

PRIME MINISTER

DIARY

Prime Minister meets Hungarian deputy Prime Minister.  
Prime Minister unveils commemorative plaque for Lord Home, House of Lords  
Prime Minister hosts reception for Parliamentary Lobby correspondents.  
National pithead ballot by miners on strike action.  
British Rail before Select Committee on Serpell.  
The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visit British Columbia.  
EC Agriculture Council, Brussels.  
EC Political Committee, Bonn.  
FT conference on "Euromarkets in 1983", London.  
Ideal Home Exhibition.  
World Ice Skating Championships, Helsinki.

Statistics

London clearing banks' monthly statement (mid-Feb),  
Provisional estimates of monetary aggregates (mid-Feb).  
Population projections mid-1981 base.  
Live births, stillbirths and deaths, January 1983.

Publications

Report on European Community: The Rational Use of Energy in Industry.  
Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments: 13th Report on SIs.

Parliament

Commons

Questions:

Prime Minister, Employment.

Business:

Motion on Financial Assistance to Opposition Parties.  
10 Minute Rule Bill: Buyers' Premium (Abolition).  
Energy Bill: Remaining stages.  
The case for a special audit of the accounts of  
Islington Borough Council (Adjournment Debate).

Select

Committees:

ENVIRONMENT: Problems and Management of Urban Renewal.  
(Witnesses: London Docklands Development Corporation;  
Department of Industry officials).

TRANSPORT: Serpell Report on Railway Finances.  
(Witnesses: British Railways Board).  
COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL: Commons Registration  
(Glamorgan) Bill.

Lords: Mental Health Bill(HC)(Consol): Committee.  
Conwy Tunnel (Supplementary Powers) Bill: Committee.  
Water Bill: Committee (2nd Day).  
Civil Aviation (Eurocontrol) Bill: Second Reading.

Ministers - see Annex

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### PRESS DIGEST

#### Coal

D/Star: Page 2 - Scargill faces snub over call for strike - pit-head straw polls show he will be turned down. Scargill tells miners fight or go to slaughterhouse. Mr Siddall says a strike could last months.

Sun: Page 2 - Miners facing 3 months out - disaster if you strike, says Siddall; lukewarm support in moderate areas and even doubts in Yorkshire.

Sun leader says you are in no mood for surrender; power stations have six months' stocks and winter is nearly over. Why should other unions come to Scargill's rescue? Let's slap Scargill down a fourth time.

Mirror: Page 2 - Bitter row as pits vote on walk-out over length of any strike; Geoffrey Goodman says vote is about Scargill's credibility as president of NUM but he only wishes you occasionally recognised people are fighting for jobs.

Express: Page 1 - Gormly says he has been under pressure to come out of retirement and take over as NCB chairman, but would only do so if he could be guaranteed co-operation of NUM; denounces Scargill's tactics.

Leader explains why miners must say "No" to strike; rail and steel industries have been savaged by strikes and effects have rebounded on those who orchestrated them - so miners poised on dangerous brink; James McMillan outlines a commonsense way to save Britain from a strike and steal Scargill's thunder - MacGregor can announce he will have nothing to do with coal industry; Express diary says MacGregor's staying with a new marina venture in Glasgow and up for membership of Brooks.

Mail: Page 2 - Scargill threat to call on jobless; Siddall thinks ballot will be fairly close.

Telegraph: Page 1 lead - Pit strike could last to summer - warning by Siddall as miners vote; leader says controversy over MacGregor unfortunate and misleading; it assumes MacGregor will be more ruthless than any conceivable alternative; this is nonsense. Little disagreement about what coal requires. As long as Government has will to back NCB (which it didn't in 1981) uneconomic pits will go.

FT: Page 1 - NCB chief signals "end of expansion" - calls for change of course, a sombre review.

Guardian: Page 1 - Scargill gambles on strike verdict; TGWU pledges solidarity but Siddall warns of long stoppage. News story says Siddall personally favours a partnership of non-executive chairman and full-time chief executive. Ian Aitken says backbenchers have been surprised at readiness to allow speculation of MacGregor's appointment to run up to ballot.

Times: Page 1 - Siddall optimistic as miners vote, pit strike would last 'very long time' warns NCB; Siddall made clear at resentment over Govt failure to consult board over MacGregor's appointment. Lazard Freres reported as disclosing they expected another million pound deal if MacGregor goes to NCB.

Leader under heading "A time to stand firm" says a huge and backhanded tribute to MacGregor of his personality and skills should be motive power behind dispute. Your inflexibility over him is justified in this case; and public sector unions must not have veto over appointments. You must stand your ground; no more surrenders.

### Economy

- Australia devalues 10% after flight of money during election campaign; and Patrick Sergeant, Mail, says now for the French franc devaluation.
- Share prices up to record 666; sterling better.
- OPEC talks deadlocked.
- Sun says wholesale prices an unexpected victory; means inflation may be pegged below 5% and fuels speculation of giveaway budget.
- Car production and exports likely to be well up this year - Mr Lamont.
- Barclays announces 20% increase in dividend, notwithstanding bad debts.
- SOGAT accepts 4% in Fleet Street.
- MSC gives Jobcentre service a reasonably clean bill of health after allegations of falsification of returns by John Gorst.

### Politics

- Distraught Sir Anthony Meyer storms out of House over allegations that his non-selection a fix.
- Sun leader says you must have Labour scared/<sup>what</sup>with Hattersley, Healey and Kinnock abusing you.
- Labour inquest puts reason for Bermondsey defeat as Tatchell's amateur support; local party insisted on going it alone.
- SDP bankers send cheque for £20,000 to Ron Brown Leith MP by mistake.

- Telegraph says Tory party need £11m to fight election and had deficit of £102,750 last year despite tax windfall.

#### Local Authorities

- GLC takes full page advertising space to explain this year's rate increase and why it won't cut services.

#### Media

- TV-AM's audience averaged only 300,000 in week ending February 27; BBC's 1.6m.
- ITV screens will be taken over April 7 to boost viewing figures.
- Prince Edward says he hates the media.

#### Education

- Rhodes Boyson condemns Brent Council for encouraging homosexuals and transvestites to sign on as teachers.

#### Health/Welfare

- Drug, Zomax, withdrawn in Britain after being recalled in USA.

#### Law and Order

- Attorney General calls for rremoval of Moonies from list of charities; Mail says Attorney has twice asked commissioners to hold an inquiry into cult; leader says it is a scandal 2 offshoots of Church still enjoy charitable status; charity has been shamed enough - not one day more must Moonies enjoy their bogus respectability.
- || FCO sends out stern warning to Embassies - no smuggling of arms - after Argor affair.
- ← Mirror says every time police behave as they did in case of 73 year old Liverpool grandmother whom they hit after breaking into her home reduces chance of public co-operation.
- Mail story of 87 year old pensioner attacked in his flat, and arm broken, for £110.

- Wheel clamps to be introduced as experiment in inner London from May 16

### Northern Ireland

- Man helping with inquiries into kneecapping of 16 year old girl.

*- Underlying incident by car*

### Defence

- Express leader says South Atlantic Fund should now be wound up in good order and dignity.
- 4 leaders trying to form volunteer defence force say there is no intention of creating private army or third force; D/Star says no doubt they will be praying for something to justify their existence; Mirror - don't panic, Dad's Army back on march.

*Memoranda* -

### People

- Man dressed as wolf leaps out at Princess Michael of Kent at Ideal Home Exhibition.

### International

Norway: Royal Marines on exercise in Norway cause a lot of trouble in 2 villages; 25 arrested.

Germany: Sun says election result is vote for peace through strength; Mail sees it as vote for safety first.

Turks & Caicos: Mail treats Select Committee report as follows: airport built with £4m British taxpayers' money probably being used as drug staging post.

Zimbabwe: Nkomo in hiding for his life.

Guatemala: Pope criticises regime indirectly for executing 6 guerillas.

Turkey: at least 62 miners dead in coal mine explosion.

Ministers

Mr Tebbit speaks to Parliamentary Information Technology Committee.

Mr Younger visits Honeywell, Hemel Hempstead.

Mr King presents prizes at the Rural Voice Village Ventures Competition at Caxton Hall and speaks at Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors annual dinner, London.

Mr Howell opens the RAC/IRSO Road Safety Conference, RAC Club.

Mr Jenkin speaks to Bow Group.

Mr Walker and Mr Buchanan-Smith attend EC Agriculture Council, Brussels (until 9 March).

Mr Waddington visits the Council for Voluntary Services, Leicester.

Mr Gummer speaks on Green Paper to National Association of Conservative Graduates.

Dr Vaughan opens conference on EC company law harmonisation programme, London.

Mr Rees addresses Association of Economic Representatives, London.

Mr Sproat presents Sir Mark Henig awards for Tourism.

Mr Lamont speaks to British Constructional Steelworks Association annual dinner, Savoy, Sir George Young also attends.

Mr MacGregor visits North East (until 9 March).

Lord Ferrers speaks at annual dinner of Oxford University's Plough Club.

Lord Cockfield hosts dinner for deputy Prime Minister of Iraq.

Mr Waldegrave visits the European University Institute, Florence.

Mr Stewart meets Greek Minister for the Environment and Planning, Edinburgh Airport.