

17 July 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

By-election, Newcastle-under-Lyme

Cabinet meets on public expenditure

Foreign Secretary visits USA (to July 18)

Labour Party policy conference, Bishops Cleeve (to July 18)

Statement on single payments (possible)

Falkland Islands Development Corporation reports on first year of operation

National Council for Voluntary Organisations, rural life conference Bedford (to July 19)

Conference on innovation; 'The Future of Business' - TUC & TVS, Southampton University

Launch of police motorway safety campaign

Golf: Open Championship, Turnberry

STATISTICS

BOE: London sterling certificates of deposit (June) (1430)

BOE: UK bank assets and liabilities and the money stock (mid-June)(14.30)

DEM: Labour market statistics: Unemployment and unfilled vacancies (presented on revised basis) (June-prov); average earnings indices (May-prov); employment, hours, productivity and unit wage costs; industrial disputes (11.30)

PUBLICATIONS

BAA: British Airports Authority annual report

HO: Boundary Commission for Wales annual report 1985 (15.30)

HOC: 3rd Report Social Services Select Committee - prison medical services Vols I and II (11.00)

PRO: Public Records Office - 37th annual report of the Keeper of Public Records 1985 (1530)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Questions: Treasury; Home Office; Prime Minister

Business: Finance Bill: Remaining Stages
Motion relating to the Channel Tunnel Bill

Adjournment Debate
Resources for the East Surrey District Health Authority
(Mr G Gardiner)

Select Committees: SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CHANNEL TUNNEL BILL

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS
County of South Glamorgan
(Taff Crossing)

Harwich Parkeston Quay

Lords Gas Bill: Third Reading

Patents, Designs and Marks Bill (HL): Consideration of
Commons Amendments

Education (No 2) Bill (Money Bill): Second Reading and
Remaining Stages

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTSOUTH AFRICA

- Widespread reporting of an alleged change of policy towards sanctions as a result of the Foreign Secretary's speech.
- Express says Ewan Fergusson failed to win any concessions from South African Government.
- Malaysia, Bahamas and Papua New Guinea to boycott Commonwealth Games.
- Robert Maxwell calls on African nations to think again about boycott. International Olympics Chief tries to persuade India to stay in Games.
- Annette Cowley planning to contest her ban in court.
- Enoch Powell warns the Queen to keep out of the Commonwealth row; Commonwealth is humbug and no one will complain if it is disbanded. Trevor Kavanagh in Sun says Powell dares to say what you think.
- D/Star: Tough Howe warns Botha - further measures would be needed unless South Africa made concessions; he has finally convinced you he cannot visit Pretoria armed only with EC outrage.
- Sun leader asks who cares if the Commonwealth Games don't take place? And who cares if the Commonwealth ceases to exist? These are questions to be asked as the blackmailing campaign mounts. The Commonwealth is a sham, dominated by a mass of Marxist states with whom we have no interests and no ideals in common. It is a matter of outrage that Ramphal presumes to lecture.
- Mirror: "I'll get tough" warning by Howe who warns for the first time about "further measures".
- Today: "Thatcher sneering at Commonwealth" - Healey.
- Express F1: Howe warns give or else - spells out threat to hit at South Africa. Feature on your relations with Queen speaks of your dilemma as you move to a clash with the Queen over sanctions. Another feature says the secret fear among Cabinet Ministers is that the Queen is about to be taken hostage by Commonwealth. Commonwealth hawks want the Queen to do to you what they have failed to do around the negotiating table - change your mind on sanctions.
- Mail: Howe opens the way for sanctions - shift in Britain's policy.
- Telegraph: Front page lead - Howe threat of sanctions; flexible line gets Thatcher's support.
- Times: Sir Geoffrey Howe yesterday signalled an important shift in Government policy: causes concern on the Tory right but was clearly prompted by worries of senior Cabinet ministers about a constitutional crisis.

EAST/WEST

- Shevardnadze announces new talks in Geneva on banning nuclear tests.
- White House announces talks on ABM Treaty.
- Express headline: N-test ban breakthrough. US and Russia agree to talks.

ECONOMY/PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

- PSBR lower than expected after buoyant tax revenues.
- A cut in basic rate tax by 3p in the £ may still be possible, despite the oil price fall, says the Item Club.
- Telegraph says the Chancellor is ready to ease the purse strings - but the most he is likely to do is to agree to raising of contingency reserve.

POLITICS

- Labour leads 5% - SDP/Libs in third place. 38/33/27 - Gallup. Marplan - 38;Con31/28.
- SDP/Libs try to patch up their Defence differences by prospecting for a Euro nuclear defence force.
- Today says the SDP/Lib Alliance must fulfil several conditions if it is to become a serious alternative to the new image Labour Party - one leader, and agreement on one manifesto.
- Gordon Greig, in Mail, apropos of nothing, says that you have thrown Tory succession wide open by insisting on staying on if you win next election until there is an heir who will carry your radical vision for Britain.

INDUSTRY

- 80 staff at Gwent car factory leave saying they would be better off on the dole after company proposed pay cut and end to overtime.
- Lord Young says boosting tourism in unemployment blackspots is a major Government priority (Mail).
- Barristers to get a further 5%, and solicitors a further 6.5% from October 1.
- Breaking up the British Steel Corporation any further would seriously threaten its viability, says a NEDO report.
- The Isle of Man Parliament voted last night to seek the closure of Sellafield. It also wants compensation for damage to tourism and agriculture. (NB; Russia has started a crash programme to provide housing by the winter for all 100,000 people evacuated in the wake of Chernobyl).
- Ford is to invest £45m at 3 component plants but will probably close a London factory with the loss of 300 jobs.

INDUSTRY (Cont'd)

- A series of bilateral agreements to crack down on international securities frauds is expected to be signed in September between the US, Japan, France and the UK.

TRANSPORT

- The opening of the second terminal at Gatwick has been postponed until 1988 because of spending cuts.

PROFIT SHARING

- D/Star welcomes Chancellor's profit related pay plans as far as they go, but he needs to show a great deal more imagination and a proper sense of adventure.

UNIONS

- Roy Lynk, UDM, and family dogged by a hate campaign (Sun) - menaced in streets and bombarded by telephone threats.
- Post Office workers vote to accept part-time workers and a 5.8% pay rise.
- Today says TUC leaders agreed to scrap present legislation which guarantees workers a secret ballot before industrial action, but to keep right for members to choose executives by secret ballots - Express: a charter for wildcat strikes.
- Militants trying to force CPSA executive to call a special delegate conference to get round High Court ban on Macreadie taking office.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Lewisham Council gives £387 to a Lesbian Group for a party.

HOUSING

- While Guardian attacks the idea of raising level of mortgage qualifying for tax relief, Express says expanding home ownership is one of the Tory Governments great pluses. You are justified in trusting to your instinct to give an additional boost to house buyers.

MPs PAY

- MPs vote themselves huge increase in allowances, contrary to Government's wishes, in all-party ambush.

EDUCATION

- D/Star attacks Government's "dogmatic insistence" for doing away with free school meals - a mean-minded proposal straight off the pages of Charles Dickens.
- Professor Jack Ashworth, Salford, attacks cuts which mean the dismissal of 70 staff in spite of Government praise for university's achievement over the last 5 years.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Part-time chairman of NE Essex Health Authority who described three applicants for a top hospital job as "suspect old wogs" has resigned.
- Mirror has another go at Ray Whitney for calling their attacks on Government and NHS funding scurrilous with a picture of a girl, 20 months who can't have heart surgery because of cuts; leader says that instead of complaining about the Mirror not printing the truth Mr Whitney should read letters sent by readers.
- Today reports the case of a suspended hospital consultant who has stayed at home for 5 years while his salary has risen from £18,000 to £30,000 which he is paid for doing nothing - leader says no system should leave an issue undecided for so long.
- Mencap says many mentally handicapped people are treated worse than village idiots were.
- Mail says Mrs Gillick is ending her 7-year campaign for the right of parents to know if their child is prescribed the pill after reports that her 16 year old daughter is holidaying topless in Greece; she says she cannot go on when people go after her children. Leader finds it hard to believe however that Mrs Gillick won't bounce back and she should not under estimate what has been achieved.

DEFENCE

- One soldier dead, another seriously ill, after training endurance exercise causes blood to boil.
- British industry could receive another £50m SDI research work by next autumn, says MoD.

LAW AND ORDER

- DPP to take no action over Derek Hatton's expenses claims.
- New letter bomb alert after one sent to Home Secretary explodes.
- David Mellor will announce today that local authorities are to have access to information on police criminal records in a bid to prevent them employing people who have committed sex offences against children.
- The number of teenage gamblers addicted to playing fruit machines is becoming a growing menace to family life, a newly-formed parents support group claims.
- The law against drinking and driving has largely failed in the past 20 years, with governments squandering millions on ineffectual publicity campaigns, says the BMA
- Times: John Stalker will be questioned for the first time today by Colin Sampson, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire.
- A secret manual for the police says the use of plastic bullets might set off a shooting war in the streets, according to research done for BBC 2's "Brass Tacks" programme.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Mail leader says Peter Barry's intervention in marching season is as crass as it is provocative. With supporters like Barry the Anglo-Irish Agreement needs no enemies.
- Telegraph says Barry has put the Agreement under renewed strain.
- Guardian leader says British and Irish politicians should ideally be bound and gagged for the duration of the marching season. Barry went a bit over the top.
- "Anglo-Irish pact under strain as King defends RUC even-handedness". Conservative MPs say Peter Barry's comments are in breach of the Agreement. Last night he again defended what he had said.

PEOPLE

- Lord Boothby dies.
- Jim Callaghan, ex-PM, gets ducking when his launch sinks during Speaker's Regatta.
- Robin Esser, executive editor, Daily Express, to succeed John Junor at Sunday Express.
- Lord (Dick) Crawshaw dies, 68.
- The "secret" shortlist of candidates for the Directorship of the National Gallery contains several surprises including some shock omissions.

SPORT

- Express, covering your soccer meeting (ignored as news story by Star, Sun, Mirror, Today) headlines it "Maggie in a salute to soccer fans".
- Times: "Thatcher reviews the battle against football violence".

JAPAN

- The strong yen has pushed Japanese wages to the top of the world table, wiping out the competitive advantage once held by the nation's manufacturers.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- HO: Mr Hurd visits Clyde Cablevision, Glasgow
- MAFF: Mrs Fenner attends meeting of Wine Standards Board, London
- MOD: Mr Freeman visits Coulport and Faslane
- DES: Mr Walden visits Bristol University
- DES: Mr Dunn on BBC Radio Kent's Question Time on drug abuse
- DEM: Mr Trippier speaks at Bath Chamber of Commerce; later visits Alexandra Palace
- DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith visits STC, Greenwich
- DEN: Mr Hunt visits Westoe Colliery
- DTI: Mr Howard meets Association of Conservative Peers on the Financial Services Bill
- DTI: Mr Morrison meets Birmingham Economic Development Council delegation (BL)
- DTI: Mr Butcher presents the House & Garden magazine 1986, Young Designer Award
- DTP: Mr Bottomley visits National Motorway Safety Campaign
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Mr Renton departs for Stockholm (to July 18)
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TV AND RADIO

"All the Prime Minister's Men"; Channel 4 (20.00): Inside view of the Cabinet since 1979. Includes interviews with Michael Heseltine, Leon Brittan, Francis Pym, James Prior, Chris Patten, James Callaghan, Denis Healey, Tam Dalyell and Lord Bancroft

"Brass Tacks"; BBC 2 (20.15): Chief Constable of West Midlands, Geoffrey Dear, recalls last year's Birmingham riots and defends the plastic bullet
