

19 November 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister gives live interview to News at One; later meets Mr Saito of Japanese CBI

International Union of Local Authorities and Council of European Municipalities and Regions, British Sections' conference, Portsmouth (to November 21)

UNESCO: Institute of Education, London University, Conference on the politics of literacy

STATISTICS

CSO: Gross Domestic Product (outbased) (3rd qtr-prelim)

PUBLICATIONS

WO: Report of the Cwmbran Development Corporation 31.3.86 (11.00)

HO: Cable Authority's first annual report and accounts

SO: Historic Buildings Council for Scotland annual report 1982-83; 1984-85 (11.30)

HOC: Select Committee 15th Report, Public Accounts Committee Vehicle Excise Duty, Evasion and Enforcement (12.00)

PARLIAMENT

Commons Conclusion of the Debate on the Address - on the Economy

Questions: Environment; Scotland

Business: Adjournment Debate
Employment of disabled people (Mr R Wareing)

Select Committees:

Lords DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS - Third Day
The Debate will concentrate on ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT

MINISTERS - See Annex

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LAW AND ORDER

- Home Secretary unveils major crime prevention programme resulting from efforts of five working parties.
- Motorists can be convicted of drunken driving even though they are below the limit when tested; police can "back calculate", according to judge.
- Commons statement to be demanded by Labour on Mail revelations about security breaches at Heathrow.
- Fraud Squad investigating allegations that some members of Southwark council's staff accepted bribes from builders in return for housing contracts.
- Tory backbenchers, according to Guardian, support a move by Magistrates to replace the separate sentences of detention centres and youth custody orders with a single sentence.
- Times: The Home Office is to try to remove the threat of a clash with the Prison Officers' Association. The POA says a pay offer is now expected from the Government.
- Independent says an unpublished report shows that workers at Holloway women's prison are under stress.

MI5

- Generally down page stuff - except in 'qualities'.
- Star: Maggie faces MPs' fury over MI5 spy trial.
- Sun: Maggie in spy boss clash with Speaker: I won't answer MPs' questions, she says.
- Mirror: Spy row blow for Thatcher - you were slapped down by Speaker.
- Today: Spy row rap for Thatcher.
- Express P1 - Maggie in MI5 clash with Speaker.
- Mail: Maggie overruled in Hollis case.
- Telegraph P1: Spy book case rebuff for Thatcher.
- Guardian: PM stonewalls after hostility at MI5 trial - Thatcher sub judice claim overruled. Conservative MPs are expressing their irritation at the court room performance of Sir Robert Armstrong.
- FT: MI5 book sparks row in Commons.
- Times: The Speaker's highly unusual decision seemed to take you and senior Conservatives by surprise. The political bombshell means that Labour MPs can bombard you with questions about the case; Bernard Wetherill said later that he calculated this might arise "and therefore I was prepared with the answer that I gave"; Sir Robert Armstrong faced intensive and uncomfortable cross-examination in Australia. At one point he was accused of deliberately misleading the court.
- Independent: Thatcher is quizzed on MI5 after Speaker overrules your sub judice claim; editorial says Sir Robert should resign because of the Westland affair and now his performance in Australia.

AIDS

- British kidney transplant surgeon says the AIDS case in which a woman was given an infected kidney can never happen again.
- Star says that "contrary to some irresponsible reports in the so-called quality press", Opposition spokesmen will be given full briefing before Friday's debate. "What a pity that ever pompous Guardian and its Alliance lapdogs put party point-scoring before reporting the truth".
- Warning that office Christmas parties, leading to casual sex, could intensify problem, from VD expert.
- Today one-page leader says fighting the disease is up to every one of us - we must examine our own behaviour; devotes two other pages to the issue.
- Express says the Government is ready to give the go-ahead for drug addicts to be issued with free needles but Ministers are going off the idea of making AIDS a notifiable disease.
- Bishop of Birmingham tells Lords there is only one way to avoid AIDS and that is to lead a chaste life.

ANGLO AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP

- John Vincent, in Sun, says your Washington visit went well by any standards. We act as a restraining influence. But the great thing is that we have a say - the greatest power in the world finds us worth talking to and that is not to be sneezed at.
- George Gale, in Mirror, wonders how long you have restrained Reagan's "wilder, grandiose notions".
- Telegraph: Thatcher attacked (by Kinnock) over Iran arms "sycophancy"; meanwhile it reports Shultz and Weinburger aired strong objection to Reagan's arms for Iran policy; feature on why things are going sour in the White House and points the finger at Pegan's management style and Poindexter.
- Times: US and Soviet arms negotiators have agreed to hold a special week-long session in Geneva during the long Christmas recess.
- Independent: The MOD's sales arm International Military Sales has admitted a visit by an Iranian delegation last month to discuss contracts dating back to the Shah's time.

FT INTERVIEW

- FT leads with "Thatcher rules out full EMS links until economy is stronger. You were at your most confident and looked forward to at least another term of office and getting rid of Socialism as a second force.
- Times lifts to its front page the idea in the interview that a top tax rate of 50% is an option for your Government.

POLITICS

- Sun says Labour's split over a training levy on firms blew up again last night with Prescott insisting the scheme would go ahead, contrary to Hattersley's previous assertions. Would add at least £6bn to industry's costs. Paul Channon describes the plan as ludicrous.
- Express leader says Nicholas Ridley's claim that no amount of red rose public relations could mask the stink emanating from Labour town halls are strong words but true, and it is little use John Cunningham denouncing them as cheap. At the next election a vote for Labour will be a vote for the hard Left too. Telegraph leader wonders at the wisdom of Messrs Tebbit and Ridley going for Labour councils, apparently preferring to trust the people to draw their own sensible conclusions about the councils' antics.
- Guardian on "Labour's loony problem" says Labour leaders increasingly complain that these councils could lose them the general election. They certainly won't do Labour any good, but Labour does not deserve to suffer from the frequent exaggerated nuttiness of a few of its councillors.
- Alliance leaders have agreed to make some hard choices to bring their manifesto spending plans within tight limits.
- FT: All MPs to be lobbied by the Consumers Association to support a Private Members' Bill to bring estate agents information within the scope of the Trade Descriptions Act.
- FT leader discusses the political market in the regions and says you are well aware of the North/South political divide.
- Independent: Unmarried couples are to lose double tax relief hints Mr Lamont in a speech to a conference of women high-flyers.

- Chris Patten's agent elected secretary of homosexual organisation.

PEOPLE

- Peter Walker says Gorbachev would make a good Tory wet and would have no trouble getting elected - apart from his political views.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Government to outlaw political advertising on the rates - tougher legislation on the way.
- Guardian claims an exclusive for a report to Labour leaders that some local authorities face a financial catastrophe after the next election unless £2bn is found to unscramble creative accounting to escape Government spending controls.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Mirror's anti-Government campaign over the NHS says a new hospital in Edwina Currie's constituency has been scrapped because of Tory cash cuts.

TEACHERS

- Seek 16% rise in London allowance.
- Times: You are expected to take a tough line at a meeting today of the Cabinet committee on teachers' pay.
- Mail says more than 1000 head teachers have launched a programme of non-cooperation with the ILEA because it has refused to give them a permanent seat on the Education Committee.
- Cardiff University reaches agreement with students on heckling guidelines

INDUSTRY

- B/Coal to go ahead with £400m mine in Warwickshire.
- Talbot suspends its deal with Iran supplying car kits with the loss of hundreds of jobs in Coventry.
- Rail consultative committee says a 6% rise in fares is unjustified; so is any rise.
- Austin Rover will sell at least 27,000 cars in the US next year; 7 years after leaving the market.
- Shell distribution staff have voted to accept a restructuring giving them 33% and a shorter working week in return for sharp job cuts and new work standards.
- Times: The Energy Select Committee is to conduct an immediate inquiry into allegations about the safety and costs of the nuclear power programme made in The Times on 6 November.
- Times: Britain's £10m aid package to Uganda appears likely to lead to sales of considerable numbers of Leyland trucks.
- More than 25% of industrialists who attended the CBI conference believe that the Government has a poor understanding of the problems facing industry, according to a MORI poll.

ECONOMY

- FT: Treasury figures indicate non-oil taxes beat Budget forecast by £2bn. Government on track to meet the £7bn PSBR target for this fiscal year.
- FT: Study by the International Energy Agency says oil consumption likely to rise fairly slowly for the rest of the century.
- FT: Mr Buchanan Smith attacks the "doom and gloom merchants" who paint a dismal picture of the oil industry.
- FT: Treasury has blocked a move by the Bank of England to publish monthly PSBR figures on the grounds that they could mislead the markets.
- FT: French exchange controls relaxed further.

CITY

- Times: Share prices on the New York stock market plunged yesterday as nervousness, triggered by the investigation into insider share dealing, turned into panic.

SUNDAY TRADING ETC

- Star welcomes the motion by 100 Tory MPs in favour of allowing DIY and garden centres to open on Sundays and the Home Secretary's hint that he has no objection to any reasonable proposal to bring our licensing laws into line with Scotland.

AIR FARES

- Mirror welcomes Michael Spicer's statement that there will be no fresh concessions in EC; either our partners work to an outline agreement or we go it alone. "Excellent", it says.
- Air Europe and B/Caledonian trying to introduce new cheap flights to Europe from Gatwick.

MEDIA

- Lord Chalfont's Media Monitoring Unit attacks both BBC and ITV current affairs programmes for Left wing bias.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- 12 members of Paisley's Ulster Resistance Army arrested before a rally.
- Ulster appeal court frees 8 convicted on word of supergrass for terrorist crimes.
- Times: Neil Kinnock held talks in his office yesterday with James Molyneaux and Ian Paisley. Speculation has increased that they discussed Unionist support for Labour in the event of a hung Parliament.

N KOREA

- Kim il-Sung appears on TV.

FRANCE

- Mail feature arising from murder of Renault chairman by terrorists, says France is paying the price of doing a deal on terror.
- Times: Action Directe, the extreme-left French terrorist group, has claimed responsibility for murder.
The killers were two young women.

EC

- Times: After two days of talks, attempts by EEC farm ministers to agree crisis measures to deal with Europe's dairy mountains collapsed yesterday with no glimmer of compromise in sight.

COMMONWEALTH

- Independent: Two articles on a report on the future of the Commonwealth Institute. The first says it threatens to force into the open the debate within the Cabinet over Britain's attitude to the Commonwealth. The second by a board member of the Institute says the future of the Commonwealth is to be put to the test.

VANUNU

- Independent: Mr Waddington said it was unsatisfactory for the Israelis to decline to explain Mr Vanunu's departure from the UK.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DHSS: Mr Fowler, Mr Newton, Mrs Currie and Lady Trumpington attend Regional Health Authority Chairmen's meeting, Sheffield
- MAFF: Mr Jopling addresses Home Grown Fruits 25th Anniversary luncheon, London
- DEM: Mr Lee visits Wolverhampton and Handsworth
- DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith speaks at Civil Engineers lunch, "future Development of the North Sea"
- DES: Mr Walden opens new computer facility, Royal College of Art
- DHSS: Lady Trumpington visits Yorkshire ambulance service, York
- DOE: Mr Patten addresses Brick Development Association Seminar; later attends Building Material Producers dinner, London
- DOE: Lord Skelmersdale makes opening speech to the Association of Building Component Manufacturer's Conference, London; later addresses All-Party Conservation Group on "UK 2000", HoL
- DOE: Mr Tracey attends Central Council of Physical Recreation celebration for Duke of Edinburgh's birthday
- DTI: Mr Butcher visits Teeside
- DTp: Mr Bottomley chairs East Midlands Regional annual Consultative Committee, Leicester
- DTp: Lord Brabazon visits World Trade Centre for presentation by Freight Forwarders, London
- HO: Mr Hogg attends launch of British Standards Institute of new standards for vehicle security
- MAFF: Mr Thompson attends American Car Award dinner, London
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses opening Kessler exhibition, Leicestershire Museum and Art Gallery
- SO: Lord Glenarthur addresses Conference of Federation of Voluntary Community Organisations in the Highlands and Islands, Inverness

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe attends Council of Europe, Strasbourg (Mr Eggar also attends to November 20)

TV AND RADIO

"Advice Shop"; BBC 1 (09.45): Margo McDonald advises on dealing with your local DHSS office

"Conservative Party Political broadcast"; BBC Radio 4 (13.35): BBC 1 (21.00); ITV (22.00)

"The Reith Lectures 1986"; BBC Radio 4 (19.45): Hard Cases and Bad Law

"Out of Court"; BBC 2 (20.30): Is it worth complaining against the police?