

23 January 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister attends reception in honour of Israeli Prime Minister; later attends NSPCC dinner

Northern Ireland by-elections

Londonwide Parents Action Group rallies over teachers' pay; also lobby Parliament

Teachers' Pay management panel meets

Australian Senator Gareth Evans, Minister for Resources and Energy visits UK (re Maralinga)

Energy Select Committee members visit coalfields in Gwent

Society of Education Officers, annual meeting, London (to January 24)

PUBLICATIONS

LCD: 35th annual report - Legal Aid 1984-85 (15.30)

LCD: (On behalf of the Council on Tribunals): "Social Security - Abolition of Independent Appeal under the Proposed Social (15.30)

PAY

DEM: Scottish primary and secondary teachers; (53,900); settlement date 1.4.85; independent review requested by teachers turned down. Employers offer 15% over 3 years

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Home Office; Northern Ireland; Prime Minister

Business:

Opposition Day (4th Allotted Day) Debate on the Gartcosh Steel/Cold Rolling Mill

Debate on an Opposition Motion "Crisis in Schools"

PARLIAMENT (cont'd)

Adjournment Debate

The Charity Commission and small charities (Sir G Finsburg)

Select Committees:

AGRICULTURE

Subject: The disposal and storage of cereal surpluses

Witness: Country Landowners Association

Lords

Commonwealth Development Corporation Bill (HL): Third Reading

Australia Bill (HL): Committee

Shops Bill: Committee (4th Day)

Representation of the People (Amendment) Regulations 1985

Representation of the People (Northern Ireland) (Amendment) Regulations 1985

Representation of the People (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1985

Gaming (Amendment) Bill (HL): Second Reading Motions for Approval

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGEST

POLITICS

- MARPLAN gives Labour 3% lead; 36/SDP; Libs 33; Conservatives 29.
- Ronnie Butt, in Times, says the growing ascendancy of the Left in Labour Party drives Kinnock to grasp for any form of words to suggest that Labour is less Socialist than its Parliamentary candidates.

WESTLAND

- Sir John Cuckney, according to Telegraph, says Leon Brittan consistently took a neutral position on offers.
- Mr Heseltine to address Young Conservatives on February 9.
- Ted Heath says Cabinet Ministers should never leak confidential information which damages their colleagues and certainly not without clearing it with the Prime Minister, and civil servants should never make public confidential information which would damage a Minister even if told to do so by their superiors.
- D/Star P1: Maggie into battle to stop your Government being torn apart; axe hanging over Leon Brittan after Tam Dalyell names Colette Bowe; leader says that despite all the efforts of the Tory propaganda machine the Westland affair refuses to go away - the truth must come out today.
- Sun P1 lead: "Nude secret of Brittan Mole" - Colette Bowe once posed naked for art students at Slade School to supplement her student money; Sun says Leon Brittan has not concealed from friends his belief that you bear as much responsibility for Government's pro-US stand on Westland as he does".
- Mirror P1: Picture of Colette Bowe beside heading "Unmasked". Lists seven vital questions on which Mr Brittan's fate rests; leader says Miss Bowe must not be the scapegoat if she is the culprit.
- Express P1: Picture of "Woman named in letter leak row alongside one of you with Leon Brittan smiling at reception last night. One Tory MP says Westland is fast becoming a Watergate.
- Mail P1 - Brittan stands by Colette Bowe. He has taken full responsibility and told you he would rather resign than see any of his staff victimised or made a scapegoat. A dangerous gamble. But clear signs in Downing Street that you will try to lump the whole series of leaks together, criticise the behaviour of Whitehall in general and then bury the entire dangerous episode. But Law Officers are incensed at way they have been brought into political dogfight.
- Telegraph P1 lead says Mr Brittan will not resign; you will come out with guns blazing. But Mr Brittan fighting for his political life for second time in a week.
- Guardian P1 lead: Thatcher will back Brittan in new row. You are taking a significant political risk. Leader says no one deserves even the passing thought of prosecution. But we have to know in detail who did what and who authorised it.
- Times: You are to make a full and robust statement.
- FT P1 lead: Thatcher to fight back as pressure mounts on Brittan to resign. Government is plunged into deeper crisis.

LIBYA

- One of 30 Libyans deported after the People's Bureau seige in London and the shooting of WPC Fletcher allowed back into Britain to rejoin his English wife and five children.
- Storm brewing over Home Office decision; HO says no evidence to link him with murder.
- Sun says the decision is beyond belief; Mr Hurd must boot out a man who has no place among decent people.
- Express says now insult has been added to shameful injury inflicted by the Libyan Embassy seige. Decision to let man back in is a scandal. To allow any of 30 deported to return is to announce we are a nation without memory or sense of outrage.

LAW AND ORDER

- Mail says the Woman Police Sergeant who complained that senior officers ignored warnings of trouble on Broadwater Farm Estate has been vindicated by senior officers; Home Secretary must now ensure something is done about it.
- Telegraph calls for active policing of the estate - it may be the toughest course but it is the only one.

UNIONS

- D/Star says canteen women at GCHQ Cheltenham are helping to keep trade union alive by delivering union mail "with tea and toast".
- CPSA threatening strikes in DHSS benefit offices over offer of only 2000 additional staff when they say 15000 are needed.
- UDM now has more than 5000 members in S. Derbyshire.
- Harrods calls on taxi cabs to deliver goods when its own delivery workers go on strike in protest at sacking of trade union convenor.
- Express says Ian MacGregor has promised to give a 7% pay rise won by the UDM to any pit where a majority vote to join UDM.
- Frank Chapple, in Mail, says the TUC is accelerating to disaster if it expels EETPU for talking to UDM or signing a no-strike agreement with Murdoch.

EDUCATION

- Mirror does a Q and A on the teachers' strike. Says Government hasn't done very much. Sir Keith refuses to find more money for a settlement. But the Government is offering £1.25bn if teachers will negotiate new conditions of service.
- Mail feature on parent power - the new force that could end the teachers strike.
- Telegraph says a cut of 18,000 places available next year for students in Polytechnics and public colleges is to be discussed today.

MEDIA

- Rupert Murdoch agrees to "last ditch talks" with Times, Sunday Times, Sun and News of the World unions - but not about Wapping plant.

- ITV offends more people than BBC with sex, violence and bad language, according to ITV's own watchdog (Express); Mail says legislation is not the answer to the TV problem; what is needed is for BBC and IBA to apply their own perfectly adequate guidelines. If they fail you should appoint chairmen who see they do.

ECONOMY

- Express says you are determined to prove to the world that sterling will be maintained as a sound currency. So any lack of action will be taken as a sign you are weakening in your resolve to keep down inflation. More speculation about a rise in base rates to 14% as £ falls below \$1.40. - lowest for 3 months.

- Sun says last July Sainsbury's in Islington advertised 200 jobs; 16 are still vacant even though unemployment in the borough is 18%.

- Guardian says Norway yesterday shifted responsibility on to Britain for falling oil prices - says it is ready to curb production if Britain follows suit.

- CBI says Government should allow sterling to weaken rather than push up interest rates.

INDUSTRY

- Lotus accepts a £22.7m takeover by General Motors.
- Last year record for air disasters - 2129 died in 40 crashes.
- BTR to sell Cornhill insurance to West German Allianz Group for £305m.
- MAFF wants rabies control to be built into the Chunnel.
- George Younger to meet GEC on Nimrod next week.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Another Salmonella outbreak in Lancashire.
- Sun critical of Norman Fowler for setting up yet another inquiry into hospital hygiene yet cannot stir himself to scrap Crown immunity from prosecutions. Times says no-one should assume end of immunity will solve the problem.
- Norman Fowler proposes a decade in which people could retire, at varying levels of pension, between 60 and 70 - a personal view.
- Tranquiliser drug, Menital, withdrawn after its being linked with eight deaths.
- Cardinal Hume leaves MENCAP charity because he disagrees on moral grounds with support for experiments on human embryos.
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NORTHERN IRELAND

- Express says it is difficult to see what good today's mini-election will do. Government will feel under no pressure to change tack. Exercise in futility likely to have one result - a Unionist own goal.
- Telegraph says if catastrophe is to be avoided, everything possible must be done to convince the Unionists that their patriotic fears are not simply being spurned.
- Times leader says one of the best tests for any initiative is its capacity to weaken the power of veto wielded at different times by either side. It is a long way from passing that test. But news that NIO is considering more stringent means to disqualify terrorists from standing for election is welcome.

SOUTH YEMEN

- Britannia achieves another rescue; most people now safe.

MIDDLE EAST

- Peres wants direct talks - appeals to Hussein (Telegraph).

EC

- Dutch president says reform package rejected by Danish Parliament will be signed by other countries next month.

SOUTH AFRICA - Police shoot 7 blacks dead.

INDIA

- 3 Sikhs who assassinated Mrs Gandhi sentenced to hang.

CANADA - Unpublished report blames bomb for Air India disaster off Ireland.

UGANDA

- Express says thousands of civilians fled in terror yesterday as retreating troops went on the rampage in Kampala.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEN: Mr Walker addresses breakfast meeting on MONERGY, London

HO: Mr Hurd addresses launch of 5th volume of History of Criminal Law, Lincoln's Inn

DTI: Mr Brittan attends Israeli PM's reception; attends Lord Privy Seal's reception; attends Thorn-EMI party

MAFF: Mrs Fenner attends Israeli Prime Minister's reception, London

DES: Mr Patten opens Glebe School, Bromley

MOD: Mr Stanley attends dinner in honour of Sir Rex Hunt, London

DEM: Mr Trippier opens Felixstowe leisure centre

DOE: Mr Tracey visits Preston

DHSS: Mr Whitney visits Lincolnshire Social Services (all day)

DHSS: Loday Trumpington visits Wellcome Foundation, Beckenham

DHSS: Mr Newton gives interview to Radio Wales

HO: Lord Glenarthur addresses Monday Club

SO: Mr Stewart launches seminar for Industry Year 1986, Glasgow

DTI: Mr Pattie addresses Institute of Physical Districts Management annual dinner, London; later with Lord Lucas attends Thorn-EMI reception

DTI: Mr Butcher attends British Airways reception, Birmingham

DTP: Mr Mitchell attends Transport Act regional seminar, Nottingham

WO: Mr Robinson visits East Dyfed District Health Authority

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

SO: Lord Gray attends 'Green Week' agricultural fair, Berlin (to January 24)

TV AND RADIO

"Medicine Now"; BBC Radio 4 (10.00): Repeat of Tuesday's programme

"From the Inside - The Unions"; Channel 4 (18.30): "Pay Negotiations/Vaux Breweries". Follows bargaining process during the company's 1985 pay settlement

"Opinions: Misrule Britannia"; Channel 4 (20.00): "Technology and Liberty". Duncan Campbell reveals how computer data banks will pose threats to traditional liberties

"Pillars of Society"; BBC Radio 4 (20.15): "The Bar". Hugo Young examines this institution in the first of six programmes taking a critical look at pillars of society

"Brass Tacks"; BBC 2 (20.20): "Taking to the Streets". David Henshaw takes to the streets with two men who are defending their community from crime

"The Party of Opportunity?" BBC Radio 3 (20.45): David Marquand presents first of two programmes about the ideas and problems of Republican and Democrats in the USA today

"TV Eye"; ITV (21.30)

"Question Time"; BBC 1 (22.00)

"My Brother's Keepers"; Channel 4 (midnight)

"Kaleidoscope". Looks at the work of the only official drug dependency unit not in a hospital
