

3 October 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Institute of Transport Administration annual conference, Warrington (to October 5)

EC Transport Ministers informal meeting, London

STATISTICS

DTI: Car and commercial vehicle production, August (00.30)

DTI: Sales and orders in the engineering industries, June (00.30)

PUBLICATIONS

PAY

Police chief officers (300) claim 9%

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DTP: Lord Brabazon visits Leith Forth Ports Authority

DTP: Mr Bottomley visits Crawley

DEM/ Lord Young and Mr Baker launch MSC video "Schools and Your
DES Business"

WO: Mr Robinson presents awards at Wales Council for the Disabled, Cardiff

HMT: Mr Brooke addresses Bargate luncheon club; visits Southampton and hosts dinner for MEPs

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

TV AND RADIO

"Any Questions" with Dr Rhodes Boyson, Joe Ashton, Simon Hughes, Gillian Reynolds; Radio 4 (20.45)

PRESS DIGESTLABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

- Conference votes to get rid of US missiles within a year of coming to office. Polaris and Trident to be scrapped in non nuclear defence strategy.
- B/Telecom to be renationalised at cost price.
- Prescription charges to be abolished.
- Pensions, child benefit and unemployment pay to be boosted.
- National minimum wage to be introduced.

- D/Star report headed "Yanks given their marching orders". Leader, headed "Back to the real world" says for some of the less thinking Labour colleagues the General Election is as good as won. But the message to the Walt Disney Brigade is to think again very hard. Kinnock seems to have forgotten that selling policies is not the same as selling soap powder.
- Sun report headed "Labour's tax grab to boost pensions". John Major says Labour's promised doubling of pensions would cost taxpayers £14 a week each.
- John Vincent, in Sun, says the reality is that if Kinnock becomes Prime Minister he will be the prisoner of the Left as no previous Labour premier has been.
- Sun leader hopes the constituents of Clare Short and Stuart Bell will remember at the next election that they spoke on the same platform as a convicted IRA bomber.
- Mirror: "We'll scrap US A-bases but 'No' to total pull-out of NATO". Joe Haines says defence is the dangerous question for Kinnock. And Conservatives will fight the next election not on their failures but on fears of what Labour will do.
- Today: Deadline is set to expel US missiles; leader says Kinnock must now move to rid Labour of its large surviving nest of Militant pests - he owes his true loyalists nothing less.
- David Owen, in Today, says Labour has been sold like a deodorant to cover the smell of policies no previous leader or Labour Cabinet would have dreamed of implementing.
- Express leads with "Yanks go home, say Labour" - and "Maggie to reveal election goodies". Inside - "Labour to grab back sold off firms". Jon Akass says "Not even Healey dare speak out against the new (defence) orthodoxy".
- Express leader headed "No defence for Labour's sad betrayal" says the party is now gripped by neutralism at best and by venomous hatred of our ally, the USA. It is difficult to imagine a more radical policy save that or raising the white flag. Under Attlee, Gaitskell, Wilson and Callaghan the party knew who were our allies and who were our enemies. That Labour Party is now dead.

LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE (Cont'd)

- In another leader on re-nationalisation the Express says it would be an economic and social disaster and it seems highly likely it will prove electorally disastrous too - ie as well as Labour's defence policy.
- Mail: The no-nuke election. Norman Tebbit warns that weakness could lead to world war.
- Paul Johnson says the moral of this conference is that the facts must never be allowed to get in the way of slogans. No Labour leader can train himself to be Prime Minister until he tells the Labour activists the facts of life. Kinnock's difficulty is that he does not know them himself. The whole of Labour's new defence policy is a tragic exercise in self deception.
- Telegraph P1 lead: "Kinnock's nuclear deadline - US forces must be out in a year.
- Ferdie Mount, in Telegraph, says the principal mark of Kinnock's leadership is its concessive tone - any pressure group making its presence felt can have more or less what it wants.
- Guardian: Kinnock warns NATO allies - won't allow them to deflect him from his non-nuclear course.
- Guardian leader says Labour still has a formidable electoral task to accomplish for which it needs substantially more support than the polls have yet shown. And there are problems in selling defence and nuclear power, plus a mounting pile of commitments to interest groups which it may find difficult to put across and dampen wider public expectations.
- Times: Kinnock hope of no nuclear arms in a year. Geoffrey Smith says the unity that has now been achieved is essentially on the terms of the soft Left. If all the Shadow Cabinet were put on a lie detector he doubts whether there would be a majority for Labour's present defence policy.
- FT: Labour sets out a new approach to economic policy.
- FT: Malcolm Rutherford, with possibly the most politically pregnant observation of the week: "Blackpool and its visitors, by the way, seem to be enjoying a consumer boom of enormous proportions, hardly aware that the conference is taking place."

SOUTH AFRICA

- Reagan suffers reverse when Congress overturn his veto on sanctions.
- Trevor Huddleston says Britain will now insist we come into line.
- Mail leader says the Senate vote spells the end of Reagan's programme of constructive engagement. There is now no prospect of ending apartheid by the power of America's friendly persuasion. It will be now more difficult, though not impossible, for you to resist Commonwealth and EC pressure. No good in the sense of reversing apartheid is likely to come of these measures.

ECONOMY

- Express fears 2% rise in interest rates by Monday - joint intervention failed to support sterling.
- Patrick Minford calls for an end to benefits for those who refuse training; abolition of remaining trade union immunities and a flat rate tax system.
- Guardian says poll shows 50-43 believe Government can do quite a bit to reduce unemployment.

INDUSTRY

- Seamen's union calls on Sealink staff to strike in protest against suspension of Channel Islands ferries.
- Independent report says Sellafield workers are less likely to contract cancer or any other fatal illness than the public at large.
- Dutch attack UK caution over liberalising of air routes.

EDUCATION

- Express says teachers may be offered 15-20%.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- BBC 2 to include AIDS in series on sex problems.
- Reorganisation of NHS Management Board gets little coverage in papers. Guardian "Ministers tighten grip on NHS". FT: Political control for NHS.
- Royal College of Physicians says doctors are demanding and often receiving bribes and lavish hospitality from drug companies.

DEFENCE

- £250m project to upgrade Fylingdales early warning system.

LAW AND ORDER

- Masked youth seen screaming "Kill, kill, kill" in Broadwater Farm riot gets 7 years' youth custody.
- Libyan Airlines flights banned from UK on suspicion of aiding terrorism.
- Witnesses in fraud trials could give evidence on video under new efforts to curb fraud.

RACE

- Brent Tory school governor accused of "racist body language" by Left for looking at her watch and shuffling papers while interviewing black candidate.
- Sun referring to its view that for Left wing councils ideal candidates are black, lesbian, single parent and disabled, says Camden Council is seeking a live-in worker at a homeless girls hostel who is black and lesbian. Two out of four!

BBC

- Times leader on new chairman says Mr Hussey should ask himself what he has to do to protect an organisation which has been given a fresh opportunity to protect itself but seems to have so little will to do so.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Peter Robinson MP eventually allowed bail in the Republic.

RELIGION

- Sun wonders what is happening to Anglicans when a report, written by a clergyman, says "We cannot talk to this Government. Activists must take to the streets."

SPORT

- Today newspaper - "the least successful national to be launched for 40 years (Sun) - new sponsor of Football League in £4m deal.

INDIA

- Gandhi suspends security chief after bungling nearly costs him his life: gunman manages to fire 3 shots at him in 20 minutes.