

Monday, 16 March 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

You meet President Moi of Kenya; later host reception for British designers at No 10 Downing Street.

EC: Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels (to 17 March).

AMMA ballot result on industrial action.

STATISTICS

DEM: Labour force survey results and revised employment estimates

DTI: Retail sales (Feb-prov)

HO: Notifiable offences 4th qtr 1986 and Year (including figures on crime clear up rates)

MAFF: Food facts (4th qtr)

PUBLICATIONS

HMI: Document on teaching poetry in the secondary school

PAY

University Manual Workers; 21,300. 1 April

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Transport; Wales; Energy

Business: Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Bill: 2nd Reading and Ways and Means Resolution

Access to Personal Files Bill: Money Resolution

At 10.00 pm The Question will be put on all Outstanding Supplementary Estimates and Votes

Adjournment Debate: Registration of East Anglican gangmasters (Mr C Freud)

Select Committees: FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Subject: Cyprus
Witness: Rt Hon Julian Amery MP

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Export Credits Guarantee Department Accounts
Witness: Mr J Gill, CB, Export Credits Guarantee Department

Lords: Banking Bill: Committee (1st Day)

Industrial Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1987:

PRESS DIGESTBUDGET

- A lot of trailers with the following range of forecasts:
 - £5bn to give away
 - 2p or 3p off standard rate
 - 1% off interest rates
 - 1% off employers' national insurance rates
 - higher mortgage tax relief but only at standard rate
 - higher tax thresholds
 - cheaper leaded petrol by 4p a gallon
 - bigger pensions increase

- Kenneth Clarke forecasts a Budget for jobs through leaving more money in taxpayers' pockets.
- Lots of pressure to try to head off tax cuts - including call by five former Treasury economic advisers for a change of course, in letter to FT.
- Star: Nigel's grin, but he must take care of needy.
- Sun: Lucky Lawson will give away £50 a minute - £10 a week for Mr Average; leader says it is better to be born lucky than beautiful and Chancellor should be dancing with delight. It attacks the wailing voices urging caution about tax cuts. "We want tax cuts, big tax cuts," it says; "And we want them now. The Tories are supposed to be the party of low taxation.
- Mirror: Budget plea to end jobs crisis.
- Today: Thatcher goes for knockout Budget - 'death knell' for reeling Labour. You hope an avalanche of tax cuts will dish Labour's election chances for good.
- Express PI lead: Budget key to June poll. It could put you under irresistible pressure to go for June election; leader headed "It looks like a nice one from Nigel" says he will emerge as the most cash happy Chancellor of Britain's post war years. He must not be persuaded by Labour's gloom and doom brigade complaining against tax cuts as cheap-jack vote catching. His billions come not from slight of hand but from this country's solid achievements over the past 5 years.
- Mail's story concerns special cut in tax on lead free petrol.
- Telegraph forecasts a boom Budget but leads with growing fears over Budget 'giveaway'. It makes a lot of the letter by former economic advisers which, it says, will delight the Labour and the Alliance. Another Telegraph story on NU Seamen calling for Budget rescue of shipping industry; leader says Chancellor's task is plain enough: to enhance this party's prospects of a third term of office and he is enviably placed. But selectivity in tax cuts is called for.

BUDGET (Cont'd)

- Guardian leads with Ministers trying to calm poll clamour and concerned that tomorrow's Budget will make a June election difficult to stop.
- Guardian leader says if the Budget is to be applauded it must pull society together. No longer can Chancellor say housing, infrastructure, hospital facilities and school books can't be afforded. It ends in despair: "Commonsense doesn't always win elections. Cynicism alas often does."
- Times: Most people believe tax cuts will increase inflation and spending on imported goods but not create jobs. Chancellor has scope for 4p cut in tax. Ease rate reduction and drop in mortgages expected.
- Independent: OPEC boost to Lawson's Budget. Saudi Arabia pronounces its satisfaction with the way OPEC's recent oil price-fixing agreement is being observed.
- FT: Government hopes for cut in interest rates as a result of tax cuts and a lower PSBR target. Chancellor expected to have £5bn to "give away".
- Five former Chief Economic Advisers, in letter to FT, say much of the increase of 2m in the jobless total since 1979 was a result of errors in official policy.

ELECTION

- Mori puts you 9% ahead. Conservatives 41; Labour 32; SDP/Libs 25% - biggest lead for over two years.
- Idea of links, after the election, between SDP/Libs and Labour defectors being canvassed.
- Bryan Gould says Labour is going through a bad patch and needs greater discipline.
- Labour Party's black sections conference refuses to admit white journalists.

- Sun: Maggie set for June poll - June 11.
- Today says you are being catapulted towards a June election. Long leader in "Today" headed "The way to beat the menace of Thatcher" says there is a decisive anti-Tory majority in Britain but the Opposition parties are making a wretched mess of their chances. It calls for a Labour-Alliance coalition but admits it looks unlikely.
- Mail leader on "The Twilight of Socialism" says what is now at work on public opinion is the decline of Socialism which you have done everything you can to hasten. The shadows are lengthening for Kinnock and his party and the voters sense demoralisation and desperation.

POLITICS

- Labour Party plans election for a Scottish Assembly and tries to damp down internecine warfare and to promote self-discipline.
- Conservatives in Billericay said to be moving to get rid of Harvey Proctor; Proctor detained for questioning by police.
- Julian Critchley's profile in the Express of Michael Heseltine - an extract from his forthcoming book on Heseltine.
- Express says Nicholas Ridley is under pressure to assure voters that the Green Belt is safe with Tories.
- Mail: Militant blacks hold gun to Labour - another setback for Kinnock in fight to unify Labour; Telegraph says Left wingers have urged blacks to mobilise "by whatever means necessary" against racial attacks.
- Prescott repeats his plans for a National Training Fund.
- Guardian (accurately) reports B. Ingham as describing as fantasy a press report that he was involved in a secret attempt, with others, including US-funded groups, to get the Tories re-elected in 1983.
- Independent: Labour's black prospective parliamentary candidates have decided to form a "black section" outside the party's constitution, if they are elected.
- Independent: Some Scottish Labour MPs say they will not return to Westminster if Labour loses the election. Activists have discussed breaking away from the UK party.
- Labour attempts to raise morale. Tories pleased that latest Alliance upsurge is hitting Labour rather than Conservative votes.
- Times P1 lead says tax cuts in Budget and your trip to point to election probably in June. City expects Conservatives to win.
- Liberals believe you will go to country in 8 weeks. Labour call for self-discipline after last week's squabbles.
- Times: MORI poll shows young male voters leaning towards Tories.

CRIME

- Much concern over rising crime and lower clear up rates, announced today.
- Mail leads its front page with seven serious crimes being committed every minute.
- Sun page feature on "a tidal wave of crime" which "has turned Britain's inner cities into an open house for villains".
- Express: Violent Britain. Soaring crime hits the whole country; London rapes up by 40%.
- Telegraph - call for more PCs as crime soars.
- Independent: Today's figures show recorded crime in England and Wales rose by six to seven percent last year.

TOTTENHAM RIOT TRIAL

- Threats of more violence to coincide with ending of trial threatened for Broadwater Farm.
- Star says it would be helpful if Bernie Grant joined the peace-making campaign rather than indulge in his customary line of inflammatory anti-police statements.
- Today: New riots feared as Blakelock case ends this week.
- Guardian says Bernie Grant yesterday called for calm in Tottenham.
- Times: Police meet leaders and politicians in Tottenham to reduce tension and fear of another riot at end of PC Blakelock murder trial.

OTHER LAW AND ORDER

- Youths who try to gate crash party in Witney, Oxon, fight police, three of whom are injured. 9 arrests.
- Girl 16 and boy 15 charged with murder of girl, 13, at Eltham.
- Students at Trent Poly threatening to complain to Lord Chancellor over speech by Judge Argyle in which he called for hanging and accused Government of falling flat on its face over law and order.
- Mirror campaign for inquiry into brutality at Folkestone barracks where, it is said, 3 troopers have died. Mail reporting that an instructor tore away half a boy soldier's ear, says the time has come to take the roof off this establishment.

LAW AND ORDER (Cont'd)

- Times: Removal of John Stalker from Northern Ireland inquiry could have been result of career jealousy by colleagues. He retired from Manchester Police at weekend.
- Times: Law Society says law on child custody should be overhauled.

WRIGHT CASE

- Independent: Dale Campbell-Savours will today renew pressure for investigation into allegations of attempts by MI5 to de-stabilise Harold Wilson's Government.

IRELAND

- INLA terrorist leader and compatriot shot dead in continued feud between INLA factions.
- Barry, Dukes and Bruton compete for leadership of Fine Gael after Fitzgerald.

MEDIA

- Scottish Labour Party told BBC as a whole should take responsibility for Zircon film and not allow individual journalists to face prosecution.

INDUSTRY

- B/Caledonian planning price cuts from today in fares to European capitals - by up to 25%.
- Max Madden MP accuses B/Rail and BNFL of "a sick stunt" in running a day trip to Sellafield on the eve of Chernobyl anniversary; wants Minister of Transport to call it off.
- Lucas resigns from CBI because it feels it is a less effective voice for manufacturers
- Two Left wingers leading contenders to succeed McGahey as NUM vice-president.
- E/Shipbuilders to unveil plans today for 3 new types of ship to try to save industry in Britain from extinction.
- London-based quango - Technical Change Centre - to be axed (Guardian).
- EC to consider taking action to challenge 3 European cartels operated by West Germany, Denmark and Greece.
- Times: CAA drawing up new rules after fears of over-tired pilots.
- Times: Ruling moderate group of CPSA threaten legal action against two candidates for deputy general secretary post.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Church leaders in Liverpool attack cash penalties imposed on disqualified councillors - want surcharge system reviewed.
- Times: Liverpool Liberals claim Labour councillors deliberately left financial crisis. City faces problems for years to come.

AIDS

- Star says it is too complacent for words for DHSS to take no action against AIDS-carrying doctors.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Times: British Medical Journal says membership of new Health Education Authority lacks authority.
- Independent: NHS losing 1,000 nurses a year to private sector, according to DHSS-funded study.

EDUCATION

- 1.8m children expected to be affected today by teachers' strikes.
- David Owen calls on unions to end disruption. - teachers are not above the law.
- Industrial Society attacks Government's plans for city technical colleges - "a shattering blow to one of the main pillars of the Government's education policy" (Guardian).
- Tories plan to include more headmaster control over schools in manifesto (Guardian).
- Independent: Angela Rumbold is to lead a campaign to cut numbers of primary school children who stay up late watching TV.
- Times: University scientists using own cash to fund research.

SPORT

- Nine soccer thugs jailed yesterday after Coventry City fans cause trouble in Chesterfield; 7 policemen injured and 23 Coventry fans arrested.
- Police turned back hundreds of Leeds soccer fans, travelling to Wigan, who had no tickets.
- Mirror says this has been British football's worst season for violence on the field.

YOUR VISIT TO MOSCOW

- Guardian says you are to be invited to the Russian monastery of Zagorsk. Hopes of £300m contract. Suggestion of visit to Tbilisi.
- Times: You may meet Dr Sakharov when you visit Moscow; article by ten Soviet dissidents claims that Mr Gorbachev's changes are cosmetic and argue that only abandonment of communist dogma can set their fellow citizens free.

PEOPLE

- Roy Jenkins elected Chancellor of Oxford University - by first past the post system Mirror notes; he would probably have failed under PR which he wants nationally.
- Mirror leader says you backed the wrong horse in Heath.
- Mrs Callaghan mugged after hip operation; recovering.
- Express diary says the story in Westminster is that David Steel recommended Ernest Saunders, Guinness, for a peerage and it was only you that stopped it. David Alton says the allegation is vicious and nasty. Charge made by Campbell-Savours.

JAPAN

- Times: Japanese PM to launch scheme for international cooperation on fundamental scientific research. Britain involved in feasibility studies.

HUNGARY

- 2000 Hungarians march through Budapest calling for freedom, democracy and national independence.

IRAN

- Mounts anti-ship missiles overlooking Straits of Hormuz (Telegraph).

MIDDLE EAST

- Express leader calls on Assad, who says he is no supporter of international terrorism, to release Terry Waite and end seige of Palestinian camps.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Lord Young attends Banking Bill, Committee stage, House of Commons
- DEM: Mr Clarke attends informal meeting of European Social Affairs Ministers, London (to 17 March)
- DTI: Mr Channon visits Hull and British Steel, Scunthorpe
- HMT: Mr MacGregor addresses South Hampstead High School.
- HO: Mr Hurd hosts lunch at Lancaster House in honour of President Moi of Kenya
- MOD: Mr Younger meets Prime Minister of Thailand, London
- SO: Mr Rifkind opens IBM Surface Mounted Technology Centre, Greenock
- DEM: Mr Tripper opens Store Study Centre, College for the Distributive Trades, London
- DEM: Mr Lee attends RNIB presentation on work for the visually handicapped, London
- DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses Halesowen Tertiary College, West Midlands
- DES: Mr Dunn addresses Roman Catholic Diocesan Schools Commission, Bedfordshire
- DOE: Mr Chope climbs Nelson's Column to inspect cleaning
- DOE: Mr Patten visits Bracknell to open a shared ownership housing association project
- DTI: Mr Pattie launches EXPO CAD/CAM (computed aided design/computer aided manufacture) mobile demonstration unit, London
- DTI: Mr Shaw opens EXPO Ship Exhibition, London
- DTP: Lord Brabazon attends British Shipbuilders' reception, London
- FCO: Mr Renton addresses Foreign Affairs Forum, London
- HO: Mr Hogg visits Humberside Police
- HO: Lord Caithness attends Butler Trust Awards in presence of Princess Anne, London
- HO: Mr Mellor addresses members of the Radio Academy on the Radio Green Paper, ICA, London
- MAPP: Lord Belstead lunches at Lancaster House in honour of President Moi of Kenya
- MAPP: Mr Thompson visits UK Association of Frozen Food Producers, Humberside
- MOD: Mr Stanley meets President Moi of Kenya, London
- OAL: Mr Luce speaks at opening of exhibition of Calder Valley Artists, House of Commons
- SO: Lord Glenarthur meets Scottish Trades Union Congress to discuss National Health Service, Edinburgh
- SO: Mr Lang opens Computer Integrated Manufacture Centre, Napier College, Edinburgh
- SO: Mr Ancram launches new Teletic Righte Campaign, Edinburgh

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTI: Mr Clark attends EC Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mrs Chalker depart for Brussels - FAC (to 17 March)

MAFF: Mr Jopling addresses Indiana farming representative, Indianapolis

TV AND RADIO

Education Minister, Mrs Rumbold interviewed on BBC Radio 4, You and Yours, on teacher shortages

"The Week in the Lords;" BBC2 (08.55)

"Panorama;" BBC1; (21.30); Austin Rover - Breakthrough or Breakdown. Labour rescued it by nationalisation. The Conservatives cannot wait to privatise it. What is the truth about Austin Rover's future?

"Today in Parliament;" BBC R4; (23.30)

"World in Action;" ITV; (20.30)

"Their Lordships House;" Channel 4; (12.05)
