

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

HM The Queen opens Wigan Pier Development; later opens Greater Manchester Exhibition Centre and the Greater Manchester Police Communications and Computer Complex

Prime Minister meets with DTI's Board of Trade to commemorate their bicentenary

Scottish Secretary addresses COSLA conference, Peebles

STATISTICS

CSO: Gross Domestic Product (4th qtr-prov)

CSO: Tax and Price index (February)

DEM: Retail prices index (February)

DTI: Sales and orders in the engineering industry (December)

PUBLICATIONS

FCO: EC No 11(1986). Pre-accession Protocol to Agreement between EC and Portuguese Republic with exchange of letters (14.00)

DTI: "British Business" - includes feature on DTI's bi-centenary

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS
Voluntary National Service, Youth Training and the Reserve Forces (Sir Philip Goodhart)
European Co-operation on High Technology Industries (Mr T Wood)
Sport for the disabled (Mr J Watts)
Adjournment Debate
The report of the inquiry into the death of Michael Martin (Mr G Bermingham)

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTECONOMY

- £ goes above \$1.50. More building societies cut mortgage rates. FT index above 1400 for first time. Telegraph says there is a foreign rush to buy shares in British firms.
 - D/Star praises Job Start programme and rejects criticisms that £500m is not all that much to fund it and that it will find only 30,000 jobs; every effort that gets people back to work is well worth the time and money.
 - Sun says that for his Budget performance on TV, Hattersley deserves the title of Biggest Political Shyster in Britain. The people in middle salary ranges will have to foot the bill for his madcap borrowing scheme. And there is no magic formula for curing unemployment. What he offers the voters is voodoo, claptrap and lies.
 - Express says shops are expecting another boom; leader says record FT index is a reflection of the optimism at our economic prospects; George Gale says few Budgets have been received as well. It didn't do much but it did it very well. If the Tories win the next election, as Gale expects, chief architect, apart from you, will be Chancellor.
 - Anglican clergyman and University academic, Philip Regan, says Chancello missed an opportunity to trade new tax privileges for charities for better accounting practices and efficiency in charities.
 - David Watt, in Times, says you and Norman Tebbit will win the argument over the next manifesto because the "wets" have a fatal difficulty - not seen to have answer how to avoid Heath's interventionist fate.
 - Times says Chancellor's new found enthusiasm for profit sharing is too precious a commodity to be dissipated in the ponderous process of consultation. A minimum of consultation is required to explore the practicalities. After that he should act - and quickly.
 - FT leader on the sketchiest part of Budget speech - monetary policy - says it shows monetary strategy, originally centre of Government's economics, is now so arcane that Parliament can't be entrusted to listen. The plain fact is that it is in a total mess.
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- Still no sign of production/price agreement in OPEC.
 - Telegraph says spending Ministers believe their chances of getting bigger budgets have been lessened by the wide acclaim given to tax cuts.

PETROL

- You are portrayed as urging motorists to boycott those companies which pass on 7.5p tax.
- Sun says Esso and Mobil hold key to your war against "greedy petrol barons". You are considering asking Paul Channon to refer offenders to Monopolies Commission.
- Mirror leader wants to know what the Government is going to do about it. There is an open and shut case against the companies for operating a pricing monopoly and you should instruct Paul Channon to ask OFT to investigate.
- Today says there is one answer - shop around and boycott the offenders. The pricing policies of the oil companies are a deep mystery.
- Express and Mail say you called for a boycott of oil companies which pass on VAT increase. Express leader says motorists should need no prompting. It is still baffling to ordinary people why Germans should have enjoyed a 35% cut in petrol prices over last six months while prices have declined here by a mere 12%.
- Mail calls on motorists to teach the oil moguls a lesson by going out of their way to buy from Esso which has kept its prices down.
- Telegraph leads with "Oil firms challenged by Thatcher. Esso holds key to petrol rise". But Esso might pass on part of tax rise. Shell and BP uncomfortable and surprised. Leader says our profound distrust of oil company pricing policy is justified. Chancellor was right to insist they had no reason to pass on tax increases. If there is the faintest suspicion of a cartel the OFT should not hesitate to investigate.
- Guardian "Oil profits anger PM". Leader suggests oil companies are only responding to the very market forces which you so regularly extol. No one comes out of this well. Pretty naive of the Chancellor. Shell, BE have drawn attention to oligopolistic nature of oil market.
- Times puts the story on P2 and covers it briefly.

BL

- Compromise deal expected to be announced next week.
- Sun says GM will not gain total control over Land-Rover - only 49%.
- Today: You are to approve a shared takeover 51-49%.
- Mail says it is all over bar the shouting - it is going to GM on a shared basis.
- Telegraph makes the point that patriotism has not notably been influencing the choice of cars we buy.
- Guardian: Strong indication Government has reached a face-saving 51-49 compromise.
- Times leads P1 confidently with compromise expected to be announced on Thursday. But even 49% would leave GM with effective control.
- FT says GM is close to final agreement over taking control of BL and Land-Rover; possibility of a supervisory board monitoring GM's 100% ownership also canvassed.

INDUSTRY

- Newlyn trawler goes down in hurricane off Isle of Man with loss of all 5 on board.
- UDM to press for 2-year pay deal in coal industry.
- MSC chairman says we are a long way behind our competitors in providing training to improve skills and secure qualifications - several papers head their story: Britain is a bunch of thickies.
- B/Rail to take on extra staff in £10m drive to smarten up trains and stations in London and SE.
- Mirror feature on high pressure direct sales business, the techniques of which, it says, range up to downright lies.

INDUSTRY (CONT'D)

- Telegraph expects Guinness to be allowed to take over Distillers today. Times reports this as being cleared for announcement, too. FT reports announcement today.
- Telegraph in praise of the hard work which has won the production of Peugeot left hand drive cars for Coventry.
- Lord Marshall conceded last night that plutonium from early civil reactors was switched to military stockpile (Guardian) but not since 1969.
- Guardian feature on Klondike fever in Barrow where Vickers sale ends on Monday.
- Times says you are unwavering in your support for the principle of free Sunday trading but MPs who have met you feel you may yield.
- Britoil to cut staff by 10% because of falling oil prices.
- Ford seeking 1800 job cuts this year.

MEDIA

- Today feature says what is depressing about TUC unions is the old fashioned way they have reacted to Wapping. There are few signs they have learned anything from their use of the instrument of slow industrial suicide - the strike.
- Labour MEPs join boycott of Murdoch newspapers.

POLITICS

- David Steel accuses Kinnock of taking on the Militant "tiddlers" and letting the "sharks" get off scot free - withdraw whip from Fields and Nellist.
- Hatton and other 11 Liverpool Militants to go to court today claiming Labour's plans to press charges are contrary to national justice.
- George Gale, in Express, says Heseltine is not enjoying Backbench life and it would not surprise him if he returned to publishing.
- Telegraph says Kinnock has opened up wounds in his party by promising a Scottish Assembly.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Appeal Court stops GLC from giving away £76m before its April 1 abolition - at Conservative instigation; Livingstone says it is a purely party political judgment.
- Today feature on John Banham, Audit Commison, which says he is horrified by the way Liverpool Militants ignored every warning and squandered hundreds of thousands of ratepayers' money.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- BMA says too much Government attention is being lavished on drugs at expense of other problems - alcohol and tobacco.

SCIENCE

- Royal Greenwich Observatory at Herstmonceaux to close.

EDUCATION

- Scottish teachers accept pay deal by massive majority and end strike.
- Mail gives ILEA a pat on the back for being the first to produce a league table for schools' examination results. Outcome is revealing: 14 of top 20 are church schools and 3 have voluntary status.

LAW AND ORDER

- D/Star names and uses picture of South African born Humberside vicar who has been asked to resign but whom the Church can't sack. Sun says DPP is considering case against him. Mail features parish but does not name vicar.
- Times says Scotland Yard has 16 senior teams ready to deal with riots this summer.
- Doctor at centre of child rape case row in Essex to keep his job as hospital consultant; says he is completely innocent.
- Another child bride case - Arab student living with 13 year old wife in Luton; new rules against them to be rushed through before Easter.
- Man, 24, accused of being involved in Ealing Vicarage rape case on a life support machine after being found in coma in cell.

PEOPLE

- Your interview with Italian TV - and references to loneliness at the top - covered.
- A big piece in the Sun and Today leads P2 with it and Mail has a good show.
- And a very large piece - a column long - in Telegraph taken from the interview.
- Even the FT covers it.

- Sun says you back its columnist Professor John Vincent who is subject to harassment and criticise Kinnock for his failure to denounce it.
- Nancy Reagan's 'plane slips off runway, but no-one hurt.

ROYAL

- Miss Ferguson's stepfather, an Argentinian, says he is coming to the wedding.

FRANCE

- Chirac taking over as Prime Minister.
- 1 killed, 29 injured, in Champs Elysees bomb blast.

EC

- Telegraph says EuroParliament has decided against any significant cuts in the costs of its extravagant overseas trips.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

- Briton is hosting top level talks with black and white South African leaders this weekend at Wiston House; Lynda Chalker pulls out after protests from South Africa.

NICARAGUA

- Reagan denied \$100m aid to Contras by Congress; but says he will struggle on.

LIBYA

- Claims that WPC Fletcher's killer was executed when he returned home.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Lord Young visits Merseyside

DOE: Mr Baker attends opening of Greater Manchester Exhibition Centre

HO: Mr Hurd opens Leeds Probation Office; visits West Yorkshire Probation Service

SO: Mr Rifkind addresses Fishing '80 Exhibition, Glasgow; addresses COSLA conference, Peebles; gives interview to Radio Forth and also BBC TV, "Reporting Scotland"

DTI: Mr Channon chairs Board of Trade meeting (Mr Clark attends)

MAFF: Mr Gummer addresses National Pig Awards, London

DEM: Mr Trippier visits Local Enterprise Agency, Yeovil

DOE: Sir George Young opens Barratts housing scheme, London

HO: Lord Glenarthur visits Heathrow Airport

HO: Mr Mellor addresses Dorset branch of Magistrates Association .

SO: Mr Stewart addresses Scottish Council of Independent Schools; later opens forum for Scottish Council for Research in Education, Edinburgh

SO: Mr Ancram attends 'topping out' ceremony, National Library for Scotland, Edinburgh

DTI: Mr Morrison visits Yorks & Humberside (all day)

DTI: Mr Butcher visits Warwick Executive Services

DTI: Mr Pattie opens Taylor Woodrow Construction new computer services centre, London

DTI: Lord Lucas attends Newbury Industry Year lunch

DTp: Mr Spicer hosts lunch for Tanzanian Minister of Communications, London

WO: Mr Robinson visits Cwmbran Development Corporation

WO: Mr Roberts opens Brother Industries new factory, Wrexham

TV AND RADIO

"I'm Very Glad You Asked Me That"; BBC Radio 4 (11.00): Patrick Hanna looks at the development of the political interview with Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, The Rt Hon Norman Tebbit, the Rt Hon Gerald Kaufman and Sir Robin Day

"Woman's Hour"; BBC Radio 4 (14.00): Report on Birmingham residents' efforts to discourage soliciting and prostitution because of distress and anger about kerb-crawling

"A Week in Politics"; Channel 4 (20.15): Last programme in current series includes a review of the Conservative Party over the last three years including an interview with the Rt Hon Norman Tebbit

"Any Questions?"; BBC Radio 4 (20.45): With John Moore MP, Brian McArthur, Geoffrey Robinson MP and Polly Toynbee