

16 May 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

HM The Queen opens Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, Egham

Prime Minister attends Scottish Conference

National Bus Company submits their disposal programme to the Secretary of State

EC Informal meeting Education Ministers, The Hague (to May 17)

Amalgamated Textile Workers' Union annual general meeting, Blackpool (to May 117)

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STATISTICS

BSC/BISPA: Usable steel production (April)

CSO: Tax and price index (April)

DEM: Retail prices index (April)

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS on Inner cities; and Island Councils in Scotland

Lords: Motion on the Draft Hong Kong (British Nationality) Order 1986  
Draft Hong Kong (British Nationality) Order 1986  
UQ on the Helsinki agreement

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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CONSERVATIVE PARTY

- Conservatives slump to third place - Labour 37/SDP-Lib 32.5/Con 27.5.
- Norman Tebbit wins at 1922 Committee - says the challenge now is for the Government to show where it is going; Express: Tebbit steadies Tories' nerves - warning the party that the Government must find its way again.
- 1922 Committee attacks John Biffen for his TV interview; Julian Amery says it is absolutely wrong for Ministers to argue in public; Sir Anthony Kershaw also fires into him.
- Joe Haines, in Mirror, says Mr Biffen was telling the Tory Party what they know in their hearts but refuse to admit - you are the main issue in politics.
- Mail asks whether the Tories should switch policy goals - forgetting about lower taxes and spending more on public services. It is unfortunate the Government did not get cracking sooner with reform. It looks as if history's verdict will be that this was a Government of lost opportunities.
- Mail report from Perth says the conference wants to know why a huge gulf of incomprehension has opened up between Government and voters - and how to bridge it.
- Telegraph leads paper with 1922 Committee report: try harder, says Mr Tebbit; criticism defused. You intend to restate your pledge to tax cuts in Perth.
- Guardian says Malcolm Rifkind rallied Scottish Tories.
- Michael Brown MP, in Guardian, says most Backbenchers, while loyal to you, would like to reprocess you; and canvasses the idea of bringing back Parkinson and Heseltine in a great act of magnanimity, with Peter Walker at Education.
- Guardian leader headed "Just one damn thing after another" says the voters no longer understand that any rational plan for the public sector involves gain and losses. It is a factor for future Governments to bear in mind; better education, health, roads, defence, law and order and is not just a question of more resources.
- Times leads with Tories going on attack on job losses and "Tebbit fights back".
- Geoffrey Smith, in Times, says your leadership is not in question at this stage. But can you re-establish your psychological authority? The danger is of your seeming to be yesterday's woman preoccupied with yesterday's problems. You need to disprove that impression in Perth. I will be justified to emphasise how easily the gains could be squandered. And neither the country nor the party should forget what a remarkable Prime Minister you have been. "I doubt if I shall ever again live under a Prime Minister who commands such respect abroad." But elections are not won through gratitude. You have to respond to new anxieties.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY (Cont'd)

- David Walker, in Times, says Scottish Conservatives are apparently proud of Government spending and Government intervention in the economy.
- Malcolm Rutherford, in FT, canvasses Peter Walker as Education Secretary and also a lot of changes in the machinery of Government.

LABOUR PARTY

- Sun says Kinnock had better heed the warning by Alastair Graham (CPSA) about Militant, the only way to smash them is to throw the lot out of party.
- Terry Coleman interview with Kinnock in Guardian.

SDP/LIBERALS

- Express says Steel and Owen last night revealed their election strategy; to sit on the fence - no preferences as between Labour and Tory to be expressed; leader says they see themselves as power brokers after the next election. Is it wise to ask the voters to buy a pig in a poke?

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Mail records another example of heartlessness by Hackney Council; Ombudsman finds it guilty of maladministration in case of pensioner, now 80, allowed to live in squalor for 7 years.

ECONOMY

- Unemployment hits new record but strikes fall to historic low.
- Lord Young warns of the effect of high pay settlements as unemployment - 8.3% rise in labour costs appalling.
- Express leader on "A wages spiral that means dole queue misery" says we cannot escape the consequences of the rise in unit costs as compared with our competitors. We should remember that before rushing to lay the blame for unemployment entirely at the Government's door.
- Gaurdian leads with "Triple blow to Thatcher on economy" - unemployment manufacturing output and unit costs.
- Guardian says Ministers are preparing for the key battle of this your second Administration over public expenditure, with signs that the plans will not be able to contain pressures for increased spending.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Tory MPs - and others - up in arms over plans to cut back mortgage interest relief for unemployed.
- Government to recruit 500 to combat dole fiddling - announced by Norman Fowler last night.
- Mirror says you launched a counter attack yesterday on critics of your NHS policies with a tough letter to Kinnock; Kinnock says it is a repetitive story which does not relate to realities. Telegraph says you signalled your intention to go to "war" over alleged NHS "cuts".

EDUCATION

- Sir Keith Joseph blasts students over denial of free speech - new barbarians.
- Tory MPs up in arms over Bristol University's decision not to expel students found guilty of violently disrupting Professor John Vincent's lectures.
- Girl pupil, 15, who worked in a hotel at Easter, tells her school newspaper of the unruliness and raucousness of the NAS/UWT conference delegates in Scarborough.

TOURISM

- B/Caledonian redundancies spotlight the problems of tourist industry.
- You are seen to criticise stay-away Americans and their over-exaggerated fears of terrorism.
- British Tourist Authority to launch £1m publicity campaign in the USA.
- D/Star leads with "Chicken! Fears over Libya cost 1,000 jobs". US Airline executive admits "the brutal truth" - "they (American tourists) are just terrified".
- Express says tourist chiefs are pinning their hopes on Royal Wedding; but Mail says unions are threatening a blackout on BBC.
- Mail adds that a major American trade mission to Britain has been cancelled because of fears of terrorism - one from Washington state.
- Telegraph leader praises Sadler's Wells ballet company for "a wise rethink" of its decision not to go to Israel. It is up to everybody involved in presenting this country to rest of Europe to redress the balance.
- Times reports a recovery on the way.

NORTH EAST

- D/Star says Middlesbrough is dying on its feet. Undoubtedly in cold economic terms many shipyards simply had to close. But successive Governments have failed to come to grips with the challenge of alternative industry.

INDUSTRY

- Post Office to switch its postal service from rail to road - £13m blow for BP.
- Telegraph says it looks increasingly likely that B/Airways won't be sold off with the slump in traffic across Atlantic.
- Peacock Committee has come down against allowing advertising on BBC TV; instead licence fee should be pegged to the cost of living.

UNIONS

- First Division Association moves towards an early ballot on setting up a political fund.



LAW AND ORDER

- More police to be authorised by Home Office - Express: Police get a boost in the crime war.
- Sun, responding to reports of rise in drink driving deaths among young people, says the idea of cutting breath test limit for young is ridiculous; the sooner the law says none for the road the better.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Former UDR man, 60, shot dead.
- Sun asks US Senators: Can't they see there is no difference between Libyan terrorists and IRA murderers?



PEOPLE

- D/Star profile of Michael Heseltine and his message of "Caring capitalism". His first priority would be jobs and the lack of an industrial strategy.
- Carol Thatcher being sued for libel by Savile Row designer over Tatler article quoting her.
- You are to see Mrs Bonner on May 30.

FALKLANDS

- Mirror pursues the "scandal" of the sinking of HMS Sheffield because its early warning system was out of action because of communications with London - it accuses MoD of deliberately lying.
- Anthony Beaumont Dark MP posing a lot of questions for George Younger.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

MOD: Mr Younger attends Scottish Conservative Party Conference, Perth  
(also Sir Geoffrey Howe)

DES: Sir Keith Joseph attends Centre for Policy Studies conference,  
London

DES: Mr Dunn visits 2 East Sussex schools for the deaf

DES: Mr Walden addresses AUT (Association of University Teachers)  
Council meeting

DOE: Mr Baker visits North West (Regional visit)

HO: Mr Hurd visits Liverpool police drugs squad

HO: Home Secretary visiting Liverpool Police Drugs Squad

HO: Mr Shaw visiting Forensic Science Laboratory, Wetherby

HMT: Chancellor to visit Birmingham and address the West Midlands  
Confederation of British Industry

WO: Mr Edwards addresses Town Planning Institute seminar; opens Land  
Authority for Wales' new HQ, Cardiff

WO: Mr Edwards opens Land Authority for Wales new Headquarters, Cardiff

MAFF: Mr Gummer lunches with French Ambassador

MOD: Lord Trefgarne opens new infantry barracks, Wheeton

DOE: Sir George Young opens British Aerospace Laser Laboratory, Brunel  
University

DOE: Mr Tracey opens Southampton School of Tennis Coaching

DHSS: Mr Hayhoe addresses Conference Commission for Racial Equality  
King's Fund Centre

DHSS: Mr Whitney visits Oxford RHA, Oxford

HO: Mr Shaw visits Forensic Science Laboratory, Wetherby

DTI: Mr Howard addresses Canada/UK Chamber of Commerce Seminar, London

DTI: Mr Butcher visits Hoskins Furniture, West Midlands

DTI: Mr Morrison visits Yorkshire and Humberside (all day)

DTI: Lord Lucas visits North West (all day)

DTP: Mr Spicer visits the London Air Traffic Control Centre, West  
Drayton and the Heathrow Air Traffic Control Centre (all day)

WO: Mr Robinson attends housing association dinner, Newport

WO: Mr Roberts addresses Welsh Libraries Association, Llandrindod Wells

MPO: Mr Luce visits RAE Farnborough

DEM: Mr Lang speaks to Scottish Conservative Conference, Perth

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DES: Mr Patten attends EC Education Council, Brussels

DTI: Mr Clark begins visit to Australia (to May 25)

DTI: Mr Pattie visits Cannes film festival

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TV AND RADIO

"Any Questions?"; BBC Radio 4 (20.45): With David Hunt MP PUSSE Energy;  
Gwyneth Dunwoody MP; Cyril Smith MP; Arthur Scargill, Presidnet NUM

"On Being a Judge"; BBC Radio 4 (20.20): Repeat of Monday's interview  
with Judge Pickles

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