

PRIME MINISTER

29.3.83

DIARY

Labour Party publishes election campaign ^{document} ~~manifesto~~

EC Agriculture Council, Brussels.

You attend the Metropolitan Special Branch Centenary Ball, Grosvenor House.

BSC revises EFL for 1982/83.

Central TV programme "The Woman at No 10" (10.30pm).

British Aerospace provisional results.

Inquest into death of James Davey opens, Coventry.

CRE code of practice proposals.

PQ on VHF Band II and independent national radio.

Publications

Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration 3rd report for session 1982/83 - Annual Report 1982.

Parliament

Commons

Questions: Defence, Prime Minister.

Business:

10 Minute Rule Bill: Marital Rape.
Telecommunications Bill: Conclusion of Remaining stages.
Motion on the Supplementary Benefit (Housing Benefits) (Requirements and Resources) Consequential Amendment Regulations.
Motion on the Upholstered Furniture (Safety) (Amendment) Regulations.
Assistance for owners of Smith's houses in Yardley, Birmingham and elsewhere (Adjournment debate).

Select

Committees:

DEFENCE: Future Defence of the Falklands. (Witness: Dr Paul Rogers, School of Peace Studies, Bradford University).
TRANSPORT: Transport Aspects of the 1983 Public Expenditure White Paper. (Witnesses: Mr P E Lazarus CB Permanent Under-Secretary of State and officials of the Department of Transport).
PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION: Reports of the Health Service Commissioner. (Witnesses: Sir Kenneth Stowe and officials of the DHSS; Scottish Office).

Lords: Civil Aviation (Eurocontrol) Bill: 3rd Reading.
Public Records (Amendment) Bill: (HL).
British Shipbuilders Bill: Committee.
Supplementary Benefit (Resources)
Amendment Regulations 1983.
Supplementary Benefit (Housing Benefits))
(Requirements and Resources).)
Consequential Amendment Regulations 1983.)
Pneumoconiosis, Byssinosis and Miscellaneous) Motions
Diseases Benefit (Amendment) Scheme 1983.) for
Social Security (Contributions) Amendment) Approval
(No 3) Regulations 1983.)
London Docklands Development Corporation (Vesting
of Land) (GLC and Southwark London Borough Council)
Order 1982. Motion for Approval.
Debate on a motion that this House takes note of the
First Report by the Select Committee on Sound Broad-
casting "Yesterday in Parliament".
UQ on the circumstances under which Mr Stancu Papusoiu
was deported to Rumania.

Ministers - see Annex

PRESS DIGEST

MacGregor

D/Star: Tories join fury over McCoal's £1.5m fee - announcement delayed until after Darlington; leader says appointment is provocative and divisive and £3.3m to hire US trained pensioner preposterous.

Sun: Fury as Maggie signs "Mac the Knife" £1.5m coal transfer; Bill Sirs says, "My heart bleeds for coal industry". Anthony Beaumont Darke accuses Government of adopting MacGregor as mascot; leader says in spite of small minded campaign against him he now has chance to do super job for Britain; pity we have to pay £1.5m for him but if he can stem losses will be biggest bargain since Dutch bought Manhattan Island for a few beads.

Mirror: Scandal jeers as Mac gets coal job; sniping from Tory MPs.

Express: If Mr Lawson believes MacGregor is best man for job it is a damning indictment of British industry; his appointment would try the patience of a saint let alone a miner.

Mail: Page 1 - Maggie gets her Mac - fury of miners' leaders at new coal chief; leader: is there a better man? If so, how remarkable critics have not produced a credible name. His brief is not to take on miners but to fuel Britain's economic fight back - Mail backs your judgement.

Guardian: 'Axeman' gets job as coal chairman Lawson faces all party opposition; quiet resignation at NCB HQ; leader says he is about as British as Bob Hope and quite simply beyond belief Government could well have found younger, less controversial and equally able man.

Telegraph. Page 1 - £1½m fee paid for MacGregor; outrage at choice for coal; your enthusiasm for appointment not shared by all Cabinet colleagues; Scargill says he is hatchet man; leader says task is now not simply to trim loss-making capacity but to get out and sell coal; news story says it is clear Norman Siddall is critical of handling of appointment.

Times: Page 1 - Tory MPs join MacGregor fee protests; Tribune Group want it referred to PAC.

FT: Page 1 - MacGregor confirmed as next chairman of NCB - leader: "The case for MacGregor says appointment is on balance right one" though there are conspicuous negatives. Reputation as hatchet man largely misplaced. Regrettably Government felt it necessary to negotiate another large transfer fee.

BL

- Maestro production halted when night shift join strike over withdrawal of washing time - major set back.
- Sun leader says if Jap, German or French car makers wish to honour the man who more than anyone has put them where they are today they should instal pin up of typical bloodyminded Leyland worker.
- Mirror under heading "Bloody Stupid" says a sure sign things are looking up for British economy came from BL yesterday - men started striking again - stoppage at BL long been industrial equivalent of first Cuckoo but truth is that for 4 years BL has been winning concessions from men without having to pay for them. (Chancellor tells Select Committee he believes workers will stick to low wage claims when upturn comes).
- Express: strike defies reason - can it be there is an odd streak of cussedness in British working man? Looks very much like it.

Industry

- Case of 16 year old in Liverpool earning £35,000 a year designing war games for home computers.
- Mr Lawson calls for inquiry into Daily Mail allegations about release of polonium in 1957 Windscale nuclear accident.
- World's largest bankrupt, Stern, given suspended discharge.
- Lloyds chairman resigns from insurance brokers to avoid any conflict of interest.
- Gas and electricity industries being told to cut back on advertising.
- Port of London at a standstill when 800 riverside workers join 2300 Tilbury dockers in pay parity dispute.
- Bed-pan train arrives at St Pancras a year late.

Trade Unions/Pay

- TUC jobs march Glasgow-London planned for April 23-June 5.
- Northampton firms gets £8000 contract to provide 500 pairs of boots for marchers.

Economy

- £ down to new low of \$1.45 - rush to invest in US where interest rates are rising; exchange rate esging its way back up Government priorities.
- Nationwide Building Society says there is a mini-boom developing in South but house prices stable in North.
- Telegraph says economic recovery has begun in US, West Germany and Britain - France odd man out.
- || Chancellor tells Select Committee living standards of average earner have risen 5.5% under Government, taking account of tax changes.
- French tourism industry planning silent march of protest tomorrow over austerity measures.
- CBI optimism not shared by Midlands companies - Times.
- Times leader says today's likely upturn is hard earned; it can be sound platform on which to build but depression is not over.

Politics

- MORI poll says Conservatives have had a year long lead in opinion polls because of your strength of character and Falklands performance.
- Foot rules out deal with SDP to keep Conservatives out - not interested
- SDP chairman in Cardiff NW resigns over choice of new candidate.
- SDP MPs think they need a facelift - leadership of Alliance likely to be postponed until after General Election.
- Tribune Group hail Darlington victory as a sign it could yet return to power under Foot.
- Times leader says Alliance should choose leader soon.

Mr Tebbit

- D/Star says his urging of parents to keep their children at home rather than see CND play sounds like a strike - shouldn't there be a ballot first?
- Sun however says Mr Tebbit is right to be incensed over peace plays.
- Mail says 200 children yesterday saw 3 peace plays at Chingford; leader asks: over-reaction? - more like a play to upstage left.

Local Authorities

- Merseyside CC launch £90,000 campaign to persuade people to pick up £20m in unclaimed benefits.
- GLC postpones decision for a month on Festival Hall plans for exhibitions to show grim side of Russia.
- Rating and Valuation Association says domestic rates rise will average 6.42% and 5.97% for industry and commerce - Government's efforts to contain spending has worked this year.

Education

- Sir Keith Joseph announces new national centre to promote training in management for head teachers and senior staff.

Law and Order

- Vice police have made 1000 charges in a 10-week drive against Kings Cross area.
- Priceless art treasures stolen from Brompton Oratory.
- || Mr Whitelaw rejects call for inquiry into disclosure that coloured attackers are blamed for twice as many muggings and robberies as whites.
- Metropolitan Police to announce trial watch and warn schemes tomorrow.
- Macmillans say they will probably withdraw joke book which has been "hypocritically" criticised for sick jokes about Mountbatten.
- 45,000 now held in jails built for 32,000 - Express asks if prisons are on verge of breakdown.
- West Yorkshire police reject Dublin magazine claim that Sutcliffe killed only 4 or 13 victims.
- Telegraph says 75% of London crime victims are white.
- ← Russian book claims Hollis passed secrets to Soviet agents. *Tu.*

Defence

- Sun says Armed police will be guarding Burghfield & Aldermaston at Easter.
- ← - Reagan preparing on Easter peace package on Thursday.
- Mr Heseltine says fear is CND's stock in trade, preying on people's natural concern. - eyes of Kremlin will be trained on Easter parades.
- Telegraph says Government plans to cut Naval manpower to be revised drastically.

Ministers

Mr Whitelaw speaks at Drapers Chamber of Trade annual lunch.

Mr Fowler speaks at Medical Consultative Group dinner, University of Sussex.

Sir Keith Joseph opens St Ann's school Ealing.

Mr Lawson speaks at the Electrical Power Engineers Association, York.

Mrs Chalker opens the Brigg to Ulceby section of A180 and meets Humberside County Council at Beverley.

Mr Clarke speaks at Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain council dinner Lambeth High Street, London SE1.

Mr Gummer visits Portsmouth docks.

Mr Stewart visits Renfrew District Court.

Mr Waddington at demonstration of "machine readable passport facility" Heathrow.

Mr Raison meets Lord Garmoye and Frank Judd of VSO.

Lord Mansfield meets Mr Black of Highland Regional Council, London.

Mr Waldegrave attends National Advisory Board committee meeting, Tottenham Court Road.

TV/Radio

Mr Younger on fishing programme, BBC Radio Highland.

Mr Newton on Channel 4 'Years Ahead' programme, 4.45pm.

Mr Shaw discusses lead policy on Channel 4 "For What it's Worth" programme, 8.30pm.

Falklands

- Islands Council to meet today on planned visit by Argentine relatives to which FCO has no objection in principle.
- ~~The~~ ^{One} day strike yesterday brought Argentine to standstill.

Northern Ireland

- Cabinet to discuss setting up judicial inquiry into Kincora.

EC

- £600 refund comes in this financial year - Express says you were told by EC how to spend it.
- Tugendhat criticises British Government for scandal over failure to give Britons living in Community vote in Westminster and Euro election
- Guardian says I am to launch new campaign to improve image of EC in Britain.

Rumanian

- Mail publishes picture of deported man.
- Times feature on Questions Lord Elton "must answer" today.

Poland: Six refugees in hiding in UK; 21 others who jumped ship have applied for permission to stay.

Middle East: Mr Pym to go there next month.

Ethiopia: Most of aid is reaching victims.

Assam: 8,000 reported to have died in 2 months of massacres.

B. INGHAM
29 March 1983