

PRIME MINISTER

Questions Tomorrow

It would be surprising if the Opposition led tomorrow on anything other than the TUC talks since Mr Kinnock will probably have had a detailed account of them. We will have to judge the best way to play Questions in the light of that outcome. Peter Walker had a relatively quiet time at Energy Questions today and it was clear that there is little steam left from anyone other than the hard left, although if the Opposition can put you in the role of the "road block to peace" they will certainly try to do so. Mr Walker managed to score heavily against Dennis Skinner by revealing that 90% of the miners at Bolsover were now working.

I suspect the Opposition will see little profit at continued pursuit of the Belgrano in view of today's debate. But we will have to wait to see how it is reported.

Other possible issues include: your visit to America and the whole range of defence, economic, and other issues which you will be discussing. You might also get questions about cold weather, including the DHSS announcement today of a new triggering of severe weather payments in some areas of the country, most of which are in the South and Midlands of England. There might also be reference to the tragic case of the mother with 2 young children who apparently froze to death in a flat in Southwark at the weekend.

On the Order Paper, there are Conservatives at 1, 4 and 5, respectively Michael Stern, Roger Freeman and Marcus Fox. There are Labour Members at 2 and 3, Terry Lewis and William O'Brien. The latter is a mining Member.

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