

PRIME MINISTER'S DAY

The Prime Minister is working in No 10 for most of the day.

CABINET

At 10.00am the PM chaired a meeting of the Cabinet. [Parliamentary Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Community Affairs.]

All present except Mr Nott and Mr Jenkin in the USA.

MEETING OF MINISTERS

At 10.30am the PM chaired a Meeting of Ministers. [OD: Northern Ireland constitutional developments; Economic Measures against the Soviet Union.]  
Present: Home Secretary, Lord Chancellor, Foreign Secretary, Chancellor, Lord President, Lord Privy Seal, Chancellor of the Duchy, Chief Secretary, Chief Whip, S/S Trade, N. Ireland, Scotland.

QUESTIONS

At 3.15pm the PM will be in the House for Questions.

DEBATE

Later the PM will be in the House for the Law and Order debate.

QUEEN'S AWARDS

This evening at 6.00pm the Prime Minister will look in at a Buckingham Palace Reception for winners of Queen's Awards for Export and Technology.

IN THE HOUSEBUSINESS QUESTIONANSWERS OF INTEREST

No 40 Written 4.00pm: Mr Patrick Cormack to ask the Attorney General when the Government will make its response to the Wilson Committee's Report on modern public records. (This answer heralds publication today at 4.00pm. CFRs were issued yesterday).

No 147 Written 4.30pm: Mr David Myles to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what further progress has been made in securing UK budget refunds from the European Community. (Answer refers to further supplementary measures support - first instalment of our entitlement for 1981 - £813m to be used in assisted regions of the country on roads, sewage, electricity, housing, etc. We submit schemes for approval to obtain the money). This was all agreed during the last round of negotiations and enables the Public Expenditure programme to be maintained at a higher level than could otherwise be afforded.

No 146 Written 3.30pm: Mr Richard Shepherd to ask S/S Industry whether he intends to ask British Telecom and the Post Office to make good their shortfalls from EFLs for 80-81. (Answer says minor shortfall on EFL to be repaid to the National Loan Fund. £10.5m Post Office, £13m BT).

No 149 Written 3.45pm: Mr Graham Bright to ask S/S Trade when he will be appointing a new chairman of the CAA. (Answer will announce appointment of Mr John Dent, MD of Dunlop, from 1 June).

LAW AND ORDER

We did not lead the lobby to expect any new measures to be announced during the law and order debate although the Home Secretary would elaborate on what he had told backbenchers recently. In response to further questions we said we recognised the press had been reflecting concern in the House about crime, violence, etc. We also understood why some of the more extreme views on how to deal with crime and violence had attracted attention but there had to be a question mark over whether these extreme solutions would carry any weight. It was important to convey the message that there were no instant fixes. There had to be a campaign to educate people in

commonsense and to induce different values in society. People were now thinking more seriously about the problems. We cited the case of the B/Caledonian baggage handler convicted of thieving and his union objecting to him being disciplined. This illustrated the problem about values in society.

It was noteworthy that there had been support for the Home Secretary through all this and a distaste for the personalisation of the issue in view of all that the Home Secretary had done.

We repeated the Home Secretary's words about possible legislation in the next Session following the Report of the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure. We said the Home Secretary could not commit the Government as yet because the legislative programme for the next Session was not yet arranged.

We described the Lord Chief Justice's comments about violence on the screen and pornography as a contribution to the Debate.

#### STATEMENT

Asked about the possibility of a Statement in the House after the Business Statement we acknowledged this was a possibility and under extreme pressure admitted that this might refer to the Vale of Belvoir. Asked if the National Coal Board would be happy we asked the lobby to wait and see and would not be drawn further.

We rejected the idea of an early Statement on Northern Ireland acknowledging that Mr Prior's proposals were being discussed today. We said we thought the issue would have to go back to the Cabinet probably next week.

#### HILLHEAD

In the context of the Hillhead by-election we were asked about the Prime Minister's movements. We said the PM would be working in No 10 during Friday morning, departing for Leeds during the afternoon. She would be making a speech at the Central Council meeting in Harrogate on Saturday.

Mr Whitelaw would be making a speech on law and order at Harrogate on Friday and we thought the PM's major speech would go wider than economic issues and into crime and punishment, law and order, etc.

HC