

Tuesday, 10 March 1987

MAIN EVENTS

Duchess of York visits Heathrow Airport.

Soviet Ambassador, Leonid Zamyatin calls on Prime Minister (17.00).

Agriculture policy documents published by MAFF.

New Government in Irish Republic.

Trade and Industry Select Committee report on Westland published.

STATISTICS

HO: Immigration: (4th qtr)

OPCS: Legal abortions: (Sept qtr 1986)

OPCS: Death by cause (June qtr 1986)

OPCS: Death from accidents and violence (June qtr 1986)

OPCS: Fatal accidents occurring during sporting and leisure activities
(1984/85)

PUBLICATIONS

NAO: Report on rights of ownership of the Trustee Savings Bank

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Social Services; Education and Science; Prime Minister

Business: Until about 19.00 second reading of the Debtors (Scotland) Bill (Lords). Followed by remaining stages of the Parliamentary and Health Service Commissioners Bill.

Motion on the Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order.

Adjournment Debate: The closure of the casualty unit at Ancoats Hospital, Manchester (Mr R Litnerland)

Select Committees: NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK BROADS BILL

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS

Subject: Special Education Needs

Witnesses: National Union of Teachers (at 10.40 am);

National Association of Head Teachers (at approx 11.45 am)

PROCEDURE

Subject: Early Day Motions

Witness: Mr D W Limon, Principal Clerk, Table Office

Lords: Territorial Sea Bill: Third Reading

Local Government Finance Bill: Third Reading

Petroleum Bill: Second Reading

Rate Support Grants Bill (Money Bill): Second Reading and Remaining States.

Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987: Motion for Approval.

PRESS DIGEST

MAIN NEWS

- John Moore's statement well received; tightening up of safety widely reported, as is Government's contribution of £1m to disaster fund.
 - Star has pictures of bosun who is said to have admitted it was his fault.
 - 0.5% cut in interest rates seen as a token of things to come in Budget.
 - Jim Callaghan says it again - disowning unilateralism, and attracts condemnation from Labour MPs.
 - Sun reports bosun's solicitor as saying he was not on car deck and his previous statements can't be relied upon.
 - Other reports that ship had warning lights, linked with ferry doors, on bridge.
 - More harrowing stories of and from survivors.
 - Today claims ferries are still putting to sea with doors open. Lorry drivers continue to say there were problems with doors on disaster ship.
 - Telegraph says competition is reaching suicidal levels among ferry firms.
 - 17 year old youth charged with murder of two sisters, 92 and 81, in their home at Oldham.
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- pay offer to prison officers presented as doubling basic pay if they work extra 8 hours a week. Hurd in pay bid to head off jail chaos (Express). Telegraph: prison overtime cut on offer.
 - Today says ASTMS (Clive Jenkins) and TASS (Communist Ken Gill) are to amalgamate today.
 - Express says bank managers have got drug traffickers on the run - identifying more than £9m in suspect accounts.

FERRY DISASTER

- Star describes the Government's film contribution as magnificent and magnanimous. And all thanks to you for cutting through all the pettifogging Whitehall red tape. All credit, too, for John Moore's candid and helpful Commons statement.
- Sun: Maggie sets up film for victims: you speedily slash all red tape.
- Mirror: acts of heroism by the crew-"there were many" - can't begin to compensate for failures in design and safety procedures; news story says the official finger of blame was pointed towards human error by John Moore.
- Today: leader says John Moore should insist ferries should not cast off until doors have been made fast. How did vessel receive certificate of seaworthiness when US Coastguard is reported as saying ferry would not be licensed in USA.
- Express: Government has not hesitated to tighten safety procedures. But ferry firms should not wait for Government.
- Mail: leaders says Government has commendably jumped to two practical conclusions on safety. It is a scandal such advice needs to be given and it should be stiffened by statute. £250,000 fund set up by P & O the very least the company could do.
- Independent: editorial says enquiry must decide if "ro-ro" ferries are inherently unsafe without modification.
- Times: reports new danger from deadly chemicals. National memorial service at Canterbury next month.

DEFENCE

- Times: Jim Callaghan says no time for Britain to abandon Trident as the replacement for Polaris. Multilateralism only route to disarmament; leader says if Geneva agreement removes all of NATO's Cruise and Pershing Z missiles in Western Europe in return for dismantling SS-20s Soviets will have some 700 to 72 advantage.
- Independent: Callaghan's blow to Labour's anti-nuclear defence policy. Healey accuses Thatcher of attempt to torpedo nuclear deterrent talks.
- Sun: Callaghan stabs Neil over nukes; virtually writes off Kinnock's hopes of winning Election.
- Mirror: Big Jim's warning over nukes.
- Today: Big Jim wrecks it for Kinnock with a nuclear rocket; party leaders had hoped Callaghan would keep quiet.
- Express: Labour defence policy blasted by Jim - election time bomb finally explodes; Lord Chalfont on defence aspects

of Heseltine's book, says political stability of Europe and defence strategy of NATO are a seamless robe - begin to unravel on thread and all the fabric may be lost.

- Mail: Callaghan attacks Kinnock on defence in unending Labour row - and effectively told Kinnock he was a novice on national security.
- Telegraph: Callaghan attacks non-nuclear policy
- Guardian: Callaghan backs Thatcher line on defence. Propaganda gift for Government. Labour figure claims leadership quite relaxed because Callaghan's views are well known.
- Independent: Lawrence Freedman argues that insistence on SRINF talks is not an insuperable problem to getting an arms control agreement.
- FT: Leader says warning sounds of another controversy about role of Govt in defence industry are upon us. Govt in reaching decision on Westlands should keep defence consideration separate from general economic and industrial policy

POLITICS

- Sun accuses Hattersley of political dishonesty for wanting loony Left to keep their mouths shut until General Election.
- Today says Labour Party is facing new crisis over loony Left - a Socialist Organiser group set up in 1978 has also burrowed its way into Party.
- David Steel, according to Today, accuses Norman Tebbit of using downright lies against Liberals in Truro.
- Labour Party drops idea of war council to discuss effect of help in Greenwich.
- Independent: Labour can no longer take for granted the miners vote in traditional Labour seats.
- Independent: Norman Tebbit accuses BBC of coverage unfair to the Labour Party during Greenwich by-election.

LAW AND ORDER

- Independent: Home Office reject Press Council's plea to shield rape victims.

ECONOMY

- Sun: firms get interest cut boost.
- Midland cuts mortgage rates by 1% after Bank reduces base rate by 0.5%.
- Mirror: hopes rise for cheaper mortgages.
- Today: market forces triumphed yesterday and robbed Chancellor of part of the vote of confidence on his Budget. But he won't be all that sorry.
- Express: home owners set for a Spring cut of 1% or more on mortgages; leader says Government bowed to the inevitable. Half a loaf is better than none but it will not do - we want the rest.
- Mail: leader says Chancellors love to save their surprises for Budget Day. But some good news is just too frisky to be kept under wraps.
- Telegraph: Government finally gave way to pressure.
- Independent: William Rees-Mogg on a rise in productivity that puts UK in the first division after a century's slide into the fourth.
- Guardian: leader says of cut - about time, too. London has become international flavour of the month. Government has no business playing politics with interest rates. The choice of a lasting reduction should be taken.
- Soaring pound and prospect of further drop in base rate, leader says Chancellor would rather have kept cut in interest rate until after Budget. (Times)

INDUSTRY

- Sun says realism is spreading like a forest fire in the pits - with miners defying Scargill to vote for 6 day week in South Wales.
- FT: IMS report says salary managers are joining "pay clubs" to gain knowledge on pay trends.
- FT: Jaguar to spend £50m buying car assembly lines from Italy.
- FT: Construction industry tells Govt tax incentives vital to increase number of private rented properties in inner cities.
- FT: Govt trade union green paper may require more union officials to face election than earlier thought.
- FT: 67 electricians of London Press Branch occupy union HQ after General Secretary refused to meet them over News International redundancies.
- FT: London company plans to begin home-shopping with 15 minute daily programme on satellite TV.
- Times: Swan Hunter make net loss of £686,000 on £55.6m turnover. Hundreds of jobs at risk unless £120m navy contract clinched.

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- Times: research likely to be cut or delayed to enable research councils to meet 24% pay rise.
- Times: North Sea oil industry will be wrecked unless Government rapidly modifies tax policy to compensate for oil price slump, says Select Committee.
- FT: Rolls Royce and BAA, both due for privatisation this year, seek new credit arrangements with their banks.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Sun says Bernie Grant has done another barmy thing: declaring the Irish an ethnic minority in need of protection.

SOCIAL SECURITY

- Sun says John Major accused Kinnock of lying yesterday over pensions - Labour claims that pensioners get a raw deal from Tories rely on "half truths, untruths and shaky statistics".

EDUCATION

- NUT and NAS walk out of talks on teacher appraisal and say they won't return until Government abandons its imposed pay and conditions package.
- Star columnist Mills says the teachers have forfeited every last ounce of respect. When they behave like irresponsible illiterate yobs they turn out of schools is it any wonder?
- Sun says teachers cannot be trusted. The interests of children are no longer safe in their hands. Now Mr Baker must get tough and insert no-strike clause in contracts.
- White woman banned from social worker course in Brixton because year-long course is for blacks only (Sun).
- Independent: editorial says Government mistaken in treating teachers like miners. The alternative to announcing a review body now is the continuation of resentment in the schools. What counts in education is the spirit.
- Times: Extra £3.5m goes to schools for IT.

AIDS

- Death toll last month fell from 64 in January to 22.

HEALTH

- Edwina Currie warns of the risk of lung cancer from living with someone who smokes.
- Labour Party pledges to look after health of women better and boost cancer screening services.
- Independent: Labour will pass doctors opposed to abortion to ensure all women can get operations allowed under 1967 Abortion Act.
- Independent: cure predicted for most cancer victims by 2000.
- Times: BMA say health authorities defying Govt instructions by asking doctors to work more than 102 hours a week.
- Times: West Country hospitals banned from using blood from private Gloucester blood bank.

PEOPLE

- Richard Branson in the "£100 million club".
- Security at Mark's wedding cost £7,000.

MEDIA

- Telegraph: says BBC's decision to postpone Secret Society series indefinitely was almost inevitable and entirely proper consequence of appointment of their Director-General. But he might usefully commission a new series on official secrecy.
- Guardian: quotes Checkland as saying series has not been shelved.

EMPLOYMENT

- FT: TUC study "refutes" Govt claims of employment recovery.

IRELAND

- Single vote stands between Charles Haughey and election as Prime Minister - Times.
- Two brothers survive shooting - part of INLA feud.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- FT: Go-ahead for private power stations in Ulster likely soon.

BAHAMAS

- Sir Lyndon Pindling at centre of new drugs row.

BEIRUT

- Times: Shia Muslim Hezbollah say Syrians will not be allowed in Shia areas of Beirut.

USA

- Times: White House Communications Director resigns after one week says nothing to do with being Nazi Jungvolk at age 10.

ITALY

- FT: Mr Andreotti asked to form new Government.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES E.C)

- DEM: Mr Clarke attends Enterprise Training in YTS seminar, Reading
- DES: Mr Baker visits part of the Adult Literary Basic Skills Unit at Polygram, Walthamstow
- DEM: Mr Trippier meets Mr Baeri of the Israeli Tourist Office, later launches local collaborative project at Hereford Technical College, Worcester County Hall
- DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith presents Land and Marine Engineering Ltd, quality assurance certificate, London
- DEN: Mr Hunt attends the maintenance and energy cost control conference, Royal Garden Hotel, London
- DES: Mr Dunn visits Unilever Business Games competition, London
- DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses governing bodies of girls schools, London
- DHSS: Baroness Trumpington visits UK Transplant Centre, Southmead Hospital; later attends War Pensions Chairman's Meeting, Bristol
- DOE: Lord Skelmersdale attends luncheon at Chemical Industries' Association, London
- DOE: Mr Tracey makes the opening address at Eastern Region Home Ownership Seminar, Wolfson College, Cambridge
- DTI: Mr Howard visits Scotland Yard
- DTI: Mr Shaw meets British Iron and Steel Consumer Council; later meets British Independent Steel Producers Association delegation
- DTp: Mr Mitchell visits Manchester to open Greater Manchester light railway demonstration ceremony
- DTp: Mr Bottomley attends road safety seminar, Chelmsford Borough Council
- HO: Mr Hogg attends Tote annual luncheon, London
- HO: Lord Caithness visits Brixton Prison and the Old Bailey, London
- HO: Mr Waddington visits Brent
- MAFF: Mr Gummer addresses Sutton Bonnington School of Agriculture, Nottingham University
- MAFF: Mr Thompson visits South West region (to 11 March)
- SO: Mr Lang opens new factory for Inmac, computer manufacturers, East Kilbride

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Mrs Chalker departs for Strasbourg for Plenary Session of the European Parliament (to 12 March)

TV AND RADIO

Scottish Office Minister, Mr Mackay appears on "BBC Scotland 2000" on land use, (21.30)

"Their Lordships House", Channel 4 (14.15): Repeat of last night's programme.

"Years Ahead"; Channel 4 (15.45): A programme for the over-60s. Robert Dougal and Robert Carvel talk to Neil Kinnock.

"Their Lordships House"; Channel 4 (12.15 am).

"Questions of Defence"; BBC 1 (23.40): The last of six episodes on the history of NATO: On the decision to place Cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe.
