

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh visit Canterbury

EC: Environment Council, Brussels

Exercise COLD WINTER 87 begins in Norway (to 25 March)

STATISTICS

BSA: Building Societies' monthly figures (Feb)

CSO: Gross domestic product (4th qtr prov)

CSO: Tax and price index (Feb)

DEM: Retail prices index (Feb)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS
Law and Order: Mr Iain Mills

Funding of Universities: Mr Michael Foot

Empty Properties owned by Local Authorities:
Mr William Shelton

Adjournment Debate: The role of the Department of Health and Social
Security in monitoring abortions
(Mr D Campbell-Savours)

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- Broadwater Farm trial verdicts overshadow good news about record fall in unemployment - which hardens up expectations of June poll.
- Much concern that murderer of PC Blakelock, jailed for 30 years, was already serving life for a previous murder and was out on bail on a murder charge when he killed the constable.
- Judge in case criticises police for blunders in conducting inquiry; Judge who released killer on bail says he acted according to the law.
- Broadwater Farm youth leader, Dolly Kifkin, leaves court screaming: "Whole thing is a white set-up".
- Bernie Grant refuses to apologise or withdraw his comment that the police got a bloody good hiding.

- Under the heading "Shut up all you simple spymen", Joe Haines, in Mirror, tells Merlyn Rees to stop chasing the hare about in MI5 plot against the Wilson Government - it could all end in tears. Wright is not to be trusted.
- MPs interested in disappearance of 3 scientists working on defence projects.
- P&O makes extra £2m compensation available to victims of Zeebrugge.
- Kinnock pledges to block BP sell-off if Labour wins election. Express lays into both Labour and Alliance for attacking sell-off.
- Rolls-Royce announces record pre-tax profits in advance of privatisation.
- Guinness sues Ernest Saunders for £5m.
- Government acquires a £10m Constable masterpiece in lieu of inheritance tax.
- One third of all council tenants in arrears with rent, according to official figures - cash could build 7 hospitals (Express).
- Today says a Cannon anti-war film which sets out to shock, shows British soldiers bayonetting Argentinian and one cutting off ears of dead Argentinian.
- Michael Checkland orders BBC to save £30m within four years.
- Lestor Piggott, ex-jockey, pays £3m in tax debts.

BROADWATER FARM

- Star says justice has been done but matter cannot rest there. Why was killer allowed out on bail? Why didn't police have plan for handling trouble?
- Sun says the release of the killer on bail - and it accepts the Judge's explanation - shows that there is a serious gap in our laws.
- Mirror: The sentences must not be the end of the story. For PC Blakelock's sacrifice not to be in vain many questions have to be answered. Why did police ignore warnings of trouble? Why riot police weren't used early on? We need more work for discontented youth.
- Today says the police did not create the cauldron on the housing estate. What are the Government, LAs doing to dismantle such atrocities as the Broadwater Estate?
- Express says the release of the killer on bail was a tragic error, and would have been even if Broadwater Farm had never occurred.
- Mail says the sentences are entirely appropriate. In the circumstances it was a remarkable achievement for the police to have found the miscreants. More generally, however, it feels that the police were under so much restraint from softly, softly authority that they gravely hampered themselves in their defence.
- Times: Tory MPs angry reaction over allegation that Haringey Council hampered police in search of evidence following Broadwater Farm riot; leader looks at how community can live in peace and concludes that if police and others in authority are kept at arms length it will be a damaged community.
- Telegraph leader says sharing the blame with those in the dock are the doctrinaires who have preached the gospel of hate against the police.
- Bernie Grant said the verdicts were met with surprise and some anger by people on the estate - Independent.
- Guardian leader describes death as shocking and horrible; looks at the increasing hatred of the police; discusses what can be done so that nothing like it happens again and concludes that the aim must be to learn from the mistakes made on all sides.

UNEMPLOYMENT

- Unemployment forecast to fall below 3m this summer.
- Labour describe the fall as a statistical conjuring trick.
- Star: Tory joy at record cut in jobless.
- Sun: Election in June just the job after record off the dole.
- Mirror cuts good news down to 15 tight lines in small panel under heading "Thatcher's double con" - both unemployment and inflation.
- Express: Biggest cut on record in dole queue, even the hardest hit areas look up - seen as a political breakthrough; leader notes that the Opposition, instead of reacting with delight, scoffs. It should be applauding not sneering.
- Mail: A real jobs boost. Excellent prospects of the recovery continuing. The political importance of unemployment falling below 3m is clear: there is no longer any need to wait beyond June for a general election.
- Times: P1 lead says record jobless drop points to June election. Figures expected to drop to below 3m within month - leader says this is certainly good news. Industry taking advantage of growth in demand. Jobs returning to Britain which at one time were lost abroad.

POLITICS

- Sun beside a cartoon of Kinnock the jester, says "The Joke is over for Neil", says his new defence stance is totally dishonest. If Labour won the election the overwhelming number of MPs would demand that the nuclear shield must be removed immediately.
- Today political editor says you are boxed in for an election on June 11 or 18.
- Charles Moore, in Express, says there is no sleight of hand in the Budget. We will not have to pay tomorrow for the tax cuts today. And the Government now has to get over to people how much better off they are.
- Times: Neil Kinnock snubs Arthur Scargill by backing South Wales miners' decision to accept 6-day production plans.
- Times: Labour produce ambitious plan to revolutionise training of work force.
- Times: Jeremy Bray accuses Government of closing down Britain's capability to carry out research by refusing to help research councils fund new projects.
- Telegraph: Labour still determined to throw out Cruise missiles - Kinnock refuses to say when.
- Telegraph: Labour unveils £800m national skill plan.
- Ferdinand Mount, writing in the Telegraph, says that on the eve of the Budget you issued another of your bloodcurdling threats to wipe out socialism in this country.
- Godfrey Barker, in Telegraph, describes how "Inspector Kinnock got elementary lesson in logic" at Question Time.
- Guardian: Tory leaders preparing to back down from clash with constituency representatives over three controversial changes to party's internal rules and says that Norman Tebbit is furious as grassroots threaten to sour his pre-election rally.
- Independent: Leaders of London's Labour Party have joined the national party to improve their image.

BUDGET

- Times: Neil Kinnock sets terms for getting Budget through if June election called - no 2p drop in tax and introduction of lower rate band of tax for low earners.
- Telegraph: Girobank cuts mortgage rates by 1% to 11.25%. Building Societies expected to drop theirs in 2 weeks.
- FT: Meacher says Budget offers no help to pensioners.
- FT: Married couples' taxation reforms may be raised.
- Treasury coffers swelled by spate of privatisations - FT.
- Banks prepare to fight proposals to tighten up tax treatment of certain types of foreign lending - FT.

SECURITY

- You continue to stonewall calls for MI5 inquiry over alleged plot to destabilise Wilson Government - Times.
- Times: MPs call for inquiry into mystery surrounding deaths of two defence experts and disappearance of a third.
- Guardian refers to letter (carried in Letters Page) to them from Sir Robert Armstrong "taking issue" with Hugo Young's article about his position at Home Office in mid-70s".
- Independent: James Callaghan 'dismissed MI5 destabilisation claims' in 1977!
- Independent reviews Nigel West's book 'Molehunt'.

DEFENCE

- Telegraph: Britain may be about to enter new arms race in which genetic engineering techniques are used to develop biological weapons.
- Telegraph: M. Mitterrand to discuss with you on Monday possibility of Euro nuclear arms summit. He and Belgium Prime Minister already endorsed idea.
- Guardian: Soviets hoping to convince you that the time is ripe for more arms cuts.

INDUSTRY

- Times: Rolls-Royce debt to be written off.
- Times leader says selling almost a third of BP is not true privatisation - shares are already available. Government should make sure small investor gets a stake.
- Telegraph: BP shares drop 12p as Opposition parties mount strong attack on sell-off.
- Telegraph: 22,000 steel jobs under threat in Common Market.
- Telegraph: Progress on building £25m Scottish plant for US company frozen by Scottish Development Agency because of "short term" prospect fears.
- Telegraph: Nearly two-thirds of the 46,000 redundancies in Tyne & Wear between 1981-85 blamed on multi-national firms.
- FT: Britain to join space shuttle programme.
- Guardian leader says Labour should keep quiet about sale since it was their Government which initiated privatisation of BP when strapped for cash.

EDUCATION

- Children joined teachers yesterday in wildcat strikes in London over plans to switch surplus teachers to other schools.
- Sun's three cheers for Hereford and Worcester CC for suing one of the teachers' unions for the cost of a half-day strike.
- Times says you are considering giving schools right to opt out of LEA control and receive funds direct from DES.
- Times: 100 4th and 5th form pupils in your home town stage 2-hour demonstration against teachers' strike action.
- Telegraph: Universities and polytechnics fear greatest brain drain ever over cutbacks in research.
- ILEA said it will not pay 1,300 surplus teachers unless they agree to move to other schools - Independent.
- Independent: Francis Morrell explains why education is too vital to be left just to the teacher.
- Guardian: Students may face legal clash after "no platform" vote at conference.

HEALTH

- Mirror says St James' Hospital, Leeds, "crippled by Tory health cuts" has been earmarked for an £11½m boost.
- Times: New vaccines will make antibiotics almost obsolete by end of century, World Health Authority told.
- Times: British Heart Foundation challenges suggestion that moderate drinking reduces risk of heart disease.
- Guardian: Casualty department at West Middlesex Hospital will virtually shut on Monday due to lack of nurses.
- Guardian: Frank Dobson claims in Commons that your office tried to gag "dissident consultant physician" earlier this week, speaking out about lack of resources for health services.

ENVIRONMENT

- Telegraph: U-turn by Britain as EC Environment Ministers agree to curb "aerosol peril".
- Independent: Christopher Patten writes about the assistance policy for the European Year of the Environment.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Guardian: Abolition of GLC and metropolitan county councils saves £431m in cash and adds £754m to spending powers of boroughs that took over.

LAW AND ORDER

- Death penalty amendment to Criminal Justice Bill published yesterday with support of 108 Conservative MPs - Independent.
- Trained teams of police and prison officers are being formed to deal with sieges at Scottish prisons in which hostages are taken - Independent
- You flatly denied link between crime and unemployment - Independent.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Independent: Labour would not agree to a united Ireland without the consent of the majority in Ulster.

MEDIA

- Times: BBC developing scheme for viewers to pay TV licences by quarterly bank debits.
- Telegraph: BBC to show lorry driver film it dropped at last minute recently because of concern over motor firms sponsorship.
- Director General, Michael Checkland promises a flexible, modern BBC.

ARTS

- Telegraph: Row over £10m valuation of Constable taken in lieu of tax.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

- Times: Czechs to adopt far-reaching Soviet-style political and economic reforms.

ITALY

- Times: Another election likely as efforts to form coalition Government fail.

AUSTRALIA

- Times: Government unveil blue-print to make country self-reliant in defence.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Lord Young visits Bristol

DES: Mr Baker visits St Andrews school, Leatherhead; later attends launch of stock exchange awards for physics teachers, London

DOE: Mr Ridley visits Torquay

DTp: Mr Moore visits Ashford

SO: Mr Rifkind visits ICI, Grangemouth; later opens new BP Control Room, Grangemouth Refinery

DEM: Mr Trippier speaks at National Federation of Self-Employed Policy Conference, Cardiff

DHSS: Mr Lyell visits Bedford Prison, Bedford

DTp: Mr Bottomley addresses Newbury and District Chamber of Commerce

DTp: Lord Brabazon visits South West

MAFF: Lord Belstead visits Resendale

SO: Lord Glenarthur visits Easter Ross

SO: Mr MacKay addresses Conference of British Association for Commercial and Industrial Education and meets with Central Institution principals; later opens scout HQ, Edinburgh

WO: Mr Roberts participates in a dedication ceremony, National Park, Brecon Beacons; later addresses North Wales Institute of Bankers, Bangor

WO: Mr Robinson visits South Glamorgan social services; later addresses Newport and Gwent local centre of Institute of Bankers, Cwmbran

TV AND RADIO

"Facing up to AIDS;" BBC (22.30). Studio discussion

"Any Questions;" BBC R4 (20.20); With John MacGregor, David Owen, John Prescott and Janet Cohen

"A Week in Politics;" Channel 4; (20.15)
