

PRIME MINISTER

PRESS

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister attends Centre for Policy Studies AGM

House of Lords rises for Easter Recess (to April 7)

Labour Party NEC (includes full disciplinary hearing against Liverpool Militants)

Arthur Scargill appears before Energy Select Committee

TUC General Council

Chancellor of the Exchequer gives evidence to Treasury and Civil Service Committee on the Budget (16.45)

National Society for Clean Air, Spring workshop, Newcastle upon Tyne (to March 27)

HMS Sheffield launched, Swan Hunter Yard

STATISTICS

CBI: CBI Monthly Trends Enquiry (March)

DEM: Overseas travel and tourism (January)

DEM: Detailed analysis of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators

DOE: Construction - new orders (Jan)

OPCS: Population trends 43 (Spring 1986) (possible)

DTI/
CSO: Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures (Feb)

PUBLICATIONS

FCO: EC No 10 (1986) Developments in European Community - July - December 1985 (14.00)

HOC: 19th Report Committee of Public Accounts on expenditure on motorways and trunk roads (HC 129) (Noon)

HOC: 2nd Report Environment Select Committee - Sports Council (11.00)

HOC: Energy Select Committee - combined heat and power lead city schemes (11.00)

HO: Revised edition of "Tackling Drugs Misuse" published

PAY

DEM: Further Education teachers in England & Wales; (80,400); 40% increase sought in line with Houghton; settlement date 1.4.86

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Scotland; Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Peace Tax (Mr D Canavan)

Debate on Members' Representations on Immigration Cases on a Motion for the Adjournment

Adjournment Debate

Verification in arms control (Mr K Best)

Select Committees:

ENERGY

Subject: The Coal Industry

Witnesses: Mr Arthur Scargill, Mr Peter Heathfield (NUM); officials from NACODS

SCOTTISH AFFAIRS

Subject: Hospital Provision

Witnesses: Officials from the Scottish Home and Health Department and the Common Services Agency

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Prison Medical Service

Witness: Lord Glenarthur, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office

TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE

Subject: The Budget

Witness: Rt Hon Nigel Lawson MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer

Lords

Debate on the burden of rates and the case for spreading this burden in a fairer and more equitable fashion.

UQ on provision for multi-handicapped adults within the community.

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTLIBYA

- Two more Libyan patrol boats knocked out by US and Libyan missile site also attacked. 130 Libyans reported dead.
- You back Reagan.
- West on world terror alert - fears that Gaddafi will hit back in this way.
- Mail says Britain may be target. Telegraph says Gaddafi is stoking up war fever.

- D/Star: If anyone ever deserved a bloody nose it is Gaddafi. The biggest threat to humanity since Hitler. But Reagan should not escalate. While Gaddafi may be a monster, he is not worth a war.
- Mirror leader headed "Stop the madman" says the one person who can control Gaddafi is Gorbachev who should refuse to supply him with missiles and other weapons and tell him he will not get backing for his lunatic adventures.
- Express says Americans are right to defend themselves. Not to do so would be militarily, morally and politically wrong. Had it not retaliated it would have demonstrated the world's democratic superpower could be attacked and insulted with impunity.
- Mail says it is unfortunate a lot of politicians in Western Europe were ready to echo Jesse Jackson's condemnation of US action. Yet US was only asserting freedom of the seas.
- Today leader says restraint towards such an obvious villain as the Libyan leader may be hard to bear but in the wildly unpredictable circumstances of today it is much the wisest thing.
- Telegraph says what needs to be kept clearly in view is the right to use the seas. But the fear of hammering the evil manipulation of Arab despair while neglecting the cause of Palestinian Arabs is based on sound political and diplomatic justifications.
- Guardian: Kremlin backs away. Italy casts doubts on the use of force. Leader says it is one thing to give Gaddafi a bloody nose, but from now on the strategy looks dangerous.
- Times: Leader says the US say that in the longer term the US action will be proved right.
- FT says it is an unwise encounter. It will unite the Arab countries behind Libya - a heavy price to pay for temporary gratification.

YOUR SHARES

- Scandalous, scurrilous - your description of Mail on Sunday's allegations.
 - It looks like the end of the business; FT says Labour do not intend to press the issue because they believe you have obeyed rules and to carry on would look like a smear campaign.
 - D/Star P2: Maggie's fury over smears. Downing Street suspects that you have been the target of a carefully orchestrated smear campaign.
 - Sun P6: Maggie in share row outburst. You are fuming over Mail on Sunday report and tempted to sue.
 - Mirror P5: Very small piece: Shares my affair, says Thatcher.
 - Express P2: Premier slams share deal attack.
 - Mail P2: Angry Premier lets fly over the share 'scandal'. We block off questions and you let fly at your critics with characteristic venom; leader says that while not doubting your denial at being involved in improper share transactions, your claim to have observed scrupulously long standing conventions goes too far. But it was a mistake not to put them in hands of an investment manager until last year. This makes you look careless and does not do you justice.
 - Today P2: Scurrilous share deal claims, by Thatcher.
 - Telegraph sketchwriter says that in the 1983-88 Parliament the Opposition could win no Commons votes so it set out to win scandals. They remain 209 characters in search of a really first class scandal.
 - Telegraph P19: 'I am victim of scurrilous claims' says Thatcher. Nothin but support from Conservative benches.
 - Guardian P1: Thatcher denies share dealing scandal.
 - Guardian leader says: "Enough now has been said of this sideshow. What is more important is Mrs Thatcher's husbandry of the taxpayers' shares. Of that we will be hearing much more".
 - Times: The verdict of your backbenchers is that you have dealt satisfactorily with the issue.
 - Stewart Steven, editor of the Mail on Sunday admits the story was partly in error but is unrepentant. His staff had contacted past and present civil servants before publishing and all had been appalled at the suggestion that you were holding shares in your own name.
- NB: Headline of the week in Associated Newspapers' Mail: "Slipshod Britain.... too many people can't be bothered to get it right."

BL

- Anthony Beaumont-Dark said to be ready to fly to Detroit to try to rescue GM deal.
- Mail says Government should not be blaming GM but its own insensitivity to public opinion.
- Telegraph notes that the Tories are split on the demise of the GM bid. Suspicion of some Ministers that the Government had bowed too readily to patriotic feeling strengthened by reaction of Tory backbenches.
- Guardian: The management buy-out for Land Rover is overwhelmingly likely to succeed now. Some Tory MPs strongly criticise Paul Channon in private.
- FT: The BL Board feel surprise at the outcome. "Government vacillation dismays supporters".

WESTLAND

- Trade and Industry Select Committee give Bristow until 10am to tell them which Tory peers tried to bribe him with offer of Knighthood (Mirror).

INDUSTRY

- D/Star has three cheers for Shorts, Belfast (for winning Boeing order); and Cammell Laird workers for queuing to buy shares in their company.
- £143m to be spent in repairs to trunk roads and motorways next financial year but AA not satisfied.
- Mail reports a Japanese-style strike free agreement paying off: a £10 a week rise for workers in a small glass firm in Harlow.
- Telegraph detects a Northward shift in the search for oil and gas onshore in Britain.
- 1500 new jobs expected in South Wales from NCB Enterprise £3m investment
- Up to 400 of 1400 pilots to be made redundant in cuts announced by Trinity House.
- Times: You have delayed the awarding of a £240m contract for two vessels for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary; Telegraph: A decision on the order is expected before the end of the week after your intervention.
- Times: British Aerospace is to seek full Government backing of about £500m for its share of the work on the next European Airbus.

ECONOMY

- Stock Exchange tumbles record 29.9 points because of failure of OPEC talks.
- CBI reports improved export prospects. Sterling down to \$1.4617.
- Alan Budd in FT review of Alan Walters' book explains how AW has altered his views on money supply and EMS.
- Guardian: "Thatcher pledge fails young jobless". More than half the 24 young people who met you at Downing Street to highlight the problem of youth unemployment are still on the dole.

UNIONS

- TGWU election results today expected to show a swing from Left to moderate control.
- Guardian: Over 200,000 of the lowest paid civil servants are being offered rises of up to £1,000 a year to cooperate with the introduction of new technology.
- Fears of a wave of redundancies as Government announces end of redundant mine workers' payments scheme.

MEDIA

- Sun devotes all its leader space to an attack on Clare Short MP and a defence of its publishing on P3 pictures of nude girls. It says Miss Short wants a killjoy society.
- FT: Readership of Today is declining, according to market research.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Red Ted Knight and 30 fellow Socialists at Lambeth Council give up fight against High Court which has banned them for 5 years.
- Tories claim much of £9bn spent by Livingstone through GLC was wasted.
- Telegraph: Thousands of householders will have their rates increased by more than 15 per cent next month - more than the inflation rate.

EDUCATION

- Sir Keith Joseph saves 7 grammar schools in Gloucestershire.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Mirror special report on the NHS. It claims in the words of Secretary of the BMA that "the Health Service is only surviving because of the willingness and dedication of the staff who appear never to give up". Leader says almost every patient knows emptiness of the Government's boast that the NHS employs more doctors and nurses and spends more money than ever before. It is being deliberately starved of money to finance tax cuts.
- Guardian: A report urges the Government to reveal details of the committee responsible for assessing the safety of 3,500 food additives used in the UK.
- Guardian: Bishops and other Church leaders will oppose the Government in the House of Lords unless it drops some of the more contentious benefits proposed in the Social Security Bill.
- Hospital staff in West Suffolk threatening to strike if a cleaning contract is awarded to a private firm which it is claimed has lost work through inefficiency.
- Mail claims potentially dangerous chemicals used to improve flavour and shelf life of food are hidden from public by Official Secrets Act.

LAW AND ORDER

- Charity founded by "child sex pervert John Tate" is applying to be reinstated (Star).
- Telegraph: Home Office concern over the sharp fall in the number of fines imposed by the courts for indictable offences has led to a new issue of its sentencing guide.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- £40m gold reserves said to have been found in Sperrin Mountains.
- FT: Hopes are fading of further talks between you and the Unionists. Your latest letter is not felt to provide a basis for negotiations.

GLENHOLMES AFFAIR

- DPP orders disciplinary inquiry into failure of warrants. Meanwhile Dutch court rules against extradition of convicted IRA bomber to resume life sentence.

POLITICS

- Labour Party loses High Court case against 12 Liverpool Militants due to appear before NEC today; ruling against use of confidential evidence by NEC because this would be contrary to the rules of national justice.
- Today only one of 6 'pop' papers to mark the 5th anniversary of SDP in leader column (or elsewhere). Telegraph says Owen's darkest prospect is that like Lloyd George he has launched himself on the road to nowhere having split his party.
- Telegraph says SDP and Liberals expect to fight the next election with different policies on defence.
- Guardian: David Owen acknowledges that a Tory General Election victory is possible.

SPORT

- John Smith, chairman of Liverpool, says it is too early for our clubs to return to Euro competition.

LEBANON

- Kidnapped journalist, Alec Collett, said to be seriously ill.

TOKIO

- Hand made rocket attacks - simultaneous - on US Embassy and Imperial Palace.

EC

- Telegraph reports moves to force a Franco-German alliance on farm prices to thwart us.

NICARAGUA

- Guardian: President Reagan last night ordered 20m dollars of emergency assistance for Honduras, sent a top military commander to the country and began an airlift of troops to the Nicaraguan border.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

MOD: Mr Younger opens Kentigern House (dispersal to Glasgow)

DEM: Mr Clarke meets Archbishop Warlock and Bishop Shepherd from Liverpool

DEN: Mr Walker visits "Better Made in Britain" exhibition, London

SO: Mr Rifkind and Mr Stewart visit "Better made in Britain" exhibition, London; later Mr Rifkind addresses annual dinner of the Scottish Council Development and Industry, London

MOD: Mr Lamont visits Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, Aldermaston

DEM: Mr Trippier visits Cullip Glass, Bracknell; later visits Pilkington Bros, London

DEN: Mr Hunt visits Donnisthorpe Colliery; visits Oakthorpe

DOE: Mr Patten visits Leeds and Bradford (re-housing)

DOE: Mr Tracey lunches with New Towns Association

DHSS: Mr Newton visits Douglas Arter Centre (Spastics Society), Salisbury

DTI: Mr Howard attends Chartered Association of Certified Accountants lunch, London

DTI: Mr Butcher attends Mid-West Scrap Association annual lunch, Stratford-upon-Avon

DTI: Lord Lucas visits "Better Made in Britain" exhibition, London

DTp: Mr Mitchell attends meeting of London Regional Passengers Committee, London

DTp: Mr Bottomley presents Local Radio Road Safety Awards, London

DTp: Mord Caithness visits Lee-on-Solent for opening of new Coastguard Maritime Rescue Search Centre by Princess Alexandra

TV AND RADIO

"House of Lords"; BBC 2 (14.35): Live coverage of debate on rates

"File on 4"; BBC Radio 4 (16.05): Repeat of Tuesday's programme

"Out of Court"; BBC 2 (19.30): Looks at the role of the Transport Police

"All Our Working Lives"; BBC 2 (20.00): Reflects on why Britain's productivity and competitiveness fell behind the rest of Europe, Japan and USA

"Diverse Reports"; Channel 4 (20.30): Asks 'Why the space shuttle was ever built'

"Party Political Broadcast"; BBC 2 (20:50): SDP
