

5 February 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prince of Wales presents the Schools Industry prize awards at the Institute of Directors, London

Prime Minister meets M. Delors, President of the European Council

DHSS announces extra AIDS funds; and allocations for supra-regional services

National Engineering Agreement: Unions report back to Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions on proposals for reduced working time

Customs and Excise announce more drugs detection dog teams

STATISTICS

DEM: Detailed analysis of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators (Feb)

DEM: Employment Gazette

DOE: Housing starts and completions (Dec)

PUBLICATIONS

CO: Government Response to Commons Liaison Committee report on Civil Servants at Select Committees

HO: Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons: annual report

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Home Office; Northern Ireland; Prime Minister

Business: Second Reading of the Social Fund (Maternity and Funeral Expenses) Bill
Motion on the Education (Northern Ireland) Order
The Chairman of Ways and Means has named opposed private business for consideration at seven o'clock

Adjournment Debate

Proposed amendments to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1972 as they affect the tailoring trade (Mr J Wheeler)

Select Committees:

Lords: Gaming (Amendment) Bill: Third Reading
Debtors' (Scotland) Bill: Committee
Territorial Sea Bill: Second Reading
Coal Industry Bill: Second Reading
Merchant Shipping (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Order 1937: Motion for Approval
Food Protection (Emergency Prohibitions) (No 10) Order 1986: Motion for Approval
Amendments to the Potato Marketing Scheme 1955: Motion for Approval

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- Reports that Terry Waite is on trial for his life by Kangaroo Court for going back on his word. US denies it plans to attack Lebanon.
- Some speculation about the Attorney General's health and reports of an "earlier threat to resign over a No 10 briefing" (Mail).
- Mail says Zircon spy hunt has developed into a full scale spy hunt for a traitor inside GCHQ

- Labour Party to confine mortgage tax relief to standard rate, hittin nearly 1m home owners.
- Hopes rising for settlement in B/Telecom dispute.

- Reports that all hospital patients are to be tested for AIDS but not told results.
- Further speculation about a Reagan/Gorbachev Summit in the summer, apparently encouraged by Perle.

BBC/ZIRCON

- Today says Attorney General threatened to resign over a whispering campaign ~~against~~ him; Government officials casting doubt on your faith in him. Mail says Attorney General nearly resigned before Christmas over his handling of Wright case - claimed Jim Coe had been equivocal in his support.
- Telegraph says Cabinet is to be given progress report on inquiry. Paul Johnson, in Telegraph, contrasts the massacre in the self regulated City - of innocents as well as guilty - with what has not happened in the self regulated BBC where lack of real supervision is no doubt the real explanation for The Secret Society.
- Independent: Scottish Council for Civil Liberties will warn people attending two proposed showings of the BBC programme today that they might be breaking the Official Secrets Act.
- Guardian leads with Lord Advocate revealing details of his supervision of Special Branch warrants.
- Sun leader says the NUJ (better known as the Friends of Gaddafi) want their members to stop work for 2 hours as a protest against police raids to defend national security; will anyone notice? After all they stop 2,3, or even 4 hours every day for - lunch.
- Today says journalists are right to protest about the Government's attitude to the BBC and to worry over the police raid on the BBC, but their union is wrong and stupid to call a strike. If it interrupts the free flow of information the union will have achieved exactly what it holds against the Government.
- Express deals with Attorney's Answers - denies discussing Zircon project with Campbell; Paul Potts feature on the trouble with charming Sir Michael who was yesterday in his favourite haunt at the Garrick with the chattering classes. Renewed concern about his health.
- Times: Project Zircon was so highly classified that the Government and Special Branch have the names of all those "in the know" since it began in 1983. If any one of them passed the secret to Duncan Campbell it would be one of the gravest breaches of the Official Secrets Act for years.
- Brian Barr, producer of The Secret Society, has been questioned twice by the Special Branch but has refused to tell them anything.
- Hundreds of people are expected to turn out tonight in Edinburgh and Glasgow to watch a video tape of the film, although they will be warned they may be in breach of the Official Secrets Act.
- A former Lord Advocate described last night as "extraordinarily wide" the petition to the Sheriff's Court used by law officers to obtain warrants to search BBC offices.
- Geoffrey Smith says public confidence in the law officers has been declining, largely because of the cavalier way in which you treat them. Their standing must be restored and the Official Secrets Act reformed. The country feels uncomfortable when any government is not thought to have a proper regard for such matters; leader comes out against Sir Edward Gardner's 'Bill of Rights'.

MEDIA

- Sun nominates Jeremy Isaacs as DG of the BBC because he has the best track record in TV.

INDUSTRY

- B/Telecom peace talks continue, with union apparently hopeful. Mercury steps up its recruiting among strikers.
- Rover Chairman, Graham Day, reprieves the Mini.
- Two prostitutes got MSC cash to set up a brothel (health studio).
- BL trucks look certain to be sold to foreign company within a month.
- Express welcomes the good news that we are casting off our outmoded attitude against "men of trade" and profit making.
- Mail professes relief at the news that nuclear workers are to be tested for drugs; it says they should also be booted out if they are found to have a drink problem.
- Times: Evidence that some BT workers who have decided to work normally are being intimidated as talks between management and unions enter a delicate stage which could lead to a compromise settlement; the executive of the National Communications Union will decide today whether to call mass meetings to discuss ending the strike.
- FT: Britain's growing army of part-timers - the "flexible" labour force - expanded by 16% between 1981 and 1985.
- UK power plant manufacturers have been invited by the CEGB to provide proposals in August for the construction of a coal-fired station.
- Rover Group is expecting record exports this year, leading to a recovery on all fronts.

INDUSTRY (Cont'd)

- Four US oil companies have concluded long-term agreements with Saudi Arabia to buy crude oil at the official OPEC rates.
- Times: The Government plans to push through legislation by the summer forcing local authorities to permit private firms to compete for a wide range of council services.
- FT: Britain's tourist trade improved sharply in late 1986.
- United Steels Engineering to axe 600 jobs at Sheffield plant.
- The UK telecommunications industry has performed relatively poorly since the liberalisation of the industry, says the Technical Change Centre.
- Independent: Telephonists in London threaten to strike over job-shedding plan.
- More than 500,000 jobs will be created by private services by the end of the decade, according to Occupational Study Group.

CITY

- FT: Standard Chartered Bank has asked the Bank of England to appoint inspectors to investigate loans made to supporters of its defence against a £1.3bn takeover bid from Lloyds Bank last summer.

ECONOMY

- FT: The British economy is likely to grow by nearly 3% this year, bringing unemployment below 3m by the autumn, say Staniland Hall Associates.

UNIONS

- Membership has fallen 19% from its peak in 1979.
- Sun says Wapping dispute may soon be called off - Brenda Dean to ask her executive today to end demonstrations and mass picketing; Mirror tends to confirm this with a story "Wapping union set to give up".
- Unions threaten National Theatre showdown over 30% reduction in backstage staff.
- Times: Fears are growing that the strike by Manchester firemen could spread to other airports.

WAITE

- Star says the ever-worrying plight of Waite underlines the folly of trading with terrorists. Archbishop was quite misguided in sanctioning his return.
- Times: Iranian-backed Shia Muslims are holding Mr Waite prisoner in West Beirut with other western hostages, according to Lebanese sources. He is said to be the victim of internal conflicts. The same sources rubbish reports that he was tried by a "Kangaroo Court".
- Independent * Kidnappers have "trial" Waite, says militiamen.

GREENWICH

- David Owen says Labour's Deirdre Wood isn't fit to be an MP; she has outrageously dangerous views on defence.
- Mrs Wood also at centre of row for promoting ILEA homosexual charter.
- Times: Greenwich promises to be a highly personalised campaign, with much mud-slinging.

POLITICS

- Norman Tebbit brands 23 Labour controlled councils as hotbeds of "municipal militancy."
- FT: Labour local authorities that have spent beyond their means were warned by Party leaders yesterday that an incoming Labour government would not write blank cheques to bail them out.
- The Conservatives have drawn up an unprecedented team of defence experts to attack opposition policies and to promote its own; diary says your barnstorming speech at the Winter Ball convinced the party faithful that you are raring to fight the next election. But it did not stop guests remarking on the bloodshot appearance of your right eye. Your physician has dismissed it as a sty, not related to the previous trouble.
- Independent: Only 48% of trade union members would vote Labour in a general election now, according to poll for Granada TV's "Union World".
- Independent: Attorney General is believed to have declined task of mounting Government opposition to Human Rights Bill because of his personal support for the measure. You are said to oppose the Bill because it would threaten the sovereignty of Parliament. Leader claims the time is ripe for legal guarantees of fundamental rights.

LAW AND ORDER

- Star gives unqualified support to the new Home Office regulations for police carrying firearms.
- Labour MPs claim that Douglas Hurd's wife, by putting in a good word to a police inspector, secured the release of a Met/band leader's van - without fine - after it was towed away during a Tory ball (Mirror).

RAPE

- Leon Brittan attacks Lords for refusing in 1983 to allow lenient sentences to be reviewed.
- David Mellor rejects Backbench calls for 20 year minimum sentence for rape.
- Star says Parliament must act to give the Appeal Court power to change perverse sentences, and it launches a poll of reader opinion on suitable sentences for rape.
- Mirror says one of the convicted Ealing rapists expected 15-year sentence and got only 5; leader says if Mr Justice Leonard has not actually encouraged young men to go out and rape women, he hasn't done anything to deter them. Leonard should try no more rape cases.
- Times: Lord Hailsham is expected to call for the transcript of the judge's remarks in the Ealing vicarage rape case.

AIDS

- 2 sufferers have had their homes burned down, 12 have had to be rehoused and six have committed suicide in London.
- Sun says MPs are shocked at a plan secretly to test every hospital patient for AIDS but victims would not be told.

DRUGS

- Mail diary says Lord Gowrie's son has gone into a clinic for the second time.

HOUSING

- The Halifax says house prices have risen on average 13.6% in a year.
- Sun says Labour plans to limit mortgage tax relief to standard rate, leaving nearly 1m worse off; leader we says we now know how much you have to earn to fall victim to Labour's soak the rich policy: £20,000.
- Express: Labour change over home loans - hits the campaign trail red faced with embarrassment; leader points out that Labour is promising to hit families on incomes over £20,000 twice - on tax and on mortgages; this is not the way to reward effort and enterprise.
- Mail says timeshare "hustlers" are blatantly flouting guidelines aimed at protecting holiday home customers. Mail wants legal intervention.

EDUCATION:

- Express says stinging criticisms of the way schools are run in Brent are to come soon from Inspectors.
- Times: Politicians of all parties are to blame for the slump in levels of education, says Sir John Mason, president of the University of Manchester, Institute of Science and Technology.
- Mr Baker is set to place a firm time limit on Teachers' Pay and Conditions Bill.

PEOPLE

- Liberace dies, 67.
- Broadcasters Wynford Vaughan Thomas and Fyfe Robertson die.
- Mirror, Express have pictures of Diane Burgdorf. Jean Rook piece about the Burgdorfs. Mail says Diane will have an off the peg dress.
- Picture of the Rocce Fortes baby in Express.

EAST/WEST

- Today says the latest nuclear tests offer you a chance to intervene on the side of sense by discouraging Reagan's war mongering.
- Express says Reagan is prepared to delay SDI deployment for up to 19 year in return for Summer Summit and operate deal on arms control; Perle says he thinks there is a good chance of a summit in the first half of this year.
- Mail, picking up Richard Perle interview that if West is sending Summit advance party to Russia he'd rather it was you, says you hold key to Star Wars Summit.
- Telegraph says Reagan must take care to preserve the talents around him if he is to win an historic arms control agreement.

WEST GERMANY

- Unemployment in West Germany has risen to a near-record 10%-

IRELAND

- Haughey slipping in polls.

FRANCE

- Independent: Two secret service agents responsible for sinking "Rainbow Warrior" are being considered for the Legion d'Honneur.

EC

- Telegraph says Commission official promises a Robin Hood farm policy which hits rich large scale farmers but spares small and poor producers.

ARGENTINA

- Independent: US State Department officials confirm that they made a proposal at the OAS in November designed to clear way for discussions on fisheries protection between Britain and Argentina.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Lord Young hosts lunch for Israeli Minister of Labour, London

DEM: Mr Clarke meets M. Delors, President of the EC Commission

MAFF: Mr Jopling meets with M. Delors, President of the EC Commission

WO: Mr Edwards launches promotional video on the City Council, Welsh Centre, Picadilly

DEM: Mr Trippier makes regional visit to Dorset

DEM: Mr Lee meets Camberley Fraud Squad

DEM: Mr Hunt visits Basington Colliery, Newcastle

DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses Industrial Society conference

DES: Mr Walden visits Aston University and later presents trophy to winner of Kasparov vs Nigel Short chess match, Birmingham

DOE: Mr Waldegrave hosts reception for delegates of the UNEP Export of Hazardous Substances, Lancaster House, London

DOE: Mr Tracey visits Alexandra Palace, London

DTp: Mr Bottomley addresses the Commercial Motor's Fleet Management Conference, Royal Lancaster Hotel

DTp: Mr Mitchell visits Chelmsford

MAFF: Mr Thompson visits International Food Exhibition, Olympia

WO: Mr Roberts attends United Nations Buffet lunch, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

MCD: Mr Younger visits the USA (to 11 February)

DEM: Mr Buchanan-Smith meets Joe Kennedy and Mr Harrington, Washington

FCO: Mr Renton departs for Poland (to 7 February)

FCO: Mr Eggar departs for United Nations, Geneva (to 10 February)

TV AND RADIO

"Union World"; Channel 4 (18.30)

"An Over Clever Union"; BBC Radio 4 (19.40): Continues its series on members of the European Community with a look at Belgium

"This Week"; ITV (21.30): With Jonathan Dimbleby

"Question Time"; BBC 1 (22.00): Sir Robin Day with Robin Cook MP, Sarah Hogg, Michael Howard QC, MP, and Anthony Sampson

"Opinions: The Red Flag"; Channel 4 (20.00): Robert Shidelsky, Professor of International Studies at Warwick University, presents a critical appraisal of Labour Governments and argues that democratic socialists are destined to fail