

PRIME MINISTER from Bernard Ingham

Press Summary: Sunday, 21 March

PM Seen

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Law and Order

Home Secretary faces a tough week with law and order on the agenda every day. But the Observer expects him to survive; you are seen to be standing by him and Ministers to be rallying support for him; expected to get a very good hearing from most back benchers tomorrow; but News of the World says it is the growing view of Tory MPs that the Home Secretary faces the sack.

Matt Coady, People, says the Government won't admit unemployment is part of the crime problem. It is easier for back benchers to pretend Willie is too soft and to call for vengeful solutions.

Woodrow Wyatt, Mirror, attacks the Police Federation for calling for a return of hanging, and says forces should be made into one police force like the army, responsible, through the Home Secretary, to Parliament.

George Gardiner, Express, says that given a strong lead from you, others would follow to bring back hanging.

Observer, NOP, says most people do not believe burglars, vandals and shop lifters should go to jail - public more favourable to non-custodial sentences - but poll confirms their concern about the level of crime.

News of the World says Chief Constable Anderton should learn a little humility and keep his mouth shut; the Manchester Police Committee may refer its quarrel with the Chief Constable to the Home Secretary.

Chief Constable Alderson to give interview to Marxism Today, and apparently agrees with Livingstone that the Metropolitan Police are not sufficiently accountable.

Comment: People says MPs rightly refuse to bring back hanging, but they should make a life sentence literally for life; neither police nor judges are responsible for the mugging wave - unemployment

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and parents partly responsible; when will the parents start to fight crime wave?

Mirror: Time the police stopped whining and got on with the job; statistically they have a lousy argument for the return of capital punishment; instead they should be campaigning for the return of the bobby to the beat.

Telegraph wants a little coolness injected into the debate; it is rather hard to blame the Home Secretary for the way society has developed since the war; cures must be found within the family, school and institutions, and the police need our unstinted support.

Observer says that when Tory leaders agitate about crime, they should remember their destructive and discredited economic policies which have lead to unemployment, misery and fear.

Other Crime

Two girls among six youngsters stabbed in a night of violence in the East End - mainly black v. white.

News of the World calls for a public inquiry into the death of Prosser in Birmingham Prison.

Bruce Lee, mental defective convicted of killing 26 people in 11 fires, tells the Sunday Times he is innocent.

Express features the case of a disabled driver who, much to his surprise, was helped by a group of coloured youths and a coloured garage owner when he broke down in Toxteth.

Matt Coady says Parliament must give the theatre clear guidance after the Romans trial; Telegraph says the Attorney General is furious over the prosecution, believing the law was being used to draw maximum attention to Mrs. Whitehouse's personal objection to sex scenes.

Security

Leo Abse, MP, to press for the publication of the Security Commission report.

Ireland

IRA threaten to shoot parents who do not keep their children under control in Republican areas.

Judges and Loyalist MPs are on a new IRA death list following re-organisation in the terrorist group.

Hillhead

It all seems too close for the Press to stick their necks out on the by-election, but a telephone poll of the constituency says Roy Jenkins is slightly ahead of Labour with the Tory in third place; Telegraph writer thinks the SDP will win.

Sunday Times leader hopes Mr. Jenkins wins; it will be a tragedy if the by-election denies him the opportunity of maximising support for the Alliance.

Economy

Yamani calls for a freeze in the real price of oil to the end of 1983 and imposes a unilateral cut on production in Saudi Arabia; but will this suck up the glut?

Otaiba calls on the UK to raise North Sea oil prices.

Express forecasts a further fall in unemployment on Tuesday on top of better inflation and unit cost figures last week.

Observer detects a change in exchange rate policy with less intervention by the Bank recently.

Woodrow Wyatt says the French economy is faltering because the Government is mucking about with French industry - one consolation is that France will become a less competitive rival.

Unions/Pay

News of the World says MPs want a substantial pay increase, and fear plans to freeze it this year.

Telegraph says leaders of Conservative local authorities are prepared to increase the 3.4% pay offer to teachers if they will drop their demands to go to arbitration; talks on Thursday.

Observer says the NUJ's battle over the Nottingham Evening Post has cost £185,000.

Rail

Express leader says all this McCarthy shilly-shallying is lunatic. He should perform one last service for all of us and get on a train, if there is one, back to Oxford and stay there; his report unlikely to be ready before the beginning of next month.

BR to ban smoking in restaurant and buffet cars on pain of a £50 fine.

London Transport

New blow to Wetzel's campaign against higher fares - TGWU tells its staff that it is their duty to collect correct fares.

Ian Waller, Telegraph, suggests you should take a leaf out of de Gaulle's book and apply your single-minded resolve to solving the capital's transport crisis; writer in the Observer suggests taxing cars in defined areas of London.

Industry

Sunday Times says BL is on the point of signing a new deal with the trade unions marking the end to the confrontational era; features the remarkable surge in productivity.

Telegraph says deadlock has been reached in negotiations between the Government and Nissan. There are fears that they will go elsewhere.

Management and unions meet at British Steel, Workington, this week to plan a recruiting drive because of the recovery.

Several features about the boost the economy can expect from the Cable TV revolution, and the Sunday Times has a feature on Kenneth Baker - can this man switch on Britain?

Sunday Times says mounting losses in the repair division and at Scott Lithgow threaten to dash British shipbuilders' break-even target for 1984.

Laker gives up plans for a People's Airline - says the money is available, but he is blocked by red tape; instead, he sets up a travel consultancy with Tiny Rowland, and this brings doubts about Rowland's pledge to cover the costs of Skytrain ticket holders.

Medical/Welfare

Allegations that there is patient pinching among Asian doctors in the West Midlands - claims that patients are under pressure to change doctors on religious grounds.

Contaminated dressings are to be made safe and resold, but DHSS is to make only random checks on the reprocessed dressings.

Animal Welfare

News of the World highlights transport of sheep to the continent without food or water for over 24 hours.

Public Sector

Express says a retired engine driver doing a 3½ day week on the South West Water Authority will get £19,850.

Cricket

Observer says both India and Pakistan tours of Britain will go ahead.

El Salvador: 2 British observers arrive there today.

South Africa: 8,000 attend inaugural rally of new Conservative Party formed by breakaway from ruling Nationalist Party.

21 March, 1982.