

17 March 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Budget Day

Princess of Wales attends gala performance of jazz ballet Night Creature, Hippodrome, Leicester Square

New MP for Truro takes his seat

Duchess of York attends performance of Swan Lake, Theatre Royal, Bath

STATISTICS

CSO: Index of output of the production industries (Jan)

HMT/CSO: Public sector borrowing requirement (Feb)

OPCS: International migration 1985

PUBLICATIONS

HMT: PSBR and other Budget documents

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Education and Science; Defence; Prime Minister

Business: The Chancellor of the Exchequer will present his Budget

When the Chancellor sits down the Question will be put on a Motion to give provisional effect to any changes in taxation and duty levels, if required

Budget Debate (1st day)

EC Documents relevant to the Budget will be shown in the Official Report

Adjournment Debate: Personal allowances to residents of Part III Accommodation (Mr R Holt)

Select Committees: EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS
Subject: Special Educational Needs
Witnesses: Voluntary Council for Handicapped Children

PARLIAMENT (cont'd)

Lords: Billiards (Abolition of Restrictions) Bill (HL):
Committee

Social Fund (Maternity and Funeral Expenses) Bill: Third Reading

Abolition of Domestic Rates Etc (Scotland) Bill: Second Reading

Parliamentary Constituencies (England) (Miscellaneous Changes) Order 1987: Motion for Approval

UQ to ask HMG whether they intend to make available extra resources to help tackle the problem of violent assaults on workers whose jobs bring them into contact with members of the public

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- Much concern over decision by Judges in High Court that a 17 year old mentally retarded girl should be sterilised for her own good.
- Merlyn Rees demands an investigation into claims that MI5 tried to undermine the Wilson Government. Times leads with this. Guardian says Attorney admitted Government does not have the information necessary to refute allegations of dirty tricks against Wilson Government.
- Late efforts by media to make tax cuts in Budget unpopular and spending on job creation essential. EBC Radio poll shows 81% would welcome tax cuts but only 5% would prefer them to higher spending on NHS etc. Guardian
- Your interview with Standard covered elsewhere 7 Sun, Mirror, Today, Express. It is interpreted to mean you are ready for a June election, and that you will serve a full third term and go for a fourth. Express angles it on Maggie's war on Left bias in schools. Mail hardens up election date to June 11. Guardian: Thatcher promises a full term.
- Government announces appeal in Wright case.
- Another day's coverage of the crimewave, with large increase in rape. Kaufman says Government's promise to deal with crime was an empty sham.
- Jury out today to consider verdicts on PC Blakelock murder trial.
- Michael Meacher says another £70m is needed to treat AIDS.
- Over 1m children sent home because of teachers' strike yesterday. ASMA understood to have rejected strike call.
- UDM reject £10 a week pay rise 9-1. Want a no-strings rise. Considers strike ballot.

MAIN NEWS (Cont'd)

- Girl whose life was shattered by hospital blunder gets £550,000 damages.
- Liverpool SDP/Lib Alliance takes over city today.

- Sport: England RFU to suspend some players for brawl in Welsh International.

BUDGET

- Star tells Chancellor "Don't be a scrooge on pensions" - pensioners deserve more than the 2.1% they are to get this year. Brewers, distillers and tobacco manufacturers ask to be left alone.
- Sun: Lawson's surprise job boost.
- Mirror says two issues cry out for sympathetic and urgent action - crime and unemployment which is at the root of much crime. Chancellor ought to spend, spend, spend on measures to prevent crime and put people back to work.
- Express says 5 leading economists who wrote to FT were dismissed yesterday as yesterday's men. Lord Harris attacks them for creating the economic crisis you inherited; leader headed "Stop-go men get it all wrong again", pretty well reflects our briefing and says that "contra to yesterday's men a change of course is not needed".
- Mail leader headed "Make it soon, make it June" says the strain on the country of another 6 months of electioneering would be bad for Britain, bad for the Government and bore the pants off most people. Do the expected. Andrew Alexander, in Mail, on 5 economic advisers, says one should never underestimate how silly clever people can be. A rum quintet.
- Times: Chancellor receives eve-of-Budget boost with news that spending in shops rose sharply last month. Interest rates eased again and £ held steady.
- FT: Tory party to exploit today's Budget by sending out 1 million letters over next few weeks to potential beneficiaries, including home owners and shareholders.
- Telegraph leads with Lawson sights on third Tory victory. Prudent and cautious Budget likely. Higher prices for oil swell Treasury purse.
- Independent: The Chancellor received a reminder of the strength and dangers of a consumer spending boom before he announces large scale tax cuts.
- Jock Bruce-Gardyne's profile of Chancellor in Telegraph.

INDUSTRY

- Times: Funding of research and development in information technology rising rapidly. British scientists see substantial benefits if Britain takes part in Japanese international research programme.
- Times: Delay by BT in connecting equipment not supplied by them.
- Times: New soft-backed British passports to be produced by Japanese machinery, although much cheaper tender was put in by British firm.
- Times: South East engineering company short of workers open factory in Dumbarton.
- FT: Leyland Trucks rationalisation will cost £300m.
- FT: Experimental taxi-sharing scheme expected in London.
- FT: TUC team find no firm proof of ballot rigging in National Union of Seamen. Unable to conduct full inquiry, however, through lack of sufficient evidence.
- FT: Rolls Royce profits for 1986 expected to be up on 1985 with significant increase in turnover and orders in hand.
- FT: Dixons sell most of its 4.9% stake in Woolworths.
- FT: France plans hypersonic airliner to cover up to 7,500 miles at five times speed of sound.
- FT: B/Shipbuilders in bullish mood at launch of new designs.
- FT: Lewis's to shed 600 full-time jobs and create 1,000 part-time positions. Cambridge Electronic Industries cut 300 jobs.
- FT: BAe opens campaign to buy Royal Ordnance.
- FT: Lucas leave CBI as it feels it can represent itself to Government more effectively; leader looks at problems which have faced CBI for some years but concludes that most companies find value from membership.
- FT: EEC launches plan to boost exports to Japan.
- Independent: Orders for British aircraft worth tens of millions of pounds are threatened because the Government is refusing to sign an agreement with the Philippines on the number of weekly flights between the two countries.

UNIONS

- Sun says 100 toolmakers are to be made redundant at Rover Cowley on orders of union which refuses to allow them to be moved to other work. Sun describes workers as lemmings.

(NB: Graham Day said on TV last night that he might leave Rover if Labour won election.)

CRIME

- Sir Kenneth Newman accuses schools and parents of failing to bring up law abiding citizens.
- Today: So much for the party of law and order. Government's policies a miserable failure.
- Express says the record crime figures sparked off demands by Tory MPs for more police and heavier sentences. In another story it says Tories pledge all out war on crime wave.
- Mail says the Government has pumped resources as never before into policing of this country. Are we being too soft on the police? The unsolved mystery, after the large increases in numbers of policemen, is why there are not more on the beat.

CRIME (Cont'd)

- Times: Crime figures will feature in election campaign. Gerald Kaufman and Shirley Willims say Government policy has failed. BBC Radio 2 to launch week-long Crimebeat campaign on 28 March to advise listeners how to protect themselves and their homes; leader says figures look particularly ugly. Clear case for investing in vigorous crime prevention campaign on the lines of those carried out against smoking, AIDS and drunken driving.
- Telegraph leader says there can be little doubt that crime, and above all violent crime, is the single most urgent concern of most people. The latest figures make grim reading. Kaufman demonstrates his unfitness to be Home Secretary by saying the latest statistics are "Mrs Thatcher's criminal record" when Labour has contributed much to the problem.
- The Government made it clear there would be no further increase in police manpower to tackle the record levels of crime until there was some concrete evidence of improvement in police performance (Independent).
- Guardian: Crime record puts Tories on the defensive; leader says the figures reveal the darkening side of Britain. Crime prevention has been seriously neglected.

LAW AND ORDER

- Sun praises the speed of justice in Chesterfield where within hours of violence 9 Coventry soccer fans were jailed. If a soccer thug knows he may not get back home he may cease to be a thug.
- Americans flocking back to Britain as fears of terrorism and nuclear fall-out recede (Mail).
- Home Secretary tells House a Channel ferry could be an ideal floating detention centre.

RACE

- Gwyneth Dunwoody calls Whitehall's ethnic checks a "meaningless nonsense" (Independent).

POLITICS

- Mirror, continuing its efforts to put the worst possible face on "Thatcher's Britain" features elderly attacked and those who have been made redundant repeatedly.
- Times: Liverpool's disqualified Labour councillors launch public appeal to pay-£500,000 bill.
- Times: Expenses-paid foreign travel by MPs could be pruned.
- Sun says there is no place in public life for Harvey Proctor and hopes he will see sense and stand down.
- Some Cabinet Ministers have suggested that Conservative Central Office should 'cool its assault' on so-called 'loony Left councils' as the SDP/ Liberal Alliance is benefiting from it. One Cabinet Minister confirmed that there was widespread support in Government for your ambition of eliminating Socialism - but not now (Independent).

EDUCATION

- Today on latest NAHT proposal to break away from exams at 16 to loose academic framework negotiated with pupils says we need more rather than less motivation in our children.
- Richard Luce attacks LEAs which have put homosexual books into children's libraries.
- Times: Independent inquiry into academic freedom at Ruskin College. Leader discusses problems at College and says as things stand Ruskin's guarantee of academic freedom not worth pages it is written on.
- Times: IMI report says poetry is in perilous state in secondary schools.
- FT: Davy Corporation to support City Technology College in Teesside.
- FT: TUC say NUT and NAS/UWT should give serious consideration to merger.
- Mail Q and A on why teachers are still striking.
- Between 2 and 4 more city technology colleges will be announced before Easter - Independent.

HOUSING

- Times: Sharp rise in houses for sale.

AIDS

- Express says DHSS last night denied Meacher's claims that young people with the AIDS virus were being locked up to keep them out of circulation.

DEFENCE

- Claims that Eden ignored a warning that Servicemen observing atom bomb tests risked cancer - revealed by those who are suing the Government
- Express, on Foreign Secretary's speech, says he suggested Britain and France should get together to provide a nuclear shield for Western Europe. Mail FCS says European nations must strengthen their commitment to defence.
- Lord Chalfont finds some sympathy with complaints about armed forces' equipment and morale but says it would be an over simplification to blame this Government which has carried out a massive and long overdue re-equipment programme.
- FT: Spain insists US withdraw F-16 fighters from country as pre-condition for renewal of joint defence pact.
- Jack Ashley demands inquiry into allegations of bullying of army soldiers at Kent depot.
- Independent: Britain's test ban stance criticised by US expert.

PEOPLE

- Sun has some consolation for Ted Heath; it says Oxford is fast becoming a second rate university and has secured as Chancellor a second rate politician.
- Brian Johnston leaving BBC's 'Down Your Way' after 733 programmes - exactly the same number as his predecessor.
- Julian Critchley continues his profile of Michael Heseltine in Express.
- Picture of you in Times at last night's reception for designers.

YUGOSLAVIA rocked by pay strikes.

BEIRUT

- Times: Exchange of letters between Archbishop of Canterbury and Iranian Parliament's Speaker over kidnapped Iranians and Terry Waite.

KENYA

- President Moi's meeting with you marked by a £50m aid agreement Independent and picture.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- HMT: Mr Lawson makes Budget Speech, House of Commons
- DEM: Mr Trippier speaks at J Is Conference, Starting a Growth Company, London; later speaks at Kensington and Chelsea Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Kensington High Street
- DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith lunches at the Energy Industries Club, Connaught Rooms, London
- DEN: Mr Hunt attends the monitoring and targeting ceremony at the Glass Manufacturing Federation; later addresses the British Coal Staff College, London
- DHSS: Mr Major visits SENSG, Edgbaston, Birmingham
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave visits Merseyside
- DOE: Lord Skelmersdale visits channel fixed link sites, Kent
- DTP: Lord Brabazon addresses Conference on Expo Money and Ships in the City, Barbican, London; later dines with Vice Admiral Thompson, Head of Eastern US Coast Guards, House of Lords
- DTP: Mr Mitchell dines with the Hungarian Ambassador, London
- ODA/PCO: Mr Patten addresses the Women's Organisations Interest Group at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations in London
- SO: Mr MacKay visits Aberdeen and Peterhead (to 18 March)
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling addresses Commodity Club, Washington
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TV AND RADIO

DHSS Minister, Mrs Currie interviewed by Durham University Magazine, Norman Shaw, London

Scottish Office Minister Lord Glenarthur appears on "BBC Scotland 2000" on the National Health Service, (21.30)

"Budget '87; ITV; (15.00)

"The Budget' ITV; (22.30); The Chancellor talks about the budget he announced earlier today

"Their Lordships House"; Channel 4; (14.15)

"Budget '87;" BBC1; (15.00)

"Budget '87;" BBC1; (21.30); With the Chancellor

"Budget '87;" BBC2; (22.35); Repeat of BBC1s broadcast

"The Budget;" BBC R4 (15.15); live from the House of Commons

"PM - Budget Special;" BBC R4 (18.00); With Roy Hattersley and David Steel
