MR. ING HVM

PRESS DIGEST: SATURDAY 6 MARCH

4/3

# ECONOMY/BUDGET

Times says Shore's proposals would open the door to disaster; Liberals want to go too far too fast; much of the SDP's proposals sensible but £4b. boost too much - £2 billion about right. But it wants the Chancellor to repair the damage done by the four-year cigarette sports sponsorship agreement by heavily taxing cigarettes.

Pre-Budget rush for alcohol and tobacco; SDP to unveil health policy next week with heavy curbs on cigarettes and alcohol and their advertising; Mail says we can no longer accuse the SDP of having no policies but this one looks rather like that which brought bootlegging and gangsterism to the USA.

Guardian says there will be tax concessions for investment in inner cities.

George Gale, <u>Express</u>, wants a tax on sugar because of the damage it does.

Meanwhile ...... Abbey National threatens to go it alone with a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent mortgage rate cut and there is keen anticipation of a cut in base rates next week as the Government encourages interest rates downwards.

Gold price on the slide as oil producers are forced to realise some of their other assets.

Abroad: US unemployment up 0.3 per cent to 8.8 per cent again, bringing calls for a change of policy; West German inflation down to 5.8 from 6.3 per cent in January; Saudi Arabia formally cuts production by 1m barrels p.d. to 7.5 per cent.

# UNIONS/PAY

NALGO decides its members will take all-out industrial action if any local authority introduces compulsory redundancy.

NAS/NUT ban school meals supervision in pursuit of their pay claim and NUT withdraws invitation to Sir Keith to address their Easter conference; <u>Mail</u> says the teachers' bargaining position is weak; they would be well advised to settle.

Union trouble in prospect at Ravenscraig as BSC moves to implement a new working regime over the heads of the unions.

Militant West London postman gets his job back on 18 months' promotion after trying to promote a national strike; arbitration committee ruled that he should neither be sacked nor switched to another office.

### BRITISH RAIL

BR works supplies officer at Derby ran a stolen metal racket at work and jailed for 27 months; scrap dealer goes down with him.

# INDUSTRY

<u>Sun</u> says let's have another Industrial Revolution with cable TV; <u>Telegraph</u> reports that satellite/cable development will require two new bills and a new quango is being planned.

MOD announces it is placing part of its insurance business with the private sector.

Chartered surveyors admit a degree of competition into fees.

<u>Times</u> tips Ken Griffin, Deputy Chairman of British Shipbuilders, as leading candidate to succeed Ezra at NCB.

Uncertainty and dismay in the CEGB where the <u>Telegraph</u> says England will not be reappointed as Chairman.

British Airways' losses expected to soar to £200 million this year.

57 per cent of the British car market taken by imports in February - up from 53.7 per cent in 1981; BL gets 19 per cent.

#### CONSUMER

Most of the reporting of the mini shuffle to replace Mrs. Oppenheim fairly straight but a number of suggestions that Dr. Vaughan was either 'sacked' or moved because he could not get on with Mr. Fowler.

Express says the harsh fact is that consumers who want British goods are being constantly misled. It is often impossible to tell the country of origin.

### EC

Guardian says Mauroy, in Brussels, hints that the French might show more interest in settling our budget problem if we showed more interest in reducing unemployment and curbing foreign competition.

# MEDIA

Times reaches agreement on clerical manning cuts.

Alan Whicker accuses Granada's World in Action and Thames TV Eye of peddling Marxist propaganda. Praises the BBC for providing objective current affairs programmes.

<u>Daily Star</u> claims 4,538,000 <u>readers</u> - an increase of 28 per cent in twelve months.

### CRICKET

Humpage is the thirteenth man. TCCB to seek the advice of the 17 first class counties before deciding the fate of the tourists.

### EDUCATION

Left-wing Brent Council to give school children legal advice when facing problems with teachers, police or even with their parents; Rhodes Boyson says it will help to create anarchy. Express says the mind boggles at the absurdity of the Council and the foolishness of those who elected them.

Schools in Wolverhampton teaching children how to apply for jobs and how to spend their time if unemployed.

### TRANSPORT

Labour Leader of Merseyside County Council resigns after his ruling group rejects his advice to raise fares to keep within the law.

#### IRELAND

Dublin to charge Tuite today following request from our DPP to charge him under Explosives Act - Express says DPP request is a practical man's decision but second best.

Paisley widely reported to have been humiliated by the Belfast South by-election result which brings scuffles resulting in a report to the DPP; Mayor Carson says the scenes were disgraceful.

Smyth, the winner, seen as likely to succeed Molyneaux.

### LAW AND ORDER

More people than ever are making complaints against the Metropolitan Police and blacks and asians are responsible for a disproportionate number of them; but very few of the complaints by blacks can be made to stick.

Chief Constable Anderton clashes with Manchester Police Committee when he refuses to answer a series of questions on police protection for lorries crossing the Laurence Scott picket lines.

Ripper ordered to pay £6,722 compensation to mother of one of his victims.

Anne Hathaway's cottage ransacked and priceless antiques stolen.

American woman approached to take over directorship of Amnesty International after Thorpe resigns.

Home Secretary in talks with angry prison officers at the Scrubs.

Chelsea Football Club tells thugs who persist in causing trouble that they will be banned for life and sued for damages.

#### POLITICS

Hattersley calls for an inquiry into the Amersham sale and draws attention to the contributions to Tory Party funds by city advisers.

Stephen Hastings, MP, attacks Sir Ian Gilmour for his gadderene swine policy.

Guardian blasts unions' approach to Labour Party leadership votes and block votes in general and says Labour should demand a unified union voting system.

# INTERNATIONAL

France: Carlos the Jackal threatens to kill Defferre, French Interior Minister, if he doesn't free two members of his gang - the Jackal's first return to the international scene for seven years; meanwhile the French say Howell, the IRA, who slipped his Canadian escort can stay in France.

Poland: Priest who spoke out against military regime jailed for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years.

Russia: Leader of trade unions - a Brezhnev protege - sacked as the power struggle intensifies.

Iran: Is the Ayatollah dead or ill - questions arise after the publication of a doctored photo in Iranian newspapers.

Tonga: help being flown in and we give £100,000 as a start.