

PRIME MINISTER

DIARY

Mrs Gandhi - you accompany her at Hayward Gallery Exhibition opening.

EC: Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels.

Nuclear Planning Group, Colorado Springs.

European Court considers UK Equal Pay Act.

Start of Gold futures trading in Tokyo.

Institute of Directors Annual Convention.

D/Em and Swedish Trade Office seminar on Energy Conservation in Industry.

EC: Economic and Social Committee Plenary Session, Brussels.

Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition, Earls Court.

British Ski Trade Show, Harrogate.

London Fashion Exhibition, Olympia.

Electro-Optics/Laser International Exhibition, Brighton.

Scottish Building and Public Works Exhibition, Glasgow.

French farmers demonstrate in Paris.

Announcement of new Metropolitan Police Commissioner?

Space Shuttle.

Announcement of closure of RN training bases.

Falkland Islands Statement.

Statistics:

Unemployment (Mar-prov).

Unfilled vacancies (Mar-prov).

CSO: Regional trends.

Publications:

HM Chief Inspector Report on Leeds prison.

Legal abortions March quarter 1981.

Deaths from accidents and violence, March quarter 1981.

Census 1981 County Monitor - Staffordshire.

Census 1981 County Monitor - West Sussex.

Pay:

Nurses and midwives/Whitley Council: Unions respond to offer.

Parliament:

Commons:

Questions: Prime Minister, Defence.

Business: Completion of Remaining stages of the Social Security and Housing Benefits Bill.
Motions on the Social Security Class 1 Contributions Order and on the State scheme Premiums Order.

Select Committees: ENVIRONMENT: Enquiry into methods of financing Local Government in the context of Government's Green Paper (Cmnd 8449). (Witnesses: Association of County Councils and Professor C. Foster).

SOCIAL SERVICES: University Grants Committee cuts medical services. (Witnesses: Secretary of State for Education and Science and Mr Kenneth Clark, QC, MP, Minister of State for Health).

Lords: Canada Bill: Committee.

Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1976 (Continuance) Order 1982: Motion for Approval.

Legal Advice and Assistance (S) (Financial Conditions Regs. 1982): Motion for Approval.

Legal Aid (S) (Financial Conditions) Regulations 1982: Motion for Approval).

Ministers - see Annex

PRESS DIGEST

Law and Order

- Mr Whitelaw's famous victory at Backbench meeting; stoutly defends record and foreshadows legislation; says police will stand for no nonsense if outbreak of rioting; criticises Alderson's views on community policing and relevance to inner cities and hopes Alderson-Anderton show will end.
- Mail: sceptical; are we seeing new Willie or old one putting on an act? Will he vacillate if we have riots this summer - that is the test.

Other Crime

- Wisbey, train robber, gets away with £500 fine for receiving stolen cheques from another rail mail bag haul.
- Shoplifters are resorting to violence when caught and Marks and Spencer arms store girls with alarm devices.
- West Indian community leaders threaten to sue McNee over coloured breakdown of crim figures.
- Countryman trial clears four more policemen.

London Transport

- Can't pay - won't pay campaign a fiasco on first day; Wetzel voted off a bus; Masefield, LT, says yesterday was triumph for patience and common sense of passengers and staff.

- Mirror says that while Paris cuts fares in half London doubles them; we now have law and disorder in LT; subsidies are needed.
- Mail says fares, rates and tax revolts all fizzle out; we are a most unrevolting country; middle class morality rules OK.
- Alexander Chancellor, Express, says we shall soon start blaming the Govt if the fares mess is not sorted out; we have gloated long enough over Livingstone's discomfiture.

Mrs Gandhi

- Not much coverage of visit but Guardian continues to celebrate festival in a big way; some photos.

Falkland Islands

- FT says 50 scrap merchants land and hoist Argentinian flag; Guardian sees it as a comic opera episode but we have not heard the last of it; John Biggs Davidson calls for full explanation and apology and sees it as an act of aggression.

Media.

Continued - and extensive - fascination with cable tv and how it is going to revolutionise our lives.

- Times leader wants cable tv phased in as with local radio and initially with a central regulatory agency.
- FT leader says that by restricting the terms of reference the Home Sec has restricted the relevance of any recommendation it may make.

EC

- We accept Thorn's denial at face value but this doesn't stop Sun from saying it has news for this jumped up little Luxembourger - yes, we do expect to get out of EC same as we put in.
- Telegraph says state of French franc (which is under further pressure on fears of devaluation) makes French threat of using national aids for agriculture pretty hollow and plays into your hands; what is more time is on our side.
- EC puts diplomatic pressure on Japan over trade.

Unions/Pay

- Calderdale, West Yorkshire, closes down schools a week early in face of threat of 3 half-day strikes next week, and tells teachers to come back early on April 14; they say they won't return until 19th; how dare local authority unilaterally interfere with teachers contracts, they ask?
- Cambridge psychology lecturer says some of the university cuts should be encouraged because a number of second rate institutions are attracting students of inferior potential.
- General Motors and United Autoworkers sign "giveback" deal to protect jobs involving foregoing annual pay increases, deferring cost of living increase and giving up 9 paid holidays.

Economy

- House prices start to move up.
- Saudi Arabia prepared to cut production even further and to help Nigeria financially to protect OPEC; Telegraph leader says with Saudis nearing minimum limit of oil production we have a real chance in West to break free of OPEC's stranglehold.

Labour Law

- Conservative backbenchers table amendment to Employment Bill to secure secret ballots on national strikes and election of union officers - will Govt support?
- Sun, referring to B/Airways leaving fare paying passengers behind while staff travel free, says BA needs to learn first rule of business - run for benefit of customer.
- 4 dinner ladies at Walsall get compensation and Freedom Assn may take council to court; ratepayers want councillors to be surcharged.

Industry

- Geoffrey Goodman, Mirror, says for Mr & Mrs Consumer nationalised industries are a pain in the neck and nationalisation has become a burden for Labour Party - fact that all this is unfair means nothing.
- Ray Pennock, Times, extols virtues of profit sharing.
- Ken Clucas joins Gestetner as director.
- Petrol going up 5p a gallon as Shell cuts subsidies to garages; other oil companies expected to follow suit.
- Kenneth Baker tells industry to automate or liquidate.
- Govt bans meat imports from Spain from Friday on hygiene grounds.
- Laker starts work as a one man aviation consultant.
- Lord Matthews resigns from ACC board after row over Holmes A'Court.
- Government defence cuts threaten 1200 jobs in British Aerospace.
- Cowboy builders get a warning of crackdown from OFT.
- D/Star says B/Rail is applying a double standard by selling cigs in buffets but banning their smoke in restaurant and buffet cars.

Local Authority

- Times says Mr Heseltine will tomorrow ask local authorities to start planning on a larger than envisaged (9%) cut in spending in 83-84.

Medical

- Surgeons sew on severed leg of 17 year-old girl moped driver after accident.

Unemployment

- MSC withdraws scheme employing 38 after Boy Scouts Assn complains those running it were having an affair; Express attacks TUC for opposing community work scheme as dispiriting as it is predictable; ignity of work counts for nothing unless it is at rates unions prescribe.

Defence

- Chapman Pincher says correspondence since his earlier revelations that you had been misled over security by Establishment have confirmed his in his view.
- John Wilkinson, Mr Nott's PPS, cost for halving of BAOR and corresponding increase in naval, air and volunteer reserve.
- 34 women peace protestors arrested at Greenham Common.
- Michael Meacher MP wants select committee to monitor and vet activities of Police National Computer and MI5 data bank.

Ireland

- Sun says IRA planning a spectacular new assassination to outrage public opinion - probably at next Dublin Summit.
- Lawyer representing IRA man wanted for London killing tells USA court crime was political.
- Haughey says Mr Prior's rolling devolution plan is unworkable and Unionists plan to challenge Govt in courts if there is move to set up power sharing assembly; FT thinks Mr Prior is certain to get Cabinet backing.
- Molyneux says outside agencies (CIA) had hand in various murders and that paramilitary groups, including IRA, being manipulated to bring Republic into Western Alliance.

Politics

- Benn draws 2000 at Hillhead and says Russians are peacekeepers.
- Sun feature on pros and cons of Roy Jenkins.
- Express says it is an election blunder for Nott today to announce closure of RN training establishments.
- Morgan Grenfell may contribute to SDP, according to Guardian.

International

- German inquest on Lower Saxony and worries about future of coalition.
- Cuba: Washington increases pressure on Cuba on debt rescheduling.
- Iran: reported to have captured large areas seized by Iraq in war.
- South East Asia: State Department says Soviet yellow rain chemical weapon killed 10,000 in Afghanistan and SE Asia in 7 years.

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B INGHAM
23 March 1982

Ministers:

Mr Fowler attends Age Concern lunch, Reform Club. (1.00pm).
Mr Fowler attends reception, Queens Nursing Institute, London. (6.00pm).
Mr Walker visits Northern region and opens new potato grading and storage complex of West Cumberland Farmers Ltd., Pocklington, Yorks.
Sir Keith Joseph addresses Annual Convention of the Institute of Directors London. (10.15am).
Mr Whitelaw speaks at National Victims' Support Schemes, Central Hall. (2.30pm).
Mr Biffen attends H R Owen Jubilee launch.
Mr Jenkin visits USA (until 31 March).
Lord Carrington and Mr Atkins attend EC Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels.
Lord Elton attends Norfolk Children's Prospects AGM, Norwich. (6.15pm).
Mr Waddington addresses Construction Health and Safety Group dinner, Cumberland Hotel, London. (7.30pm).
Mr Stewart opens "Scotbuild", Kelvin Hall, Glasgow.
Mr Shelton attends "Unified Vocational Preparation" presentation, Windsor and Maidenhead College. (10.30am).
Mr Channon and Dr Boyson attend Lord Mayor of London's lunch for the Festival of India, London. (1.00pm).
Mr Raison visits Inter-Skill (Self Help Group), West Midlands.
Sir George Young visits Telford New Town.
Mr Marten addresses British Nepal Society annual dinner.
Dr Vaughan visits Fire Research Station.
Mr Wakeham speaks at Thames Valley Business Show, Slough.
Mr Wakeham speaks on Education for Change at Head Teachers' conference.
Mr Baker speaks at BIM Conference, on Managing IT.
Mr Baker speaks at Institute of Directors, Royal Albert Hall.
Mr Pattie meets Sheikh Abdullah of Qatar.