

PRIME MINISTER

THE WEEKEND - HIGHLIGHTS

Fairly quiet at this stage but the following are likely to feature:

Law and Order - hanging, etc.

EC - follow up to Anglo/German Summit: preview of next week's Foreign Affairs Council and Euro Summit.

Afghanistan Day

Mrs Gandhi - previews.

Politics - Hillhead preview; Benn's latest utterances.

London Transport - eve of fares increase; protests, etc.

Events

National Association of Local Councils conference, Harrogate (Giles Shaw).

Civil Trust conference on European Campaign for Urban Renaissance Bristol (Tom King).

National Savings figures (Feb) - in Monday morning's papers.

Lech Walesa to be freed (?).

Broadcasts

Lord Carrington on BBC Radio "World This Weekend" on Afghanistan.

LWT Weekend World on El Salvador pre-election report.

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PRIME MINISTER

State visit of Sultan Qaboos of Oman.

Your meeting with Afghanistan Support Committee.

Penlee Lifeboat coroners inquest, Penzance.

FCO Bicentenary lecture, Mr David Watt, Chatham House.

TUC Women's conference, Bournemouth.

NCB farewell party for Joe Gormley.

Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition, Earls Court.

Autoquip Exhibition, Olympia.

Civic Catering Association AGM, Knowsley.

Materials Testing '82 Exhibition, Olympia.

Mr James Buckley, Under-Secretary, State Department, in UK on Poland Mission.

Council of Civil Service Unions discusses new technology agreement.

FT European Pulp and Paper Conference, Helsinki,

Statistics:

Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (Feb).

Capital expenditure by the manufacturing, distributive and service industries (4th qtr-rev).

Manufacturers' and distributors' stocks (4th qtr-rev).

London dollar and sterling certificates of deposit (mid-Feb).

UK banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock (mid-Feb).

Publications:

Board of Inland Revenue: Annual Report to 31 March 1981.

Commissioners of Customs and Excise: Annual Report 80-81.

Pay:

Professions supplementary to medicine.

Primary and Secondary School Teachers (England and Wales).

Parliament:

Commons:

Questions: Prime Minister, Home Office.

Business: Progress on Remaining stages of the Social Security and Housing Benefits Bill.

Lords: Canada Bill: Second Reading.

Ministers - see Annex

PRESS DIGEST

Law and Order

- 80 Tory MPs sign motion backing Police Federation's campaign for return of capital punishment; hope for a debate after Easter.
- Jardine says public expect more positive response by Govt to crime wave; instead for example they have got sus law.
- Express says Mr Whitelaw may support a curfew on convicted young thugs to help parents control them - idea of Mr Lyell, PPS to Attorney-General.
- Mail says Mr Whitelaw is wrong when he says police must be strong - they must be efficient; he must be strong.
- Times says the party is split over the handling of law and order and features Mr Raison's strongly supportive speech of Home Sec; Mr Raison maintains Govt has fulfilled election pledges and attacks hysteria and panic among hardliners in Tory party.
- Ronnie Butt, Times, says police figures place responsibility on so called ethnic community to show, by their co-operation, they fully accept the law of the land they have chosen to join.
- Times leader says police need more moral and active help; we need to give in for our sake as much for police's.
- Mr Callaghan joins the argument - comes out against capital punishment and in favour of more local control of police, including for Metropolitan Force.
- Meanwhile Labour MPs demand removal of Chief Constable Anderton, of Manchester, for calling for end to watch committees.
- D/Star leader says he has light of zealot in his eye and a disquieting hint of egomania, but there is a great deal of truth in what he says about militants being out to destroy democracy; he should however be out there fighting crime not politicians.
- North West NUPE officials claims Anderton has plans ready to overthrow a Left wing Govt.
- Alderson, Chief Constable, expected tonight to attack Anderton's campaign against local control.

Other Crime

- Women's organisations up in arms over suggestions made by Criminal Injuries Board on compensation for rape victims.
- Mr Nott saved from a letter bomb by his secretary; Govt on the alert.

Ireland

- President Reagan issues a St Patrick's Day appeal to Americans to stop giving cash to IRA; does not respond to Mr Haughey's calls for support in trying to persuade Britain to pull out of Northern Ireland; Reagan says those who espouse violence will have no welcome in the USA.
- Clive Soley and Austin Mitchell resign from Opposition Front Bench because they can't support renewal of Prevention of Terrorism Act provisions.
- Another - the 8th - former terrorist helping RUC with information.
- Pictures of Paisley's private army operating an illegal road block in Ulster.
- Leader of Third Froce paramilitary organisation accuses Govt of failing to act against known Republican terrorists for political reasons.
- Telegraph leader says it is time you thought out your Northern Ireland policy to proceed with plan to elect an Assembly in present circumstances would be an act of madness productive of even more violence.

Unions/Pay

- Gas workers reject 9% and call for strike action; shipyard workers accept 7%; CBI says pay settlements averaging 7% compared with 11% this time last year; labour costs rising more slowly than with our competitors.
- TUC refuses to see Mr Tebbit on labour law.
- Sun feature on Mick Costello, industrial organiser of Communist party - is this the most dangerous man in Britain; widely believed to be member of KGB.
- NUM give Gormley's driver £8,000 golden handshake and pension for life; says she doesn't want to work for Scargill and Scargill doesn't want to have anything to do with her either.
- Production at B/Aerospace, Chester, halted by strike by 2000 workers over pay rise averaging 80p a week.
- Baggage handlers at Heathrow vote to continue 5 week stoppage though planes flying 100%.
- Sabena wants staff to accept 15% wage cut.
- Sealink dismisses 38 mooring staff at Holyhead for refusing to handle B&I ferries.

Economy

- Some £1.3bn knocked off share prices because of higher US interest rates; also alarm over Turner Newall's £26m loss and decision not pay final dividend.
- France faces run on franc and puts up base rate from 14 to 15%.
- MSC says unemployment will continue to rise during this year and then level off in 1983; but tone of forecasts more optimistic.
- Two South American OPEC countries call for sharp cuts in OPEC production.

Industry

- Video tape industry calls for urgent action against £100m pirate industry.
- Shell to make fuel oil cheaper but petrol dearer.
- CBI launches campaign to get Tory backbenchers into line on heavier lorries - ie 40 tonnes.

Rail

- McCarthy calls in RSNT's 4 assessors, one of whom is Gullick, ASLEF, to help sort him out.

Media

- Charles Douglas-Home confirmed as editor of Times.
- Businessmen drum up £600,000 to promote peace on TV.
- Peter Jay, in lecture, says certain aspects of "news" should not be published - eg privacy - and rules restraining publication could be justified.

Local Authority

- 1600 Sandwell Council workers go on strike over Communist shop steward sacked for being late after finding officials spied on his home.
- London tube cuts delayed for a month.
- FT says Govt is considering removing LT from GLC responsibility.

Housing

- Kaufman, Mirror, gives examples of behaviour by ruthless landlords.

Medical

- National Consumer Council says patients should treat doctors like any other supplier of a commercial service and complain if they don't get satisfaction.
- Guardian says Harefield hospital unit may have to close by end of year if it doesn't get more money.

Race

- Mr Macfarlane appeals to rugby clubs not to go to South Africa.
- Family doctor in Walthamstow leading group of Asian vigilantes to stop attacks on coloureds - claims success.

Cricket

- Ian Wooldridge, Mail, says cricket is playing no part in dismantling apartheid.

Defence

- Mr Nott tells select cttee cancellation of Trident by Labour would cost £300m and 50,000 jobs.
- Norway may come to UK for missiles because of dissatisfaction with USA suppliers.
- Bonn Cabinet expresses firm determination to instal USA missiles next year unless success from US/Soviet arms reduction talks.

ANNEX

Ministers:

Mr Edwards addresses the Economic Forestry Group Annual Forestry luncheon, Charing Cross Hotel.

Mr Jenkin meets delegation from NE Lancs.

Mr Lawson meets the Transparent Paper Company for talks on energy pricing, House of Commons. (5.00pm).

Mr Wiggin attends Exercise Oil Safe.

Lord Mansfield attends Scottish Fishermen's Federation dinner, Aberdeen.

Mr Lamont addresses Institute of Marketing national conference.

Sir George Young meets Housing Investment Corporation.

Lord Ferrers attends annual luncheon of Economic Forestry Group, Charing Cross Hotel, London.

Mr Buchanan-Smith attends National Pigs Awards, Butchers Hall, London.

Mr Mellor presents the Lighting Industry Federation awards, Sudbury House.

Mr Mellor speaks to the Back Bench Energy Committee, House of Commons.

TV/Radio:

Sir George Young takes part in LBC phone-in. (2.00pm).

Mr Fowler, BBC 1 'Question Time'.

Mr Fowler, BBC 1, "That's Life" - Baby Special.

Pope

- Sun says disturbing evidence mounting campaign by militants against visit; in no way do they mirror feelings of British people.

EC

- Mitterrand says dispute over 1982 farm prices could lead to dangerous crisis; promises his farmers resolutely to defend their interests; Britain blocks plan to end Franco-Italian wine war because of effect it could have on industrial alcohol market.

Politics

- Gallup poll shows Conservatives winning back lost support.
- UET blocks funds to Labour Party because of militant infiltration.
- Roy Jenkins denies he got a tax free £250,000 from EC.
- Fratricidal strife within SDP in Islington.
- Benn gets another mauling from leader writers for his remarks over Marxists and Trots; Mail says that if revolutionaries whom Benn patronises with such unctious were ever to take control of Labour they would eat Wedgie for breakfast.
- 15 Tory backbenchers, led by Sir Ian Gilmour, reported to have plotted last night to rebel tonight over Social Security and Housing Benefits Bill.
- Reports that conscientious students who work more than 21 hours a week could lose their unemployment benefit under new rules.

International

- Arctic: British explorers stranded on ice floe.
- Iraq/Iran: Mail says Iraq has offered to end war with Iran - terms amount almost to climb down.
- Libya: Gaddafi threatens war on USA if exercise goes ahead in Gulf of Siste.
- USA: 3 British Moonies await expulsion from USA.

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