

PRIME MINISTER

DIARY

The Budget.

Test and County Cricket Board consider the fate of 12 cricketers in S.A.

Irish Dail meet.

Police/Community Meeting in Brixton on crime wave measures.

European Parliament, Strasbourg.

Times clerical workers vote on redundancies.

Public hearing on Car Cheap Fares plan.

Footwear and Accessories Show, Harrogate.

National Market Traders Exhibition, Birmingham.

Scottish Food Exhibition, Edinburgh.

Fast Selling New Products and Mail Order Merchandise Show, London.

Daily Telegraph Business Enterprise Show opens, Birmingham.

Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition opens, Earls Court.

Statistics:

Provisional figures of vehicle production (Feb).

Central Government transactions (including borrowing requirement) (Feb).

Provisional estimate of money supply (mid-Feb).

London clearing banks' monthly statement (mid-Feb).

British Aid Statistics 1976-80.

Publications:

The Government's Expenditure Plans 1982-83 to 1984-85.

Financial Statement and Budget Report 1982-83.

Chief Secretary's Memorandum on the Supply Estimate 1982-83.

Supply Estimates 1982-83.

Deaths by birthplace of deceased 1980.

Births, deaths and stillbirths January-September 1981.

Census 1981 County Monitor - Hampshire.

Census 1981 County Monitor - Surrey.

Childhood cancer in Britain, incidence, survival and mortality.

Pay:

NHS Electricians: further discussions of claims for parity with private sector.
Nurses and Midwives Whitley Council: further discussions.

Parliament:

Commons:

Questions: Prime Minister, Social Services.

Business: My Rt Hon and Learned Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will open his Budget Statement.

The Chairman of Ways and Means has named Opposed Private Business for consideration at 7 o'clock.

Lords: Pet Animals (Amendment) Bill(HL): Third Reading.
Civic Government (Scotland) Bill(HL): Report.
UQ on plans for the future social and economic development of Pitcairn Island.

Ministers - see Annex

PRESS DIGEST

Reagan

- Government embarrassed, and angry over leak about address to members of both Houses; US Ambassador apologises; some fears that the address will face some form of boycott or might even have to be called off; Shadow Cabinet considers position tomorrow.
- Mirror says you have been stunned by leak; Mail says it is rather like a Whitehall farce.
- Guardian says resentment in Opposition increased with realisation that Foot has been put as much on spot as Government.

Comment:

Sun: Sad a political wrangle should sour your imaginative gesture; hope Foot won't stand on dignity; without question people would wish Reagan to have this honour.

Mail: White House has goofed; why couldn't Ambassadors on either side of Atlantic forestall this faux pas? But truth is that Reagan is staunch in defence of free world and a strong and good friend of Britain; we are delighted he is coming and going given full treatment.

Guardian: In the sense that Reagan is most influential and powerful figure in Western world you are wholly justified in believing he ought to be given this signal honour but the whole thing handled maladroitly: but why Reagan when not Kennedy, Johnson or Carter? And why not Schmidt; should have friendly hearing and friendly invigilation.

Budget

- Guardian says Budget will be introduced against a background of improving inflation as Wholesale Price Index falls and US base rates cut 0.5% to 16%.
- Mail says best news will come after Chancellor sits down with 1 to 1.5% cut in interest rates.
- Sun says Chancellor will forecast single figure inflation by end of year

- Kaldor, in letter to Times, says your alternative of keeping unions at bay with 3m unemployed and threat of many more is politically unviable and morally intolerable.
- Healey says Budget will bring biggest fall in living standards since war.
- Paul Foot's 2-page feature in Mirror on people for whom you have fulfilled every dream - rich and super rich for whom tax concessions cost us £344m a year.

Economy

- Ivan Lawrence wants a national computer job bank to follow up computerised council house swap system.
- Guardian says USA is facing biggest recession since war.
- Belgian Govt proposes spending cuts, increased taxes and higher social security charges to cut public spending.
- OECD may ask Van Lennep to stay on because cannot agree in time on successor.

Nurses

- Pay boost for nurses is promptly rejected by unions who claim Govt is trying to divide and rule.
- Mail story of Barts strikers who turn away ambulance for expectant mother who has to be smuggled out an hour later; loses baby but husband says she probably would anyway.

Unions/Pay

- TGWU complains of conjecture in Times report that it is planning a left wing splinter of TUC because of proposed General Council reforms which FT says may be blocked.
- Steel production stops at Ravenscraig over imposition of new working practices.
- Gormley's golden handshake of £35,000 and pension at risk on Thursday because of attitude of Scargill and co; Sun leader says all this is typically vindictive - ironic it should come when miners are earning record pay from productivity deal Scargill tried to block.
- Moderate says Trots in CPSA pose major threat to national security.
- Civil Service pay offer goes to arbitration but without agreed terms of reference.
- National Executive of SCPS votes to reject technology deal.
- Guardian says TUC may ask Govt to give financial incentives to employers and workers to secure 35 hour week by 1985.
- Matthews turkey men reject improved pay offer and continue 3-week strike.
- 10 local authorities appeal to teachers to call off industrial action and go to arbitration.

Industrial Issues

- Amersham: Mr Lawson says taxpayer got a very fair price.
- Laker: Rowland flooded with claims for lost Skytrain fares but Times says it may be years before they get their money.
- Times: Board review progress on securing redundancies today.

Industry

- Morning Star says that in defiance of Govt policy CEGB is paying wages of official working on South African nuclear power programme.
- BR sells Royal and Ancient hotel for £1.3m and purchaser says he could re-sell for £5m; BR station worker at Croydon milked BR of £4,000 last year.
- SW Electricity Board makes changes to prevent repetition of December blizzard chaos.
- Construction volume last year lowest since 1961.
- Guardian says B/Airways not so richly endowed with managerial talent that it can afford thousands of hours on privatisation rather than on getting business right.
- Oil companies recommended Govt last year that lead free petrol should be introduced as soon as possible if it wanted to do so on health grounds. (Times)

Defence

- 56% of Americans feel their troops should be used if Russians invaded Europe.
- Two warships reprieved.
- FT says that case for a decision on replacing Polaris now is not proven when Reagan looks like coming forward with initiative on strategic arms control.

Cricket

- Woolmer becomes 14th man in South Africa.
- John Arlott, Guardian, says difficult to see tour as anything other than cynical, mercenary and completely selfish.

Media

- Esther Rantzen gets new BBC contract worth twice your salary.

Welfare

- Charles Irving offers to fly home from Belize boy sent there by social workers after mother deserted him and he lands up in reformatory.

Education

- Mail feature on research survey, which shows that children respond to authoritative teachers.
- 70 MPs back right to cane.

Transport

- Severn Bridge needs £5m repairs to make it safe.

Local Authority

- Sun says tomorrow's LT strike makes it loony day in London - most futile political strike of all.

Law and Order

- Magistrate says law is going soft when children under 10 can't be prosecuted when two 9 year old children set fire to school.
- Tory backbenchers are to see Home Secy on crime wave; Chief Constable Anderton says criminals no longer fear law and crime is becoming a mere political conversation piece.
- Express writer, home after 4 years in USA, says it is inconceivable that Brixton can have changed so much in that time.
- Extremists petrol bomb Welsh Agricultural Dept's telephone exchange - no injuries; damage slight.
- South African Asian who killed neighbour freed because "driven" to it by racial taunts.
- Access fraud losses mount 76%.
- Attorney General warns doctors and nurses mongol baby case has not changed law.

Race

- Only black member of Sports Council resigns over your refusal to condemn cricket tour.

People

- Mirror feature McNee appearing on same Institute of Director Bill as Sir Keith - seems to be aligning himself with Govt policies.

Ireland

- 250 stranded in Irish sea ferry war.
- Father Faul advises young members of IRA to quit.

Politics

- Foot comes in for another editorial hammering after NEC gives Wall a chance to fight for Bradford North again.
- Militants win battle to stop freezing of selection pending inquiry into Tendency.
- Hillhead poll shows Labour 32, Conservative 31, Alliance 25; SNP 11 after eliminating large don't knows.
- Benn backs away from renationalisation without compensation.

International

- Poland: Communist Party lost 1m members since 1980.
- NATO Germans want improved consultative procedures.
- Zimbabwe: 4 Whites in irons accused of plotting against Mugabe.
- El Salvador: suspicion increasing that US will in the end send troops.
- Agghanistan: Telegraph says that US claims 3000 killed by chemical warfare over 2 years.

B INGHAM

9 March 1982

ANNEX

Ministers:

- Mr Heseltine attends British Constructional Steelwork Association dinner.
- Mr Macfarlane visits Stonehenge.
- Mr Buchanan-Smith attends launch of Productivity Sub-Committee of the Food and Drink Manufacturing EDC, London.
- Lord Trenchard meets Lord Aldington of Westlands.
- Mr Rossi opens the Research Institute for Consumer Affairs Seminar, Kings Fund Centre, London. (10.30 am).
- Mr Wakeham makes opening address to Hotel & Catering Industry Training Board computer exhibition, Birmingham.
- Mr Wakeham visits British Gas Midlands Research Station.
- Mr Shelton addresses Further Education Unit Seminar, Berkshire. (6.00 pm).

TV/Radio:

- Numerous Ministerial appearances on the Budget.
- Mr Wakeham, Essex Radio, Budget Special.