

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister despatches European Road Safety Year messages, Hyde Park; later attends Value for Money seminar

EC Fisheries Council (to December 18)

TUC Employment Policy and Organisation Committee

STATISTICS

Construction - new orders (Oct)

PUBLICATIONS

Natural Environment Research Council annual report 1985/86

DOE: Response to Environment Select Committee Report on major public inquiries

Select Committee publish supplementary report on "The Tin Crisis"

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Environment; Scotland; Foreign and Commonwealth

Business: Debate on a Motion to approve the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Statement
Opposition Prayer on the Water Authorities (Return on Assets) Order

Select Committees: AGRICULTURE

Subject: The effects of pesticides on human health
Witness: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Subject: CDA's Bilateral Aid Country Programmes
Witness: Mr Christopher Patten, MP, Minister for Overseas Development

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Financial Management Initiative
Witnesses: Sir Brian Cubborn, Home Office, Sir Clive Whitmore, MCD, and Sir Michael Franklin, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Primary Health Care
Witness: Mr Tony Newton, MP, Minister for Health

ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Property Services Agency
Witnesses: Royal Institute of British Architects; Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors

Lords Short Debate to call attention to the lack of accountability of the security services
Short Debate to call attention to the situation in Cyprus.
Licensing (Restaurant Meals) Bill (HL): Second Reading

PRESS DIGEST

MYRA HINDLEY on the moors, and the press's attempts to get a picture of her, dominate the papers. Police say she was helpful.

- Douglas Hurd confirms that no deal over parole has been made with Hindley.
- Today says if the circus leads to the graves of the missing teenagers it will have been worthwhile. And the Home Secretary was right to let her go to Saddleworth.
- Guardian says Home Secretary was wrong to allow Hindley to go to Moors because it is impossible to see what public good it serves.

NIMROD/AWACS

- Jim Prior regrets GEC did not stop work on the project 5 years ago.
- Pressure for an early Commons debate.
- Star: Maggie rejects Nimrod probe.
- Sun: Britain going Boeing; you shot down lingering hopes for Nimrod. John Vincent sees it in very simple terms - which should come first, GEC profits or Britain's safety? GEC has had since 1977 to produce a system that works. We have only turned to the US as a last resort.
- Mirror: Thatcher rejects probe on Nimrod. George Gale says if the Government picks Boeing it will be putting the national interest above its own political interests. It would only do this if it was pretty convinced Nimrod wasn't going to work.
- Today feature says that after the TSR2, Blue Streak and Nimrod it is high time our defence procurement procedures came under examination.
- Express: Inquiry on Nimrod ruled out; leader says the only real solution is the ending of CAP; everything else is mere tinkering.
- Telegraph: Last hope fades for Nimrod - all but officially written off by you in the House.
- Guardian: Prior's Nimrod plea falls on frosty ground - his last effort appears to have badly backfired. Labour Party believes GEC's campaign has been ill-judged and counter productive. Guardian feature says Whitehall and GEC share responsibility for blunders.
- Times: As OD prepares today to write off £1bn in taxpayers' money with the cancellation of Nimrod, the MoD faces the possibility of losing another £500m over a computer project for Navy; headhunters from Plessey, partners with Boeing, are preparing to recruit the cream of GEC technicians and electronics specialists.
- Will the Government look back on 1986 as the year of the terrible treble: Westland, BL and Nimrod? asks Geoffrey Smith in Times. He thinks not. It may be embarrassing to explain why the decision was not taken earlier, but this is not the stuff of which major political crises are made.

NIMROD/AWACS (Cont'd)

- Times article by Lord Weinstock, in which he appeals for a fair chance to clear away the confusion over GEC's bid.
- Independent: Nimrod given secret trials by the French. They could produce data to refute the MoD's claim that the plane does not work. If the French, however, decide on AWACS, this would vindicate the RAF's preference.
- FT: You reject idea of an inquiry on Nimrod decision and give the strongest official indication so far that AWACS is likely to be chosen. GEC will make a demonstration flight over France. The French will then compare the results with earlier AWACS flights.
- FT: Nimrod rejection would threaten Hercules venture.

LABOUR'S DEFENCE POLICY

- Healey faces criticism from French over unilateralist policy in meeting with NATO Ambassadors.
- John Vincent, in Sun, says had Kinnock stuck to the line the bomb is immoral, his sincerity would not be in doubt. But he has taken the opportunist line and served up a politician's notch potch which confuses everyone and pleases no one.
- Times: France led the way yesterday as several NATO countries voiced reservations about Labour's defence policy.

POLITICS

- Alliance accused of exploiting Royal family with full colour picture of Prince Charles on cover of its magazine, New Democrat; Harry Greenway MP on the warpath against it.
- Telegraph says Kinnock is being urged by his advisers to cut his speech programme in run up to election and adopt a more presidential stance (all this apparently to save his voice); Telegraph diary says Kinnock has lost points in his party for failing to mount a robust defence of talking to Turnbull.
- Times: Labour yesterday outlined its plans to put British Gas back in the State sector.
- FT: Tories scour Wales in search for Mr Edwards' successor.
- John Browne MP re-selected by Winchester as Tory prospective candidate.

EC

- Michael Jopling hails 'epic and historic' agreements to cut milk and beef production.
- Maggie slashes bill for Sunday roasts is how the Sun heralds the changes in CAP achieved yesterday. You won your battle to reduce the food mountain. Hailed as biggest victory against surpluses scandal since EC began.
- Mirror: Market tackles the food scandal.
- Today: EC agrees to cut the gluts in breakthrough deal.
- Express: EC acts to cut food mountains after Britain pioneers historic agreement.
- Mail: Butter mountains melt down - first major overhaul of CAP in 25 years
- Telegraph leads with EC conquers food mountain. Epic victory for Jopling on beef and milk. £1bn slashed off Budget.
- Guardian : Farm Ministers agree on sweeping CAP reforms which many believed they would never accept.
- Times: 'Britain pulls off an EEC quotas coup'. 'The most important measure of reform ever achieved in the CAP' according to Sir Geoffrey Howe.
- Independent: EC deal promises farm policy reform. After 90 hours of talks the dam finally bursts releasing a flood of decisions that could radically alter the CAP; big cuts likely in fish quotas.
- FT: Wide-ranging reforms of CAP agreed by EC Ministers enable the UK to claim a triumph at the end of an otherwise lacklustre presidency of the Council; leader says some will say the reform is too little too late, but nonetheless, it will give the sector a severe jolt and should prove the first step in a real appraisal of Community objectives.

ECONOMY

- British Gas flotation badly hit building society receipts.
- Speculation that the Chancellor will have enough money to spare for a 3p cut in income tax because spending spree boosts VAT revenue.
- Chancellor gets the Christmas spirit - £80m charity boost under new tax plan.
- Times: OPEC continues to struggle to reach agreement on raising the price to 18 dollars a barrel.
- FT: OPEC talks face deadlock over Iraq's inflexible negotiating stance.
- FT: Lord Young says pay cut calls are futile and calls for greater concentration on supply and demand.
- Independent: French investors eager for more privatisation.

INDUSTRY

- Privatisation of steel given green light.
- Times: Serious doubts about the benefit to the economy of planting new forests are expressed in a report by the National Audit Office.
- Times: Greater competition among Europe's airlines could lead to an urgent demand for another runway to be built at an airport in the south east.
- ICI sells North Sea interests to Enterprise Oil.
- FT: DTI investigation into Guinness reveals that the Distillers' pension fund bought several million Guinness shares just after its takeover of Distillers last April.
- FT: BAA interim profits fall after decline in traffic.
- FT: Leader urges all concerned to reconsider the Airbus project. . An American counterpart would strengthen BAe's position in world markets and improve its prospects for commercial viability.

UNIONS

- McDonald's hamburgers refuse to allow TGWU to negotiate on behalf of its 18,500 staff.
- Engineers vote 4-1 for industrial action and against 5-5.8% pay offer by B/Telecom.
- FT: Court of Appeal ruling severely limits British Coal's ability to make differential pay awards to UDM members alone.

MEDIA

- Telegraph seeks 'substantial' redundancies among its 1800 non-print staff.
- Lord Chief Justice accuses BBC of mounting a "deliberate attack" on British criminal justice in a programme on a mother's murder conviction and says it was irresponsible.
- Dramatisation of MI5 trial to appear on Channel 4 tomorrow night.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- The Bill to put right the basis for calculating expenditure predictably has the press going over the top - £65bn rate blunder by Tories (Today) throws local authority spending plans into chaos.
- Lady Porter on the Western version of a Third World debt crisis facing Left wing councils (Mail).
- Today leader, on rates reform, says the Government must now demonstrate its new proposals are as progressive as taxes and will not be intolerably bureaucratic and expensive to collect.
- Guardian leader on same subject says the blank in the nature of the welfare support required by 45% of those required to pay the council charge underlines the deep riskiness of the Government's strategy.
- Times leader looks at the proposed community charge and says it could become a nightmare of new bureaucracy imposed by a government dedicated to the reverse.
- Independent leader says a poll tax is no reply to domestic troubles. Attempting to reform the system without first establishing how much needs to be raised remains a recipe for resentment.

HOUSING

- Two Tories vote against cut in mortgage relief for unemployed; six abstain.

EDUCATION

- Kenneth Baker orders Brent Council to drop its disciplinary action against Maureen McGoldrick who wants a public inquiry to clear her name.
- Sun awards Brent with the first award in its looniest council of the year competition.
- Express says Mr Baker's intervention should be the end of the business.
- Mail says persecution of Miss McGoldrick must cease forthwith after Mr Baker's welcome touch of steel behind the smile.
- Telegraph says Miss McGoldrick is delighted with Mr Baker's intervention but thinks he could have acted sooner; leader says that Mr Baker must stand firm if Brent ignores his action.
- Guardian says neither Brent nor Mr Baker come out of the episode unblemished. Mr Baker has squeezed it for every drop of party political advantage in the crusade against loony lefties. "You might think that somewhere among this lot some thought would be given to the children," it adds.
- Sir Raymond Lygo, in talk to Industrial Society, says it had been a great mistake to abolish grammar schools and technical colleges - we are not leaders of Europe but a grubby little Island.

AIDS

- Star P8: The Government is aiming at nothing less than a sexual revolution to combat AIDS leading to the end of the permissive society; leader says the Government's campaign is not working and it is a scandal that there still remains a risk with blood transfusions. It wants a new sense of urgency.
- Times: The Irish Government is to ignore criticisms from the Roman Catholic church and launch an anti-AIDS campaign, advising people to use condoms.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Mirror's new scare story: Easildon and Orsett Hospitals in Essex may go over to sandwiches instead of hot meals because of Government cash cuts.
- Times: Thousands of patients are being jeopardised by irrational and unfounded allegations about the conduct of transplant teams, says the Royal College of Physicians.
- FT: Ministers dismiss the backbench revolt on mortgage interest benefit as "a minor hiccough" because only a 2-line Whip was applied.
- Independent: The Greater London Citizens Advice Bureau warned that the benefit system in London has virtually collapsed.

LAW AND ORDER

- Sun leader against Government, as party of law and order, for planning to cut compensation for police officers hurt in course of duty. It is disgraceful.
- Speaker agrees to investigate allegations that sophisticated eavesdropping equipment has been installed in Whitehall to intercept MPs' telephone calls.
- Times: The Government is expected to announce the setting up of privately-run remand centres next year to relieve pressure on overcrowded jails.
- The backlog of unresolved applications to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, which was above 50,000 this year, is causing concern.
- Independent: Hurd may send pub bomb case to appeal after new evidence in Birmingham case sent to Home Office.

SPORT

- Sun, on FA's decision to make Telford play their cup tie with Leeds at West Brom because Telford police don't want Leeds thugs - and nor do West Brom - says it would be fairer to award the tie to Telford.
- Mirror says hooligans have scored an infamous victory, but the disgrace belongs to their allies, West Mercia police for their craven behaviour.

US/IRAN

- Reagan asks Senate to give Poindexter and North limited immunity from prosecution.
- Terry Waite denies any involvement in arms for hostages deal with Iran; Mail leader says Waite has been in some tight spots in his time but never in one more compromising. It appears he was used by Col North. He owes it to himself to give a full explanation.
- Times: Lt Col North provided Terry Waite with transport and security back-up during his mission to secure the release of Lebanon hostages.

TRINIDAD

- Premier George Chambers swept from office after party's 30 year rule.

EAST/WEST

- Times: An "extraordinary" hint that Gorbachev sees you as the strongest voice in the Western Alliance after President Reagan emerged yesterday. Gorbachev likes the President's priorities better than yours, but accepts that you have proved the authentic voice of the Alliance.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Independent: David Astor says the West must act now on South Africa. Withholding of credits by banks pinpoints the Achilles heel of apartheid.

SURINAM

- Times: Mr Elliott Abrams, US Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American affairs, says Libya is intervening in the Caribbean and Surinam.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

HMT: Mr Lawson addresses the Stock Exchange Christmas lunch

DEM: Mr Lee visits MSC at Moorfoot and later attends MSC carol service, Sheffield

DES: Mr Dunn presents prizes for European Road Safety

DOE: Mr Waldegrave addresses all-Party conservation group

DCE: Lord Skelmersdale attends Channel Fixed Link Consultative Committee, Sevenoaks

DTP: Mr Mitchell addresses Channel Fixed Link Consultative Committee, Sevenoaks

DTP: Mr Bottomley attends ceremony of European Road Safety Year, Hyde Park

HO: Mr Hogg visits Suffolk Police

MAFF: Mr Thompson attends lunch with Committee for Responsible Nutrition; later attends British Veterinary Association cocktail party

MOD: Mr Hamilton lunches with Babcock Power

OAL: Mr Luce launches arts marketing scheme

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

MAFF: Mr Jopling and Mr Gummer attend Fisheries Council, Brussels (to 18 December)

DTI: Mr Pattie attends Eureka Ministerial Meeting, Stockholm

FCO: Mr Renton departs Tunisia for Morocco (to 19 December)

MAFF: Mr Gummer attends European Parliamentary Committee on External Relations

SO: Mr MacKay attends Fisheries Council, Brussels (to 18 December)

TV AND RADIO

"Apartheid"; ITV (Part 3, 21.00; Part 4, 22.30)
