

15 May 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

HM The Queen opens new Vith form building of the Royal Caledonian Schools, Bushey

EC Energy Council, Brussels

Association of First Division Civil Servants annual delegate conference, Royal Commonwealth Society, London

Association of University Teachers bi-annual council (to May 17)

Tobacco Workers' Union biennial delegate meeting, Sheffield (to May 16)

STATISTICS

BOE: UK banks assets and liabilities and the money stock (mid-April)

BOE: London sterling certificates of deposit (Apr)

CSO: Index of output of the production industries (March)

DEM: Labour market statistics: unemployment and unfilled vacancies (Apr-prov); average earnings indices (March-prov), employment, hours, productivity and unit wage costs; industrial disputes

DTI: Provisional figures of vehicle production (Apr)

PUBLICATIONS

DES: Audit Commission report on secondary education

PAY

DEM: Scottish local authority engineering craftsmen; (1,700); claim is for substantial increase with minimum rate of £125 per week, shorter working week; 5.5 per cent offer rejected; settlement date 1.3.86

DEM: BNFL; industrials; (8,700); unions claimed substantial unspecified increase and rejected a 5.3 per cent offer; settlement date 1.6.86

DEM: NHS ambulance officers; (3,700); claim is for restoration of differentials following introduction of salary structure; settlement date 1.4.86

DEM: Water service staff; (32,000); union have claimed flat-rate increase of £7 per week and 7 per cent on rates. Employers expected to offer 4.8 per cent and £2 on rates; settlement date 1.7.86

PARLIAMENTCommonsQuestions: Treasury (First Orders)Business: Conclusion of remaining stages of the Wages BillSelect Committees: AGRICULTURE

Subject: The Effects of Pesticides on Human Health
 Witness: Friends of the Earth; Centre for Agriculture
 Strategy; Organic Growers' Association

DEFENCE

Subject: The Statement on the Defence Estimates 1986
 Witness: to be announced

Lords: Airports Bill: Committee (1st Day)
 Draft Dental Auxiliaries Regulations
 Industrial Training Levy (Enquiry Board) Order 1986

MINISTERS - See AnnexPRESS DIGESTSHIPBUILDING

- Commons react angrily to 3,500 redundancies and closure of three yards. £10m worth of aid described as tiny pieces of sticking plaster over gaping wounds by John Smith, Opposition Front Bench.
- A lot of nostalgia around for our once great industry.
- D/Star: B/Shipbuilders on the brink of extinction.
- Sun: £10m lifebelt for 3,500 axed shipmakers; leader says loss of so many jobs is tragic but meritable with lack of orders. Labour MPs demanding a rescue operation are wrong; the answer is not to throw even more millions at a dying industry but concentrating on what we can do well, like making cars - a reference to Ford's turning a £14m loss with £100m profit.
- Mirror P4: Disaster for the ship men; Mayor of Middlesbrough describes the town as Jobless on Tees.
- Today leader says the news is shattering. We must not run our shipbuilding industry down to a dangerously low level. But if we want to be among the world's industrial giants we have to choose different industries and the British worker must become more flexible.
- Express: Now big push for new orders; Mail reports chairman of BS saying they could face extinction if they don't get more orders soon.
- Mail doesn't blame Government or workers, but in the name of security rather than sentiment we must keep a few centres of merchant shipbuilding capacity going to preserve skills rust free.

SHIPBUILDING (Cont'd)

- Telegraph leads with cutback crisis and resign call to Paul Channon.
- Telegraph political correspondent says many Tories were left asking anxiously "What's going to be next?".
- Guardian leads with MPs lash Channon on jobs failure.
- Guardian leader says no industry mirrors the decline in manufacturing and the erosion of Britain's economic power more tragically than shipbuilding. It is death from a hundred causes.
- Times P1: Opposition fury at redundancies.
- Times leader says that for Middlesborough, as for Britain and its shipbuilding industry, it remains better to build new strengths than to perpetuate old weakness.

- Featured elsewhere is the girl who got the only job said to be on offer to 3,500 schoolleavers in Cleveland.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY

- Mirror says you are threatened with a revolt by London Tory MPs; John Wheeler MP says NHS "cuts" are "political madness".

- Ronnie Butt, in Times, says John Biffen wholly misunderstands the strategy of the Hard Left.

- D/Star on Mr Biffen's speech yesterday, notes that he stopped rocking the boat; never mentioned your name once. Today says Mr Biffen turned his attack on Labour as enemy No 1.
- Express: Change of tune by rebel Biffen who steps smartly back into line - leaves most Tories with the impression he has received a sharp rap over the knuckles.
- Mail P5: "Tories grumble over Maggie's tough style". Concern in Scotland over Government's failure to present its policies better.
- Telegraph says Mr Biffen pookishly disappointed massed rank of the media with a "Don't let Labour ruin it" speech. Times: Tory gains in danger - Biffen.
- Hugo Young, in Guardian, explains why you will fight to the end - ie to 1988.
- Times says you face a critical test of leadership in Perth.

- Far Right Scottish Federation of Conservative Students says incest between parents and children over 21 is OK; Peter Fraser, Solicitor General, says they are "loony".
- Mail canvasses Kenneth Baker as favourite for DES; says he was one of a group of senior Ministers at No 10 yesterday to discuss education policy

LABOUR PARTY

- Alastair Graham, CPSA, calls on Labour Party to kick out its loony Lefties; claims Militant Tendency now controls one third of CPSA branches
- John Prescott says Labour will introduce a national minimum wage.

INDUSTRY

- B/Caledonian to reduce staff by 900 because of falling passenger lists.
- Westland set for a European comeback; Mail says they have bounced back with a vengeance and are set to take part in a new Euro project with Italy, Netherlands and Spain.
- EC plans to provide more cut price butter to pensioners, poor and unemployed.
- Three Midlands brothers buy 50,000 abandoned cars from United Arab Emirates and will spend £2m on turning them into scrap.

ECONOMY

- Express leader beside an article on how a friendly Jobcentre letter is shaking the swindlers out of the social security system, says that the unpalatable truth seems to be that a large number of those claiming benefit are not anxious to find work. But tax cutting is the way to curb the growth of the black economy.
- Telegraph says tax can never excuse fraud but it unquestionably provokes it; a crackdown on scroungers is not the whole solution - a more searching look at tax on the lower paid is needed.
- Independent survey supports Chancellor's claim of surge in number of UK shareholders.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Office of Health Economics says that in spite of spending 7% of GNP on health we lag behind the rest of Europe. NHS jobs rose 27% in 9 years to 1984 but number of beds fell 15%.
- Chairman of NE Thames Regional Health Authority, in letter to Times, disputes claims by 11 consultants yesterday.

EDUCATION

- Audit Commission says there is a unique opportunity to benefit from falling school rolls by closing redundant schools and redeploying resources
- Call for closure of 1000 comprehensive schools and reduction of up to 5,000 teachers a year.
- Telegraph says the report is a total condemnation of the system which has given too much power to teachers and LEAs and minimised influence of central government and parents.
- Sir Keith Joseph announces 20% increase in teacher training places.

UNIONS

- Pay talks with electricity power workers break down; overtime ban now being planned.
- Rodney Bickerstaffe becomes chairman of TUC's economic committee.
- NUJ not to discipline Wapping journalists.

TRANSPORT

- Today, on the warpath against B/Rail inefficiencies, recruits Nicholas Ridley; it says he is demanding greater efficiency and improved attitudes.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- D/Star, returning to the case where Hackney Council escaped jail on a technicality over the case of their treatment of a woman with cancer, says that if there was a special prize for the most callous and complacent local authority it would surely win hands down. The catalogue of incompetence which allowed the women's home to become uninhabitable beggars description.
- Labour moderates stage successful coup to wrest control from militants on Edinburgh Council.

LAW AND ORDER

- Police in Liverpool pelted with bottles and bricks as they raid drugs dens in Toxteth.
- Princess Margaret attacks appalling acts of physical violence against youngsters (and RSPCA says animal cruelty cases rose by more than a third to record levels last year).
- Islington social worker at centre of Piccadilly homosexual prostitution ring involving youngsters.
- Express says Scotland Yard has the names of more than 20 Arab killers wanted for bombings and other terrorist activities over last 5 years.
- Mail leads with the story of a 19 year old black monster who gets 13 years youth custody for breaking into home of woman 79, and raping her; and doing it again 2 months later.
- Tougher drink-drive laws for under 25s demanded by doctors; cut breathalyser limit by half.

RACE

- Case of woman wages clerk who was sacked by Haringey Council for racial harassment; among claims that her leaving a banana-shaped pen on her desk - "a racist toy" - caused deep offence to Asian workers.

DEFENCE

- Benn calls for removal of all American troops from Britain and wants review of British membership of NATO after raid on Libya.

EAST-WEST

- Gorbachev extends freeze on nuclear testing to August 6, anniversary of Hiroshima; calls on Reagan to meet him to discuss permanent ban.
- Telegraph says Reagan and his advisers are continuing to debate whether to break unratified SALT II.
- US diplomat expelled from Moscow after clandestine meeting with Russian recruited by US intelligence.

LIBYA

- Gaddafi warns Cyprus to close British bases or face confrontation.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Sun feature from USA says Teddy Kennedy is a pawn for the men of terror.

ISRAEL

- Sun says Sadler's Wells' decision to call off tour of Israel is deplorable; impresario is right in saying it is a victory for terrorism. You aren't cancelling your visit and the company should have the guts to think of you.

FALKLANDS

- Mirror leads with story that HMS Sheffield fell victim to an Exocet because a telephone call to London drowned out a radar warning; leader says it has taken 4 years for this truth to emerge but it raises many more questions about why 20 men died.
- You rejected any negotiations on sovereignty in talks with US Secretary-General.

PEOPLE

- Today says DT has banned you from watching soccer - a violent sport; hence your absence from FA Cup Final, but the football world thinks you stayed away because of Merseyside unemployment.
- Sir Peter Emery MP denies converting £75,000 of Bophuthatswana money for his own use.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

MOD: Mr Younger visits staff college, Camberley

DEM: Lord Young visits Wang factory, Stirling; speaks at Association of British Chambers of Commerce annual dinner, Edinburgh

DEM: Mr Clarke addresses British Jewelry and Giftwear Federation, Sadlers Hall

DEM: Mr Trippier visits Madame Tussauds, Marylebone Road

DEM: Mr Trippier speaking at Rochdale Business Association AGM, Rochdale

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses Parlour Club

HO: Mr Hurd gives interview to BBC Radio 4 "Profile" programme

MAPP: Mr Gummer visits European Poultry Fair, Stoneleigh

MAPP: Mrs Fenner addresses Produce Packaging and Marketing Association Informal Supper, Stratford upon Avon (15-16 May)

MOD: Mr Lamont visits CAP Scientific, New Malden

DES: Mr Patten visits Bath University

DES: Mr Walden opens Research Councils joint London HQ

DES: Mr Dunn addresses Heads of Independent schools, London

DEM: Mr Trippier visits Madame Tussauds waxworks; later addresses Rochdale Business Association AGM

DOE: Sir George Young visits Scotland (two day visit on Property Services Agency matters)

DOE: Mrs Rumbold meets representatives of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England

FCO: Mrs Chalker gives opening address at East African Seminar; addresses European Union of Women, London

DHSS: Mr Whitney visits Bethlem and Maudsley Hospitals

DTI: Mr Clark attends Chinese return banquet, London

DTI: Mr Butcher opens Thorn EMI compact disc plant, Swindon

DTI: Mr Pattie addresses EEA/TEMA lunch, London

DTI: Mr Pattie addresses Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, London

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES, ETC) (Cont'd)

- DTI: Lord Lucas addresses West Midlands Churches Industry year conference
- DTP: Mr Bottomley addresses the Institute of the Motor Industries' annual dinner, Kenilworth
- WO: Mr Roberts addresses mid-Wales Development Agency/Welsh Development agency seminar on enterprise, Llandrindod Wells; addresses National Conference of the Recruitment Society, Cardiff
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- MOD: Mr Stanley visits NATO and SHAPE, Brussels (to May 17)
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TV AND RADIO

- HO: Home Secretary interviewed on Radio 4 "Profile" programme
- DTI: Mr Channon on "Question Time", BBC TV
- "Tomorrow's World"; BBC 1 (20.00): How two men plan to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon
- "TV Eye"; ITV (21.30)
- "Brazil, Brazil"; BBC 1 (23.00): Last of four films deals with the non-appearance of Sao Paulo's miracle
- "Question Time"; BBC 1 (22.00): With Paul Channon MP, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry; Denzil Davies MP; Jo Poley and David Steel MP
- "Open Space"; BBC 2 (22.25): Documentary on Cornwall
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