

8 April 1983

PRIME MINISTER

Statistics:

Car and commercial vehicle production (Feb-final).

Publications:

British Business with Features on Boosey and Hawkes; Loan Guarantee Scheme and births and deaths of firms.

Ministers:

Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses Craydan Chamber of Commerce.

Mr Jenkin visits USA (until 19 April).

Mr Stewart plants one millionth tree in Central Scotland's Woodlands Project, Monklands.

Mr MacKay visits hospitals in Lothian Health Board Area, meets NALGO and attends British Ophthalmic Association lunch, Edinburgh.

Mr Thomas speaks at school computer competition prize-giving, Cathays Park, Cardiff.

PRESS DIGEST

LAW AND ORDER

- Mail reports 2 more police forces admit they regularly have vehicles carrying guns on streets - West Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire.
- Home Office says firearms offences rose from 6,587 in England and Wales in 1980 to 8,067 in 1981.
- Chief Constables issue statement saying there are to be no changes in firearms issue policy.
- Tory backbenchers want to know why criminals can easily get guns; Michael Meacher wants controls included in Police Bill.
- Calls for Anderton to be sacked but Mail leader says he deserves praise for his openness.
- D/Star finds it "frighteningly" easy to get hold of guns from the underworld chain.
- Charge of attempted police murder for Londoner in Bristol bank raid.
- Leeds gun seige ends with release of boy hostage. Surrender of gunman.
- Gang of 14, led by man with posh accent being sought for Security Express £7m robbery in London; leader's name passed on to police by Sun; security guards fear they are on robbers' death list (Mirror).
- Video recorder burglars get their information from stolen lists of tape club members. 8 businessmen are accused at Harrow of cheating VAT of £1m.
- Hospital Chaplain's 5 young daughters die in Middlesex house fire.
- Road casualties rose by 2.5% in 1982.

Comment

- Sun asks what does Mr Whitelaw think about arming of police in particula when large consignments of money are moved?

POLITICS

- Express says you held election Summit yesterday at Chequers to piece together new manifesto - but October still favoured over June.
- SDP's inquest on Darlington - chose wrong candidate and Roy Jenkins did not hammer out a strong enough message; Jenkins told to improve performance.
- Sun leader reflects on our good fortune, unlike France, in not having Socialists in office to do their worst.
- 50% of Institute of Directors' members think election will be in October; 30% June.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- Association of Councillors wants increase in £14.56 a day attendance allowance on grounds it has not kept pace with inflation.

ECONOMY

- Shares rise in Stock Exchange in anticipation of further cut in interest rates, but petrol up 10p from Monday; Telegraph says Bank yesterday discouraged premature cut in base rate.
- Mirror leader following up Guardian story report on who is better off under this Government says it is the old story - rich get richer and poor get poorer.
- London Chamber of Commerce reports more production, more orders and more investment.
- Telegraph leader says recovery remains vulnerable to increase in interest rates.
- More companies were born than died last year.
- Australian unemployment up from 9.6 to 10.1%.

UNIONS/PAY

- 3 man inquiry into Ford Halewood strike starts on Monday - men to back to work but threat of a new strike over introduction of new working methods. AUEW
- BL meet Terry Duffy/to try to settle washing up strike which causes 300 more lay offs.
- Sun says Scargill should volunteer for re-election every five years.
- MoD rejects idea it climbed down over HMS Keren; will save £1.4m a year by refusing to meet union terms.
- Dockers at Tilbury reject shop stewards' recommendation to accept 3.5% cost of living increase as part of self financing productivity deal.
- Ultra left candidates being nominated for CPSA executive to represent MoD branches.
- Radio Times to be back from 16 April.

INDUSTRY

- New cut price war bonus over Atlantic - American based co-operative airline offering £99 single fare.
- BL and Standard Motors of Madras open negotiations for production of Rover cars in India.
- BSC warn South Yorkshire strikers their action could lead to further job losses, reaches separate 3% bonus deal with managers.
- Vauxhall says it now matches Opel, its West German sister company, on quality and costs.
- Large rise in imports from EC contributed substantially to £1.3bn record UK textiles and garments trade deficit.

- Simon Engineering expected to win £400m chemical complex order in Sumatra.
- Dungeness power station at last generates some electricity ~~after~~ 18 years after building started - 12 years late.
- Tax free payments of up to £81,000 over 15 years for redundant miners. Guardian says BSC/US steel deal will be bitterly opposed by unions and politicians on both sides of Atlantic.

LABOUR LAW

- FT says main employers' organisations have reached broad consensus on labour relations legislation and want curb on strikes in essential services.
- Mail leader says strike curbs should operate through democratic principles, not simply by curbing right to strike.
- FT leader says CBI proposals have great merit of enforcing a cooling off period.

DEFENCE

- Sheffield appoints Communist teacher as £10,000 a year peace officer - Tory Councillors protest to district auditor.
- David Owen says no member of last Labour Cabinet should back Party's present defence policy.
- Telegraph says Easter peace demos in Europe have dismayed Americans who are asking whether Europe has lost its nerve.
- Times leader says it might not be impossible to reach INF limitation agreements with Russia, but if it is the cause of peace will be best served by deployment of Cruise, Pershing.
- USA claims that Russia spends more than half world's annual £400bn outlay on arms.
- 7 professors call for urgent investigation into deaths of 27 British Servicemen who watched nuclear tests in 1950s.

CIVIL SERVICE

- Plan to remove one of four tiers of PSA bureaucracy (Telegraph).

EDUCATION

- Express leader says time has come for teachers to realise that responsibility for much that is wrong with our children is theirs.
- NAS votes to keep the cane in schools.

HEALTH

- Government study says pollution from lead has little effect on children's intelligence. Des Wilson accuses Government of declaring war on children.

FALKLANDS

- George Foulkes MP accuses Government of extracting maximum political advantage from relatives' visit - John Stokes MP says he has a diseased mind.
- £2m paid to Islanders in compensation for damage during fighting.
- 3 Argentine representatives of bereaved families given sympathetic FCO hearing.
- Destefanis says Argentine families' trip to Falklands being postponed for 3 weeks.
- Reports that Galtieri may be arrested.

EC

- A spy plane being used to crack down on fiddling olive grove farmers in Italy.
- FT notes that there is increasing French interest in reform of EC Budget.

SPORT

- French Rugby Union tour of South Africa to go ahead in June in spite of Government appeal.

NICARAGUA

- Growing concern in USA over covert US involvement in Central America and more especially backing for right wing in Nicaragua.

CHINA

- Cancels cultural exchanges with USA for rest of year in protest over granting of asylum to teenage tennis star.

GERMANY

- British military authorities detain Russian officers near Dutch border.

RUSSIA

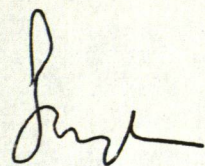
- Mirror diary says reason Andropov disappeared from sight for a time was not illness - he was keeping head down after assassination attempt.

ETHIOPIA

- Express says starvation is due in part to unscrupulous Marxist Government.

SPACE

- First US space walk for 9 years.



B INGHAM
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