

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prince of Wales presents the Export Awards for Smaller Businesses 1986, London

Statement by Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on British Leyland

Home Secretary visits Tottenham

Financial Services Bill - completion of Commons stages (unamended)

Dutch Court verdicts on Irish terrorists (McFarlane and Kelly) expected

Education Secretary appears before Education, Science and Arts Select Committee

Industry, Business and Trade Exhibition, Brighton (to March 27)

STATISTICS

OPCS: Deaths by cause, September quarter 1985

PUBLICATIONS

HOC: 2nd Special Report Trade and Industry Select Committee - the tin crisis - interim report (11.00)

PAY

DEM: NHS ambulance officers; (3,700); settlement date 1.4.86; claim expected to be presented

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Social Services; Education & Science

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Immigration Act 1971 (Amendment) (Mr M Madden)

Gas Bill: (2nd allotted day) 3rd Reading

Motion for the Easter Adjournment

Local Government Bill: Consideration of Lords Amendments

Adjournment Debate

Construction of new offices for the Department of Employment and the Department of Health and Social Security at the south circular road site, Coatbridge (Mr T Clarke)

Select Committees:

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS

Subject: Achievement in Primary Schools

Witness: Rt Hon Sir Keith Joseph, Bt, MP Secretary of State for Education and Science

TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE

Subject: The Budget

Witnesses: HM Treasury Officials

Lords

Law Reform (Parent and Child) (Scotland) Bill: Third Reading.

Peterhead Harbours (South Bay Development) Order Confirmation Bill: Third Reading.

Education Bill (HL): Committee (1st Day).

Local Authority Grants (Termination) (Scotland) Order 1986: Motion for Approval.

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTLIBYA

- US forces operating in the Gulf of Sirte sink a Libyan patrol boat and attack two missile bases on mainland after six missiles launched at US 'planes.
- No American casualties.
- Express leads with "Reagan's revenge".
- FT: The Reagan Administration has made it quite clear privately that it welcomes the prospect of a military clash with Colonel Gaddafi. The US has entered the Gulf seven times since 1981.

GLENHOLMES

- Urgent review of extradition procedures after IRA terrorist's release.
- New warrant sent to Dublin.
- Kaufman says slackness, incompetence and complacency have brought about this discreditable botch up. Calls for disciplining of people at the top or removal from office.
- Home Secretary regrets technical objections.
- D/Star: Tory law chiefs - Home Secretary and Attorney General - admitted they bungled.
- Sun says Douglas Hurd slammed Irish courts for freeing Glenholmes.
- Express: Hurd hints at Irish blame; leader says Home Secretary's statement was totally unsatisfactory and woefully complacent. The failure to extradite her was not regrettable but tragic. There has, as Kaufman says, been slackness, incompetence and complacency. Doesn't anyone resign any more?
- Mail: Not even the most skilled Home Secretary can make a success of closing the stable door after the horse has bolted. All of it points the need for those responsible at DPP to hand over to others capable of ensuring such mistakes do not occur again.
- FT: Charles Haughey has criticised the Dublin Government for blaming Britain for the fiasco. The fault lies with the Irish authorities, he says; in Dublin there is quiet satisfaction that Douglas Hurd did not criticise the Irish authorities despite Allen Dukes's strong attacks on the DPP.
- Guardian says Glenholmes is in hiding and Dublin police admit they have no clues to her whereabouts. Government avoided Parliamentary scrutiny as to who was to blame by fielding Home Secretary instead.
- Times P1: Hurd critical of court ruling on Glenholmes.

YOUR SHARES

- Skinner claims his allegations have been vindicated after Norman Tebbit told him "I look forward to you having that uncouth sneer wiped off you when your attack is put into place very very firmly indeed".
- D/Star P8: Maggie held on to shares.
- Sun P4: Maggie shares rumpus - you move quickly to head off row.
- Mirror P2: Maggie "in the clear". Terse statement refutes allegations you bought and sold shares.
- Today P2: Thatcher counters shares slur.
- Express P20: Storm grows over Maggie's shares. Only last year did you observe the convention that Ministers should hand over their shares to a manager.
- Mail P1: Maggie in firing line over shares. You face stormy inquisition today. Surprising confession you only set up a trust to handle shares last autumn. Why did you wait until then? And what other shares do you hold? Your senior colleagues come away from a meeting yesterday apparently satisfied you have nothing to worry about.
- Telegraph P2: Thatcher replies to smear, but you face an intensified row.
- FT: Story buried away on page 16. Your statement is fully reported - a are Dennis Skinner's comments in the House in which he calls for an inquiry.
- Guardian P1: PM deepens share controversy. Your statement did not live up to advance publicity by Norman Tebbit; diary notes your holding would have to expand to £27m before a declaration of interest as an MP became necessary.
- Times P1: Thatcher denies share deal.
- Morning Star reveals the true level of the story - front page lead promising mayhem for Labour MPs under heading "share owning democracy a la Thatcher".

BL

- Sun says Government dithering makes Hamlet look a model of decision. The tragedy is that your GM takeover idea is the right one. But then because of opposition from small-minded Tory backbenchers and even some Cabinet Ministers, the Government goes into retreat. Please stand by your instincts in future.
- Mirror: For a Government that was never going to perform a U-turn this one is spinning like a top. It has always had one credible claim - it couldn't be pushed around. Now it falls over at the slightest touch. If the only purpose left to it is to win the next election then the sooner it is held the better.
- FT: Paul Channon is expected to make only a holding statement today, as Ministers are still taking stock. Tory MPs believe there will have to be new negotiations with GM. The predominant mood is of confusion and embarrassment. Article by Kenneth Gooding suggests GM really has no alternatives in Europe but to link up with BL.
- FT leader headed 'Irresolute Approach', says Government should renew its invitation to GM; ignoring backbenchers.
- Changes are to be made to the German G-Wagon four-wheel-drive vehicle so that it can compete more effectively against the Land Rover (FT).
- Guardian: Cabinet seeks time - management buy out now accepted as likely; leader repeats - all that BL needed was a government which gave it cash and encouragement to build on past achievement.
- Times leader on the chief obstacle to GM - the perverse patriots on the Conservative backbenches who prefer losses achieved by British to profits won under American management. If sensible economic rationalisation has been averted, such are the unintended results of economic nationalism.

PETROL PRICES

- Government holds out the possibility of legal action if increased duty on petrol is not absorbed.
- Mirror thinks cheaper petrol could be on the way after a slump in oil prices to \$11.75 for North Sea oil - lowest for 10 years. No agreement on production in OPEC and Yamani says some North Sea fields will shut down.
- Telegraph reports a 33p price difference at 2 garages only 8 miles apart in Bristol - £1.59 and £1.92.
- Guardian says Chancellor appears to be winning his war of words with oil companies.

INDUSTRY

- Sun says more than 80% of 1300 Cammell Laird workers queued to buy shares - "phenomenal response" says management.
- Boeing orders £100m worth of components from Shorts.- will create up to 1000 jobs (Guardian).
- Cut of a quarter in real terms in Government grant to B/Rail of £736m.
- Electrical Power Engineers' Association vote against privatisation of B/Gas - dangerous to the interests of electricity supply.
- Today leader on water privatisation says it is a strange candidate. Government needs above all to convince consumers that their interests will be safeguarded. National Trust will demand environmental safeguards.
- Today feature Michael Spicer's efforts to lower air fares by "busting fare fixers".
- Chairman of MSC says directors fail to put sufficient attention on management training; but one boss hits back, according to Mail, and calls Brian Nicholson "a political windbag".
- Trinity House to lose its responsibility as principal authority - going to control of harbour authorities.
- 5% Civil Service pay offer.
- Consortium of 12 builders announce plans for new town" in Hampshire.
- NE MPs step up pressure against MoD plans to give £240m Navy order to Harland and Wolff.
- British Telecom and Du Pont of the US plan to invest £100m over the next 4 years in UK-based joint ventures to produce electronic components.
- Britain's balance of trade in motor industry products deteriorated further last year. The deficit rose by more than 19% from £2.3bn in 1984 to a record £2.76bn in 1985.
- B/Airways averts disruption by reopening pay talks - and threatening to withdraw original offer.
- Guardian says a new clash with nationalised industries is developing with Treasury plans to exert greater influence over them.

MEDIA

- 3 SOGAT members who attacked a van delivering the Sun with pickaxe each fined £500.
- Maxwell print workers who vote to return to work in "censorship" dispute then refuse to cross journalists' picket line.
- A group of UK investors plan to launch a seven-day-a-week national tabloid newspaper in June. It will be fully computerised (FT).

POLITICS

- Express leader says there will be strikes for all come the next Labour Government. A paper prepared for the party for endorsement by the unions says "We need to provide a right to take industrial action, irrespective of its purpose and to protect it against all forms of legal liability". We have been warned.
 - Guardian says Kinnock enlisted Norman Willis's help to ditch a party document which would have removed civil law restriction from strikes.
 - FT: The SDP say 43.5% of voters in Fulham have still not really made up their minds which party to vote for.
 - FT: Labour Party and TUC leaders moved rapidly yesterday to distance themselves from a proposal to remove all legal restrictions on strike action.
 - Guardian says Cabinet is considering overseeing Departmental decisions to ensure environmental interests are protected; White Paper fore-shadowed.
-
- The Constitutional Reform Centre says new conventions are needed to deal with possibility of hung Parliaments.

EDUCATION

- Governor of Islington primary school condemns book in ILEA teachers centre reference section which shows girl sitting on bed occupied by "daddy" and his naked male lover.
- NUT spells out its price for peace (Mail): starting salary of £8000 with minimum of £16,500 after 10 years.
- ILEA accused of finding jobs for the boys for Left wing GLC officials.
- Giles Radice accuses you of intervening to save 7 threatened grammar schools in Gloucestershire (Telegraph).

HEALTH/WELFARE

- D/Star renews its demand - which it says meets deaf ears in Downing Street - for a Minister for Children after case of 3 year old girl who starved to death in London flat. Claims there was no cooperation between NSPCC, social workers and police. Mirror feature on how NSPCC failed the girl.
 - Telegraph says individuals must be prepared to take more responsibility for what is happening in their own neighbourhood. The existence of the NSPCC and the Social Services Department is not an excuse for passing the buck.
 - Guardian says NSPCC is spending £500,000 on 8 London child protection teams in the wake of this latest case.
 - FT: The Government is still dithering over when and how to release a report by its medical and scientific advisers advocating the use of nuclear irradiation to sterilise food.
-
- Consultants at a Luton hospital have given £2000 to support a strike by medical secretaries.
-
- New measures to curb smoking which causes 100,000 deaths a year.
 - Britons drinking twice as much as 30 years ago - 26,500 a year dying as a result.

HOUSING /RATES

- Sun's enthusiastic feature on those who have bought their council houses; says any day now 1 millionth council tenant to buy his home since you came to office will complete purchase.
- Guardian says homeless are being priced out of 90% of London's cheapest bed and breakfast hotels.
- Rating and Valuation Association says average rates rise is 15% - twice what Government was hoping for.

STORMS

- Kill 9 in Britain.

PEOPLE

- Sir John Moores, Littlewoods pools, tries to fight off masked raiders in his home who demand the keys to his safe.

LAW AND ORDER

- Students daub home of Vice Chancellor of Bristol - Sir John Kingman - with "No student victimisation"; 40 students face expulsion over violent clashes in campaign against Professor John Vincent.
- Sun says Scotland Yard have dropped positive vetting of Royal Protection Squads "because of cuts".
- Sun says a social worker, 25, who helped save teenage prostitutes has left her job and become a prostitute herself.
- Mirror says a man who raped and murdered a schoolgirl shortly after being freed from jail is seeking parole from a mental health tribunal, with backing of psychiatrist. Home Office worried.
- Half of the convicted murderers are drunk at the time of the crime, according to Action on Alcoholic Abuse.
- Police who used computer to identify winners in a BP competition face discipline.
- Scotland Yard report of rapid rise of violent military-style Asian gangs in organised crime in Britain.
- Two coal trains in S. Wales ambushed by 50 strong gang during cold spell; fuel then sold for £2 a cwt.
- Guardian thinks there will be a Cabinet row when Lord Hailsham asks for more than 5% for barristers.
- Guardian leader demands a standing independent body to monitor and inspect British policing, as with prisons.

SPORT

- Victims of Bradford City fire tragedy awarded total of £4m.

SPAIN

- Extradition treaty with UK formally agreed.

INDIA

- Says Union Carbide's offer of £350m compensation for Bhopal victims "totally inadequate".

UGANDA

- Gets £1m in emergency aid from us.

EC

- Britain and France at loggerheads over farm prices (Express on Agriculture Council). Mail thinks the arrival of Guillaume as French Agriculture Minister is a change for the worse.
- Telegraph sees appointment of Guillaume as Chirac throwing down gauntlet to London.

USA

- 20 British workers accused of being scabs in N Jersey dispute; arrive from UK for work in middle of dispute.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Unionist leaders ponder your offer (Guardian); struggling to maintain united front.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Lord Young opens "Better Made in Britain" Exhibition, (Mr Channon (DTI) Mr Rifkind (SO) and Mr Stewart (SO) also attend), London; later meets US Ambassador
- DEN: Mr Walker attends Monergy Breakfast seminar, London
- DOE: Mr Baker visits inner city projects, Lambeth
- HO: Mr Hurd visits Tottenham
- SO: Mr Rifkind addresses annual dinner of the Scottish Council Development and Industry, London
- DTI: Mr Channon lunches with Centre for Policy Studies; later addresses Trade and Industry backbench Committee
- MAFF: Mrs Fenner addresses Food and Health Forum, HoL
- CO: Mr Luce visits Plain English Exhibition, HoC
- MOD: Mr Lee hosts Pakistan National Defence College reception, London
- DEN: Mr Hunt addresses Industrial Fuel Economy Group, London
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave addresses Institute of Fiscal Studies, London
- DOE: Mr Patten lunches with RICS
- DOE: Mr Tracey meets Dutch Sports Minister, London
- FCO: Mr Renton addresses Pakistan National Defence College, London
- DHSS: Lady Trumpington visits Dartford Social Security Office
- HO: Mr Mellor speaks at launch of BBC book "Drugs Problems - Where to go for Help"; addresses Society of Chemical Industries on Animals Bill
- DTI: Mr Morrison addresses Motor Industry Conference
- DTI: Lord Lucas attends Small Business Export Awards (BOTB), London
- DTP: Mr Mitchell attends presentation by BR, London & SE Sector, London; later addresses National Federation of Taxi Association Conference Chairmen's dinner, Northampton

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTI: Mr Pattie visits USA (to April 6)

TV AND RADIO

"Years Ahead"; Channel 4 (15.45): Programme for over 60s looks at the impact of the Budget

"File on 4"; BBC Radio 4 (19.20): Profile on Central America, including Costa Rica and Honduras

TV AND RADIO (Cont'd)

"South East Reports"; BBC 2 (20.00): Looks at the effect of Government cuts on the Health Service

"Medicine Now"; BBC Radio 4 (20.00): Report on the state of medical care

"4 What is Worth"; Channel 4 (20.30): Includes items on the dangers of cling film and the medical ability of pharmacists

"Drugwatch Update"; BBC 1 (20.50): Launches the first national directory of services
