

5 February 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets President Diouf of Senegal; later attends Natinal Union Executive annual dinner

Sir Robert Armstrong appears before Defence Select Committee on Westland plc

President Reagan submits Budget to Congress

BL Debate, HoC

NEDC meets

European Parliament delegation visit UK to discuss special measures (to February 7)

TUC General Council hears 'Wapping' Case against EEPTU

Church of England Synod debates inner cities report

Water privatisation White Paper

Energy Select Committee members visit coalfields in Nottinghamshire

First anniversary of teachers' pay dispute

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STATISTICS

DEM: Overseas travel and tourism (November) (11.30)

DEN: Advance energy statistics (December)

DOE: Housing starts and completions (December)

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PUBLICATIONS

DOE: Privatisation of water authorities in England & Wales (15.30)

HMT: Economic Progress Report (Jan/Feb issue)

FCO: Treaty Series No 7 (1986). Protocol between Government of UK and Government of Canada (14.00)

FCO: Treaty Series No 8 (1986). Amendments to Convention on Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organisation signed at Geneva on 6 March 1948 (14.00)

HOC: 1st Special Report. Home Affairs Committee UK Immigrants Advisory Service (11.00)

DTI: National Film Finance Corporation annual report and Statement of accounts for year ending 31/3/85 (11.00)

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PAY

DEM: Local authority building trades operatives; substantial pay increase sought; 7.4% on basic rates rejected; settlement date 1.2.86

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PARLIAMENTCommons

Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Trade and Industry

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: People's Right to Fuel (Mr D Canavan)

Opposition Day (6th Allotted Day): Debate on the conduct and supervision of the City, on an Opposition Motion

Debate on a Motion to take Note of EC Document No 9316/85 relating to new Community Rules for State Aids to the Coal Industry

Adjournment Debate

The economic situation in West Glamorgan (Mr D Coleman)

Select Committees: TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
Subject: The Tin Crisis  
Witnesses: Representatives from the trade unions

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE ARMED FORCES BILL  
Subject: Armed Forces Bill: Clauses 12 to 17  
Witnesses: Officials of the Ministry of Defence

EMPLOYMENT  
Subject: Discrimination in employment  
Witnesses: Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP, the Paymaster General

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
Subject: Northern Ireland (Learfan)  
Witnesses: Industrial Development Board (Northern Ireland)

SOCIAL SERVICES  
Subject: Prison Medical Service  
Witnesses: Dr John Kilgour, Director of Prison Medical Services and Mr Peter Barker, Head of Prison Nursing Services

TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE SUB-COMMITTEE  
Subject: Civil Servants and Ministers: Duties and Responsibilities  
Witnesses: Representatives of the unions of Westland

PARLIAMENT

Select Committees(cont'd):DEFENCE

Subject: The Defence implications of the  
future of Westland plc  
Witness: to be announced

JOINT COMMITTEE

Lothian Region (Edinburgh Western Relief  
Road) Order Confirmation Bill

CONSOLIDATION ETC. BILLS

Statute Law (Repeals) [Lords]

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL

Felixstowe Dock and Railway

Lords

Debate on a motion to call attention to the case for  
avoiding the politicisation of education, including the  
use of public funds for partisan political purposes,  
and the violation of the principle of freedom of  
speech, in universities, colleges and schools

UQ on whether HMG will consider remedying the situation  
which arises between employed and unemployed  
Territorial Army soldiers by virtue of the deductions  
from pay levied on soldiers in receipt of unemployment  
or supplementary benefit

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTBL

- Telegraph leads with threat of a revolt by 20 Tories. Ford proposal to take over Austin Rover causing a management split with AR chairman dismayed.
- Guardian suggests the row may dwarf Westland.
- D/Star: Too many unanswered questions to make anyone happy about GM's possible takeover. Biggest indictment must be that British inventiveness, management, management techniques and British capital is deemed incapable of preserving BL. The fear is that BL could become little more than an assembly plant - absolute assurances must be given on these and many other points.
- Express P2: Maggie lands in storm over BL sale plans - full scale debate today. Leader says BL made a pre-tax loss of £42m for the half year ended last June - the latest in a long line of losses. It is well to bear than in mind when considering the extraordinary antics of the Labour Party and one or two Midlands Tories. Difficult to see why GM and Ford interest should cause any distress. It is time to let the private sector - including foreign investors if necessary - try to do better than state. They could hardly do worse.
- Mail P2 says you face a Cabinet revolt over a Ford takeover of Austin Rover. 18 Tory MPs in car making areas tell Paul Channon they will fight any American takeover tooth and nail. BL spitting angry over leak.
- Telegraph leader says the sell off of BL Trucks is an uncovenanted bonus for the Government's privatisation programme but disposal will not be painless with job consequences which are dismayingly obvious. Privatisation, one of the Government's most popular programmes, could turn very sour if great care is not shown over the choice of privatisers.
- Guardian suggests your standing with rank and file Tories was further weakened yesterday because of their open scepticism about the planned break-up and sale; leader says so many foreign moves for British industry give the impression that you have so little faith in UK manufacturers that you want to turn the country into a Third World assembler of multi-national products.
- Times P1 lead says you drew the line on Government support for BL put at about £3.8bn since it was nationalised 10 years ago.
- Times leader says today's debate is not only good timing for Kinnock but also for you. The Government badly need the Opposition to show that its pledges to fulfil its basic promises to remove the burden of ailing industries from the taxpayer, remain no less strong after Westland. Yesterday you gave a welcome show that you are still in business.

INDUSTRY

- B/Airways 747 Jumbo jets get all clear after checks for cracks.
- 10,000 jobs should be created by Channel link.- this is seen as a great disappointment.
- Tesco plans to employ 1,100 more people at Superstores in Surrey.

ECONOMY

- Economists predict inflation down to 3.25% by summer (Sun) but Treasury losing £5.5bn income because of fall in oil prices.
- Petrol prices down 3p a gallon but motorists still paying 10p too much, according to some newspapers. AA says prices could soon be cut by another 15p.
- You call for petrol prices to come down further and faster.
- Mirror says petrol prices are coming down very grudgingly and companies are making excessive profits. Companies should slash their prices by at least 10p.
- Express says fall in petrol prices shows falling oil prices are an ill wind. But France, Germany and Japan will enjoy pure gain since they are not oil producers; so we must restrain our other costs, notably wages, more effectively than our competitors.
- Andrew Alexander, in Mail, says oil price in single figures, and perhaps as low as \$5 is now being freely talked about.
- Telegraph says plunging oil prices pose Budget threat but money supply and lending figures unexpectedly good.

ECONOMY (CONT'D)

- FT says OPEC is planning a meeting next March to establish united policies for winning a bigger share of the stagnant world oil market.
- Kenneth Clarke portrayed as "slamming" Employment Select Committee's plan for Government to spend £3.3bn to deal with long term unemployment. Mail asks if a Government, now presiding over ever higher levels of unemployment, can afford to be so dismissive.
- Unemployment in West Germany jumps 243,000.

MEDIA

- Rupert Murdoch taking first steps today to sue SOGAT for contempt of court.
- Eric Hammond defends EEPTU before TUC today over his cooperation with Rupert Murdoch at Wapping; to present a 50-page case.
- Sun leader says SOGAT official is complaining his members are being intimidated by being told by wholesalers to work normally or face the sack. What a strange world when it has become wicked merely to ask a man to do the job for which he is being paid.
- Guardian calling for job cuts and binding union agreements.
- FT reports rumblings of dissent in the EETPU from its Left wing.
- D/Star continues its analysis of a week's death, shootings, bombings and riots on our television screens.

WESTLAND

- Alan Bristow takes advertising space asking why Westland has not given the full story about the Euro-offer to shareholders.
- Sir Robert Armstrong to give evidence to Select Committee today - Committee presented as being in tough mood.
- D/Star: MPs have begun a major drive to put you in the dock.
- Sun says Select Committee snubbed you in your efforts to prevent Colette Bowe and B. Ingham from giving evidence.
- Mirror says Sir Robert Armstrong will make a last ditch effort today to prevent a head-on clash between Government and Commons.
- Express cartoon showing Defence Select Committee demanding to know everything about the "cataclysmic leak" while Ken Livingstone is seen to be pouring a fortune down the drain.
- Mail P2: Showdown for Sir Robert who faces one of his toughest confrontations.
- Telegraph feature on Select Committee system says many think the Committees have proliferated excessively, become a self perpetuating industry much of whose production is unnecessary and ineffective.
- Guardian: Westland Select Committee resist your idea that Sir Robert should be the only Civil Servant to give evidence.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Scotland Yard investigating claims that money for "riot torn Tottenham" ended up in Jamaica.
- Mail feature says that for sheer vindictiveness you would have to go a long way to beat Sheffield Labour councillors who put the frighteners on anyone who applies to buy their council house.
- Mail reports case of homeless and penniless Asian family of 7 being kept by Leicester ratepayers in a 3-star hotel at £188 a night.
- Telegraph says none of GLC's £154m surplus of funds will be returned to ratepayers on its demise but £78m is pledged to residual body.

POLITICS

- D/Star diary claims murmur of discontent with your leadership among Tory MPs swells daily.
- John Vincent, in Sun, says Kinnock's speech in Westland debate showed he was a mere babe in arms in Parliamentary terms.
- Shirley Williams selected as prospective SDP candidate for Cambridge.
- Parliamentary Labour Party trying to tighten discipline because of poor attendance; said to be going too far for liking of some.



EDUCATION

- Mirror says hard up teachers are leaving the classroom in such numbers that heads will soon be unable to staff schools - 7,500 specialist graduates left in last 15 months.
- Express leads with story of an "astonishing about turn" by head teachers in calling for children to be separated at 14 according to ability and for Government to scrap the comprehensive experiment - proposals contained in paper by the National Association of Head Teachers. Mail adds that Heads want 16-plus exam scrapped and all pupils to stay on until 18 with package of work experience as well as study. In another story, Express reports Sir Keith Joseph's bid to stamp out preaching of propaganda in schools by Left wing teachers.
- Telegraph leader says the real charge against Sir Keith on teachers' pay is that the past year has not been used to face up to the real problems of financing education and devising a structure that can't be held to ransom.
- Both NUT and NAS/UWT to oppose new GCSE exam.

LAW AND ORDER

- Christine Keeler sitting on jury trying case of theft and drug smuggling - Peter Bruinvels MP stunned; can't believe it.
- Allegations that drugs are rife among actors on South Bank.
- Mail says Home Secretary should sponsor legislation to permit more flexible pub opening hours in England and Wales - it would have genuine popular appeal; just the sort of pick-me-up this Government could use.
- Guardian, commenting on the case of unidentified Metropolitan police assaulting 5 innocent youths, says the Government long ago made clear that it would never do anything to control the police. Just imagine what would have happened if social workers or striking miners had done something like this.

TERRORISM

- International row after Israeli planes force down executive jet flying from Libya to Syria; none of 12 on board on their wanted list.
- Syria demands UN Security Council meet to consider Israel's "piracy".

DEFENCE

- CND demonstration at Molesworth tomorrow.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Row in RUC over allegations that Chief Constable has tried to stop its members, including Police Federation officials, from talking to the medi

SHUTTLE

- D/Star says Lord Trefgarne spoke well when he told Bishop Montefiore to tell the relatives of those who died in tragedy that it could be a blessing in disguise if it delays SDI.
- Sun leader says even the Kremlin sent a message of condolence. Is there really any wonder that our churches have so many empty pews?

PEOPLE

- B/Rail got everything wrong on Queen's return journey from Sandringham to London yesterday - train 46 minutes late after 8 breakdowns and key between breakfast carriage and Royal compartments lost, so breakfast had to be brought in via platform during stop at Ely.

SPAIN

- 22 year old tramp held by police for murder of British tourist, 77, and assault on man's wife - accused repaid kindness with attack.

PARIS

- More bomb attacks.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

MAFF: Mr Jopling opens Agra Europe's Outlook Conference, London

DEN: Mr Walker opens MONERGY breakfast meeting, Birmingham

DOE: Mr Baker attends meeting of NEDC

SO: Mr Rifkind attends annual dinner of Chatered Institute of Building Services Engineers, London

DTI: Mr Channon attends BSC board dinner, London

MAFF: Mr Gummer meets Moroccan Minister for Foreign Affairs

MAFF: Mrs Fenner meets First Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade, USSR

DES: Mr Walden visits Birmingham Polytechnic

DES: Mr Patten visits Lincolnshire local education authority

DEM: Mr Trippier lunches with English Association Trust, London; addresses Federation of Sussex Industries, Brighton

DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith opens OSO export seminar, London

DOE: Mr Walgegrave visits Kent to view environmental impact of channel fixed link project

DOE: Mrs Rumbold visits Royal Society for the Protection of Birds HQ, Bedford

DOE: Lord Elton meets Residuary Body Chairman on abolition progress

DHSS: Mr Hayhow opens Inherited Blood Disease Unit, University College

OAL: Mr Luce visits National Film and Television School, Beaconsfiled

DTI: Mr Morrison present Design Council Awards, London

DTI: Mr Howard lunches with IBA

DTI: Mr Butcher attends SMMT 'Quality Conference' Coventry

DTp: Lord Caithness visits Hendon Police Driving School

DTp: Mr Bottomley visits Kent Constabulary (all day)

HMT: Mr MacGregor addresses Southampton Chamber of Commerce

WO: Mr Roberts attends 'Super Ted' launch, Cardiff

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Mrs Chalker visits EC Commission, Brussels (to February 6)

TV AND RADIO

"File on 4"; BBC Radio 4 (16.05): Repeat of Tuesday's programme

"Analysis: The Pace of Change"; BBC Radio 4 (20.15): "The Prospects". Mary Goldring reports on the unexpected nature of research work in industry

"Diverse Reports" Channel 4 (20.30): Michael Manser, former president of RIBA, puts the case for modern architecture

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