

7 May 1986

PRIME MINISTER

THE REMAINDER OF THE WEEK AHEAD

The West Derbyshire and Ryedale by-elections and the local elections dominate the remainder of the week. The main issues and events are:

- Your statement to the House on the Summit (Thursday)
- Aftermath of Chernobyl
- Prison Officers' dispute
- Calcutt Report on Cyprus investigation procedures published (today?)
- Top Salaries Review Board recommendations

Details:

INTERNATIONAL

- US/USSR arms talks resume, Geneva (Thursday)
- Prince and Princess of Wales begin visit to Japan (to May 13)

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

- Councils:

PARLIAMENT

- Commons debates: 10-minute rule Bill: Prohibition of plastic bullets (today); debate on crime prevention on Motion for the Adjournment (Thursday); Adjournment Debate on Vietnamese refugees in Hong Kong (Thursday)
- First for Questions: FCO (today); MAFF (Thursday)
- Select Committees: Trade and Industry: Stock Exchange Council on Westland (today); Social Services: DHSS officials on expenditure on the social services (today); Agriculture: the effects of pesticides on human health (Thursday)
- Lords debates: Debate on motion deploring the Government's inability to solve the crisis in schools (today). UQ on bed and breakfast accommodation (today)

R17ABL

NEXT WEEK PREVIEW

- Monday:
- You meet the Portuguese Prime Minister
 - NEDC
 - Europarliament (all week)
 - CPSA and SCPS annual conference in Brighton to Blackpool (all week)
 - Producer price index (April)
 - Defence estimates published
- Tuesday:
- Launch of proposals for reforming nursing profession
- Wednesday:
- You meet the UN Secretary-General and later Chinese Minister for Foreign External Relations and Trade
 - European Cup Final
 - NUM Receivership hearing, High Court
 - Pay negotiations: NHS admin and clerical grades
 - Mr Lee visits Westland to see roll-out of EH101
- Thursday:
- Association of First Division Civil Servants' annual conference
 - Annual Report of HM Chief Inspector of Prisons
 - Mr Hurd gives interview to BBC Radio 4 "Profile" programme
- Friday:
- You attend Scottish Conference Sports Aid World Jog for Africa
 - Index of retail prices (April)
 - Mr Hurd visits Liverpool police drugs squad

PARLIAMENT (CONT'D)Adjournment Debate

Stockstone Quarry (Mrs V Bottomley)

Select Committees:

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Subject: European Single Act

Witness: Mr Lynda Chalker, MP

Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

WELSH AFFAIRS

Subject: The preparedness of Welsh School-Children for the G.C.S.E. examination

Witnesses: Welsh Office; Welsh Joint Education Committee

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: Westland plc

Witness: Mr P G B Wills, Stock Exchange Council

ENERGY

Subject: Department of Energy's Spending Plans

Witness: Mr Peter Gregson, CB Permanent Under Secretary

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Tax Relief at Source

Witness: Sir Lawrence Airey, KCB

Chairman, Board of Inland Revenue

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Public Expenditure on the Social Services

Witnesses: Officials of the Department of Health and Social Security

ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments

Witness: Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies

TRANSPORT

Subject: Public Expenditure White Paper

Witness: Department of Transport officials

Lords

Debate on the motion that this House deplores the Government's inability to solve the crisis in schools and their failure to recognise the need for greater investment in Education and Science at all levels.

United Nations (Namibia) Bill (HL): Second Reading

UQ on bed and breakfast accommodation.

MINISTERS - See Annex

CHERNOBYL

- Express: Britain is not at risk, experts agreed last night. Half-page Q and A feature on 'Fact and Fantasy', which is reassuring.
- Sun: John Vincent writes, as you cross Britain, signs in Labour areas proclaim "This is a nuclear free zone". "Try telling that to a radioactive cloud!" he says.
- Star: 'No need to panic over Russia's fall-out' - reference to Kenneth Baker's statement to the House yesterday.
- Mirror: 'A-Leak may kill some Britons'. Dozens at risk, say scientist. Reference to statement by John Dunster, Director of NRPB, that "a few tens" of people may die of cancer as a result of the Chernobyl leak.
- Mail: The Government acted yesterday to quell mounting public concern. However, several High Street chemists have reputed a sharp increase in requests for iodine.
- EEC consumer affairs ministers will today take another look at a plan to ban food imports from Eastern Europe.
- Thousands of people are still trying to flee Kiev.
- Times: Residents of Kiev are near panic, with 4,000 queuing for rail tickets.
- While Kenneth Baker has been put in charge of coordinating publicity about the aftermath of Chernobyl, no one minister is in charge of overall coordination.
- Leader says that while coordination seems to have worked at official level, a single minister should have been ready and able to reassure the nation.
- Telegraph P1 lead: 'Nuclear threat is over'. But there are complaints that there is confusion within departments about who is in charge and contradictions between figures issued.
- Guardian: Moscow has revealed the chaos that took place after the accident. It took 36 hours to begin evacuation.
- Reports about radioactivity polluting Scottish lochs and streams threaten the whisky industry.
- Dublin is resisting pressure to demand the closure of Sellafield.
- FT: Soviets admit they underestimated the scale of the disaster.

ECONOMY

- Guardian: Bad money supply figures have dampened City optimism about early interest rate cuts.
- FT: Natwest says base rates could come down to 9% before the end of the year.
- Article by Bryan Gould urges you to continue to resist the lure of the EMS.

BY-ELECTIONS/LOCAL ELECTIONS (CONT'D)

- George Gale, in Express, says tomorrow the country will probably slight you. But come the General Election it will be a different matter. The country's instinct, like yours, is for survival, not suicide.
- Today: The Alliance is poised to score a stunning victory at Ryedale.
- Times: Poll tips Alliance to win Ryedale. And West Derbyshire could go the same way.
- Guardian: Tactical voting will determine the outcome.

AIDS

- Express P1 lead: Aids will be killing 5,000 people a year in Britain by 1990, overtaking road accidents as a major cause of death, says Dr Philip Mortimer of the Middlesex Hospital.

UNIONS

- Sun: Brenda Deans of Sogat is to apologise to the High Court in a bid to retrieve film seized because of the "Wapping war".
- Leader says "Hell will freeze over before we give in to the thugs".
- Mail: A retired naval commander is suing railway unions for a £53 hotel bill he faced when a strike stopped him travelling home.
- FT: Leaders of the First Division Association are likely to reject the 6% pay offer.

MEDIA

- FT: Morning Star to go tabloid next Monday, in bid to survive massive circulation decline.

LAW AND ORDER

- Sun: Doctor charged with rape of 8-year-old girl.

PRISONS

- Guardian: Sir James Hennessy, Chief Inspector of Prisons, is to conduct an inquiry into the prison riots.
- Douglas Hurd says 15-20 per cent of prison resources are being wasted.

TOP SALARIES

- Star: Leader says you fly back to a first-class row over top people's pay. A fair deal on pay should begin with the most deserving cases. Not the most influential.

SPY TRIALS

- Mail: The Calcutt report, due to be published soon, is believed to vindicate all the Army and RAF investigators involved.

DOG LICENCES

- Today: Ministers risk a political storm over plans to scrap dog licences. They are desperately looking for ways to sweeten the pill and avert a backbench revolt. A decision could be postponed for 6 weeks.

BIFFEN SPEECH

- Times: Douglas Hurd yesterday declined to support John Biffen's view that the Labour Party is undergoing a renaissance.

HOUSING

- Times: Lord Hailsham is setting up a working group to consider how legislation could be introduced to create freehold flats.

TV AND RADIO

"Can Horses Sing?"; Channel 4 (16.00): Look back at 1971 film of a one-teacher school in Dumfriesshire

"The Cost of Caring"; BBC 2 (19.20): Features the treatment of cystic fibrosis in St James's Hospital, Leeds

"Groundswell"; BBC Radio 4 (19.45): The lessons to be learned from Sweden's handling of nuclear waste

"Analysis"; BBC Radio 4 (20.15): Spotlight on Saudi Arabia

"Diverse Reports"; Channel 4 (20.30): Interview with Jonathan Porritt of 'The Other Economic Summit'
