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PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Princess of Wales opens 14th Daily Mail International Ski Show, London

EC Standing Committee on Employment, Brussels

Irish Labour Party annual conference (to November 9)

Association of Metropolitan Authorities AGM, Birmingham (to November 8)

PUBLICATIONS

NAO: National Audit Office - National Heritage Memorial Fund Account
1985/86 (11.00)

DTI: 'British Business' features invisible exports to FRG (Pt 2);
international comparisons of profitability 1955-84

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: House meets for Prorogation

MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTAUTUMN STATEMENT

- Seen as a prelude to election and as a big U-turn. Opposition claims you are bribing the electorate.
- And so far as the media is concerned, this signals an early election, especially in view of the Chancellor's buoyant economic outlook.
- Expectation of tax cuts in Spring, too.

Treatment

- Star P8: "Hey, big Spender". Special on "Lawson's £10bn giveaway. Cash targets scrapped for pre-election spree". Sheer scale of Government's spending plans after 7 years of squeeze and austerity left MPs gasping.
- Sun P4: "The big, big spender - Lawson's £7bn spree".
- Today P1 lead: "The big U-turn - £2bn for education; £600m for health; £450m for housing; £500m for police". Money for all as election looms.
- Today P1 lead: Lawson's big spending hints at early poll - rises delight Tory wets. £ rises in the expectation that the Government's decision to boost spending will keep interest rates high.
- Mirror P2: Lawson's £8bn bribe - U-turn Tories' spending gamble. Tory MPs delighted.
- Express P1: "Spend! Spend! Spend! Lawson's pre-poll bonanza". Iron Chancellor turned Mr Softy as he triggered an £8bn pre-election spending bonanza in what amounted to the biggest U-turn of the Thatcher years. But few MPs doubt he has room for a 2p cut in tax. Another story says you honoured your pledge that the NHS is safe with you.
- Mail P1: "Spend, spend, spend says Nigel" - Cabinet throws caution to the wind. Move is astonishing. The most significant victory for the Cabinet wets.
- Telegraph P1 lead: Lawson does U-turn - Tories prepare for election. Broad welcome by MPs. Amazement in the City. Business leaders get new heart.
- Guardian P1 lead: Monetary rebuff in election package. Spending rises by £7.3bn in Chancellor's concessions. Tax cuts expected in Budget. Lawson U-turn takes steam out of Labour.
- Independent P1: Pre-election about turn in spending. Government abandons long struggle to hold public spending constant.
- FT: Spending up £10bn over 2 years. Chancellor's statement prompts election speculation. MPs startled by size of increases.

AUTUMN STATEMENT (CONT'D)Treatment (Cont'd)

- Inside FT four pages devoted to detail and one to reaction. Mixed response from City economists, some dismissing expenditure plans as "blatant electioneering". Foreign exchange market reacted favourably with Bank of England's sterling index up 0.4 at 69.5.

AUTUMN STATEMENT (CONT'D)Comment

- Star under heading "Nigel gets the message", says his mini-Budget deserves two cheers - the extra £10bn will get a wide welcome. What's the point of a tax cut if you don't have a pay packet to be taxed? Chancellor is making the Opposition road even tougher.
- Today leader headed "Election spending money" says suddenly the strain has gone out of the Government's hostility to public spending, and the Chancellor's conversion is welcome though we are entitled to be sceptical about his motives. He is doing some of the right things but mostly for the wrong reasons. He is trying to buy your vote.
- Mirror: The bribes are so blatant they take the breath away. If a stockbroker issued a prospectus as fraudulent he would be fearing prison not re-election. The depressing thing is that it may well work.
- Express leader headed "Canny Nigel leaves room for tax cuts" hopes Chancellor is right in saying his figures add up. It would be disastrous if the spending increases prevented a tax cut in March. A cut of 2p seems possible and is necessary. If Labour is sincere it ought to applaud more spending.
- Mail on "A little of what you fancy" says what really sticks in Hattersley's craw is that this Tory Chancellor can afford in election year to offer voters a little of what most of them fancy because the economy has grown steadily for six years and is predicted to continue to do so. Labour Governments were never able to deliver the virtuous circle. But now, bang on cue, Tory Ministers are preparing to show how it can be done.
- Telegraph heads its leader "Bravura statement" and says the Chancellor chose yesterday to make a virtue of necessity, with characteristic bravura. This was probably the wisest thing to do. But from henceforth every month's delay before the Prime Minister seeks a dissolution of Parliament is liable to constitute a hostage to his fortunes.
- Ferdie Mount, in Telegraph, says it is clear to the meanest intelligence that we are now in the early stages of a pre-election boom, as practised by almost every Government in last 30 years. The betting is that the Conservatives will win the election in any case. If they feel naked without wrapping themselves in an election boom they could at least earn the gratitude of posterity by keeping it a small one. They might even win more votes, too.
- Guardian leader says the statement was an uneasy attempt to combine fiscal probity with increased permissiveness in spending to stoke up pre-election spending. The Chancellor's attempt to square the circle impresses more for artistic impression than technical merit. It is all about capturing the self interest vote to win election.
- FT leader says after the ostentatious hair shirt of the last White Paper on public spending, the Chancellor is now candid that it will continue to grow, fast enough at least to meet some of the more insistent demands for publicly-provided services.
- Lex column says, if this year is any guide, a £3½bn contingency reserve may not last long.

AUTUMN STATEMENT (CONT'D)Comment (Cont'd)

- Times leader says the Autumn Statement is a defeat for the Government. This was not the prospectus on which it was elected. Financial markets will not be reassured. We seem to be back in the bad old days. But some expenditure to buy off the most pressing concerns was almost inevitable.
- Comment column says there is apparently no limit to Mr Lawson's ability to take risks with the markets. Interest rates will stay high. The main hope is that the election comes soon.

POLITICS

- Joe Haines, in Mirror, says Labour goes into an election with a gaping and unnecessary hole in its side: defence. He can see disaster in Kinnock choosing to fight on US bases - the very issue the Tories would choose.
- Kenneth Clarke says hundreds of thousands of workers will lose their jobs if Labour brings in £80 minimum wage.
- Guardian leader says Mr Tebbit is not primarily interested in constructive criticism of the BBC's news output. He is softening up the BBC in the short term to frighten it into providing less critical coverage of the Conservative Party in the run-up to an election and in the long run to pave the way for the BBC's privatisation.
- Guardian feature analyses how an Alliance collapse hits Labour.
- Peter Morrison attacks the "chattering classes" for painting a misleadingly gloomy picture of the North.
- Times says many Conservatives believe Mr Tebbit's attack on the BBC has backfired. This is why you are keeping out of the battle; leader says not all Mr Tebbit's arrows hit the target. But too many did so for the BBC to don its traditional garb of smug superiority in the face of criticism.
- Channel 4 expects charges of political bias from the left next Wednesday when it starts a series that is said to be the most sustained attack on the welfare state ever shown on British television.

INDUSTRY

- Avis order 2,500 vehicles from Austin Rover worth £12.5m.
- New car sales for first 10 months of this year a record - up 2.57% on last year; importers' market share down from 58.4 to 56.4%.
- Sun leader attacks union leaders at Neddy who were outraged by Chancellor's idea of differential pay between North and South - they occupy a fantasy world as cut off from reality as the Queen of Hearts.
- Government's plans to privatise British water industry would be banned under existing EC legislation, according to legal opinion obtained by Council for Preservation of Rural England.
- European Commissioner for Fair Trade says the EC will press ahead with legal action against airlines over the heads of Transport Ministers to lower fares.
- FT: 7 million people, about 17% of adult population, are now shareholders according to survey of PR firm Dewe Rogerson.
- FT: Nissan increases its share of UK car market to 7.88%.

HELICOPTER CRASH

- 45 feared dead in Britain's worst civilian helicopter crash of Shetland; only 2 survivors of trip from Shell's Brent field - only 60 seconds from safety.
- Investigation why Chinook suddenly dropped 500ft into sea. Some reports of an explosion.
- You send condolences to relatives.
- Michael Spicer bans British International Helicopter fleet of plant Eoeing helicopters from carrying passengers until cause of the disaster has been established.
- Mail asks if a rotor blade failed.

UNIONS

- Hector Mackenzie, 46, new General Secretary of COHSE; a qualified nurse.
- 1000 sacked Murdoch printers have inquired how they can get their share of compensation.
- Plans to cut the working week for engineering workers over a period have been put to unions.
- Two NGA officials face heavy fines and suspended jail sentences after being found guilty of "clearest" contempt of court in Mirror dispute.
- Independent: Solicitors in the South East have had salary rises of 16%. Company Chairmen and top executives are being paid rises of 14%, over double the going rates for employees.
- Seamen's union leaders recommend acceptance of 3.4% pay offer (FT).
- NUM cuts back spending on new headquarters because of financial crisis.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- You are being urged to rethink reform of rating system by four local authority organisations.
- Rents of council houses may double if Conservatives re-elected, according to interpretation put on interview by New Society with Nicholas Ridley.
- Camden to stage a "lesbian day" at cost of £2000.

TEACHERS/EDUCATION

- Telegraph finds hopes of a settlement of the teachers' pay dispute rising.
- Hereford and Worcester tell NAS/UWT that if they strike today they will charge them cost of paying replacement teachers of up to £50 a day.

- Master of the Rolls brings forward Appeal court hearing over Miss McGoldrick, Brent headmistress at centre of race row.
- Express continues its shocking series of what is happening in our schools with "the rape of innocent minds" - how sex lessons have become a sinister new platform for gay rights.
- Mail reports that a squad of anti-racist officers is to tour schools looking for examples of prejudice - many LEAs backing an investigation by a black professor.
- Independent: The Labour controlled education employers body has bowed to Government pressure and is redrawing its pay proposals for presentation in Nottingham at the weekend.
- Independent: The Government and Universities reached agreement on extra public funding in exchange for staff appraisal, research funding and fewer tenured posts for lecturers.

AIDS

- Social Services Select Committee launches inquiry into AIDS crisis.
- The Archbishop of Canterbury has challenged the hospice organisation to face up to the problem of caring for terminally ill AIDS patients.
- Any plans by Britain or other countries to screen foreign visitors for AIDS would be "senseless and useless", says the World Health Organisation.

LAW AND ORDER

- Row over Judge sending a teenage girl who was frightened to give evidence against her alleged rapist to prison for a day for contempt of court.
- Another row over increase in cost of visas - virtually doubling to at least £20. Labour MPs attack move.
- And criticism of Judge for not sending Marquess of Blandford to jail on drugs charge - Sun asks if he would have walked out of court a free man if he had been heir to a Bermondsey Council flat instead of heir to Blenheim Palace? Today echoes Sun's claim that there is one law for the rich and another for the poor. Express has grave misgivings about the suspended sentence for the same reason.
- The Guardian and The Observer have been given leave to appeal to the House of Lords against an injunction stopping them publishing Peter Wright memoirs.
- Fixed award for rape victims who keep a baby born of the offence of £5000 suggested by inter-departmental working party (Times).

PARLIAMENT

- Row over David Steel's allegation that Patrick Thompson MP "sells" lunches with Government Ministers for £35 a year to aid Conservative Party funds. Mirror: Tories in 'Meet the Ministers' cash row.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

- Star, continuing its campaign against white poppies, says Kinnock's weak defence of the white poppy brigade is just further evidence of how he is failing to win over more voters. This is not a time for fence sitters.
- Mirror says a wreath of white poppies will be laid on Cenotaph in separate ceremony on Sunday.

PEOPLE

- Times: Picture of you buying a poppy.

EC

- French farmers warn they will seize more British lamb and hand it over to restaurants to feed the poor.
- Britain is on the verge of persuading its EEC partners to agree to a radical reform of the £330m a year food-aid package for developing countries.

EAST/WEST

- No progress in Vienna follow-up to Reykjavik; Shevardnadze leaves with bitter taste. Express: Peace hopes crumble in a war of words.
- Independent: Soviet Union in Vienna is expected today to set out its position on nuclear disarmament. Star Wars is expected to be the stumbling block.

SOUTH AFRICA

- White woman member of ANC jailed for 25 years for mining offences.
- Independent: Oliver Tambo in Moscow says ANC will step up offensive and has asked Soviets for weapons.
- Times: Pik Botha claimed last night that Zimbabwe and Mozambique were plotting to overthrow the Malawi Government. Details were found in the plane in which President Machel died.

ITALY

- Alfa Romeo rejects Ford take-over in favour of one from Fiat.

LIBYA

- Times: Libyan Arab Airlines may have to sell the Airbus A310s it bought last year because it has failed to recruit British pilots to fly them.

FALKLANDS

- Times: Contrary to Argentine reports, the UN Secretary General has said he understands Britain's decision to impose a fisheries protection zone.
- Spain will not instruct its fishing fleet to seek fishing licences from Britain.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

MAFF: Mr Jopling visits Dairy Crest Creamery, Kendal

DES: Mr Baker visits Berkshire local education authority

DEM: Mr Clarke addresses Birmingham Bow Group dinner

DCE: Mr Ridley opens Chatham Dockyard Enterprise Zone

HO: Mr Hurd visits Oxford Prison; visits Oxford Magistrates' Court

SO: Mr Rifkind addresses Biennial Conference of Institute of Health Service Management, Peebles

HMT: Mr MacGregor addresses Norfolk and Norwich Incorporated Law Society

WO: Mr Edwards addresses Farmers Union of Wales' annual conference

DES: Mr Walden visits Exeter University

DEM: Mr Trippier addresses northern launch of 'Women in Europe', Wakefield

DHSS: Mr Lyell visits Oval Social Security Office, London

DHSS: Mr Newton appears on Anglia TV's 'Cross Question' programme

HO: Lord Caithness visits Dorchester and the Verne Prisons

SO: Mr Lang meets representatives of Lothian Regional Council on Scottish Development Agency expenditure on land renewal

DTI: Mr Butcher addresses Rolls Royce, "Commitment" Conference

DTP: Mr Spicer tours business aviation airfields in London area

DTP: Mr Mitchell address Eastbourne Business and Professional Club meeting on Channel Fixed Link; addresses BR Western Region Management Trainees' annual dinner, London

HMT: Mr Brooke addresses Customs and Excise Collectors Conference

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DEM: Mr Clarke chairs EC Standing Employment Committee, Brussels

TV AND RADIO

"A Week in Politics"; Channel 4 (20.15): With Nick Ross

"Any Questions?"; BBC Radio 4 (20.45): With Alistair Graham, Mary Baker, Graham Dowson and Sue Slipman
