

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Princess of Wales attends a reception for members of Asian communities at the Royal Society of Medicine, Wimpole Street, London

Prime Minister meets "Mothers of Freedom" delegation

Commencement of trial of Mr Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party in Ulster

Mr Renton visits USSR

NUT strike in ILEA over teachers' pay Bill

RSG Statement(?)

STATISTICS

Provisional figures of vehicle production (Dec)

PUBLICATIONS

DEM: New Earnings Survey Part B, published

DES: Education Science and Arts Committee (ESAC) report on student awards

DES: C + AG report on falling school rolls

DHSS: DHSS law on child care and family services

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Social Services; Education and Science; Prime Minister

Business: Ten Minute Rule Bill: Capital Punishment (Murder of Children)

Debate on the Army on a motion for the Adjournment of the House

Adjournment Debate

The sale of houses by British Coal (Mr J Ashton)

Lords: Reverter of Sites Bill.

Debtors (Scotland) Bill: Second Reading.

Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978 (Continuance) (No 3) Order 1986: Motion for Approval.

Animals (Scotland) Bill: Second Reading.

PRESS DIGEST

The main stories today:

- The weather, and demands for automatic payment of heating allowance.
- Prince Edward leaves the Royal Marines.
- Guinness's Finance Director resigns.
- Terry Waite returns to Beirut to try to secure the release of more hostages.
- £ up to \$1.49, bringing hopes of cut in interest rates.
- Petrol prices set to rise 6p a gallon. Home heating oil up 12p a gallon.
- SDP/Alliance announces joint spokesmen for run-up to election.
- Kinnock has to postpone his talks with Reagan. Guardian says he will go to USA in March. Sun says Reagan has told Kinnock he is too busy to see him.
- London tube strike tomorrow called off. NUR claiming victory.

HEATING

- Opposition to call for a debate on allowances, and may substitute this subject for economy tomorrow. Demands for an assurance that payments will be made this week; record demand for electricity last night.
- Jack Jones calls on Government to declare state of emergency.
- Age Concern says situation is "disgusting".
- Star urges everyone to make a special effort to look after those who are suffering most whether old or disabled.
- Today: Age Concern warns that more than 100,000 pensioners face death from hypothermia or cold-related diseases.
- Mirror P2: How mean can you get, Maggie? - Thousands of pensioners will die because of Government's cold hearted attitude over heating bills. Leader says it will believe the Government when it says it isn't trying to save money at the expense of the elderly - but only if it immediately comes up with a scheme which will pay the needy's bills without bureaucratic nonsense or fuss.
- Demand for fuel bills help for pensioners by pensioners organisations and social authorities (Independent).
- Times: Child Poverty Action Group calculates that 1.29 million people did not take up supplementary benefit heating entitlements in 1983.

TV LICENCE

- Star runs campaign - and petition - to secure free TV licences for pensioners in support of David Winnick MP.

POLITICS

- Star columnist says your winning a third term is "a rational assessment of current probabilities".
- Today: David Owen's Social Democrats get most of the key jobs in the new Alliance election team.
- Pressure for Select Committee to force Enoch Powell to toe the line over declaration of interests.
- Labour will create a media Minister with special brief to protect the independence of broadcasting - Independent.
- Guardian gives extensive coverage to Labour's plans for "a local government revolution" - with new regional tier, abolition of shire counties and salaries for full time councillors.

ECONOMY

- Today: Lawson plans £5bn tax bonanza. Tax cuts of 2p on basic rate and more money for the regions, job training and pensioners will be in the package.
- Sun says Chancellor is planning to give away £3bn; leader calls on him to cut top rate further since last cut increased revenue.
- British are credit card kings of Europe, according to Commission.
- Rise in price of wholesale goods at their lowest level since early '70s.
- Express leader on Labour "at sixes and sevens, fours and fives and ones and twos" over just who is going to pay what to fund its massive spending. It is fast becoming as big a muddle as defence.
- FT: The dollar's pronounced weakness yesterday threatened renewed strain within EMS, only hours after details of realignment were completed. Leader headed "Papering over EMS cracks" argues that the system faces two immediate challenges - to ensure that the UK becomes a full member after the next election and to improve its technical operation.
- FT: Scottish economy expected to grow more slowly than the rest of the UK, according to official figures.

LAW AND ORDER

- West Yorkshire police investigate claim that hoax tape of Yorkshire Ripper was voice of disgruntled policeman.
- Lord Chalfont, in Express, advocates a public order force - or riot police - after latest Scottish prison riot.
- Chief Constable Anderton attacked over force morale - growing feeling amongst middle and senior officers that Anderton must retire soon for the good of the force (Independent).
- Times P1 lead: Law Society proposals for a national private funding scheme for people who cannot obtain legal aid.
- Times: Labour Research Department says that most judges are from highly privileged backgrounds and are predominantly male.

MI5

- Times: Sir Michael Havers denies that you ever ordered or directed him in any decision he had made about criminal prosecution. He said he would make a full statement about the operation of the Official Secrets Acts immediately after the Wright case judgement is made.
- The Irish publisher of "One Girl's War" says he is interested in publishing Wright's memoirs. £170,000 legal bills so far for MI5 secrets court case - Independent.

DEFENCE

- Star says brouhaha over crashed nuclear weapon carriers is a barrowload of balderdash. Weaponry has to be moved from time to time and risk of a radioactive leak is about as high as your joining the CND.
- Times: Labour demands halt to convoy secrecy.
- Cap Weinburger defending Reagan's military budget says Kinnock's policies are a threat to NATO - Independent.
- Navy cuts Falklands presence; they perform more patrols with fewer vessels - Independent.

PEOPLE

- 5 day old baby safe in hospital after being found abandoned in Finchley telephone kiosk.
- Ian Harvey, ex-Conservative junior minister, dies 72.
- Winston Churchill denies he was involved in MI5 plot to undermine Wilson's Government.
- Times: Sir William Rees-Mogg has agreed to remain as chairman of the Arts Council for a further two years.
- Times: Mr Richard Eyre will take over from Sir Peter Hall as artistic director of the National Theatre from September next year.

AIDS

- Today: BUPA and other private health insurance schemes will pay for the treatment of AIDS. Open letter to Norman Fowler from Christopher Monckton argues that several hundred thousand in Britain could die by the year 2000 unless immediate and determined action is taken.
- Mirror reports a French made "wonder cream" which can kill the AIDS virus.
- Times: Birmingham City Council has set up an AIDS telephone hotline to offer advice.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Mirror leads with story of nurses in a London hospital dialling 999 for an ambulance when a woman with them collapses with a heart attack; sent to another hospital and then returned to original.

UNIONS

- NUSeamen says it will stop QE2 sailing in dispute over replacement of 800 staff by contract workers.

INDUSTRY

- FT: Manchester airport earned £21m of pre-tax profits in its first six months as a public limited company.
- FT: Regional campaign to persuade British companies of the benefits of the Channel Tunnel was launched yesterday by Eurotunnel group.
- FT: British Coal wants to increase open cast coal production.
- Hitachi to create 200 jobs at Hirwaun on microwave ovens; and 1000 jobs planned by NEC at Telford on TVs and videos.
- Labour MPs call for Paul Channon to be switched to another Ministry because of Guinness affair.
- MPs attack 6p petrol rise. Oonagh McDonald says rise was an indecently quick response to the OPEC meeting (Independent).
- EMS realignment was too much politics, too little economics for your taste (Independent).
- Telegraph reports a plan for British Coal for six day working, but only a four day week of longer shifts.
- CBI praises youngsters who have set up their own business.
- Perrier buys the Euxton Mineral Water Company; selling spring water for more than petrol is easy money but UK consumption of 2 litres per head per annum is way behind the 46 litres per head per annum in Europe (Independent).
- A company employing 20 people and a turnover of £200,000, wins design award for its mini aircraft design (Independent).

MEDIA

- Date of launch of Maxwell's new London Daily News, formerly February 10, now put back 2 weeks.

EDUCATION

- Left wing NUT in London to go ahead with its 24 hour strike today.
- Express reports George Walden flying to USA to investigate student loans which, the newspaper says, are on the cards after the next election.
- Mail leader on Labour's plan to kill off grammar schools, says Labour has never lost the urge to level down; in education as in so much else the Tories take the initiative while Socialists accentuate the negative.
- Telegraph says Education Select Committee will today call for higher grants for students.
- Independent leader says there is much common ground between Government and Opposition of need for national standards in education but education does not conform to free market economic theory . More power to the parents is the answer.

GULF

- Iran gun boat attacks tanker near Straits of Hormuz.

EAST-WEST

- Mail says Reagan has asked you to take the lead in Moscow in tempting Gorbachev back to a Summit.

GIBRALTAR

- Spanish foreign minister will express deep frustration at alleged British foot dragging on the future of Gibraltar in talks with Government today and tomorrow.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DES: Mr Baker visits Natural Environment Research Council, Swindon

DTI: Mr Pattie speaks at seminar on R and D funded by Government organisations

DTp: Mr Bottomley chairs the Northern Regional Annual Consultative Committee, Newcastle

MAFF: Mr Thompson attends Country Landowners Association lunch

MOD: Lord Trefgarne addresses Arthur Young defence seminar, London

OAL Mr Luce speaks at opening of British Art in the 20th Century exhibition

WO: Mr Robinson visits Gwent Volunteer Bureau, Newport

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DES: Mr Walden visits USA (to 25 January)

FCO: Mr Renton visits USSR (to 18 January)

TV AND RADIO

"Call Nick Ross"; BBC Radio 4 (09.45)

"Brian Hayes Show"; LBC Radio (10.00): With Russell Proffitt, Principal Race Adviser of Brent Council, talking about the role of the new Race Equality Teachers in Brent schools
