

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Local education authorities meet to discuss teachers' pay

Deadline for RSG consultation document returns

Commons recess begins

Mr Waldegrave launches "Protecting the Environment" pamphlet,
Cabinet Office

CSCE, Vienna

STATISTICS

Gross domestic product (3rd qtr-prov)

PUBLICATIONS

HMSO: General Household Survey, 1984

Turks and Caicos Islands Commission of Enquiry 1986. Report of the
Commissioner

PAY

Primary and Secondary School Teachers in England and Wales; 453,000;
Government has proposed package worth 16.4% on earnings to be phased in
two stages of 8.2% from 1 January 1987 and 1 October 1987. Employers and
four of six unions proposed new employment contract and salary structure
worth about 16.6% on earnings over 15 months (22% after 8 years).

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: Timed Christmas Adjournment Debates until 3.00 pm

PRESS DIGESTNIMROD

- New angle is that "Heads must roll" after MoD inquiry into handling of contract, but coverage is generally modest and restrained.
- GEC
- Ted Heath abstains with Jim Prior, Ian Gilmour and Cecil Parkinson, and accuses you of inflicting a "suicidal urge" on British industry.
- Sun P8: A billion wasted as NIMROD is scrapped.
- Sun P2: Why NIMROD went down the pan! Axed British radar picked up the stainless steel loo, says Minister; feature on why Britain is right to buy Boeing" - is backing Britain by doing so.
- Mirror devotes only 11 lines to "Nimrod axed by Cabinet".
- Today P2: Heads may roll over £1bn NIMROD fiasco.
- Express P1: Nimrod fiasco: heads to roll. Sackings expected at MoD. In the end much of the blame will be laid at the door of Fred Mulley who decided to buy NIMROD. Alarm over the loss of 3,500 jobs. Leader says heads should roll. Bare facts are staggering and depressing.
- Mail P2: Grounded! Victory for Younger as protest fizzles out. Government handsomely won its case. Threatened Tory protest largely fizzled out; leader headed "Learning from our mistakes" says this is what now matters. MoD has already learnt to avoid cost-plus contracts because they reward inefficiency.
- Telegraph leads with "Defence deals inquiry pledge"; Heads must roll. Jobs for 4,500 from Boeing.
- Times: The vast majority of Conservative MPs accepted that Mr Younger had made a convincing case. The most potent intervention in the debate came from Michael Heseltine, who described the decision as courageous; GEC Avionics will make a statement today about the employment implications of losing the contract; leader says the whole business of defence procurement and the nature of contracts which are concluded must be re-examined.
- Guardian P1: RAF "would prefer fewer AWACS to risking NIMROD". Tories in mood to bite on bullet. Sketchwriter says Ministers will go off for Christmas confident that the worst is behind them; leader: it is a sad day for our high tech industrial base.
- FT P1: Britain chooses AWACS at cost of £860m; Tories back Younger - wins overwhelming support; leader says cancellation is a severe blow to GEC but needs to be seen in perspective. It has however highlighted City's allegation that GEC is better at squeezing profits out of established businesses than building new high-tech ones. GEC's ability to provide for orderly succession beyond Weinstock is far more important.
- Independent P1: Britain may need another 2 AWACS over and above 6; leader headed "Buying Britain the best defence system" says the national interest means more than an obsessive enthusiasm for do it yourself defence.

ECONOMY/UNEMPLOYMENT

- Star: Boost for Maggie as jobless total falls again - signs that tide may at last be turning.
- Star: Dole toll takes tumble.
- Mirror: Government hopes of cutting unemployment below 3m by Christmas dashed yesterday.
- Today gives greater prominence to OECD criticism of increased spending announced in Autumn Statement; another report says "New rules cut the dole queue again".
- Express P2: Dole tide turns - 10 lines supported by leader which says it is excellent news that unemployment is at its lowest level in 18 months and the trend downwards.
- Mail P2: Cheer as dole total falls again.
- Telegraph P2 finds a threat to inflation in current level of borrowing. P2: Fall in level of pay rises expected. P4: Jobless total "firmly down" for fourth month.
- Economists at Credit Suisse First Boston suggest that Britain's unit labour costs are growing at a slower rate than Germany's and almost equal to Japan's.
- FT P1: OECD forecasts decline in UK's trade position. Back page - jobless total falls again.
- Independent: Number of unemployed down 20,000.
- Independent: Camdessus, governor of Bank of France to be new IMF managing director.
- FT: Growth in money supply nears top of target range.
- FT: Retailers expect record Christmas.

GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

- FT: New GHS reveals that 25% of householders live on their own. Also, large increase in single parent families.

CITY

- Two new "scandals" - Guinness admits it was in partnership with Boesky and inspectors investigate allegations of insider dealing by officials of DTI, Monopolies Commission and OFT.
- FT: Department of Transport urged to investigate allegations that former consultant to the National Bus Company used insider information to bid for 9 NBC subsidiaries.

INDUSTRY

- Rolls-Royce to be privatised in April or May - poised for £1bn sell-off (Mail). Guardian says taxpayers will lose hundreds of millions as write-offs wipe out proceeds.
- Rover and Honda agree to build a family car together - Today says this may require Graham Day to call for £100m of Government support.
- Guardian says Government has started selling from its strategic stockpile perplexing industry in view of deterioration in situation in South Africa.
- Independent: The Government has effectively decided to write off all outstanding debts of Rolls Royce to smooth way to privatisation.
- FT: DOE issues consultation paper on air pollution controls.

EC

- Drastic cuts in fish catch quotas expected to raise prices.

UNIONS

- Militant Macreadie beaten in re-run poll for CPSA general secretary. Mail leader hopes moderates learned from this experience. It was a near thing and if they now go to sleep again, next time they may not be so lucky.
- NUJ ends national bargaining with provincial newspapers.
- Furniture trades union expected to announce the end of its support for Silentnight strikers after 17 months of dispute.

POLITICS

- Independent: Liaison Committee report says proposals to limit civil service evidence to select committees are wholly unacceptable. Government response expected to be produced during the recess.
- Independent: Alliance candidates warned by leadership to stick to party line on defence.
- Joe Haines says that senior Labour moderates met secretly 2 weeks ago to decide what to do about Kinnock and the bomb - apathetically and wrongly they decided to do nothing.
- John Ryman threatens a by-election in Blyth unless Labour Party agrees to hold inquiry into Militant infiltration.
- Today says Alliance now has a defence policy which is a vote winner.
- Malcolm Rutherford, in FT, says the story of the year is the Government's recovery or more accurately of the opposition parties' failure to take advantage of a Government that seemed to be on the ropes. This is partly due to your style of leadership. Most likely date for an election would be October, although there is a case for 7 May, the same day as the local government elections.

AIDS

- Free needles in exchange for old, and counselling. Introduced on experimental basis; 50 people who donated blood last year were AIDS carriers.
- Sun says Boots are to stop women trying out lipstick in stores; leader attacks Staffs Tory councillor for suggesting homosexuals should be gassed.
- Mail says people can carry the virus for up to 18 months without its being detected.
- Telegraph leader ruminates on the difficulties encountered by a family newspaper in warning readers of the dangers.
- Times: Britain's blood transfusion service is facing serious problems caused by AIDS, the director of the North West Regional Transfusion Service said; centres in London are losing about 100 pints a day, 15% of the total, for a variety of reasons.
- Times: The BMA gives qualified support to the decision for "free needles" pilot scheme. It was difficult to predict how effective it would be without leading to a serious increase in drug misuse.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Sun leader attacks hospital executive in Manchester who, to save money has cut off heating in a nurses home and removed fuses so electric fires can't be used.
- Electricity Consumers' Council says cash to help 2.5m households pay electricity bills is to be phased out; but DHSS says no one will suffer under changes being made.
- FT: Study group to be set up to examine equal opportunities for women in the NHS.

EDUCATION

- NUT votes to accept proposed deal with LEAs.
- Brent Council decides to drop disciplinary action against Miss McGoldrick in face of Kenneth Baker's direction, but go ahead with inquiry into behaviour of parents and governors of her school.

RATES

- Star says plan for a £200 community charge makes rates look reasonable. Where is there justice in a standard charge? A local sales tax is far more reasonable.

LAW AND ORDER

- World expert in child care jailed in London for a year for dealing in child porn.

MI5

- Sun leader on Peter Wright's sister's attack on him, says she spoke well.
- Telegraph reports that Sir Arthur Franks, former head of MI6, was cleared of security leaks yesterday.
- Independent: Judge threatens to dismiss MI5 case as abuse of court as case wound up.

PEOPLE

- William Casey, CIA chief, has operation to remove brain tumour.
- Irina Ratnakhinskaya, dissident Russian poet, arrives in UK.
- Mirror's front page lead concerns Mr Kinnock's exploits with two youngster who hit him on the head with rolled up newspapers as he ate a curry with his wife last Friday night. Confronts them outside and they run away. Today: Kinnock floors man in street brawl.
- Mail: "Angry Kinnock in street brawl".

USSR

- Riot in Alma Ata over Gorbachev appointment.
- To end ban on nuclear tests.
- Express says Peter Walker is to urge British businessmen to help Russia develop oil, coal, gas and nuclear.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Telegraph carries report that 26 more US firms are to leave.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- SO: Mr Rifkind opens Musselburgh Bypass, A1 near Edinburgh; later officially opens new Britoil Headquarters, Glasgow
- DEM: Mr Trippier opens new office block development at Salford Quays
- HMT: Mr Brooke to re-open HMSO Bookshop in High Holborn
- SO: Mr Lang meets representatives of British Holiday and Home Parks Association Ltd, Murray Arms Hotel, Gatehouse-of-Fleet
- WO: Mr Roberts opens Ysbyty Gwynedd kidney unit, Bangor
-

TV AND RADIO

- "Advice Line"; BBC 1 (09.45): Paul Clark and Eileen Evason answer questions on social security problems
- "Micro Live"; BBC 2 (19.30): Items on music from micro computers, an electronic driving simulator
- "A Week in Politics"; Channel 4 (20.15): With Nick Ross
- "Any Questions?"; BBC Radio 4 (20.45): With Malcolm Rifkind MP, Denis Healey MP, Shirley Williams MP and General Eva Burrows, World Leader, Salvation Army
-