

19 January 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

EC: Agriculture Council

European Parliament: Strasbourg (to 23 January)

London Underground overtime ban begins

Campaign for Freedom of Information Awards presented

Scottish Grand Committee: Matter Day Debate on Agriculture; Crown Office Building, Edinburgh

Announcement of Education Support Grants allocations

Broadwater Farm murder trial opens

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STATISTICS

Retail sales (Dec-prov)

Public sector borrowing requirement (Dec)

Index of output of the production industries (Nov)

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PAY

Prison officers; 18,300; simplified pay structure with enhanced salary

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Wales; Energy; Transport

Business: Progress on remaining stages of the Local Government Finance Bill

Adjournment Debate

Speech Therapy on Merseyside (Mr D Alton)

Select Committees: PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Sponsorship of Non-Departmental Public Bodies  
Witnesses: Mr R N Lloyd Jones, Welsh Office; Mr David Dykes, National Museum of Wales; Mr B Ryan, Land Authority for Wales.

Lords: Reverter of Sites Bill (HL): Third Reading.

Consumer Protection Bill (HL): Committee (1st Day)

Gaming (Amendment) Bill: Second Reading

PRESS DIGESTTHE MAIN STORIES TODAY ARE:

- Insider dealers to face seven year sentences. Paul Channon's position in jeopardy.
- Row over EBC decision to ban programme on secret defence project
- James Anderton says he may be a prophet of God.
- Fears grow of accidents involving nuclear weapons.
- Government plans hospices for AIDS sufferers.

CITY

- Mail: Plans to increase the maximum sentence for insider dealing from two to seven years are expected to be put before Parliament in the next few weeks as part of the Criminal Justice Bill.
- You have ordered ministers to root out the "fools and villains" involved in corrupt practices.
- Star: The DTI is said to be in chaos, with Paul Channon facing open revolt from junior ministers and senior officials over the BTR/Pilkington decision. A "senior Cabinet Minister" is quoted as saying it is "a mess".
- Sun: "Nick 'em! Maggie orders big blitz on city crooks".
- Civil Service moles who stand to make fortunes by passing on share tips are to be hunted down (Express).
- Mirror: "City storm hits Channon". Worried Tories turn savagely on him. He is accused of behaving like Pontius Pilate and washing his hands over the fate of British industry.
- Today: "Channon safe from the sack". You cannot afford to make changes when an election is looming.
- Telegraph: Ministers have provisionally agreed that the Criminal Justice Bill now going through the Commons can be amended so that the 7-year sentences can be available to the courts as soon as possible.
- There is widespread feeling that Mr Channon's future is in doubt.
- Guardian: Ian Aitken says that much of what is going on in the City is just burglary by scoundrels in smart suits.
- Times: Channon acts to stiffen penalties to halt City scandals - insider dealers to face 7 years in jail. Legislation alone is not enough to sustain confidence in the City.
- Independent: Morgan Grenfell moves to scotch rumours of further resignations.

WEATHER

- Six million people face water rationing this week because of a record number of bursts following the thaw (Star).
- Two elderly sisters froze to death in their living room 48 hours after returning from holiday in Spain.
- Leader says another £5 should be paid to pensioners in need - even if it means bending the rules again.
- Mirror: Leader calls for research into hypothermia; massive grants for insulation; and the setting up of a Commission.
- John Major is attacked by Labour and health care experts for saying that there is no hypothermia crisis.
- Telegraph: Crooks are cashing in on the cold weather by conning elderly people out of their pension books and by looting cars abandoned in the snow.
- The severe weather will cause further deterioration in Britain's roads unless the Government gives financial aid to highway authorities for urgent repairs, says the British Road Federation.

POLITICS

- Mail: Paul Johnson says Norman Tebbit is the victim of the most persistent and unprincipled smear campaign in the recent history of British politics. His consolation is that the depths to which his enemies are willing to sink show just how dangerous he is to them.
- Leader says that the record of left-wing Labour councils will be a major vote-loser for Neil Kinnock.
- The Audit Commission has accused some Labour councils of dragging London down to the kind of deprivation and lawlessness seen only in the worst areas of New York and Chicago. At least 6 boroughs need a major management shake-up.
- Express: Chancellor Kohl's expected smooth ride to triumph in next Sunday's election is widely supposed to be an ill-omen for Mr Kinnock.
- Labour today unveils new plans to spruce up Britain and banish pollution - and create at least 200,000 jobs (Today).
- Telegraph: Haringey Council is to sell its furniture and anything else movable to meet debts. It is also to set up a cats' home at a cost of £40,000.
- Labour MPs are preparing to pillory you during the general election for spending more time on overseas tours than on visiting Britain's unemployment black spots.

POLITICS (Cont'd)

- Guardian leader admires the way you handled the cold weather payments issue. You are a very quick-on-your-feet political pragmatist. The Opposition must "punch a bit more clever" if it is to get anywhere.
- Times editorial says you should bring your two greatest virtues, probity and clarity, to the fore and resist teasing remarks about election dates.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Sun carries four leaders on aspects of "caring" Britain. It defends the decision to not give free TV licences (the BBC should be less extravagant); attacks racketeers making big profits from the bad weather; criticises Shirley Williams' ex-husband for quitting Cambridge for California and attacks Mrs Rosalind Runcie for objecting to a shelter for down-and-outs because it will reduce house values.
- Plans for a national network of hospices to care for dying AIDS patients are being considered by the Government.
- A mother who lost almost half the blood in her body while giving birth, refused a transfusion for fear of AIDS.
- AIDS officials in Birmingham say the campaign is not reaching enough young people.
- Times: Norman Fowler planning AIDS hospices for UK. He is to visit hospices in San Francisco.
- Telegraph: Haringey Council is to give re-housing priority to AIDS sufferers.
- Mr Fowler is to decide next week whether to introduce emergency legislation to amend the Social Security Act after discovery of a serious blunder which could affect hundreds of thousands of people claiming maternity grants (Guardian).
- Times: Spending on patient care in London teaching hospitals has increased in real terms says Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. Editorial in favour of continued transplant operations.
- Independent: A national breast cancer screening programme which could eventually save the lives of between 2,000 and 2,500 women a year is shortly to be announced by health ministers.

DRUGS

- Times: High level meeting of UK diplomats in the Caribbean spotlights Britain's vital role in the international struggle against drugs.

INDUSTRY

- Mail P1 lead: "Britain moves in to the lead". We are outstripping even the Germans and Japanese in productivity. Export prospects are bright.
- Leader says that at last Britain's industrial managers and their overseas salesmen have no excuse to win business.
- Express: British industry is on the launching pad for a major recovery this year, with manufacturing going a competitive edge over rivals.
- The Government could face a £6bn bill for dismantling disused oil rigs in the North Sea, if interventional proposals for a "clean seabed" policy go through.
- The ASLEF train drivers' union has warned that there could be spontaneous strikes from midnight tonight against a new working system.
- Guardian: Up to 20,000 telephone engineers are expected to strike today or tomorrow in protest at BT's indefinite suspension on Friday of 700 engineers for refusing to work overtime at the weekend.
- Independent: Ministers think Mr Channon would be wise to put off BAe launch-aid decision until after general election. "Hands off" policy towards British industry expected to be criticised by Heath and Heseltine in tomorrow's Commons debate.
- Independent: At the top of the agenda for your design seminar tomorrow will be the role of education and training.
- The Government has abandoned plans to put most of the Royal Navy's 560 civilian-manned support ships under commercial management (Telegraph)

LAW AND ORDER

- Mail: A 10-year-old girl stabbed 12 times at the weekend by a man who tried to abduct her, is on a life support machine in a Kent hospital.
- Mirror: Manchester Chief Constable James Anderton, says he could be a prophet of God. Someone spoke to him before his AIDS outburst last month.
- "Anderton compares himself to Jesus" (Today).
- Leader says the time has come when he should seriously consider whether his own attitudes and opinions are compatible with the important and sensitive job he holds.
- "God using me as spokesman, says Anderton" (Telegraph).
- Independent: Government rejects Law Society plea to curb investigative powers granted to Senior Fraud Officers under Criminal Justice Bill.
- Times: Renewed pressure on Anderton to resign.

PEOPLE

- Pops continue the saga of the departure of Prince William's nanny.
- Mark and his fiancée have been over discussing arrangements for the wedding expected to take place on St Valentine's Day at the Savoy Chapel.
- Times: Diary piece quoting from a letter to Paul Channon from Tiny Rowland which talks of a political scandal over his thwarted attempt to buy Harrods.

HOUSING

- Mail: The TUC has been forced to drop its demand for the abolition of tax relief for anyone earning more than £20,000 a year. Many TUC members would be hit.

MEDIA

- Mail: Winston Churchill has accused the BBC of wasting taxpayers' money after it cancelled a programme which alleged that the Government was running a £500m defence project without telling Parliament.
- An inquiry to unmask a mole who told left-wing journalist Duncan Campbell about a top-secret defence research project has been launched by MoD.
- Today: In off-camera exchanges with George Foulkes in a BBC studio yesterday, Mr Younger owned up to the secret project.
- The banned BBC programme is to be shown to MPs this week (Telegraph).
- Guardian: The secret project concerns an electronic surveillance system.

JOBS

- Mail: A 300,000 strong human chain stretching from Liverpool to London is planned to focus attention on unemployment. Supporters include Jimmy Savile and the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- The Times: Ministers are proposing a revolutionary plan to train 4000 workers for the construction industry.

TERRORISM

- Mail: Another European has been kidnapped in Beirut - the second since Terry Waite arrived in the city a week ago.

NUCLEAR

- Today P1 lead: "Britain's 41 ministers on nuclear brink". Ministers after last week's accident involving atomic weapons carriers say a coded radio message was flashed to defence security and environmental agencies warning that there was a real danger of major leak of radio-activity from an explosion or fire. You are furious about what happened and have demanded detailed statements from members of the convoy.
- Independent: Britain and the US have been conducting secret nuclear accident tests because of fears of radiation leaks. Details are contained in secret Pentagon report.

ENVIRONMENT

- A sharp fall in the acreage of land fit for development being hoarded by local authorities and state industries is to be announced this week by John Patten (Telegraph).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Independent: Audit Commission's evidence of Left-wing councils were watered down after protests from AMA and ALA.

EDUCATION

- Independent: Brent is set for another row with Mr Baker over its failure to appoint a "fit person" as director of education.

UNIONS

- Times: NUM general secretary in Northumberland accuses Scargill of blackmail over redundancy payments.

GCHQ

- Telegraph: The European Commission of Human Rights will this week hear arguments about the admissability of the ban on trade unions at GCHQ.

EC

- Independent: Trade officials meet in Geneva today to head of EC/US agricultural trade war.
- Times: Sir Henry Plumb's bid to become President of EuroParliament could be thwarted by late bid by Spanish socialist.

IRELAND

- Times: Charles Haughey softens his opposition to the Anglo-Irish Agreement.
- The Irish Parliament is expected to be dissolved on Wednesday and a general election held in the middle of February, following the failure of the coalition to agree a budget (Telegraph).
- Sinn Fein has been registered as a political party in time for the election (Guardian).
- Independent: Haughey says he would not seek to scrap Anglo-Irish Agreement if elected.

RUSSIA

- You have hit a £50m jackpot with the Russians to smooth your Moscow visit. Gorbachev has agreed to pay compensation to the families of wealthy Russian who fled to Britain after the revolution (Star).

FALKLANDS

- Sun: Britain is set for a confrontation with Russian trawlers should they breach the fishing zone, Mr Younger says.

IRAN/IRAQ

- A battle that could settle the war is said to be raging outside Basra.

AUSTRALIA

- Britain has refused to give Australia the Bill that gave it independence. Premier Hawke is furious with you because he wants the document for next year's bicentenary celebrations (Today).

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DES: Mr Baker visits the National Children's Bureau

DOE: Mr Ridley visits Sellafield Nuclear Power Station

SO: Mr Rifkind presents Scottish Business Achievement Award Trust (SBAAT) minibus to Save The Children Fund, Edinburgh, later meets delegation from Inverclyde to discuss unemployment, Edinburgh

DEM: Mr Lee opens the 40th Annual Decorative Lighting Show, Olympia

DEM: Mr Trippier opens the new premises of Dudley Business Venture

DOE: Mr Patten meets representatives from the Local Authority Associations to discuss homelessness

DTI: Mr Pattie launches Middle School Design Education Bus, Kingston

DTP: Mr Spicer meets Voyager crew (Mobil event)

DTP: Mr Bottomley meets Salford Borough Council re A41, Marsham Street

HO: Mr Hogg visits Police Staff College, Bramshill

MOD: Lord Trefgarne visits the Institute of Aviation Medicine, Farnborough

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

MAFF: Mr Jopling and Mr Gummer attend Agriculture Council, Brussels (to 20 January).

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TV AND RADIO

"Money Box"; BBC Radio 4 (10.00): With Louise Botting (repeat from Saturday)

"You and Yours"; BBC Radio 4 (12.00): With Susan Rae

"World in Action"; ITV (20.30): The State of the Nation - the final programme in a three part series which looks at how three different families think about their children and their future

"At the End of the Day"; BBC2 (21.00): Lord Stockton in conversation with Robert McKenzie about the last years of his premiership

"Pagorama"; BBC (21.30)

"World in Action Special"; ITV (22.30): The Scarman Debate. Lord Scarman chairs a discussion about the three "State of the Nation" programmes. He will be finding out what we think of ourselves as a nation and whether we are heading in the right direction

Transport Minister Mr Mitchell interviewed by TVS "Facing South" on buses

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