

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister interviewed by "Sunday Post"

PAY

British Airports Authority - all grades; 7,000

PARLIAMENT

Questions

Business: Private Members Motions
Free Television Licences For Pensioners Bill: Second Reading

Obscene Publications Bill: Second Reading

Police Complaints Authority (Information) Bill: Second Reading

Criminal Justice Act 1982 (Amendment) Bill: Second Reading

Adjournment Debate

Thames Water Abstraction Policy: River Vere (Mr P Lilley)

PRESS DIGEST

CITY

- BTP Chairman calls for inquiry into Pilkington share deals; price jumps 20p in 24 hours before Mr Channon's decision not to refer bid to MMC.
- Allegations of a leak.
- Anthony Beaumont-Dark MP calls for Mr Channon's resignation.
- Labour's Robin Cook calls Guinness "biggest City scandal for a generation!"
- Express: Maggie drops hint of new City curbs as Government comes under fire from all sides as City troubles catch up with you; leader says Paul Channon's decision is correct, despite clamour.
- Today; Thatcher in dock over City scandals - and you hint you may end policy of self regulation.
- Mail: You are faced with rising clamour for tighter controls in the City; Andrew Alexander identifies the directors of Guinness who failed to speak up, including Ian McLaurin, Tesco, and David Plastow, Vickers.
- Telegraph leads with "Tories seek tough curbs on takeovers". DTI Ministers split over BTP merger and some of Mr Channon's colleagues think it should have been referred to MMC in national interest; leader says the most important thing for Guinness board to do now, having done everything possible to sever its connection with Saunders "and all his works", is to publish the information in its hands. Until the facts have been established, and the guilty identified, both the City and Government are deeply embarrassed.

CITY (Cont'd)

- Guardian P1 lead: Thatcher faces twin attack over City; Government accused of insufficient control over Guinness affair and of failing to use competition policy to protect Pilkington.
- Guardian leader says we now know that the shareholders, on whom Mr Channon is relying in the Pilkington case, did not decide the issue in the Guinness case because Guinness appears to have been rigging the market. And it is funny that Pilkington shares rose in advance of yesterday's announcement. Takeovers are in danger of becoming a financial game increasingly remote from Britain's long term industrial interests. The onus should be on BTR to prove positive advantages of its bid to Pilkington's future as a world leader.
- Times leads with "Pressure is on Thatcher to curb City".
- Times leader says Guinness board has acted decisively to disentangle its future directors from its immediate past, and the Government's record in taking measures to protect investors and ensure clean, competitive markets stands up well. Labour wishes to substitute political judgement for that of the market, which would be highly damaging. But the Government has become identified with the equally untenable position that everything can be left to the markets. What is now needed is for the leaders of finance to reassert the role of individual moral judgement and social responsibility which comes naturally to most of them.
- FT leads with Ministers opposed to Mr Channon's clearance of BTR bid for Pilkington - Giles Shaw, Geoffrey Pattie and Alan Clark, Ministers of State in Department, were not consulted or informed and did not approve. Some other Ministers think he has acted too legalistically.
- Independent: The Government suffered two setbacks when Tory backbenchers criticised the BTR takeover and the Opposition conducted an assault over City scandals. The City code broken by a drive for profit. Editorial says that without self restraint, self regulation cannot work.

WEATHER/HEATING

- Another 32 died yesterday - 62 in last 4 days, highest in Western Europe, according to Star.
- Express: Snow go shirkers - Maggie raps the idlers with alibis - after Jeremy Hanley MP tells you of post office in London which closed because it was too cold to work.
- Sun says some conmen retailers charged £1.80 for a pint of milk yesterday and £1 for a loaf; some plumbers demanded £120 to mend a burst pipe.
- Sun leader advocates the issue of fuel vouchers when cold weather strikes
- Today leader says nobody is going to admire any politician who tries to score points out of people freezing in misery but it would be a good idea if Whitehall devoted more time to preparing for weather emergencies.
- Oldham borough offering 8000 pensioners a severe weather grant of £4 when Government fails to make payments because weather is not sufficiently cold.
- CBI praises "herculean efforts" of workers who have this week struggled against the elements to get to work.
- Independent: Britain starts to escape the big freeze. EEC has made £1.75m available for cold weather relief.

LAW AND ORDER

- Victim of Brixton police shooting could get £300,000 compensation.
 - Mirror leader, on Groce police shooting case in which police inspector is acquitted, says the Home Office and Chief Constables must make sure no other untrained officers are sent out with weapons; inspector had not been trained to shoot at moving targets.
 - Chairman of Lambeth police committee attacks acquittal and says it will do nothing to calm the fears of the people of Brixton.
 - Mail says Scotland Yard is to disarm CID officers serving in all Metropolitan police stations; leader calls Commissioner's measures against racial attacks "a most timely, admirable and positive response to a potentially explosive situation!" But Labour Councils are doing the opposite of taking the lead in fostering a police/black community partnership.
 - Guardian says the lesson of recent cases is that the criminal law does not provide a reliable system of justice for the victims of police shooting.
 - Independent leader says that every step that led to the Groce tragedy appears to have been a blunder by the police. The problem is the pressure and their harsh working conditions, and only Superintendents can prevent a recurrence by ordering their men home when they have had enough.
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- Mail highlights problems of police in dealing with Left wing authorities Southwark reports theft of batteries worth £1000 for insurance purposes but doesn't allow inquiries.
 - London Police Commissioner says he is winning the fight against racial attacks, but he criticises the unhelpfulness of some local authorities.
 - Express leader supports Home Secretary's perhaps unfashionable message: Crime prevention begins at home. The depressing fact is that most crime is carried out by children.

ECONOMY

- Express: Dole queue cut boost for election; underlying fall biggest for 8 years; leader finds that nothing could be more cheering than this news.
- Star: Dole fall boost for Thatcher. Sun: Great work! It's the best news on jobs for 8 years.
- Today: Maggie election joy as jobless fall - landmark for Tories.
- Mail: Maggie hails good news on jobs.
- Telegraph: Jobless rate fall cheers Government.
- Guardian: Lord Young hails jobless fall as land mark.
- Times: Jobless fall boosts Tories. Rodney Lord article says not the least of the benefits of a fall in unemployment will be the opportunity to switch the emphasis from ways of limiting unemployment to ways of increasing employment, and improving the skill quality of the workforce.
- FT: Jobless figures fall for fifth consecutive month and boosts speculation that the seasonally adjusted total could fall below 3m by the early autumn.

POLITICS

- Hattersley confirms Government will claw back any tax concessions in Budget - Chancellor says Hattersley is trying to make the voters' flesh creep.
- Sun's headline: "Roy's tax plan will hit us all."
- Joe Haines, in Mirror, says the reason the Tories are doing so well in marginals is that they are better organised.
- Malcolm Rutherford, in FT, argues case for fixed term Parliaments. The present system was devised to lessen the power of the monarch. It exists now to enhance the power of the Prime Minister.

INDUSTRY

- Sun leader on BAA's plan for swingeing increases in airport landing charges which are 5 times higher in Britain than in USA, says before this monopoly is privatised the Government should ensure passengers are protected from their greed.
- FT says sport generates £6.85bn in UK and employs more than coal or agriculture, according to Sports Council report.
- Institute of Manpower Studies claims Government's strike statistics significantly underplay actual stoppages.

EDUCATION

- University lecturers being urged by AUT to refuse to mark finals in pursuit of 24% pay rise. One-day strike planned for March 4.
- Times feature says HMI reports suggest that educational standards will not be improved until school resources are increased and goodwill of teachers has been recovered.
- Independent: Scottish teachers' union urge parents to keep their 4 and 5 year olds away from primary school as it is educationally undesirable.

UNIONS

- NUM cannot afford to pay pensions because it is £2m in red and has £4m overdraft. Retired miners face cuts in pensions, says Spencer Batiste MP.
- TGWU preparing to sign single-union deal with Norsk Hydro, which will take away negotiating rights held by others.

MEDIA/ARTS

- Sun leader on NUJ - "that supporter of Gaddafi and other lost foreign causes" - says it now reveals itself as a menace to freedom in Britain with £1000 fines on 95 Wapping journalists. Fines are monstrous and reveal the underlying truth about the tyranny so many trade unionists wish to impose.
- Today contrasts your declared support for opera with your licence squeeze on BBC; there are millions more votes to be had among lovers of BBC than lovers of opera.

TV LICENCES

- Labour alleges that payroll vote has been ordered to turn up to defeat David Winnick's Bill to give free TV licences to pensioners.
- Kinnock calls the move "extremely cynical".
- Star intends to list all MPs who vote against.

AIDS

- Mitterrand in London, and prompted by Robert Maxwell, calls on European scientists to work together on a cure for AIDS.

DEFENCE

- Mitterrand, in London, says "France would be wrong to renounce nuclear arms because it is the only dissuasive measure for avoiding war".

PEOPLE

- Prince William starts school - and his nanny departs.
- Sun says a Conservative councillor, aged 24, who once broke through a police cordon at a Tory conference to kiss you, is suffering from AIDS and is to resign.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- DUP MP Peter Robinson held in Republic jail awaiting sentence after changing his plea to guilty on charge of unlawful assembly.

AFGHANISTAN

- Russia preparing to pull out troops, but guerrillas say they will fight on; West sceptical of Soviet intentions (Telegraph). US to send delegation to Pakistan to develop a joint response to ceasefire.
- Independent: Afghan leader says that his government and the Soviet Union had reached accord paving the way for a full Soviet withdrawal, but Afghanistan scornful of truce.

LEBANON

- Waite says his efforts to secure release of hostages are making good progress.

FALKLANDS

- George Younger, in Islands, discusses rumours that Government is having secret talks with Argentina.

USA/IRAN

- 16 die in mid-air collision over Salt Lake City.
- Independent: President Reagan won't say he's sorry for Iran scandal.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Lord Young visits Cleveland

DES: Mr Baker visits Huddersfield Polytechnic

DHSS: Mr Fowler, Mr Newton and Baroness Trumpington attend health seminar, Eynsham Hall, Oxford

DTP: Mr Moore visits Norfolk

HMT: Mr Macgregor to open a new training centre in Norwich

HO: Mr Hurd visits West Midlands Police and Coventry Cable

DEM: Mr Trippier opens Liquid Polymers Ltd new factory, Accrington, Lancs

DOE: Lord Skelmersdale visits Channel Tunnel

DTP: Lord Brabazon visits Channel Tunnel

HMT: Mr Lamont addresses a conference on marketing shares to the private sector

HO: Lord Caithness visits Leicester Fire Brigade

MOD: Mr Freeman visits the Boat Show, Earls Court

MOD: Mr Hamilton visits the Proof and Experimental Establishment, Shoeburyness, Essex

MAFF: Lord Belstead visits British Wool Marketing Board, Bradford

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTI: Mr Channon visits Saudi Arabia (to 19 January)

MOD: Lord Trefgarne attends the International Equipment Planning Group (IEPG) State Secretaries meeting, Madrid, Spain

TV AND RADIO

"Advice Line"; BBC 1 (09.45): Paul Clark and Eileen Evason answer questions on social security problems

"The National Health - Battle for Beds - A Panorama Report"; BBC 2 (14.20): First shown in October it focuses on the "stresses and strains" at two large hospitals. St Mary's London and the Northern General, Sheffield

"Passage to Britain - A Nation of Immigrants?"; Channel 4 (14.30): Examines the legacy of the British Empire and the background to immigration with Enoch Powell MP and Paul Boateng

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

"Any Questions - Radio 4 (20.20): With Lynda Chalker, Dr Tessa Blackstone; Michael Meadowcroft MP and Andrew Neil
