

MAIN EVENTS

LAs directly affected by nuclear waste dumping holding press conference, Royal Horseguards Hotel (11.30am)

Inland Revenue Staff Federation annual delegate conference, Blackpool (to May 16)

Department of Education announces PRIME Computers donation scheme to higher education

Launch of proposals for reforming nursing profession

Institution of Water Engineers and Scientists annual conference, Nottingham (to May 14)

STATISTICS

BSA: Building Societies' monthly figures (Apr)

DTI: Credit businesses (March)

DTI: Retail sales (Mar-final)

PUBLICATIONS

DES: PRIME computers donation scheme to Higher Education

DES: Initial Teacher Training intakes up to 1989

PAY

DEM: Local authority manual workers; (1,000,996); claim is for flat-rate increase of £6 per week worth 6.7 per cent on earnings as interim payment pending results of job evaluation study, due Spring 1987; settlement date 1.9.86

DEM: New Towns Staff; (3,700); claim is for £800 increase or 10 per cent plus restructuring of scales 1 & 2; settlement date 1.7.86

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Defence; Employment; Prime Minister

Business: Debate on the Government's first stage response to the first report of the Select Committee on the Environment 1985-86 on Radioactive waste (HOC paper No 191)

MOTION ON THE HONG KONG (BRITISH NATIONALITY) ORDER

Select Committees: EDUCATION SCIENCE AND ARTS

Subject: Museums and Galleries: Form of Estimates
Witnesses: Sir Roy Strong, Director, Victoria and Albert Museum, Sir Michael Levey, LVO, Director, National Gallery, Mr Neil Cossons, OBE, Director, Science Museum, Mr Alan Bowness, CBE, Director, Tate Gallery (at 10.05 am); Rt Hon Richard Luce MP, Minister for the Arts and an official from the office of Arts and Libraries (at 11.15 am)

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Select Committees (Cont'd)COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL
Felixstowe Dock and Railway

Lords: Ullapool Harbour Order Confirmation Bill: Consideration on Report. Latent Damage Bill: Third Reading
Housing (Scotland) Bill: Report
Drug Trafficking Offences Bill: Report

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTJOHN BIFFEN

- D/Star P8: Maggie puts in the stiletto heel; heads off Tory revolt. You are furious at the way Tory jackals have turned on you at the first sign of trouble. Your officials moved in to label Mr Biffen an eccentric maverick.
- Sun P2: Axe threat as Biffen gets biffing. His job on the line, but as one of your most popular ministers he would be hard to sack.
- Mirror P2 very small piece: You did not hide your fury - let it be known that what Mr Biffen says doesn't matter.
- Today P3: Tory big guns blast court jester Biffen. He insists privately that his views match those of many Conservatives.
- Express leader says the Government has always looked at its worst when demonstrating a lack of nerve and conviction. That is why the seductive song of Mr Biffen and his friends should be resolved.
- Mail says you are preparing to spend your way out of electoral trouble on schools and hospital services - these two short term priorities were identified at your lunchtime council of war. Many Ministers and Tory MPs returning to Westminster say local election results nowhere near as demoralising as Opposition claims. Senior Ministers and MPs have bombarded Chief Whip with complaints about Mr Biffen's disloyalty.
- Telegraph P1: Thatcher rejects balanced ticket. You were displeased but indulgent with Mr Biffen yesterday. You gave no encouragement to suggestions made privately by a few Ministers and Tory MPs that you should dismiss Mr Biffen for his disloyalty.
- Telegraph leader agrees with Jock Bruce-Gardyne that Mr Biffen's idea of a balanced ticket is "purest moonshine". But Mr Biffen's counsel is worth attention. But why should it not have been given in private? Possibly because it would not have been listened to. In that case you have another lesson to learn.
- In two views on John Biffen in Telegraph Julian Critchley says if Conservatives are looking to win next time, why not put John Biffen into CCO. Jock Bruce-Gardyne sees Mr Biffen staking his claim as an architect of post-Thatcher Tory party.

JOHN BIFFEN (CONT'D)

- Guardian P1: Biffen's barking provokes dog fight. And Mr Biffen is in doghouse. You evidently consider him a wayward spirit out of truck with the mainstream. Mr Biffen is unlikely to abandon his role as pungent commentator. But Tory MPs regard it as inconceivable you would remove him in the autumn.
- Guardian leader says if your instincts are towards survival you will surely have to react to Biffen/Rifkind calls for increased spending, abandoning tax cuts "which hardly anyone wants" in favour of selected increases in spending.
- Hugo Young, in Guardian, argues you have shot your fox by neutering Hatton and Scargill through legislation, making Labour more respectable. Such is the injustice of politics. As for Mr Biffen, there exists no new Government approach obliterating the old one. What the Government has lost is control over its own future.
- Times P1: Biffen criticism slapped down. You moved yesterday quickly to assert your authority.
- FT: Tories rattled by Biffen's advice to Thatcher. His frankness has puzzled Cabinet and Backbench colleagues who fear he has stretched the conventions of loyalty to the limit, though there is considerable Tory support for his views on the need for higher expenditure. The result has further unsettled Conservative MPs.

POLITICS

- Chancellor holds out prospect of tax concessions worth £5 a week on company profit sharing schemes. Guardian reports an unexpectedly positive response from industry and unions.
- Express believes people would prefer more money to be left in their pay packets than spent by Whitehall and if Mr Biffen and his friends disagree, let them call for higher taxation.
- Conservatives launch pamphlet "Seven Years' Work" hailing achievements. Scottish Tories to issue blunt messages over unemployment and public services.
- Hattersley to tell Labour Party in Bournemouth speech he will impose strict financial disciplines as Chancellor.

ECONOMY

- Factory prices rising at slowest rate for 14 years and raw materials costs fall for 14th month running.
- Electricity prices about to be cut.
- Telegraph hopes of a further cut in interest rates.
- Mail feature says zero inflation is not just a dream, but when it arrives all of us will learn the true cost of money and one thing that will have to give is the actual annual pay increases.

INDUSTRY

- Loss of another 15,000 coal miners' jobs being canvassed because of oil price reductions.
- Kodak making 900 redundant.
- Michael Colvin MP says pubs should have discretion to remain open to midnight.
- Townsend Thoreson to close down Felixstowe ferry unless seamen agree return to work within a week.
- Civil Service plans to offer reduced pensions at 50 instead of 60 to keep up with changing times (Telegraph).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Judge regrets his inability at not being able, on a technicality, to jail the entire Hackney Council, including Mayor, for its "appalling" treatment of a cancer victim - failed to carry out repairs to her council house which was taken over by squatters.

UNIONS

- Postmen offered a new pay rise in last minute attempt before their conference to get a settlement.
- Prison dispute almost over after talks.
- Eric Hammond, EETPU, says if it comes to industrial action they will not hit the old or sick.
- Today says workers at Nissan's car plant in Co. Durham do not want to join a union; only 50 out of 500 want to be in AEU.

CHERNOBYL

- 3 officials at the nuclear plant accused of under-estimating the disaster punished by Communist Party. 8 now dead, 35 seriously ill.
- Sun says thousands of birds in Europe could be wiped out by radiation.
- Today poses and answers 30 questions about radiation and the family.
- Mail says Labour Party leadership is split over nuclear power. Guardian says new Labour statement will rule out PWR and call for a pause in plans for new reactors to assess Chernobyl.

DEFENCE STATEMENT

- Spending to be cut for the first time since you came to office.
- Today says Navy will be in the front line of spending cut-back.
- Mail leader says Michael Heseltine was brilliant at minor economies but rotten at facing up to major decisions. George Younger seems content to procrastinate, too. It sees Trident as the cuckoo in the defence nest - a deluxe deterrent we can't afford. News report headed: "Now the Forces face three lean years".
- Telegraph: Axe falls on defence cash increase; leader sees White Paper only as a first step in re-structuring.
- Guardian: Younger puts Navy in budget firing line.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- D/Star leads with report that Prince Charles' ideas on alternative medicine don't work and some are even dangerous, according to doctors.
- D/Star sympathises with another doctor who describes GPs as "by and large a pretty lazy lot".
- Geoffrey Dickens MP complains about homosexual group offering free week's holiday in Devon to children under 16.
- Guardian says BMA is toughening its stance against alcohol abuse and the drinks industry.

EDUCATION

- NUT to continue to boycott work on GCSE and covering for absent colleagues.
- Sir Keith misses an opportunity to reassure parents that teachers are ready for GCSE by not making more money available for books and teacher training (Today).
- Telegraph says teachers are alarmed at rise of racist attitudes in primary schools, with black children often doing name calling.
- Times says Geoffrey Pattie made a scathing attack on the education system last night as well as lack of firm Government. It will add to general air of Government disarray.

MEDIA

- Printer who tried to push a policeman off his horse at Wapping jailed for 7 days; Sun says there is a lie about Wapping which needs to be nailed - the wicked charge that police are using violence during demos; a charge made by senior Labour politicians. And it claims Kinnock refuses to differentiate between attacks by demonstrators and the action of the police in defending themselves. Its advice for Labour politicians and union leaders: next time you are in trouble call a picket and God help you.

- Lords vote to retain TV.

PEOPLE

- New speculation that Princess Diana is pregnant. Today adamant she is in spite of Palace denials.
- Prince and Princess bringing home gifts worth £100,000, most of which will go to charity.
- Express feature on Mr Tebbit's personal tragedy.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Today, on Tom King's visit to USA, says Reagan's commitment to the extradition treaty is not in doubt but elsewhere in the USA there is a monumental double standard in operation, giving IPA the status of freedom fighters rather than murderous thugs. A refusal to back the new treaty would be incomprehensible and disgraceful.
- IRA attack 3 Belfast police stations with grenades - and miss the lot.

LIBYA

- To expel 36 West European diplomats from 8 countries.

SYRIA

- Sun calls for the closure of their Embassy before we have the same trouble as with the Libyan People's Bureau.

AID

- Glenys Kinnock launches new "One World" campaign to fight hunger and poverty around the world.

HAITI

- Baby Doc alleged to have fled with £232m.

CEYLON

- Tamil militiamen alleged to have shot dead children in power struggle.

FRANCE

- Socialist leaders urge Mitterrand to stand again for presidency in 1988

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Clarke visits Manchester

DEM: Mr Trippier speaks to Institute of Careers Officers

DHSS: Mr Fowler opens new premises of Centre for Policy on Ageing
Ironmonger Row

DTI: Mr Channon addresses Computing Services Association Ltd, luncheon,
London

DTI: Mr Channon addresses Equipment Leasing Association dinner, London,
Lord Lucas also attends

DTI: Mr Pattie opens Cellnet 3rd London Exchange, London

DTI: Mr Butcher addresses British Secondary Metals Association annual
lunch, London

DTP: Mr Ridley addresses Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors'
annual dinner, London

MAFF: Mr Gummer visits Eastern Region (13-14 May)

MAFF: Mrs Fenner addresses Coronary Prevention Group meeting, Sussex
Place, London W1

DEM: Mr Trippier launches Richmond Enterprise Agency, Twickenham

DEN: Mr Hunt visits Peterborough Technical College to view
timber-framed energy houses

DEN: Mr Hunt opens Therm-A-Star timber framed housing project,
Peterborough Technical College

DOE: Mr Patten opens urban development grant scheme, West London

HO: Mr Shaw opens Crime Prevention Officers seminar, Preston

DTI: Mr Howard addresses Midland Industrialists Advisory Council lunch,
London

DTI: Mr Morrison presents Young Enterprise Awards; launches Austin
Rover's "Women In Industry" video, London

DTP: Mr Spicer visits Isles of Scilly (all day)

DTP: Mr Mitchell hosts dinner for Minister of Transport Cameroons,
London

TV AND RADIO

"File on 4"; BBC Radio 4 (19.20)

"4 What It's Worth"; Channel 4 (20.30): Includes future brokers and
mobile home dwellers' rights

"Cash on Delivery"; ITV (22.30): Case study approach to surrogacy

"Brian Hayes Phone-in"; LBC (12.00): Features Norman Tebbit MP
