the crime rate. Big summary of White Paper P8; leader says the proposal that minor thefts and other dishonesty cases should be tried summarily is deeply questionable. The law's traditional preoccupation with the defence of the innocent must not be weakened.
- Guardian P1 lead: Jury trial tradition could be scrapped; leader describes White Paper as diffuse and tentative and suggests Government is left without any anti-crime strategy.
- Times P1 lead: Tough reforms aiming to make criminals pay. Labour attacks window dressing. Big coverage on P5 emphasising toughness of measures; leader - for the most part an administrator's package - a largely congenial rag bag of measures. Most welcome in its "green" recognition of the complexity of crime; objections to removal of the right of jury trial as strong as ever.
- FT: Sentencing crackdown proposed.
- FT says the failure to address our shaming sentencing policy - we jail more than any other major Western country - overshadows many sensible reforms suggested in the White Paper.

LAW AND ORDER

- Vicar and young man severely injured and man's girl friend raped by white gang in Ealing. Some papers identifying vicar but not girl; others identify girl as a vicar's daughter.
- Array of weapons used in fracas between Manchester United and West Ham fans in which youth, 16, was stabbed, unveiled by police.
- India asks us for deportation of Sikh campaigning for a separatist state and living in Ealing; man is unemployed, on social security and has been given a flat by council.
- CND campaigner, 69, goes to prison rather than pay taxes that could be spent on nuclear weapons.
- Sun says without its revelation about the Iranian child bride Government would not be acting to stop men bringing them into the country. Mirror says girls and husband can stay by permission of Home Office. Iranian diplomat in Britain speaks of Western hypocrisy over the case (Mail).

PENSIONERS CONVENTION/FUEL ETC

- Jack Jones says he is very disappointed after his meeting with you.
- Michael Meacher predicts 60,000 cold-related deaths this winter.
- Norman Fowler suggests that heating payments might be concentrated on the winter instead of being paid all the year round.
- DHSS takes page adverts to tell people on SB or housing benefit supplement how they might get extra help with fuel bills.
- Telegraph gives one-third of a column to £21 increase sought as single person - little coverage of Pensioners' Convention.

ECONOMY

- West Germany cuts bank rate and, according to Telegraph, paves way for cheaper money in Britain. FT says Japan is set to follow.
- Little coverage of new tin crisis outside city pages. Guardian back page says the collapse of the rescue brings dismay in the City. Times puts on P1 City fears of bankruptcies as tin talks fail.

INDUSTRY

- Sun says a year after the Scargill strike collapsed we can see how much Ian MacGregor has accomplished for Britain. We should give him a stretch of salmon river by way of thanks.
- Bradford celebrates its record of 100,000 tourist visitors.
- Gordon Eoffie, OFT, queries whether lending has gone too far with debts at £22bn and calls on finance houses to exercise caution.
- Nepal and Australia order £42m worth of Rolls-Royce aero engines.
- Mail features the council house kid who left Britain 30 years ago because he felt his background and accent would stop him getting to the top and is now coming back as head of Harrods.
- Cabinet Committee will decide Vickers sell-off today. Management buy-out has excellent chance (Telegraph).
- Times revolt in Committee over City watchdog - MPs want it made statutory body.
- Guardian says a decision is needed within a few weeks to prevent a collapse of B/Airways privatisation.
- Times says critics of the Sunday Trading Bill are heartened by the delay in bringing it to Commons.

BL

- Mail and Telegraph report that an Anglo-American partnership to run Land Rover keeping decisions safe in Britain were discussed yesterday. Idea is to marry GM's financial power and marketing zip to Land-Rover's technical skills.
- D/Star forecasts a high speed decision before Easter.
- Graham Day - in interview with Express, is quoted as saying "It would be nice to keep the company British but you would pay for it, mate".
- Jim Wightman, in Telegraph, says one option is for GM to be offered a franchise for Land Rover in USA. One Minister says "Even the word British in Leyland's name makes it more difficult to sell it outright to Americans". And business correspondent says GM hinted it may be ready to recast its bid to take account of national sentiment.
- Times: Cabinet weighs bids for BL as Tories urge British element in deal.
- FT says GM has assured the Government that it would maintain the British and European content of Leyland trucks and Land Rover.

NUCLEAR

- EC says none of discharges reported this year breaches Euro safety standards.

UNIONS

- Mirror features Bill Jordan, moderate who it believes is set to lead AUEW.
- Royal College of Nursing Conference to debate whether to scrap no-strike rule.

MEDIA

- John Harvey-Jones (ICI) says Murdoch's sacking of 5000 print workers was 'monstrous' and he would be deeply ashamed if he had to run a plant from behind a barbed wire fence.
- Express claims it is being read by 5,109,000 adults - 272,000 up on last six months. Times says opinion formers are switching to its readership.
- BBC fails to find an executive to take on £40,000 job to run its Enterprises subsidiary.
- Times reports growing division over ideas on funding of BBC in Peacock Committee.
- FT says all copies of Today seem to be selling out in spite of late arrival at newsagents.

POLITICS

- Peter Walker rules himself out as your successor on Central TV (Sun). He says he has no passionate desire to take on the enormous workload. Predicts next leader will be an outsider. Telegraph notes he did not rule himself out.
- Telegraph expects Fulham by-election on April 10 or 17.
- Michael Foot to write pen portraits of his contemporaries for the Guardian.
- Hugo Young says in Norman Tebbit you have appointed a man devoid of every quality as party chairman
- Malcolm Rutherford report in FT on Norman Tebbit.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Ted Knight appeals for a whip round to help rate rebels meet court penalties.
- Mirror says the 81 Labour councillors who lost their legal fight against surcharges and loss of office have no one to blame but themselves. They knew they were breaking the law. The damage they are doing to the prospect of a Labour Government is immeasurable.
- Express says the Left's uproar over the court's penalties on rule rebels is most revealing about Labour's attitude to law. They are not, as the left says, being punished because they took a political stand against the Government, but because they broke the law.
- Mail says Left's campaign to get a cash indemnity for banned councillors has plunged Kinnock into a bitter new conflict.
- Telegraph says another 311 Labour councillors on top of 81, could face surcharge and disqualification. Kinnock faces Left's fury on surcharges.
- Telegraph says the Audit Commission would only be dabbling in politics if it did not pursue all cases of councillors who delayed making rate.
- Islington sacks a housing official for sexual harassment - calling a female colleague a liar.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CONT'D)

- Guardian says the absence of an awareness of the limits of the mandate conferred on the leadership in Lambeth and Liverpool is part of what has brought its councillors so low. If Labour Party is beginning to learn that lesson it could become healthier.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- New guidance from DHSS for prescription of pill to under-16s.
- EMA shocked by doctors' involvement in torture across the world.

EDUCATION

- Sun on Bradford's difficulty in finding a headmaster to replace Ray Honeyford, asks what self respecting teacher would want a job where he can be sacked for opening his mouth?
- Express leader says the Government has failed to improve standards in our schools. And it says Chris Patten's comments on the need to teach ethnic minorities their culture shows why. Parents want schools to teach their children in the three Rs. This Government should be immune from Mr Patten's kind of pernicious progressive twaddle.
- George Gale, in Express, says Norman Tebbit would do the country more good as Secretary of State for Education than as chairman of the party.
- Mail accuses ILEA of cutting intakes to most popular and effective schools and artificially preserving those half empty - reverse discrimination.
- Rector of Glasgow writes to students urging them and their parents to protest to MPs about Government cuts.
- Guardian one of few ^{papers to} cover inquiry into pay and conditions of Scottish teachers.
- NUT to accept invitation to today's talks at ACAS.
- Universities offer 8% to manual workers.

EC

- Plan to sell off £7m worth of butter cheap to Libya outrages Tory MPs - Winterton and Teddy Taylor.
- Euro MPs campaigning to end tolls on roads built with Community subsidies.
- More than 80 holiday beaches in Britain are close to places where raw sewage is discharged into the sea - according to Holiday Which?. We are dodging EC rules on pollution.

RUSSIA

- Reports that double-agent Yurchenko who re-defected to Russia has been executed by KGB. Express, however warns us to be on our guard - Russia might just produce him to embarrass West.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Barclays says it is halting all new investment into South Africa.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Tape purporting to show rank and file RUC officers are hostile to Anglo-Irish Agreement played to reporters.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling addresses High Peak Business Club's Farming Section; later addresses Cumbria Poultry Forum annual dinner
- DEM: Mr Clarke visits Nottingham
- DOE: Mr Baker visits Basingstoke
- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe visits Scotland
- HO: Mr Hurd visits NACRO, London; later visits Greenwich YTS
- SO: Mr Rifkind meets Principal of Jordanhill College of Education, Edinburgh; later hosts reception for careers service, Edinburgh Castle
- DTI: Mr Channon opens Apricot Centre, Birmingham
- MAFF: Lord Belstead visits Gleadthorpe EHF and Nottingham divisional office
- MOD: Lord Trefgarne visits RAF Leconfield and RAF Newton
- DES: Mr Patten visits Abingdon and Nuffield Colleges, Oxford
- DHSS: Mr Whitney visits Rugby
- DHSS: Lady Trumpington visits Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, Sandwich, Kent
- DHSS: Mr Newton attends 'Fit For Work' award campaign, Chelmsford
- FCO: Lady Young addresses the Anglo-German Association AGM
- HO: Lord Glenarthur visits Bedford Prison; later addresses annual dinner of Prison Medical Association
- SO: Lord Gray attends NFU AGM, Aviemore
- SO: Mr Stewart hosts seminar on 2 year YTS in Scotland, Edinburgh; attends grand final of Heriot-Watt/Hewlett Packard/BP competition, Edinburgh
- SO: Mr Ancram addresses Institute of Housing annual conference, Dunblane Hydro, Perthshire
- WO: Mr Robinson visits Welsh Water Authority, Brecon; speaks at Builders Employers Conference dinner, Newport
- WO: Mr Roberts visits North Wales Nature Conservancy Council, Bangor
- DTI: Mr Pattie visits Sheffield University - opens new IT Institute
- DTP: Mr Mitchell guest of honour and principal speaker at Institute of Mechanical Engineers' Railway Division annual luncheon, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- WO: Mr Edwards departs on inward investment mission to Far East (Korea, Japan)

TV AND RADIO

"Out for the Count"; BBC Radio 4 (11.00): Georgina Ferry examines children's numeracy problems

"A Question of Economics"; Channel 4 (14.30): Examines the nature and style of British management

"Ebony"; BBC 2 (19.30): Looks at the development of the black arts movement in the context of the GLC's abolition

"A Week In Politics"; Channel 4 (20.15): Includes a report on the Conservative Party in Scotland

"Any Questions?"; BBC Radio 4 (20.45): With Mgr Bruce Kent, Max Hastings, David Penhaligon and Jessica Martin
