

20 January 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister's design seminar, No 10 Downing Street

Possible statements on cold weather payments and Birmingham pub bombing

The Princess of Wales visits Tadworth Court Hospital for Children, Tadworth, Surrey

European Court on Human Rights considers GCHQ union ban

M. Delors visits Luxembourg

Council of Europe Pompidou Group meeting on drug trafficking and abuse, London (to 21 January)

ESAC on prison education receives evidence from ACC and AMA

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STATISTICS

Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (Dec)

London and Scottish banks monthly statement on provisional estimates of monetary aggregates (Dec)

Institutional investment (3rd Qtr)

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PAY

NHS Ambulance officers: outcome expected on offer of 6.93% on average earnings in first year

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PUBLICATIONS

NAO: Report of Comptroller and Auditor General. Scottish Development Department: Review of the Scottish Special Housing Association.

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Education and Science; Defence; Prime Minister

Business: Opposition day (5th Allotted Day). There will be a debate on an opposition motion entitled "The Divided Nation - The Failure of the Government's economic policy"

Debate on a Motion on EC Documents relating to broadcasting.

Adjournment Debate

The proposed closure of Cummins Component Plant, Darlington (Mr M Fallow).

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Select Committees: EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS  
 Subject: Prison Education  
 Witnesses: Association of County Councils (at 10.45 am); Association of Metropolitan Authorities (at 11.45 am)

PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION  
 Subject: Reports of the Health Service Commissioner for 1985-86  
 Witnesses: Basingstoke and North Hampshire Health Authority; North East Thames Regional Health Authority; North West Thames Regional Health Authority

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL  
 South Yorkshire Light Rail Transit

Lords: Minors' Contracts Bill (HL): Third Reading  
 Recognition of Trusts Bill (HL): Third Reading  
 Consumer Protection Bill (HL): Committee (2nd Day)  
 MOD Police Bill (HL): Third Reading  
 Licensing (Restaurant Meals) Bill (HL)

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTECONOMY

- Express: Government figures show the economy is booming; industrial output has hit a seven-year high; productivity is up; wages are down and the High Street bonanza continues. Hopes of a give-away budget rise.
- The cost of getting married and setting up home has soared to £8,000.
- Leader headed 'Murrah, Britain is looking great again' calls for a tax-cutting budget.
- Telegraph P1 lead: 'Boom year for election. Better living standards and tax cuts likely.' Yesterday's economic indicators are seen by MPs and Ministers as increasing the prospects of a tax-cutting budget on 17 March, and an election in the summer or early autumn.
- The CBI cautioned the Chancellor against a pre-election give-away budget and called for a "modest" £1.6bn stimulus.
- Times: "Interest rates cut priority, says CBI". The CBI's recommendation came as the Government was announcing a strong inflow of revenue, strengthening the prospect of tax cuts.
- Guardian: "Borrowing figures raise Lawson hopes of tax cuts".

ECONOMY

- Independent: Despite buoyant tax revenues and low Treasury borrowing, Government officials were last night again dousing hopes of large-scale tax cuts in the Budget.
- FT: Increase in output raises hopes of economic upturn.
- FT: About 100,000 people had long-term problems repaying money borrowed on Barclaycard last year, says the Bank.

UNIONS

- FT: Ambulance services face disruption after 3,500 control staff rejected a pay deal offering rises up to 32%.

POLITICS

- Hands Across Britain - the star-studded campaign against unemployment - was branded a cheap political stunt yesterday by the Centre for Policy Studies (Express).
- Mr Tebbit is considering libel action against the Guardian for its claim that no one with a conscience would vote Conservative.
- Labour's anti-nuclear policy will cost 700,000 jobs, says Mr Tebbit. Labour accuse him of lying (Mail).
- Today: Political editor, Chris Buckland, says voters will have to decide between their purses or principles and it is not looking good for your opponents. If greed is the dominating factor in the nation's life, you will be in control well into the 1990s.
- Sun: Leader says ever since you swept to power people have moaned about Government cuts. Yet the truth is that in many cases spending has rocketed. It gives examples.
- Leader says Hands Across Britain may produce a fun day - but not a single new job.
- Telegraph: The Conservative Party is looking beyond its current mailing shot to 1m BT shareholders to a lasting campaign to gather funds and support for further privatisation.
- Concern over the continuing inability of Government to come up with a comprehensive and radical policy for the inner cities surfaced last night at a seminar in the Tory Holy of Holies - the Carlton Club.
- Confidential Civil Service briefs to ministers on behalf of private companies should normally be made public, says Dr David Owen (Times).
- The bulk of the 1 million jobs a Labour Government aims to create in its first two years in office should come through housing, education and construction, the TUC urges (Guardian).

LAW AND ORDER.

- Wide coverage of photofit picture of man who savagely stabbed 10-year-old girl.
- Express: A furniture salesman made legal history last night by becoming the first drugs suspect in Britain to have his bank account frozen under the new drugs trafficking offences act.
- Chief Constable James Anderton faced a furious onslaught yesterday from Manchester Left-wingers anxious to oust him from his job after his claim that he may be a prophet of God.
- The Home Secretary has bowed to pressure from Church leaders, lawyers and MPs and agreed to re-open the Birmingham pub bombings case because of new evidence.
- Star leads with story of a sex fiend who raped a little girl but escaped British justice because he claimed diplomatic immunity.
- The Chairman of the Manchester Police "Watchdog" committee has urged Mr Anderton to see a doctor.
- 'How do you tell a Chief Constable he's off his rocker?' asks the Mirror.
- Sun: Feature on the ease with which Britain's youngsters can buy drugs names the clubs where supplies are peddled.
- Leader says if it had to choose between the voice of God through Mr Anderton and the voice of Satan through the criminals he has to deal with, it would say: Give us James Anderton every time.
- Telegraph: Mr Anderton says he is being persecuted for his beliefs.
- Leader says it is all very well for Mr Anderton to be ever-conscious of his Great Taskmaster's eye on him. But it would help were he a little less in the public's.
- Times: You have rejected an appeal by Cardinal Hume for a judicial review of the conviction of Annie Maguire.
- A Europe-wide agreement on confiscation of drug traffickers' assets will be high on the agenda at a two-day drug conference of European interior ministers starting today in London.
- Times: Leader says a period of silent contemplation from Mr Anderton would now be welcome.
- Guardian: "Hurd will reopen bombers' verdicts". Court of appeal likely to be sent evidence on Birmingham case.

INDUSTRY

- Express: More than 200 British Rail drivers at Waterloo are expected to strike for 24 hours today.
- British Aerospace has won a £100m contract to supply NATO with two communications satellites.
- Today: The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy says if the Tories win the election, firms in the north could have their rates bill slashed by 35% while those in the South West could rise by 65% because of the single business rate plan.
- Telegraph: The threat to telephone services increased last night as BT warned 40,000 engineers staging a 24-hour strike that they would not be allowed to return to duty today without signing a pledge to work normally.
- Caterpillar management will meet Mr Rifkind in London today to explain the closure of their Glasgow plant (Times).
- The timber industry is to present a united front against what it sees as a campaign to discredit forestry.

LICENSING HOURS

- Star: "Maggie backs all-day boozing". A private members bill by Allan Stewart to end pub opening hours is believed to have your backing.

CITY

- Express: Beleaguered Paul Channon, under attack from MPs on all sides, is to defy a move to grill him in the House today in the debate on the economy. Labour changed the wording of their motion in an attempt to lure him into the Chamber.
- Mirror: Labour trade spokesman, Robin Cook, says nine prosecutions out of 110 cases of suspected insider dealing is a pathetic record.
- "Channon to sit out attack in Commons" (Mail).
- Leader says Mr Channon is none too astute but sympathises with him. He is not for sacking before the general election so he should be backed.
- Andrew Alexander says that while there are difficult problems about the BTR/Pilkington bid, Paul Channon is not one of them. There is something disgraceful about the hullabaloo among Tories.
- Today: (Channon ducks row'. He will not defend his BTR/Pilkington decision today.
- Times: The US inquiry into the Boesky deals has been extended to British firms.
- The mystery woman at the centre of the DTI inquiry involving civil servants is a secretary at OFT.
- Conservative MPs are to appeal over the heads of the Government direct to Pilkington shareholders to reject the BTR bid.
- Geoffrey Smith says that on present form the troubles in the City will be passing embarrassments rather than decisive issues for British politics.
- Guardian: "Channon kept out of range in major debate". Tories, as well as Labour MPs, believe he is being protected because he would find it difficult to respond effectively to severe attack.
- The Government is to introduce maximum 2-year sentences for people who obstruct Bank of England investigations by destroying or concealing evidence.

CITY

- Guardian: Leader says if 7-year sentence fails to stop insider dealing even stronger penalties and regulatory powers will be needed. The City has a long and hard task to clean up an increasingly tainted image.
- Hugo Young says an industrial strategy seems the only way the Government can restore a belief that it cares about real things like production and manufacture - the only force that has any chance of standing against the fast-money merchants.
- FT: Contracts for the management and maintenance of the Guinness and Distillers car fleets were awarded to Mr Gerald Ronson's Heron Corporation during and after the takeover battle. He was a large-scale buyer of Guinness shares.

WEATHER

- Millions of homes could be hit by water rationing as reservoir levels plunge as a result of burst pipes caused by the thaw (Express).
- Telegraph: British charities will be able to receive from today free butter and beef from surplus EEC stocks for distribution to the poor and those affected by recent cold weather.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Express: The first specially-built 12-bed AIDS ward was opened yesterday at the Middlesex Hospital.
- Britain's soccer players have been told by the FA to stop kissing on the pitch, taking communal showers and drinking victory champagne from the same bottle - or risk catching AIDS (Mirror).
- London teaching hospitals are facing a financial crisis following cuts of £109m. 1,500 beds will go.
- A Buckinghamshire doctor is refusing to treat people who refuse to stop smoking.
- The Roman Catholic chaplain of the Scottish battalion involved in an AIDS alert says it may be a "sad necessity" to issue condoms to British troops.
- Hospital waiting lists will lengthen unless the Government relaxes its policy of shifting health cash from London to shires, the chairmen of all 12 London health authorities said yesterday (Telegraph).
- Times: The AIDS epidemic in Britain could be worse than predicted, a leading American expert warned Mr Fowler yesterday.
- The Treasury has defeated Mr Fowler in a battle over capital funds to help build up community care facilities (Guardian).
- A laxative - Dorbanex - given to 5 million people is being taken off the market after being linked with tumours.

MEDIA

- Two Conservative MPs libelled by Panorama will have a showdown meeting next week with Alasdair Milne (Times).
- Guardian: The BBC has banned a satirical play which showed you and Mr Kinnock in an unfavourable light over job losses in the shipbuilding industry.
- Lord Hailsham is considering a review of the 1981 Supreme Court Act so journalists will be able to challenge in a higher court a judge's decision to hold a trial in camera.
- Independent: Andreas Whittam Smith and Anthony Bevens of The Independent given Campaign for Freedom of Information awards for deciding not to become part of lobby system.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Telegraph: John Banham, Audit Commission Controller, says the local authority position in some parts of London is "irredeemable".
- More than 150 MPs, including 54 Conservatives, are backing a private members bill which would give people a right to see files kept on them by local authorities.
- Independent: Labour claims that Local Government Finance Bill will put the environment Secretary beyond the power of the courts. A guillotine motion now seems likely if the Bill is to reach the Lords by the end of the week.

EDUCATION

- The Independent Schools Joint Council says Labour's plan to abolish private schools would cost 100,000 jobs and an extra £750m in state expenses (Express).

DEFENCE

- Times: The highly classified MoD electronic communications project which a banned BBC programme claims is a £500m secret, has in fact been monitored by the National Audit Office.
- Independent: Defence Secretary is expected to force a Commons outburst today by announcing that American-led consortium will be given contract to manage Devonport dockyard.

NUCLEAR

- Today: American military commanders in Britain were put on standby for a major nuclear accident after the atomic weapon convoy accident in Wiltshire.

PEOPLE

- Mail P13: Picture of you with Terry Wogan, Ronnie Corbett and David Frost

USSR

- Mail: Russia has warned you that the price of any new East/West nuclear agreement will be that Britain will not upgrade its deterrent with Tirdent. Mr Renton brought this message back from his meeting with Shevardnadze.
- Guardian: Russia is ready to compromise on SDI restrictions, in the judgement of Mr Renton.

IRAN/IRAQ

- Iran poured thousands of fresh troops into its drive to capture Basra yesterday (Mail).

AUSTRALIA

- The Government has partly soothed Australian pride by agreeing in a rare move to lend an official Constitutional document to Canberra for the bicentenary celebrations.

FALKLANDS

- FT: Mr Philip Habib, President Reagan's roving envoy, may try to minimise possible conflicts when Britain's conservation zone comes into operation on 1 February, according to Argentine sources.

JIM COE

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DTI: Mr Channon and Mr Butcher attend Prime Minister's Design Seminar at No 10 Downing Street

DTP: Mr Moore presents Jet Conoco Motoring Writer Awards, Savoy Hotel

HMT: Mr Lawson addresses the Sacher Industrial Group

MOD: Mr Younger speaks at South Hampstead High School for Girls, Camden

WO: Mr Edwards attends lunch with Institute of Directors' Policy and Executive Committee, London

DOE: Mr Patten meets Water Authority Chairmen about water privatisation progress

DTI: Lord Lucas visits the West Midlands

FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses Chatham House on the UK Presidency in retrospective

HMT: Mr Brooke addresses the Conference of Council of Europe Pompidou Group of Ministers on Drugs, London

HO: Mr Mellor chairs the Conference of Council of Europe Pompidou Group of Ministers on Drugs, London (to 21 January)

MAFF: Mr Thompson visits McKey Food Service, Milton Keynes

MOD: Lord Trefgarne addresses the Tory Parliamentary Aviation Committee

OAL: Mr Luce speaks at Sir John Soane's Museum Dinner

SO: Lord Glenarthur attends the Conference of Council of Europe Pompidou Group of Ministers on Drugs, London

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TV AND RADIO

"Years ahead"; Channel 4 (15.45): Robert Dougall presents this magazine programme for the over 60s. This week examines law and order with a look at the fear and reality of crime against the elderly. Mr David Mellor MP, Gerald Kaufman MP and Shirley Williams debate the issue in front of a studio audience of senior citizens. Also items on the criminal injuries compensation scheme and victim support schemes

"File on 4"; BBC Radio 4 (19.20): With Michael Robinson

"Moneyspinner"; Channel 4 (20.30): Alison Mitchell in Edinburgh looks at saving for school fees, coping with heavy fuel bills and preparing for redundancy

"Call Nick Ross"; BBC Radio 4 (09.05)

"Advice Shop"; BBC1 (09.45): This week's topic is help for the unemployed. Margo MacDonald offers advice on coping with redundancy and afterwards.

"Woman's Hour"; BBC Radio 4 (14.00): Sue MacGregor chairs a discussion about the cost of taking a sex discrimination case to court.

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