

24 October 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister hosts dinner for regional editors
Dail meets on confidence vote, Eire
Plaid Cymru annual conference, Llanelli (to October 25)
Hindawi trial probably ends

STATISTICS

CSO: Preliminary estimate of consumers' expenditure (3rd qtr-prov)
DTI/CSO: Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures (Sept)

PUBLICATIONS

M&MC: Monopolies and Mergers Commission - Post Office procurement activities. A report on the efficiency and costs of the Post Office in its procurement activities (15.30)
HO: Prison Disciplinary System in England and Wales (15.30)
DTI: British Film Fund Agency annual report and statement of accounts for year ended 12.10.85 (11.00)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Northern Ireland; Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Prime Minister
Business: Sex Discrimination Bill (Lords): Conclusion of Remaining Stages
Salmon Bill (Lords): Remaining Stages
Adjournment Debate
The supply of essential equipment for diabetics (Mr A Beith)

Select Committees:

Channel Tunnel Bill

Lords

Public Order Bill: Report (2nd Day)

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMISS MCGOLDRICK

- Brent Council refuses to accept High Court ruling and appeals against its judgement that Maureen McGoldrick has the right to her job back.
- Star says the court judgement on Miss McGoldrick confirms the belief that power in Brent lies in the hands of a sinister cabal of Left wing bigots, but it is a pity the judge did not have the right to reinstate her. The council's decision shames them as vindictive bigots.
- Mirror says the judgement puts in their place the blinkered, bigoted and bullying councillors of Brent. The councillors ought to have resigned.
- Express says the most sickening aspect of this case is that Miss McGoldrick's splendid record in a multi-racial school was casually ignored in the rush to brand her racist.
- Mail leads with "Victory - then the bigots act"; leader says Brent's intimidation and harassment by a public authority is inexcusable and intolerable. Inspectors need to be drafted in to review the borough's entire education system; Keith Waterhouse takes the race monitoring industry satirically apart - "Elitist teachers found to be using white chalk on chalkboards in spite of availability of green".

HEALTH

- Woman claiming damages against St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, after discovering she didn't have cancer two years after 9 operations and removal of both breasts.
- Times: The Government is to accept a defeat to the NHS (Amendment) Bill which will allow hospitals to be sued under health and safety laws.

EDUCATION

- National Advisory Committee for Nutritional Education warns of threat to children's health if school dinners are privatised.
- Today says the Commons struck the right balance over sex education. . Peter Bruinvels lists the 12 sex education books he wants banned from the classroom.

HOUSING

- Abbey National follows Halifax in raising mortgage rate.
- FT: Article by fellow of Nuffield College says house prices fuel wage rises. The present treatment of owner-occupants threatens growth, employment and the government's election prospects.

IMMIGRATION

- Sun says now we know that Labour would run an open door policy.
- Express says Home Office ordered an instant ban on visitors from Ghana to avoid another shambles at Heathrow.

LABOUR PARTY

- NEC bars Les Huckfield from fighting Knowsley N and selects moderate local candidate. By election planned for next month.
- Today says the Labour Party did itself a favour by rejecting Huckfield but what about Wall and Nellist who both have similar extreme associations? Labour has a long way to go before it presents the electors with a slate of candidates clean of anti-democratic dictums.

LIBERALS

- Reverse their nuclear defence policy and agree to maintain and if necessary update Polaris until it is negotiated away.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Fighting breaks out at Hackney Council over Labour's bringing Sinn Fein to address them; Liberal member fires starting pistol

POLITICS

- Sun: Poll shows Tories set for victory; Gallup as well as Harris puts you neck and neck with Labour 37.5/37.5/22. Express sees this as a boost for an early election.
- Telegraph says Tories are now back to their pre-Westland position with support up 5% in a month. You are thought most likely to win next election and your personal popularity is beginning to improve - 36% compared with 28% in August.
- Select Committee chairmen to meet on Government's decision re Civil Servants' evidence.
- Guardian says you are blocking a Select Committee's proposal for a new think tank to provide better science advice to Parliament.
- Hugo Young, in Guardian, attacks promotion of John Mogg in a tirade about Government doctrine on the rules governing Civil Service evidence.

INDUSTRY

- John Banham, Audit Commission, to succeed Terence Beckett at CBI. Mirror says he is a man who won your admiration.
- Paul Foot, in Mirror, attacks Nicholas Ridley's unfulfilled promises over Sealink jobs.
- ITM, North Sea services group on Teesside employing 700, goes into receivership.
- Attorney General declines to prosecute stores which open on Sundays.
- FT: BAe has submitted to the government its formal request for between £500m and £700m to enable it to participate in the next round of the European Airbus project.
- By the beginning of this year, about 20,000 extra jobs had been created in Britain's first 23 enterprise zones since they were created, according to DOE.
- Construction orders in the 3 months to the end of August were 11% higher than in the previous 3 months and 17% higher than the same period of 1985.
- Jaguar has won union backing for a 2-year wage deal which would increase the basic weekly pay of many workers by over 20%.
- Leyland Trucks is ready to lay off 1,800 workers because factory stocks are too high.
- Times: Incompetent management, obstructive trade unions and short-sighted governments are attacked by the Archbishop of York in his November diocesan newsletter.

INDUSTRY (Cont'd)

- The Independent says that after two terms of Thatcherite Government the CBI has changed from being a pressure group to little more than a quango. Mr Banham's appointment will reinforce the Government's prime position as industrial policy maker.

- The MSC say that 75% of small businesses started under the Enterprise allowance scheme are still running six months after government grants have stopped (Independent)

ECONOMY

- FT: The Governor of the Bank of England hinted yesterday that the Government may abandon a formal target for the growth of M3.
- Leader says this is unlikely to cause excitement but alternatives are needed.
- Only 200-300 people and a few small pressure groups have voted support for the government's plan to overhaul the tax system after the election.
- Most independent forecasters expect only a small quickening in Britain's output next year, with higher inflation and a worsening trade position.
- FT: Norway is to cut oil exports by 10% for 2 months in support of OPEC's agreement to limit production.

TRANSPORT

- John Moore says the reduced BR subsidy will not mean big fares rises - alarmism unfounded.
- Today says the Government faces a revolt from Tories over the reduction in rail subsidy.
- FT: Leader says in thinking strategically about rail services the government must consider the social costs of the motor car. Everyone wants to see a more efficient BR, but it is not clear that this will be achieved by the present system of financial targets.
- B/Airways is poised to buy out several European independent commuter airlines as the first step to creating a new European international airline capable of taking on the world.

MEDIA

- BBC eliminates Black and White Minstrel Show from golden oldies to mark the 50th anniversary of TV for fear of offending blacks.
- Christopher Monckton in Today, wants libel action to be made easier and the law amended to allow the courts, and not broadcasters, to decide whether a broadcast has broken the law.
- Today and Express say Tories are preparing a fresh attack on the BBC over lies and distortion with a report on its coverage of the Libyan raids.
- Mail claims to have confidential document of what BBC viewers really think about programmes - last Thursday 29.5% complained of Left wing bias 26.6% about sex and violence; 22.8% gave praise.
- Nigel Dempster, in Mail, claims Sir James Goldsmith backed the two Tory MPs who sued the BBC for libel.
- Telegraph says there is to be no internal inquiry into libel case; leader says one would need to be exceptionally charitable to assume that the Panorama team bore no ill will towards the Tory Party. Duke Hussey should identify and punish those responsible. Milne's only honourable course is to resign.

LAW AND ORDER

- Scotland Yard breaks ring which has laundered £500m in drugs money through fake companies after Brinksmat robbery.
- Chief Constable Anderton tells Stalker not to accept cash gifts to help pay his £21,000 legal costs.
- Britain and Denmark have the highest divorce rates in the EEC.
- The Public Order Bill will face fierce opposition from lawyers and civil liberty groups who object to the new police powers over trespass (Independent)

LOBBY

- FT: Lobby journalists decided yesterday to hold a ballot about whether to continue with their present rules or to hold an inquiry.
- Times: It is expected that the ballot will be concluded next Tuesday. If an inquiry is set up it will report by the end of November. Only 50 of the 150 correspondents attended the meeting.

PEOPLE

- Mirror says Princess Michael of Kent, in American TV interview, says she can't possibly live on £50,000 a year.
- Kingsley Amis wins Booker Prize.
- Express picture of you with Inter-Teddy.
- Times: The citizens of Barnsley are outraged that a new employee at the town's job centre has described them as "cross-eyed, hunch-backed goblins". He has been suspended.

ARCHBISHOP

- Lots of coverage, with pictures, of Mrs Runcie showing pressmen around a muddy wildlife project in Lambeth Palace grounds.
- Sun says there is a crisis in the Anglican Church which extends far beyond Runcie's marriage problems; he has little chance of providing the lead that is essential and he should make way for a new man.

LIBYA

- Star says the FCO is allowing Libyan families to visit terrorists jailed in Britain; some Ministers are furious that we are having any dealings with Gaddafi.
- Gaddafi blames South Africa for Machel's death.

EAST/WEST

- Kicks out 5 more Americans and withdrawing 260 local employees from US posts in Moscow and Leningrad. Express says the Americans' latest expulsion was justified and they should not be deterred by Moscow's surprise execution of an alleged US agent.
- Mail leader says the Americans have chosen a very odd time to turf out 55 Soviet diplomats and the official explanations are hardly convincing. If Reagan wants to deserve the reputation of a statesman he must be prepared sometimes to sacrifice demagogy and short term electoral appeal.
- Mail says Lord Carrington yesterday delivered a fierce rebuke to the Labour Party over Kinnock's plans for a nuclear free Britain.
- Telegraph, referring to expulsions of senior staff, leads with "Cold War Goes Domestic"; and also claims that the expulsion of 80 Soviet diplomats has decapitated Russia's intelligence network in the USA.
- Telegraph says the current round of reprisals is not the way to create openness, trust and confidence that will lead the way to disarmament.
- Some papers cover Gorbachev's speech on TV in which he accuses US of "wild" acts.
- FT: Gorbachev yesterday delivered his most bitter and personal attack on the American administration.
- NATO defence ministers have endorsed the US proposals which were presented to the Soviets in Iceland in a communique that papered over alliance differences in arms control; FT article says that is now probably a political imperative for all allied governments to accept the zero-zero deal on medium-range weapons.
- Times: Bonn's worries on missile reductions is causing a growing rift in NATO; leader says it must be hoped that both super powers now feel that honour has been satisfied over Reykjavik and expulsions.

FRANCE

- John Gummer says French farmers hijacking our lamb - the sixth incident occurred yesterday - are barbarians.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Times: South Africans Federated Chamber of Industry says mandatory UN sanctions could put nearly 1.4m people out of work
- Honeywell may be the next US corporation to pull out of the country.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DOE: Mr Ridley and Mr Waldegrave visit Hampton Court Palace
- HMT: Mr Lawson and Treasury Ministers dine with Institute of Directors
- MAFF: Mr Gummer visits Banbury Cattle Market
- MOD: Mr Stanley visits RAF Leuchars
- DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses Tertiary Colleges Association, Barry; later addresses Macclesfield Education Industry Liaison Group
- DES: Mr Dunn addresses Lions Club, Margate re-drugs
- DEM: Mr Trippier speaks at European Union of Tourist Officers general meeting, Brighton; later attends INDEX exhibition; speaks at Blackwater Valley Enterprisse Trust reception
- DOE: Mr Patten visits Mogden sewage works
- DOE: Mr Chope meets Chairmen of Residuary Bodies, Wakefield
- DOE: Mr Tracey presents award at TV Times 'London Sports Personality of the Year', London
- DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith visits QUASCO, Reigate
- DHSS: Lady Trumpington attends Joint DHSS/DTI press conference to launch DHSS/NHS design competition, London; later attends Pharmacy's Charter dinner as guest of honour, London
- HO: Mr Mellor speaks to BBC on 'A View of Westminster'
- OAL: Mr Luce speaks at launch of HTV's 'Adopt a Student' sponsorship scheme
- SO: Mr Ancram meets MPs to discuss rating of sports clubs, London
- DTp: Mr Bottomley chairs SW Regional Consultative Committee, Gloucestershire
- DTp: Mr Spicer addresses 5th annual Air Finance conference
- DTp: Mr Mitchell addresses West Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes on buses and rural transport
- DTI: Mr Pattie presents 'SMART' awards; visits City to see 'Big Bang' technology
- DTI: Mr Shaw speaks at Yorkshire and Humberside Development Agency launch

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTp: Mr Moore meets Dutch Transport, The Hague (visits Netherlands to October 24)
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TV AND RADIO

"Brass Tacks"; BBC2 (20.20): Edwina Currie MP joins Peter Taylor to discuss alcohol and its effects on health - also alcohol-related crime

"Question Time"; BBC1 (22.15): with Edwina Currie MP, John Prescott MP, Elizabeth Shields and Shirley Goodwin

"This Week"; ITV (21.30)
