

3 March 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Called to see the help for over-whelmed & under pressure. Can't be any longer. Regional impact. LAs - multi pleads. ... value of money
Duchess of York rides Aldaniti over one mile from the Royal Mews, Windsor in aid of the Bob Champion Cancer Trust; later attends a performance of Venice in Peril in aid of the Development Trust for the young Disabled, Westminster Theatre, London

Grasmn as plain statement
ESAC (education expenditure): Evidence from officials on public expenditure White Paper

NIC Report: library
Statement on immigration legislation

Letters to head teachers on teachers' pay arrive in schools

Dr Owen addresses RUSI on Alliance defence policy

STATISTICS

HMT: UK official reserves (Feb)

Bank of England: Capital issues and redemptions (Feb)

OPCS: Live Births during 1986

OPCS: Live Births, stillbirths and deaths: Registrations 29 November 1986 to 2 January 1987

PUBLICATIONS

MOD: Individual Training in the Armed Services

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Employment; Social Services; Prime Minister

Business: Second Reading of the Local Government Bill
Remaining stages of the Rate Support Grants Bill

Adjournment Debate

The role of the Department of Trade and Industry in Monitoring takeover bids (Mr B Walker)

Select Committees: NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK BROADS BILL

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS

Subject: The Government's Expenditure Plans 1987-88 to 1989-90

Witnesses: Officials of the Department of Education and Science

PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION

Subject: Reports of the Health Service Commissioner 1985-86

Witness: Department of Health and Social Security

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Lords: Ministry of Defence Police Bill (HL): Consideration of Commons Amendments
 Banking Bill: Second Reading
 Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Bill (HL): Report
 Audit (Northern Ireland) Order 1987: Motion for Approval
 Appropriation (Northern Ireland) Order 1987: Motion for Approval

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- You describe Gorbachev's move as "a good step forward". Labour accuse you of dragging your feet. Today says you plan to fly straight to Washington after your talks with Gorbachev to grab the glory. Soviets offer deal on bombs.
- General Rogers gives warning to beware of leaving Europe in worse position than in 1979
- 40 hurt when 2 trains collide head on near Shrewsbury.
- Home Secretary agrees to reconsider request by Tamils for political asylum - a dramatic U-turn (Sun).
- Teachers' pay statement on the whole well received by media, though not by teachers or by Labour MPs who object to removal of negotiating rights; more strikes threatened.
- Much concern over neglect of sports in schools - Express calls it a scandal.
- Express leads with MPs demanding a statement over Nigel West's allegation in book that Hollis's deputy, Graham Mitchell, was fifth man; Mirror leader ridicules the whole business.
- Mail leads with a new offensive being urged on Government, police and courts to combat killers of frail and elderly after murders of 3 elderly women in their own homes; Age Concern demand immediate action.
- Presidential nominee for head of CIA withdraws in face of opposition on Capitol Hill-
- Alliance in Panorama broadcast predict they could put Labour into second place.
- New Zealand earthquake leaves trail of damage and 5 seriously injured.
- Mail claims its paper, Standard, continued to outsell Maxwell who has cut his price of Daily News by half to 10p.

EAST-WEST

- Star: Peacemaker Maggie - you are to go all out for new arms pact with Russia and if you succeed you will have the perfect election springboard.
- Sun: Maggie's praise for nukes plan.
- Today leads with Mrs Thatcher's plans to hog the limelight if America and Russia agree to a deal; nuclear superstar, it calls you.
- Lord Chalfont, in Express, says it was typical of today's brand of instant politics that Healey should have said "there is now no obstacle to an agreement". It would be foolish in the extreme to suppose there are no obstacles in the way and he stresses the importance of negotiating from strength.
- Mail reports fears in Moscow that a rift between Russia's civil and military leaders could undermine Gorbachev's offer.
- Times report from Moscow says Kremlin announced proposals for separate weapons pact did not depend on freezing British and French nuclear force
- Times: Improved and more secure "hot line" between Downing Street and Kremlin expected to be agreed when you visit Moscow. You are reported as welcoming the Soviet move in short-range missiles but that there is a lot to be done.
- Independent: Soviet and American arms negotiators agree to prolong talks on INF missiles beyond tomorrow's scheduled finishing date, raising hopes of an early accord.
- Guardian says Russian military back Gorbachev's plans.

POLITICS

- Mail leader says had Labour published its plan for controlling London's police before Greenwich they would have been not just humiliated but obliterated. Proposals emanating from extreme Left but broadly supported by Labour's front bench call for rooting out of police prejudice against blacks, gay men, lesbians and women.
- Mail reports plan by Labour to cripple private medicine.
- Times: Labour's new peers expected to take seats before Easter.
- Times: Full parliamentary inquiry likely into possibility of televising Commons select committees.
- Guardian says Government might extradite alleged Nazis to Israel or West Germany if evidence strong enough.

NAZIS

- Mirror: Hurd rebuffs Nazi hunters.
- Star says FCO is to ask Russians to hand over documents relating to alleged war criminals living in Britain.
- Times: International Nazi hunters receive rebuff from Home Secretary because of lack of hard evidence; leader says that in resisting calls for police inquiry, Home Secretary has shown discernment and not a little courage, and if he has erred, it is on the side of mercy.
- Telegraph: Hurd will reopen 40 year old immigration files to investigate how those accused of being Nazis came to Britain.
- Independent: Government is prepared to change the law to enable Nazis to be brought to justice; but Mr Hurd makes it clear that he would first make facts from the Weisenthal centre.

INDUSTRY

- Rover production stops when 160 workers walk out in support of punk with sore toe is sacked for abysmal absenteeism - missed 51 shifts since April, 31 without explanation. Mail: After Red Robbo the green punk.
- NCB offering miners 11 weeks off a year in return for flexible working at projected new pit in South Wales.
- Today says Peter Walker will announce go-ahead for Sizewell in a fortnight.
- Mail says McGahey has launched a blistering attack on Scargill.
- Telegraph reports John Lloyd, Editor of New Statesman, saying trade unions in Britain and other advanced societies may be slipping into oblivion as voters think more about industrial rights and freedoms.
- FT: British and Dutch developers win support of Thanet District Council to plan £50m marina, leisure and shopping development at Ramsgate.

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- Times: British Coal chairman says new generation of miners have shurgged off bitterment of year long strike and are breaking new productivity records.
- FT: Coffee price seems set to fall sharply for second day following failure of agreement on how to reintroduce quota controls.
- FT: Scottish Development Agency chief executive to resign.
- FT: Eleven large shopping schemes in Greater Manchester area put on ice by Environment Secretary.
- FT: Northern Development Company asks Government for £1.5m of £2.7m available for related industrial development in regions. NDC described as self-help route to development.
- FT: British Coal chairman rules out new waive of pit closures.
- FT: Electricity industry unions launch campaign to pre-empt any attempt by Government to privatise the sector.
- FT; Government's union reform Green Paper would put BMA under considerab strain and cost taxpayer up to £100,000 a year to fund internal election

MEDIA

- Times: Cabinet Committee considering scrapping Treasury levy on ITV profits and replacing it by new arrangements to make service more efficient.

ECONOMY

- £ up to highest level for 6 months; interest rate cut unlikely until after Budget.
- London Chamber of Commerce says capital's businesses are in the best shape for 5 years.
- Sun commenting on Peter Walker's praise for our economic performance, says that now that the sun is shining you suddenly become the greatest gal since Joan of Arc in his eyes.

TEACHERS' PAY

- Government imposes pay settlement - Labour MPs say it tramples on union negotiating rights, teachers threaten more strikes.
- Star: Children's pay lesson.
- Sun: Peace offer to teachers.
- Mirror: Teachers in new chaos threat, fury at pay package.
- Today: School chaos threat over pay rise order.
- Express: Teachers' fury over pay offer.
- Mail leader under heading "Imposed but acceptable" says teachers would be unwise to accept deal out of hand. It is in line with what Scots have agreed. Most people will think it a fair deal.

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- Times: Teachers and education authorities react angrily to pay imposition. Their unions threaten "guerrilla" action while head teachers say "give it a chance to work". Employers leader describes imposition as "blackest day ever"; leader says teachers and LEAs have only themselves to blame for Government's imposition. Schools deserve bit of peace now. Those who seek to destroy it will not easily be forgiven.
- Telegraph P1 lead: £600 a year peace offer to teachers. Baker to impose pay settlement; unions divided.
- Telegraph leader says Kenneth Baker has got the LEAs off the hook and the teachers would be foolish not to accept. But the tragic legacy of the dispute is that some teachers have become attuned to the idea of industrial action. If they go ahead with more they will demonstrate a lack of responsibility that will do them no long term good.
- FT leader says many teachers and most of public want to see dispute ended but says new law likely to prove unsatisfactory to all sides.
- Guardian says teachers and Government should never have got themselves into this position. With better unions and a better Government none of it need have happened. Now it is hard to see what can be gained by the unions trying to deny Mr Baker has the upper hand.

UNIONS

- Independent: Hostility to Scargill's leadership of NUM will resurface this week in area secretary ballots for Scotland and South Wales

EDUCATION

- Much concern over school playground bullying and teachers' failure to deal with it - pointing, the Star says, to the slipping standards of the teaching profession. Teachers are spending too much time playing petty politics.
- Secondary Heads Association concerned at the slump in sport at schools due to refusal of teachers to take games, spending cuts and teachers' dispute.
- Express leader says the rapid disappearance of sport in our state schools is alarming and the situation must be reversed and the lead must come from Government.
- Mail says Left wingers are backpedalling in their opposition to competitive sport because of its unpopularity. News story headed "The Left dreams of a black Yard chief"
- Times; Head of University College Cardiff hands over financial control to deputy.
- Times: LSE win High Court action to evict 300 students from administration buildings.
- FT reports chronic shortage in science and maths teachers and the effects it is having on education. Industry worried about shortages.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Sun says Labour Party wants to pay child benefit direct to teenagers as State pocket money instead of to mothers.
- Today reports case of private nursing home in Camberley which has raised its charges by £100 a week causing 10 to leave because they can't afford £330 a week for single room.
- Times: David Atkinson MP calls for immediate improvement in community services for 250,000 schizophrenics.
- Times: Labour to launch charter calling for better health services for women.

AIDS

- MPs attack AIDS infected gay men who use lonely hearts columns to find partners.
- Telegraph writers say the Government's campaign is having a confused impact.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Sun says local councils are offering "golden hellos" with cash payments up to £3000, subsidised mortgages and free cars, to tempt key workers to join them.

LAW AND ORDER

- Father jailed for 15 months for cruelty for leaving 3 youngsters shut in a room for 7 hours while he went out to a pub; children later died in fire.
- Mirror takes the mickey out of alleged discoveries of the fifth man and says the son of Graham Mitchell, alleged by Nigel West to be the real fifth man, says he wasn't a Soviet spy.
- Murder hunt in Oldham after slaughter of 2 frail sisters, aged 81 and 92, in their home by robbers.
- Times; High Court criticises Government's tough parole policy. Rule that Home Secretary wrong in delaying parole review for prisoners serving directionary life sentences.
- Lord Chāncellor says an investigation into a Lloyds scandal (Unimar Insurance) has been dropped because of difficulty of getting evidence from Switzerland.
- Liverpool soccer hooligan jailed for 6 years for his part in knife attack on West Ham supporter.

SPORT

- Hattersley climbs on political bandwagon over threat, now withdrawn, to merge Fulham and QPR AFCs. Local council tells man who wants to develop

PEOPLE

- Joan Greenwood, actress, dies, 66; Randolph Scott, film actor at 89.
- Kinnock's neighbours move out - Sun says this shows his house is worth £250,000.
- Robert Macfarlane says he attempted suicide out of a sense of failure.

SPAIN

- Big efforts by British to save life of old donkey in Spain where it is due to be crushed to death in fiesta ritual.
- Reputed leader of Basque ETA terrorists killed in car crash in Algeria.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DTp: Mr Moore visits Gatwick

MOD: Mr Younger visits major defence contractors in the North-West of England

DEM: Mr Trippier at Enterprise Training in YTS, Gatwick

DES: Mr Dunn gives opening speech to Schools/Industry links seminar, Warrington

DOE: Lord Skelmersdale attends lunch at National Contractors Group of Building Employers Confederation, London

DOE: Mr Waldegrave opens Wildfowl Trust exhibition, Arundel, Sussex

DTI: Mr Shaw meets British Iron and Steel consumer council, London

DTp: Mr Bottomley judges the Volvo Traffic Safety Competition, Marlow

DTp: Mr Mitchell receives M. Clement, French Deputy, to discuss CFL, London

MAFF: Mr Thompson visits Shell, Sittingbourne

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DEM: Mr Clarke attends Anglo-German Seminar, Bonn

FCO: Mrs Chalker departs for Athens and Rome (to 9 March)

TV AND RADIO

Education Secretary Mr Baker interviewed on Brian Hayes show, LBC (12.00)

"Help"; ITV (18.25): How ethnic minorities in London tackle AIDS

"Their Lordships' House"; Channel 4 (14.15): Repeat of last night's programme

"First Tuesday"; ITV (22.40): Looks at IRA bombing of Woolwich and Guildford and the Home Secretary's refusal to reopen the case

"The Lordships' House"; Channel 4 (12.15 am)

"Newsnight Afternoon"; BBC 2 (15.03): With Nick Clarke and the Newsnight team

"Question of Defence"; BBC 1 (23.00): Six episodes on history of NATO. Tonight "Was it all Jimmy Carter's fault? - The Enhanced Radiation Weapon - neutron bomb"

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"File on Four"; BBC Radio 4 (19.20): Report from the Philippines on first year of Mrs Cory Aquino's presidency

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- Independent: Teachers' pay deal in force next month. The writing was on the wall for teachers' unions when a deal was struck in January for Scottish teachers.

UNIONS

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