

PRIME MINISTER

DIARY

President Reagan gives State of the Union address.

Haig/Gromyko meet in Geneva.

EC: Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels.

Polish Parliament discusses martial law.

Staff in London Unemployment Benefit Offices and Jobcentres on half-day strike.

British Railways Board meets - considers lay-offs.

ASLEF Executive meets - considers escalation?

European Ministerial meeting on Maritime Safety, Paris.

Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, Strasbourg.

Mr Nott faces questions in the House on HMS Invincible.

Economic and Social Committee Plenary Session, Brussels.

SDP/Liberals resume seats negotiation.

HM Queen visits RAF Marham.

De Lorean board meeting, New York.

Manpower Services Commission considers Corporate Plan.

Mr Whitelaw meets Association of Metropolitan Authorities.

Norwich Council House sales appeal judgement.

International Hotel and Catering Exhibition, Olympia.

Board of News International meets on Kings Cross blacking.

Statistics:

Unemployment (Jan-prov).

Unfilled vacancies (Jan-prov).

Census 1981 county monitors for Greater Manchester and Nottingham.

Ethnic Origins 4.

Publications:

Reply to the Select Committee on Racial Disadvantage. (3.30 pm).
Statistical Bulletin on Pre-Service Teacher Training. (12.00 noon).
Cockcroft Report on Maths Inquiry.
Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration: First Report 1981/82 Session.
Consumer Committee report on milk.

Pay:

Nurses and Midwives: Claim presented at Whitley Council.
Miners: NCB/NUM talks following ballot.
UKAEA Manuals: Unions consider offer.

Parliament:

Questions: Prime Minister, Defence,

Business: Second Reading of the New Towns Bill.

Remaining stages of the Transport (Finance) Bill.
Motion on the Rates Amendment (Northern Ireland) Order.

Select Committees: DEFENCE: Ministry of Defence, Organisation and Procurement. (Witnesses: Ministry of Defence).
ENVIRONMENT: Private Rented Housing Sector.
(Witnesses: Paddington Federation of Residents and Tenants Association; Westminster City Council.)

Lords: Currency Bill: Second Reading.
Civic Government (Scotland) Bill (HL): Committee.
Civil Aviation (Amendment) Bill: Committee.

Ministers - see Annex

PRESS DIGEST

Rail

- Weighell warns Parker not to lay off his men on Sundays; heads off move by NUR executive to back ASLEF but there are now fears of unofficial NUR action.
- Electrification at stake as strike goes on - you believe there is limit to how much taxpayers' money can be poured into industry whose workers seem hell bent on suicide.
- Mr Howell announces emergency car parks will stay open all week, with more signposts and more police help.

Rail Fiddling

- EI
- Judge told overtime fiddling a tradition on BR; sends timekeeper who netted £3000 in false overtime claims to prison for 4 months.
 - Two trainees who made original allegations suspended on full pay as inquiry opens.
 - Messrs Marlow and Teddy Taylor want independent inquiry into fiddling allegations.
 - Sun and Times still blacked at King's Cross in spite of court ruling; Sun to go back to Court.

- Sun says Fleet Street is united in condemning ASLEF's blacking; Times leader says tin pot dictators do it, Jaruzelski has just done it, Civil Servants are brought up to do it and now engine drivers and porters are doing it - stopping ideas and information they don't like reaching the public.

Unions/Pay

- UCATT reported to be set to claim 50% for building workers - leader says just because unemployment is high no reason why they shouldn't strive for a proper rate of pay.
- Local authority manuals accept 7.8% and employers say not to be taken by others as going rate; nurses will claim 12% today and Mirror says least Govt should do is to keep their pay in line with inflation.
- Patrick Jenkins tells striking BL workers they are putting whole of bus and truck division in jeopardy.
- Sun praises 300 redundant workers in Birmingham for giving £2000 branch funds to three schools for handicapped children.
- Agricultural Workers vote to merge with TGWU.
- Chairman of B/Telecoms, in state of business message, speaks of serious overmanning, inflexible working practices and luxurious accommodation and says pay rise will be extremely hard to justify this year.
- Telegraph story why Thames flood barrier gate can't be delivered from Teesside because striking dockers there not around to exercise right to stand and stare while specialist firm loads it.

Labour Law

- Union official in Northern Ireland ordered to pay £7500 damages and £20,000 costs for illegal picketing of drugs firm.

Economy

- Items of good news - huge balance of payments surplus (FT suggests £6bn for 1981), booming productivity.
- But unemployment will go through £3m today.
- Shares and £ falling on fears of higher US interest rates, but National Savings Bank cuts rate 1% to 14% to put pressure on building societies, and NatWest undercutting rivals to win small firms' business.
- Telegraph says a consensus is developing in Tory Party on need for a business Budget to stimulate companies.
- Guardian thinks trade figures and Terry Burns' optimistic comments about economy = more generous Budget; Burns says general balance of economy improving.
- Japan gives US and EC assurances that it will take steps to increase imports from them.

EC

- Another attempt to reform the Budget breaks down; Britain isolated; another row brewing; Lord Carrington's strong hint that we shall freeze farm price increase and other business.

Local Authorities

- Merseyside and other councils want Govt help with police bill for Pope's visit.
- Government makes it clear that there is no question of cutting police forces.
- Cheap fares have cost South Yorkshire ratepayers £61m this year and total cost so far is £200m.
- Officials say GLC's financial position so uncertain that rates increase range anything from zero to 144%.

Rape

- Sun. after copy-cat rape in Suffolk, calls on judge who imposed fine to admit he was wrong.
- Express and Mirror say Government has decided not to make prison a mandatory sentence.

Industry

- Post Office Users' Council complains that people moving into houses are being asked to pay off bills of previous occupiers before they get 'phone.
- Airlines want 15% increase in transatlantic fares.
- BNOC to develop Clyde field at cost of £1bn.
- Times expects to lose £15m to June 30; seeking economies and staff cuts.
- Sun Printers, Watford, withdraws 350 proposed redundancies provided unions come up with proposals for savings.
- B/Telecoms help scientists who invent devices it does not wish to develop to exploit them through other companies.

Education

- Allegations that headmaster beat 9 year-old epileptic girl in front of class - D/Star doubts his fitness to teach.
- Mail feature says it is madness for any politician, churchman or educationist to propose end of church schools.
- Guardian leader says Govt's education policy is tearing up the future.

Welfare

- Sun leader wants Govt to give help to all old folk in difficulty with fuel bills.
- NHS will receive millions from development of St George's Hospital.

Northern Ireland

- Mr Prior admits De Lorean position serious; Mail leader says it would be disastrous to pour more money in and still see it fail; Prior tight to bring it to a head.
- Man wanted by Scotland Yard in connection with IRA bombings arrested in Belfast.

Politics

- Magee hopes to join SDP.
- William Rodgers says Jenkins should lead SDP with Mrs Williams No 2 without consulting membership.
- Archie Hamilton, in Times, tells wets to dry up and lists Govt achievements.
- Labour accuses SDP of celebrating its first birthday last night instead of voting to help need with fuel bills.
- Darlington Labour Party suspended pending national investigation into membership of GMC.

Poland

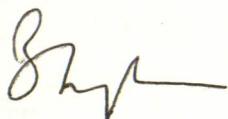
- Jaruzelski says martial law could be lifted by end of Feb but not in industry; Gromyko refuses to discuss Poland with Haig today; Miskiw, Mirror, expected back in London today; Express team takes in medical supplies to burns unit.

USA

- Cooling pipe fracture at New York state PWR causes site emergency

India

- President Reddy not to seek election in July.



B. INGHAM
26 January 1982

ANNEX

Ministers:

Mr Heseltine addresses Leicestershire Business Venture, Leicester.
Mr Tebbit addresses Eye Consultative Council, London.
Mr Tebbit meets Trade Union Congress on health and safety.
Sir Geoffrey Howe speaks to Small Business Bureau.
Mr Howell addresses The County Surveyors' Society Annual Dinner,
RAC Club, London. (7.00 pm).
Dr Vaughan opens new Diagnostic Centre at Dr Louis Freedman's
Clinic, London. (4.30 pm).
Mr Finsberg visits the National Radiological Protection Board,
Didcot. (10.00 am).
Mr M Roberts speaks at the opening of the Development Corporation
for Wales's "Japan Today" exhibition, City Hall, Cardiff.
Lord Trenchard meets representatives of Honeywell.
Mr Pattie attends reception at W. Germany embassy.
Mr Channon attends Standard Drama Awards, Savoy Hotel.
Mr Baker at Fast Seminar (The Information Society), Selsdon Park Hotel.
Mr Baker speaks at Essex University Seminar.
Mr Sproat attends Ministerial meeting on Maritime Safety, Paris.

TV/Radio:

Mr Tebbit, BBC 1, "Nationwide".
Mr Brittan, BBC 2, "Newsnight" - Unemployment programme,
Mrs Williams and Mr Shore participate.