

4 February 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

HM Queen visits HMS Brazen, Port of London

Prime Minister meets Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan

President Reagan gives the State of Union speech

EC Internal Market Council, Brussels

Local education authority leaders meet to discuss teachers' pay, Barbican

Electronics in Oil and Gas Exhibition and conference, Barbican Centre (to February 6)

Entertainment '86 Conference and Exhibition, Bournemouth (to February 6)

Kincora Report published

STATISTICS

BOE: Capital issues and redemptions (during January)

BOE: Provisional estimates of monetary aggregates (mid-January)

CLSB: London and Scottish banks' monthly statement (mid-January)

OPCS: Mortality statistics 1984

HMT: UK official reserves (January)

PUBLICATIONS

CO: Annual Abstract of Statistics

HOC: Report by Comptroller & Auditor General - PAC Session 85/86 Lord Chancellor's Department: Provision of Legal Aid England & Wales (11.00)

SO: Survey of drinking and attitudes to licensing in Scotland (12.30)

DTp: Channel Fixed Link White Paper (15.30)

PARLIAMENTCommons

Questions: Education and Science; Defence; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Right to be Self-Employed
(Mr M Forsyth)

Housing and Planning Bill: Second Reading and
Money Resolution

Debate on a Motion to take Note of EC Document No
8805/85, Proposal for a Directive on the Disposal
of Non-Radioactive Waste at Sea

Adjournment Debate

The funding of the Horton General Hospital Banbury
(Mr T Baldry)

Select Committees: AGRICULTURE
Subject: Agricultural Research and
Development
Witness: Rt Hon Michael Jopling MP,
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS
Subject: Achievement in Primary Schools
Witness: Council for the Accreditation of
Teacher Education (C.A.T.E.)

DEFENCE
Subject: The Defence Implications of the
future of Westland PLC
Witnesses: To be announced

JOINT COMMITTEE
Lothian Region (Edinburgh Western Relief
Road) Order Confirmation Bill

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL
Felixstowe Dock and Railway

Lords Prevention of Oil Pollution Bill (HL) Report.
Local Government Bill: Second Reading.
Outer Space Bill (HL): Second Reading.
Bishops (Retirement) Measure Motions for Approval.
Ecclesiastical Fees Measure
UQ on the Report of the ECC on Examination of Animals
and Fresh Meat for the presence of Residues (3rd Report
1985-86 (HL) 43).

MINISTERS - See Annex

BRITISH LEYLAND

- Ford in talks with BL over purchase of Austin Rover - General Motors discuss purchase of Land Rover and Trucks.
- John Smith, Labour spokesman, describes it as "a dreadful and shameful retreat".
- Campbell-Savours says Government has dropped the Union Jack and raised the Stars and Stripes once again over British industry.
- D/Star: Jobs fear as BL is put up for grabs.
- Sun: Storm over Yankee Land-Rover talks; leader says there is no reason for Hattersley to wail over a GM purchase of part of BL. The rising state grant has been a burden to the taxpayer for too long. Private industry should be given the chance to do better, preferably British, but failing that foreign investment is welcome.
- Mirror P1 lead with "End of the Road - Ford bid to take over Britain's last car giant".
- Express P2: Fury over BL's sell off talks with US car men; but Channon insists: It's good for jobs.
- Mail P2: Uproar as MPs attack BL sale; leader says it is by no means self evident to most people here that what is good for General Motors is good for Britain. But it is doubtful whether any other Government in Europe which owned so prestigious an asset would contemplate disposing of it to foreigners. This far from popular Tory Government must beware of going too often and too hard against the British grain.
- Telegraph P1 lead: BL cars may go to Ford; carve up row on Land Rover.
- Guardian P1 lead: Sale of BL alarms Tory MPs; leader says that for all its lack of profits, BL has one vibrant advantage - it still buys over 90% of its components from British companies. That may be one of the reasons it does not make more profits but it does mean more factories and jobs in the UK. If BL is knocked down to the highest multi-national bidder whose self interest does not coincide with employment generation in this country, it will be yet another nail in the coffin of British manufacturing industry.
- Times P1: Americans near to BL takeover; morale crumbling in BL.
- FT says there are good reasons to hope that the development of both Leyland and Land Rover businesses will benefit from commitment, financial security and GM's vast marketing power. But the real drama will begin when the Government raises the curtain on its response to the talks now going on between Austin Rover and Ford.

WESTLAND

- Sir Robert Armstrong to give evidence to Defence Select Committee in compromise arrangement. Guardian says Tory members of Select Committee were resisting pressure to allow Sir Robert to speak for all civil servants.
- Sun leader says it has always urged that Civil Servants should be held to account but by the Ministers they serve, not by Select Committee browbeating. Puffed up Sir Humphrey Atkins, Keith Speed and other members of the Select Committee, should stop playing the bully.
- Sir John Cuckney, in letter to shareholders, says company is faced by a stalemate with the danger that no rescue bid will get enough backing.
- Bristow to launch a £100,000 one-man advertising campaign in support of the Europlan claiming the Sikorsky package is a Trojan horse designed to get British technology into US hands.
- Hugo Young, in Guardian, says what the Defence Select Committee is doing to Ministers and civil servants has the marks of an improper inquisition and Parliament itself has become a casualty of Westland saga.
- Robert Adley MP claims Westland board used dirty tricks to silence his criticism of its preference for Sikorsky.
- Geoffrey Smith, in Times, says it might be argued that the Committee is rather stretching its field of responsibility inquiring into the leak. But he does not think it wise to be fastidious on the point.
- Times leader says that until you accede to Select Committee's wishes to hear Civil Servants to answer questions, the fears and murmurings will go on. You know Sir Anthony Meyer is only the tip of an iceberg.

INDUSTRY

- Miners at Tilmanstone, Kent, save 500 jobs by cutting cost of the coal they produce from £120 to £40 a tonne - all 3 Kent pits now safe after dramatic improvement in productivity.
- World wide alert and check after cracks are found in Boeing 747 Jumbo jets; B/Airways to complete checks today.
- Guardian says a report by Shell suggests that the real level of North Sea oil work for UK companies may be half the 70% claimed by D/Energy.
- Stock Exchange plans to encourage wider share ownership from 6% of adults to 16-17%, as in France and USA.

ECONOMY

- Spectre of interest rate measures haunts qualities.
- Big fall in £ as world fears OPEC won't be able to agree to limit production - down by 2.5c to \$1.385. Express feature says OPEC is holding a pistol at your head.
- Anthony Beaumont-Dark wants petrol slashed 10p a gallon.
- Telegraph leader says it takes a massive act of faith to believe that domestic credit conditions are not far too lax for comfort.
- Commons Select Committee on Employment to unveil today £3.3bn package of measures to tackle long term unemployment.
- Times says today's money supply and reserves figures could sink sterling
- HP rose to record levels before Christmas.
- Abstract of statistics enables press to compare life in 1886 with life now.

MEDIA

- D/Star says that 131 people were killed, there were 22 other shootings; 21 assaults, 10 bombings and 13 riots in one week's viewing on British TV.
- SOGAT imposing £5 a week levy in support of 5000 print workers sacked by Rupert Murdoch.
- Sun thinks it's sad that the Government is mounting an operation to sink our last remaining pirate radio ship - Caroline.
- Guardian says members of the EETPU who oppose cooperation with Murdoch are asking TUC to organise "loyalists" if their union is suspended.
- Murdoch company issues new writ against SOGAT '82 seeking injunctions and damages because of interference in production on Saturday.
- Equity bans Harold Wilson from playing himself as Prime Minister on TV.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Professor Patrick Minford blames Militant leadership of Liverpool City Council for increasing unemployment on Merseyside - a disaster for local business.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Guardian says 10 London hospitals are under threat of closure - according to leak from Bloomsbury DHA.

EDUCATION

- Sun feature on how teachers are wrecking children's lives.
- Government to provide extra £21m to safeguard 9,000 student places at Polys.
- Express commends as "sensible" proposal by Engineering Council that the Government should give increased grants to universities and Polys who raise funds on their own account and reduce grants to those who simply demand subsidies.

ARTS

- Victoria and Albert Museum to continue charging even though attendances have virtually halved since charters were introduced 3 months ago.

LAW AND ORDER

- Police who beat up 5 innocent youths escape prosecution because they can't be identified and won't own up. Mail: Bullies of Met get off scot free. Identification numbers to go on transit vans.
- Criticism of courts which fine drivers who kill while under the influence. D/Star says it is a downright scandal to regard this behaviour as less anti social than that of a petty thief, soccer hooligan or shoplifter.
- Barristers considering what is tantamount to industrial action over claim for 30-40% increase in fees - big meeting on Saturday.

ANIMAL RIGHTS

- RSPCA fighting off infiltration by animal rights extremists; D/Star says it has expelled 150 after uncovering racket in forged application forms.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- One of few Catholic soldiers in UDR killed by IRA bomb.

SPIES

- Scharansky expected to be released in big spy swap. Express says Scharansky is no spy and we should note well this reminder of the regime with whom you think we can do business. Mail finds the Scharansky swap distasteful since he is no foreign agent.
- Express claims that a secret file shows "shameful" links between Britain's spymasters and Klaus Barbie, "the Nazi Butcher of Lyons" - it is alleged he worked for MI6 after World War II.

EC

- British Euro MPs want an inquiry into a £36m funded scheme to build a hydro-electric power plant in Sicily where there is hardly any water - fears the money may have gone to Mafia.
- 15 Tories rebel over supplementary budget.

SPAIN

- British tourist, 77, killed and wife critically injured by muggers who steal car.

SHUTTLE

- Bishop Montefiore says the loss of Challenger could be a blessing in disguise if it prevents or delays development of SDI - storm ensues.

IRAN

- Reports of new offensive against Iraq.

FRANCE

- Expels 4 Russian diplomats and Russians expel 4 French diplomats in return.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Mail feature on Botha's latest statement says South Africa has a genius for making martyrs.
- Foreign Secretary criticises Botha's latest speech - little indication of progress on power sharing.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MOD: Mr Younger attends IEPG National Research Directors meeting, London
- SO: Mr Rifkind addresses Japan Association, London
- DEM: Mr Trippier visits Institute of Mechanical Engineers, London; opens NGCC Gas & Safety exhibition, HoC
- DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith opens Electronics in Oil and Gas Conference, London
- DOE: Mrs Rumbold visits three London field sites for conservation run by British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.
- MOD: Mr Stanley dines with Armed Forces Insurance Brokers
- SO: Lord Gray and Mr Stewart attend reception with Conoco UK, London
- DTI: Mr Howard addresses BSI Consumer reception, London (Lord Lucas also attends); lunches with Dixons Group, London
- DTp: Lord Caithness visits Harvest Air Ltd, Southend-on-Sea
- DTp: Mr Mitchell given presentation by London Underground on the Tube network, London
- HMT: Mr MacGregor visits London Docklands
- WO: Mr Robinson visits W Glamorgan District Health Authority

TV AND RADIO

"10 million"; Channel 4 (15.45): Compares privately supplied hearing aids with NHS products.

"File On 4"; BBC Radio 4 (19.20): "The Legacy of Jasmine Beckford". Hugh Prysor-Jones on the reaction of Social workers to the Blom Cooper Report

"Medicine Now"; BBC Radio 4 (20.00): Geoff Watts looks at the work of the Public Health Laboratory Service

"First Tuesday"; ITV (22.30): "Peace People: The Dream That Died". Asks what went wrong with the Ulster peace movement
