

31 October 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Sinn Fein Conference on continued boycott of Irish politics

Reconstitution of ACAS Council

Ban on Libyan Airlines entering United Kingdom comes into effect

Public consultation meeting on Primary Health Care to be chaired by Edwina Currie

STATISTICS

DTI: Sales and orders in the engineering industries (July)

DTI: Car and commercial vehicle production (Sept-final)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: Consideration of any Lords Amendments which may be received to the Financial Services Bill

Adjournment Debate

Radiotherapy treatment for cancer patients in Southend (Mr T Taylor)

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DICESTTEACHERS

- Mail: P1 lead: "Schools pay deal blocked". The pay rise was dismissed out of hand last night by unions and employers.
- Doug McEvoy, NUT chief negotiator said that the Nottingham talks would go ahead as if Kenneth Baker didn't exist. Prospects for teachers under the government proposals were "horrific".
- Fred Smithies, general secretary of the NAS/UWT said Mr Baker was trying to get peace on the cheap.
- Rejection of the deal could now mean another winter of discontent in the classroom.
- John Pearman, leader of the local authorities, says the proposals were a recipe for "dishonesty, deceit and chaos". They would not even be put to the unions.
- Today P1 lead: "Take it or leave it. Baker offers the teachers £600m and an ultimatum.
- Sun: 'Sirs snub 16% pay deal'.
- Express: "School pay revolt. 25% rise gets cold shoulder".
- Independent: Teachers told to toe line for pay rise.
- Sir Peter Parker calls for a "war cabinet" on education directly responsible to you.
- NUT is considering pressing for a four-term academic year.
- Guardian: "Unions spurn Baker offer".

TEACHERSComment

- Mail leader says the Government's offer is an historic one. If teachers turn it down they will forfeit all public sympathy. Education would become the main issue at the general election and victory would go to the Tories. It is to be hoped Mr Baker does not have to impose a settlement.
- Star leader says Kenneth Baker should be the toast in every staff room for squeezing an extra £1.5bn out of the Treasury. Instead, teachers threaten to make the children suffer again.
- Today: Leading article says teachers should "recognise that the Baker offer is a major step forward, stop bickering and, for the first time in two years, put the children first.
- Sun leader says the rise offered is generous. Mr Baker should insist: no deal, no money.
- Express leader says the teachers should accept the package. It is fair and generous.
- Telegraph: If the unions reject the offer the Government is ready to act unilaterally in introducing the new contract. Legislation which could be introduced in the new session is in reserve.
- Independent leader says a contract would castrate the unions and reduce teachers' professional autonomy. Teachers have brought much of the situation on themselves by being insufficiently responsive to national needs. But Government's decision to take a grip on the teachers' dispute will not, by itself, guarantee better schools. If teaching force is left sullen and resentful the respite from disruption could prove of limited value.
- Telegraph leader says that the unions should be clear that this generous proposal is not a mere negotiating gambit. For Mr Baker to have secured this cash is a surprising achievement, won with great difficulty.
- Guardian: The pay offer is a positive but risky gambit. On balance it should be accepted.

BBC

- Mail: "Tebbit: BBC the voice of Gaddafi". Alasdair Milne says there is a genuine worry that the manner of the complaint's delivery could suggest that the Conservative Party is attempting to intimidate the BBC.
- Mirror leader says Mr Tebbit's attack is the most monstrous, unjustified, cynical and incompetent attempt at censorship and intimidation seen in a democratic country in modern times. The only purpose is to cow the BBC before the general election.
- Today: Leader says Mr Tebbit is trying to force the BBC into giving the government respectful coverage in the run-up to the election. He has overstepped the mark.
- Express P1 lead: "BBC: Tebbit goes to war". BBC will mass their formidable resources to refute this attack on their integrity. Milne says he does not believe it is in the public interest for the BBC to be in confrontation with any major political party.
- Telegraph P1 lead: "BBC 'bias' attacked by Tories". Mr Kinnock accused Mr Tebbit of threatening the Corporation's independence. Some senior Tories are concerned that Mr Tebbit's hostility to the BBC is assuming the proportions of a vendetta. But his dossier went to the BBC with your full backing.
- Independent: Tebbit 'trying to intimidate BBC'. Alasdair Milne's unprecedented counter-attack brings BBC into head-on confrontation with Conservative Party.
- Telegraph: Two inside pages are devoted to the dossier.
- Leader says the BBC will do well to ponder carefully and with real humility Mr Tebbit's charges. Many of its difficulties stem from the arrogance of its staff and senior executives.
- Times: The two bulletins in question made mistakes of fact and interpretation. The BBC is fighting for its freedom but does not show sufficient sign of appreciating this.
- Guardian leader: The overall thrust of the report is openly intimidatory. BBC and ITN should stand against it together. Anything else will do them great damage and leave the election agenda of what is "impartial" to be decided by Mr Tebbit.

LAW AND ORDER

- Mail: Ronald Barton, stepfather of 14 year old girl whom he sexually abused for 6 years, is jailed for life for her murder.
- Harvey Proctor dismisses reports that he faces criminal charges over alleged spanking sessions with teenage boys.
- Sun leader says Mr Proctor is a disgrace to public life and should get out.

- The Marquis of Blandford is claimed to have spent £20,000 in three months on drugs.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Mail: A report to the Cabinet warns that nothing can stop 3,000 people in Britain dying of AIDS in the next 3 years.
- Mirror: The school at Middlesex hospital is to close next month because of Government cuts.
- Kidney dialysis patients in London face death because of shortage of NHS funds (Independent).
- Government radio advertisement linking heroin abuse with AIDS expected to be approved within days (Independent).
- Guardian: A demand for security guards to protect staff in benefit offices could follow introduction of the "available for work" test, the CPSA says.
- An inmate of Broadmoor with AIDS has precipitated the need to screen all other male inmates. Staff admitted that there was a problem with homosexual relationships among the 500 inmates (Times).
- The Times reports that MIND, the mental health association, claims that the Government must spend £1bn on services for the mentally ill.

INDUSTRY

- British Shipbuilders warn that unless EC increases subsidies the European shipbuilding industry faces extinction at hands of Far East competition.
- FT: The European shipbuilding industry could be virtually wiped out unless EC Ministers agree to raise limits on public subsidies claimed British shipbuilders.
- FT: Most company directors back the credibility of Conservative policies but just under half are less optimistic about the UK economy as a whole, according to a survey by the Institute of Directors.

ECONOMY

- FT: UK investment in South Africa falls.
- FT: There is to be no change in Saudi oil policy, said the Saudi Arabian Interior Minister. Special article looks at the implications of Yamani's departure.
- Leader says Western Governments must not sit passively while OPEC struggles to resurrect itself. Politically unpopular steps should be taken to ensure the momentum of energy conservation does not slacken.

EUROTUNNEL

- FT: US backing for Eurotunnel falls short of target.

HOUSING

- Mail: Leader says some of Prince Charles' pronouncements are factually incorrect. He needs more dependable, and neutral, researchers.
- Lord Northfield, Chairman of a development company says the Prince has been hijacked by the "loony green brigade".

FALKLANDS

- Mail: Argentina suspended leave for conscript servicemen yesterday in reaction to imposition of the fishing zone.
- Leader says Britain's action is right.
- Telegraph: Foreign trawlers have been urged by Argentina to ignore the fishing limit.

POLITICS

- Mirror: Joe Haines says the Jeffery Archer affair won't affect the result of the general election but it may affect the timing. But you can't be sure that other scandals aren't on the way.
- Express: Two page spread headlined 'Nightmare on Kinnock Street' says the leafy suburbs of Ealing where Mr Kinnock has set up home is in the grip of a socialist nightmare with wanton spending, unworkable policies and an arrogant disregard for ratepayers.
- Telegraph: Michael Heseltine got a hero's welcome on his visit to Knowsley North.
- Telegraph: Neil Kinnock is trying to minimise the damage caused by his remarks on mortgage relief. A detailed explanation has been published showing that really Labour wants to help everyone.
- Sketch writer, commenting on Mr Kinnock's performance in the House yesterday, says that just when he seems to be getting things right his Adam's apple catches up with him.
- Times: Lord Whitelaw won one of the bloodiest battles of this session when he pushed through the clause aimed at ensuring free speech on campuses.

PEOPLE

- Mirror: Full page article on Edwina Currie's school days.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Express: The man dubbed "The Beast of Brent", 6'5" 18-stone black school governor Kuba Assegai, was thrown out of last night's meeting of the Council's Labour group after allegations that he had threatened teachers and council staff.

TRANSPORT

- Confidential CAA report says that last year 37 out of 143 near collisions of aircraft flying over Britain involved air traffic control.

MEDIA

- Home Office is completing first draft of controversial Green Paper on future of radio network (Independent).
- Reuters consider leaving Fleet Street for Docklands.

RATES

- Today: Tory MPs threatened last night to revolt against moves to cut rates aid to the shires.
- Express: Nicholas Ridley last night failed to win over MPs who feel that, with an election looming, he has handed a gift to the Alliance and Labour.
- Guardian: Patrick Jenkin led last night's Tory rebellion.

SYRIA

- Today: France said last night it was now ready to accept a European Community ban on arms sales to Syria.
- France denies allegations of negotiating truce with terrorists (Independent).

OIL

- Express: "Oil panic as Saudis sack Yamani". World markets are in disarray and the value of the £ fell on fears that his departure could herald a new oil price war.
- Telegraph: Saudi Arabia moved swiftly yesterday to try to force up prices as markets shrugged off the dismissal of Yamani.
- Sterling is at an 8-month low.
- The new Saudi oil minister has called for an urgent meeting of the OPEC's price fixing committee but Indonesia is doubtful if Yamani's departure would bring any changes in OPEC.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Paisley and Robinson involved in attempt to form an "Ulster Army" to oppose Anglo-Irish Agreement.
- Peter Robinson is to stand trial in a special Criminal Court in Dublin. No date has been fixed (Times).

SELECT COMMITTEES

- Telegraph: Ferdinand Mount explains why the Government is completely right to insist that civil servants cannot be forced to answer every question that is put to them.

WALDHEIM

- Guardian: The controversy surrounding Dr Waldheim was revived yesterday with the allegation that the Russian Secret Service tried to recruit him in 1947.

JIM COE

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

MOD: Mr Younger addresses Conservative Board of Finance industrial lunch, Cumbria

DEM: Mr Clarke addresses Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry

DOE: Mr Ridley meets M Delors (EC Minister), Birmingham

HO: Mr Hurd visits Northampton police HQ: visits Northampton re civil defence

HMT: Mr Lawson addresses West Oxfordshire Conservative Association

HMT: Mr MacGregor addresses CPC annual dinner, Suffolk

WO: Mr Edwards visits Rempoy factory, Bridgend; later addresses University College Swansea

MAFF: Mr Gummer visits 'Grow Show West'

DEM: Mr Trippier visits Manchester and District Housing Association

DEN: Mr Goodlad presents MANWEB Pep awards

DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith addresses Logical Reception, Aberdeen

DOE: Mr Tracey opens new swimming pool, Kenilworth

DOE: Mr Patten presents Express Newspapers "Housebuilders of the Year" awards, London

DHSS: Lady Trumpington attends Primary Care Review Consultation Meeting, Exeter (Mrs Currie also attends)

DHSS: Mr Newton opens day centre, St Barnabas Hospital, Saltash

DTI: Lord Lucas addresses Trafford Park Industrial Councils AGM

HMT: Mr Brooke visits VAT offices, Oxford

WO: Mr Roberts opens Holywell by-pass

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses Parliamentary Committee on Youth, Brussels

TV AND RADIO

"Hard Times 1986"; BBC 2 (14.15): A Panorama report on unemployment in Cleveland

"A Ring Around the Smoke"; BBC 2 (20.00): The M25 will bring changes to the way people live

"A Week in Politics"; Channel 4 (20.15)

"Any Questions?"; BBC Radio 4 (20.45): Admiral Sir James Eberle, Oliver Todd, Joan Lester, Martin Walker