

18 March 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Budget Day

Foreign Secretary meets GCHQ unions

EC Internal Market Council, Brussels

World Health Organisation International Conference of Health Ministers on Drug Misuse, London (to March 20)

Reagan/Mulroney bilateral on acid rain

OPEC meeting continues, Geneva

Public Inquiry at Tillingham Hall, Essex (pressure on Green Belt)

National Association of Youth and Community Education Officers conference, Warwick University (to March 20)

STATISTICS

CSO: Index of output of the production industries (January)

CSO/HMT: Public sector borrowing requirement (February)

HO: Statistical Bulletin: Immigration statistics (Q4-1985)

OPCS: Live births, stillbirths and deaths: registrations 28/12/85-31/1/86

PUBLICATIONS

NAO: National Audit Office - Crown Estate Abstract accounts 1984/85 (11.00)

NAO: National Audit Office - ACAS Certification Officer, central arbitration Committee accounts 1984/85 (11.00)

HMT: Reform of personal taxation (after 15.30)

HMT: Financial Statement and Budget Report 1986 (after 15.30)

HMT: Supply estimates summary and guide (after 15.30)

HMT: Supply estimates 1986/87 for year ending 31 March 1987 - Class XX B Vote I National Audit

PAY

DEM: Local authority designated chief officers and deputies; (5,400); claim to be presented; settlement date 1.7.86

PARLIAMENTCommons

Questions: Employment; Social Services, Prime Minister

Business: The Chancellor of the Exchequer will present his Budget
Budget Debate (1st day)
Motion on the Housing Support Grant (Scotland) Variation
(No 2) Order
Debate on a Motion on the Second Report of the Privileges
Committee in Session 1984/85 (HOC Paper No 555)

OPPOSED PRIVATE BUSINESS

The Lothian Region (Edinburgh Western Relief Road) Order
Confirmation Bill

Adjournment Debate

MOD vehicle depot, Hilton, Derbyshire (Mrs E Currie)

Lords

Marriage (Wales) Bill (HL): Third Reading
Law Reform (Parent and Child)(Scotland) Bill: Committee
Local Government Bill: Third Reading
Legal Advice and Assistance (Financial Conditions)
Regulations 1986: Motion for Approval
Prayers against 3 Legal Aid and Legal Advice Regulations
Housing (Scotland) Bill: Second Reading
Parliamentary Constituencies (England)(Miscellaneous
Changes) Order 1986: Motion for Approval
Highways (Amendment) Bill: Second Reading
ROYAL ASSENT

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGEST

Newspapers dominated by prospect of Royal Engagement this week.

RAPE

- Row over Geoffrey Dickens MP naming doctor alleged to have raped girl 8. Attorney General says doctor will not be prosecuted.
- Speaker prevents Mr Dickens naming the Humberside vicar accused of sex offences against children; Sun devotes a page to vicar's alleged exploits without naming him. Mr Dickens claims he has been gagged by the Establishment.
- Sun says when Dickens named the doctor he was honouring the first duty of an MP to seek the redress of private and public wrong and the Attorney General's decision not to prosecute becomes inexplicable as fresh facts are revealed.
- Mirror accuses Mr Dickens of a squalid campaign to be prosecutor, judge and jury and says it got the treatment it deserved yesterday. Accusing without evidence was McCarthy's technique - Dickens is no better.
- Today says the vicar in the case has a rich lifestyle and owns a video shop; it adds that Chief Whip has been asked to rebuke Mr Dickens because he has gone too far.
- Mail says it was the first time in living memory that the Parliamentary device of naming someone in a Question was denied to a backbencher; leader says that in voicing bottled up sense of injustice, Mr Dickens is clearly doing a public duty. But he should have consulted other MPs concerned.
- Telegraph: Sketch writer says "Bunter" came a cropper in the House.
- Guardian says the only law Mr Dickens furthers, in the absence of evidence or charges, is the law of the lynch mob. The whole Commons, and not just the Speaker, should sit on him.

BUDGET

- The Budget nerves hit £ and send share prices into reverse.

- Today: Leader says we are two nations and growing apart. Unless the Government soon demonstrates creation of jobs is the overriding priority, despair will turn to anger. You and Chancellor seem to inhabit a different world from us. He should abolish NIC; spend more on infrastructure; ensure a job for those out of work for more than a year; and spend more on training. Peter Kellner, writing elsewhere, urges end to mortgage tax relief.
- D/Star: Nigel aims to cut dole queue; and it wants the Chancellor to bridge the gap between the better off and low paid in tax treatment.
- Sun fixes on the figure 95 - the percentage of taxpayers who lose a bigger slice of their earnings in income tax and NI contributions than they did in 1979.
- Mirror: Chancellor's plans at risk from price fall - oil crisis threatens Budget chaos.
- Today says an extension of Job Start will be announced. Gives a colour feature guide to 7 years of Tory rule.
- Andrew Alexander, in Mail, hopes there will be no more tax privileges for home owners; the house market needs no boost at all.
- FT: Output growth is likely to slow for early 1986 and unless it accelerates again it is difficult to see any reduction in unemployment, says the MSC.
- Guardian says Michael Heseltine has made a pre-Budget appeal to the Government to turn away from radical Right wing policies to correct the imbalances and injustices in our society.

- FT: Business in the shops remained buoyant last month as extreme cold weather helped retail sales to better than expected levels.
- Guardian says Egypt has told OPEC to ignore UK because it is not the key to prices.
- FT: OPEC made no visible movement yesterday towards breaking the deadlock over whether or not to resume efforts at restraining output in a bid to raise prices. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait still feel that nothing can be achieved without the cooperation of Britain and Norway.
- The Low Pay Unit says 47% of workers in West Yorkshire earn less than the Council of Europe's "decency threshold".

POLITICS

- Ulster Unionists to field a candidate in Fulham.

GCHQ

- Hugo Young, in Guardian, describes GCHQ as your most unnecessary folly and claims you wilted on the issue.

B/AIRWAYS

- Lord King denies he has put forward a management buyout. Nicholas Ridley hopes the sale will go through in next financial year.
- Sun says Lord King yesterday claimed BA would be sold off by the end of the year.
- Mirror says Lord King wins in row over privatisation. You gave a firm promise BA will be offered for sale before the end of the year. He emerged from your meeting with what he wanted.
- Mail says King flew into turbulence at No 10, and was forced to accept the Government's timetable. Emerged saying "I learned the Prime Minister is very much in charge". He climbed down, buckled under and did an about turn (on management buyout).
- Telegraph: BA privatisation rift patched up by your meeting. City Page finds the management buyout that never was is a curious tale and a highly unsatisfactory way of selling major state assets.
- FT: Lord King yesterday bowed to Government pressure and dropped any idea of a management buyout. You and Nicholas Ridley are furious at what is regarded as a clumsy public relations exercise by BA.
- Guardian: King adopts low profile on management buyout and tries to defuse row; leader says the reason why you have postponed privatisation is that you do not want the "flagship of popular capitalism" to take off in a blaze of glory only to crash land in a Bermuda triangle for unfettered competition in run-up to next election.
- Times leads with B/Airways chairman playing down buyout move; leader finds a sort of peace has broken out between King and Government, but it looks like a remarkable failure of political nerve.

INDUSTRY

- 4,000 people have died in home fires in Britain in last 10 years because foam used in their furniture was dangerous.
- Government has reached agreement with tobacco industry for tougher health warnings on packets.
- Director of furniture firm, Price Slasher, who has gone bankrupt with debts of £1m has to flee wrath of angry housewives who kick and punch him at meeting of creditors.
- Chunnel concession agreement signed.
- GEC and Siemens of West Germany are to form a joint lamp and lighting company.
- Work on a £2.5bn sewage system for Cairo could sustain more than 20,000 jobs in Britain, says a report by consultants.
- FT: Britain's leading money and foreign exchange brokers yesterday called for abolition of the Bank of England rules which forbid close links between a bank and a broker.
- FT: The world's merchant fleet declined for the third successive year to 416.3m gross tonnage, according to Lloyd's Register.
- Sealink and Belgian partner will this week try to settle a row which has led to Sealink being barred from Belgian ports since January.
- NUM claim the loss of another 40,000 jobs will result if CEGB is allowed to import 30m tonnes of coal.

BL

- Managers, according to Telegraph, say their bid is being ignored; not had any negotiations on their offer over last week.
- A Japanese rival to Land Rover is being launched by Susuki with indirect help from Bedford, GM's subsidiary.
- Guardian reports Lancashire Enterprises, job creation firm set up by Lancs CC, launched a bid for truck operations yesterday.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- BMA claims doctors fail to identify correct cause of death in as many as 25% of cases.
- FT: Norman Fowler has formed a group of people to advise him on marketing personal pensions.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Hackney accused of 'incredible waste' spending £17,000 a year on average on children in care - three times fees at most expensive public schools.
- Telegraph wants Government to ensure rigorous controls on publicity spending in local government legislation now before Lords.

EDUCATION

- High Court judge bans Left wing students from demonstrating at a lecture tonight by Professor John Vincent, Sun columnist.
- Police had to clear a path through 600 demonstrating students in Swansea; meeting of council delayed by 25 minutes.
- Chris Patten says teachers had lost respect over their pay dispute; there will be no extra cash without higher standards. Telegraph sees his remarks as an effort to restore public confidence in schools.
- National Consumer Council says parent teacher associations are failing to set up genuine links between school and home.
- Teachers walk out of Isle of Dogs school as 3 pupils, suspended for intimidating Asian teacher, are allowed to return.
- Telegraph leader says it is high time education came in from the cold and was treated as a proper subject for full Cabinet policy-making.
- FT says Christopher Patten offered an olive branch to teachers' unions. He stressed the need to build bridges and clear up misunderstandings.

LAW AND ORDER

- Hooligans open fire on express train at Doncaster with air guns and smash outer panes of double glazed windows.
- West London policeman in court this week on mugging charge.
- Mail says Norman Tebbit yesterday blasted the Labour Party for being indirect accessories to rising crime. Pressure on police by Left wingers means householders are being left unprotected.
- Princess Anne criticises conditions in Britain's jails and says the conditions make it well nigh impossible for the most dedicated and conscientious prison officers to achieve any kind of rehabilitation.
- Mail says almost daily evictions of Greenham Common women from camp sites is paying dividends in dwindling numbers of demonstrators.
- Government to apply for extradition from US of Lloyds underwriter, Peter Dixon, accused of £7m fraud.

DEFENCE

- Foreign Secretary tells Russia to cut out the propaganda and deliver the goods on nuclear arms reductions (Express).
- Express praises Foreign Secretary for saying "Simply making Europe safe for conventional war is no way to preserve our children's future." Nuclear disarmers make war more not less likely and while they may not admit it, they are warmongers.
- Guardian sees Foreign Secretary lining Britain up behind Reagan.
- FT: Sir Geoffrey Howe spells out the Government's reasons for rejecting Soviet proposals leading to a freeze in the British and French nuclear deterrents.

SPORT

- Scottish boxer in coma after bout dies without regaining consciousness.

PEOPLE

- Glub Pasha dies.
- Wolverhampton Labour councillor wants "Land of Hope and Glory" banned as racist.

FRANCE

- Mitterrand to invite Right winger to form Government today. Express sees out come as an awful warning against proportional representation.
- Bomb rips open first class carriage of Paris Lyon express: 10 injured.
- Armed Forces on the alert to airlift French community out of Lebanon.

SWEDEN

- Swede charged in connection with murder of Olof Palme.

SINGAPORE

- "Heroic" British and Irish tunnellers save 5 more from collapsed hotel.

EEC

- FT: The European Court yesterday accepted that the UK had a prima facie case in legal objections to the Parliament's imposition of a £380m increase in the 1986 Budget.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

MAFF: Mr Jopling meets Dutch Agriculture Minister, Mr Braks, London

DES: Sir Keith Joseph launches a local collaborative project, Nottingham

DHSS: Mr Fowler, Mr Hayhoe and Mr Whitney attend Conference on drug
misuse, Lancaster House

MAFF: Lord Belstead attends Wildlife Link meeting, London

DOE: Mr Waldegrave hosts dinner for Mrs Surlien, Norwegian Environment
Minister (Mrs Rumbold attends)

DOE: Mr Tracey meets delegation of Mexican journalists, London

DOE: Mrs Rumbold visits The Broads

DOE: Mr Patten lunches with British Aggregate Construction Materials
Industries

DTI: Mr Pattie visits British Hydromechanics Research Association,
Cranfield

DTI: Mr Butcher presents National Accreditation Council Certificate,
London

DTI: Mr Morrison addresses Southwark Business Club, HOC

DTI: Lord Caithness visits London Wharfingers Association

DTP: Mr Mitchell attends Central Transport Consultative Committee
lunch, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

MAFF: Mr Gummer attends EC Fisheries Council, Brussels

DTI: Mr Clark attends EC Internal Market, Brussels

TV AND RADIO

"The Parent Programme"; BBC 1 (14.15): Gives a guide to playgroup,
nursery school and day care provision for the under-5s

"Budget '86"; BBC (15.00): David Dimbleby presents live coverage of the
Budget with analysis and comment - interviewees include Norman Willis and
Sir Patrick Meaney

"Budget Special with Jimmy Young"; BBC Radio 2 (15.00): With Dominic
Harrod

"Budget '86"; ITV (15.00): Alastair Burnet presents highlights of Mr
Lawson's speech and reaction from industry, unions and the general public

"The Budget"; BBC Radio 4 (15.15): The Budget speech direct from the
House of Commons, followed by comment from the Rt Hon David Howell, the
Rt Hon John Smith, Alan Beith MP and others; followed (18.00) by PM
Budget Special with contributions from the Rt Hon Roy Hattersley and the
Rt Hon David Owen

"Years Ahead"; Channel 4 (15.45): Programme for the over 60s includes an
item on state pensions

TV AND RADIO (Cont'd)

"File on 4"; BBC Radio 4 (19.20): A range of education issues are raised in a visit to a Clwyd maintained secondary school

"South East Reports"; BBC 2 (20.00): "Street Kids" reports on London's homeless young people

"Medicine Now"; BBC Radio 4 (20.00): Geoff Watts reports

"4 What It's Worth"; Channel 4 (20.30)

"Budget '86"; BBC 1 (21.30); ITV (22.30); BBC 2 (22.35); BBC Radio 4 (22.40): The Chancellor of the Exchequer
