

Friday, 13 March, 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Truro by-election result.

You visit North Wales.

Princess of Wales visits High Close School, Wokingham, Berkshire.

Scottish NFU annual general meeting.

Peter Wright case decision.

British Designer Week begins.

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STATISTICS

BSC/BISPA: Usable steel production (Feb)

DOE: Construction: output (4th qtr)

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: Private Members' Motions

Treatment and care of cancer patients - Mr Michael Martin

Gypsy caravan sites - Mr Peter Lilley

Local Authorities' Planning Powers - Sir Geoffrey Pinsberg

Adjournment Debate: The case for the Secretary of State for the Environment to rate cap the London Borough of Ealing 1988/9 (Sir G Young)

Lords: Consumer Protection Bill: report stage

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## PRESS DIGEST

### MAIN NEWS

- Liberal expected to win Truro in high by-election poll.
- June 11 hardening among speculators as likely date of General Election.
  
- Judge Powell rules against UK Government in Wright MI5 case but publication stayed 23 days pending appeal. Opposition demand statement; condemn any decision to go to appeal.
- American Ambassador Wright warns Labour Party that its anti-Americanism could smash Anglo-American alliance (Express).
  
- Sizewell B PWR power station gets go-ahead - new age of atom power dawns (Star). CECB seeks permission for second PWR and 2 coal-fired stations. Mirror says six PWRs are planned. Express forecasts 40,000 jobs as a result of all the new stations.
- Guardian Marplan poll reveals that more people want tax cuts than higher spending on public funds.
- John Prescott calls Tory MP a 'bastard' for allegedly leaking details of his row with Callaghan - his second tiff in the tea room. Tea room terror strikes again (Sun).
  
- Lords rejects appeal of 47 Liverpool councillors who are now surcharged and debarred from office for 5 years - good, says Star. Councillors' bill: £500,000. Reports that disqualified councillors spent £25m in last 48 hours.
- Surrogate mother who gave birth to twins wins custody of children - first time court has so ruled.
  
  
- Belgians find evidence that ferry hit harbour wall before capsizing (Today).
  
- More than 220,000 children expected to be affected today by more teacher strikes.
- NUM to consider 6-day working at delegate conference; Express says Scargill is setting himself up for defeat again.
  
  
- Reigate vicar charged with unlawful sex with 15 year old girl.
  
  
- Sir Richard Attenborough to be next chairman of Channel 4 in succession to Edmund Dell.
- Perle resigns from US Administration.
- John Timpson to retire from "Any Questions?" next year.

LABOUR PARTY

- Sun taunts Harold Wilson - what does he think of the defence row? And offers him a platform in the Sun.
- Joe Haines in Mirror calls Prescott a clown and an Eddie Waring look-alike without Waring's warmth, humour or intelligence. But reserves his venom for Healey. And he says that Steel is the biter bitten in complaining that Mr Tebbit has been lying.
- Charles Moore, in Express, says in referring to Jim Callaghan as "an old man now" Healey managed to break the record for ill-judgement, rudeness and untruth. Healey is one of the saddest figures in modern British politics.
- Ian Mikardo in Daily News, says radical policies have never been an electoral liability for Labour.
- Guardian says Kinnock loyalist - whom he had wanted to fight Greenwich - rejects idea of changing Labour policies in London to improve their image.
- Geoffrey Smith. in Times, says every political party contains a range of opinions, but the range in the Labour Party is so wide at the moment as to threaten its coherence as a Party.

POLITICS

- Express: confident Maggie on course for June poll.
- Independent - Tory backbenchers say you have ruled out May election.
- Guardian says a June election is being taken more seriously by senior Conservatives because of expectations that next week's Budget will be more generous than predicted.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Express leader on Liverpool court ruling doubts whether it is the end of the story of extremist Labour folk.
- ILEA youth officer - a woman - wants children as young as 12 to be allowed into homosexual and lesbian clubs; Mail leaders says this confirms worst fears about ILEA.
- Nottingham Labour-controlled council encourages elderly homosexual "to come out".
- Mob rule tactics led by Left-wing councillors prevent the setting up of a group in Hackney to improve relations between the police and public (Mail).

INDUSTRY

- More pressure for an inquiry into alleged Westland "concert party".
- Guardian reports a threat to Ravenscraig because of EC insisting on further lar reductions in steel making capacity.
- Times - says Labour will pledge to double industry's spending on civil R & D in 4 years.

SIZEWELL

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- Independent editorial on an end to dithering on nuclear power. Not that discussion on Sizewell has been made it must be hoped that the follow through will be better than in the past.
- FT - Sizewell go ahead paves way for £6bn nuclear programme; leader welcomes the announcement - at last - and says the challenge to the industry is how to show that it can build Sizewell B to cost and time.

BUDGET

- National Children's Home seeks alternative budget - £650m to beat child alcoholism, mend marriages and raise Family Income Supplement - a budget welcomed by Star.
- Sun referring to Lord Young's remarks about the possibility of an amnesty for tax dodgers says black economy is costing us 10p in tax.
- Today leads with "A budget bonanza" claiming that Chancellor will scatter £5bn at voters in every direction in time for a June election. Hatterley and Jenkins present other alternative budgets.
- Mail reports a boost for your economic strategy with booming performances from the motor trade, engineering and steel.
- Independent - Public Policy Centre report documents jobless limbo for a generation of middle aged.
- Malcolm Rutherford in FT says rarely can a Chancellor have been in such a favourable position in putting the finishing touches to his Budget.

MI5 CASE

- Attorney General says judgement is "just as we expected".
- Sun says the judgement is a blow to you.
- Mirror - Thatcher loses over spy book.
- Today - Wright victory in spy battle.
- Daily News - p1 lead - Defeat for Thatcher on MI5 book.
- Express leads with spy book battle lost by Maggie - Government set to appeal.
- Mail - p1 lead: Revenge of spy catcher. Judge orders Britain to pay his costs.

- Independent - Wright wins MI5 case; Government to appeal.
- Times - Leads with Britain loses fight to ban MI5 memoirs.
- FT - Australian judge rejects British plea on spy book.

#### LAW AND ORDER

- Star leader on the only regret of the judge in the Mafia case - that he was not allowed to impose more sweeping sentences - says that is the way to crack down on drug dealing grandfathers.
- Sun leader say we owe a deep debt to the woman witness in the Mafia case who defied every kind of terror taken to stop her giving evidence.
- Today calls for fewer people to be sentenced to jail - its response to rising number of prisoners.

SURROGACY

- Sun leader says surrogacy is a scientific marvel but the price is high - it replaces one heartbreak with another.

DEFENCE

- Independent - Viktor Karpov says Russia is willing to talk about SRINF reductions at the same time as INF.

MEDIA

- Independent - BBC to shelve film on Profumo.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Independent - Botha gets a boost from disarray on the far right. Editorial says Liberals will have their moment when the National party government receives its reforms.

SUDAN

- Independent - the spectre of famine grows as aid efforts fail.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Clarke visits Bristol

DES: Mr Baker visits Royal Observatory, Edinburgh and University of Strathclyde

DHSS: Mr Fowler visits Bromsgrove Hospital, Hereford and Worcester

DOE: Mr Ridley opens Kennett Housing Association scheme, Swindon

DTP: Mr Moore visits Kings Lynn

HO: Mr Hurd visits Leicester Probation Service

WO: Mr Edwards meets heads of the Valley Standing Conference, Cardiff

DHSS: Mr Lyell visits Unemployment Benefit Office, Bedford

DHSS: Baroness Trumpington visits Broadmoor Hospital, Broadmoor

DOE: Lord Skelmersdale opens road tunnel at Henley-on-Thames

DTI: Mr Howard addressed Nikkei Conference on financial markets, London

DTP: Lord Brabazon visits Govan Shipyard, Scotland, later attends 84th Annual Dinner of the Institute of Marine Engineers, Grosvenor House Hotel, London

DTP: Mr Bottomley attends launch of London Accident Prevention Council Caring Parent booklet, Strand Palace Hotel, London

HO: Lord Caithness visits Cheshire Fire Brigade

MAFF: Mr Gummer addresses Harris Bacon Company competition, Yorkshire

SO: Mr MacKay attends Scottish National Farmers' Union AGM, Inverness

WO: Mr Robinson opens Kyffin Williams Art Exhibition, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

MOD: Lord Trefgarne visits UAR, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait (to 19 March)

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TV AND RADIO

"The President's Star Warriors": BBC 2 (14.20): Traces roots of SDI technology

"Any Questions?": BBC Radio 4 (20.20): With Germaine Greer, Max Hastings, Mrs Steve Shirley and Oliver Walston

"Opening the Windows?": BBC 1 (22.25): Testament to the BBC by Sir Hugh Greene.