

PRIME MINISTER

MEDIA MEETING - MONDAY, 17 OCTOBER

A G E N D A

1. The Week Ahead
 2. Broadcasting
 3. Press Digest
-

THE WEEK AHEAD

With a bit of luck other issues should begin to take over from the Parkinson affair this week. It certainly has the makings of a busy week, especially on the international scene with:

- CND demonstration in London (Saturday), with blockade of German Defence Ministry (Friday);
- visit to UK of Soviet Deputy Prime Minister (all week);
- Mr Callaghan in Moscow (all week);
- Andropov sees Jarulzelski (Thursday);
- National Reconciliation Conference, Lebanon (opens Thursday);
- Anglo-French Summit (Thursday and Friday);
- EC Foreign Affairs and Agriculture Councils (today and tomorrow); and Fish (tomorrow and Wednesday).

Domestically, the main events are:

- Mr Fowler on BBC Panorama on NHS (tonight); Thames TV Eye on NHS (Thursday);
- Rate Support Grant proposals (today);
- Chancellor of the Exchequer's Mansion House speech (Thursday);
- NUM special conference on pit closures (Friday); one-day strike in Scotland (today);
- Tom King sees TUC Employment Committee on political levy (Wednesday);
- Building Societies' Association meets on interest rate arrangements (Wednesday);
- Labour Chief Whip election announced (Thursday);
- Judge Campbell in Ramsgate Court on smuggling charges (Thursday).

Other items of interest:

International

- Mr Heseltine in Ankara (today and tomorrow);
- UNIFIL mandate debate at UN (tomorrow); mandate expires Wednesday;
- Visit of President Machel of Mozambique (Thursday).

Pay:

- Talks on Local Authority residential social workers' dispute (today);
- Local Authority manual pay talks (Wednesday); fire brigades (Friday).

Economic Indicators:

- Retail sales (today);
- PSBR, third quarter (tomorrow);
- Cyclical indicators; average earnings; new construction orders (Wednesday).
- Third quarter industrial and commercial capital spending and money supply figures (Thursday);
- Engineering sales and orders (Friday).

Ministers:

- Mr Brittan at AGM of Metropolitan Police Federation (Wednesday);
 - Mr Hurd on BBC Radio 4 special programme on police and public (Tuesday);
 - Sir Keith Joseph at "Aims of Industry" dinner (Wednesday);
 - Mr Walker at American Chamber of Commerce lunch (Thursday).
-

BROADCASTING

Monday, October 17

- | | | |
|----------|---------|---|
| BBC 1 TV | 8.10 pm | <u>Panorama</u> : "The National Health Service"; includes interview with Mr Fowler. |
| ITV | 8.30 pm | <u>World in Action</u> : "Tea - a bitter Taste"; examination of the health of child workers on British-owned tea plantations. |

Tuesday, October 18

- | | | |
|-------------|---------|---|
| BBC Radio 4 | 9.05 am | <u>A Question of Confidence</u> : "The Police and the Public", "live" debate on law and order focussing on the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill; includes interview with Mr Hurd. |
| Channel 4 | 6.30 pm | <u>Utopia Limited</u> : 4-part examination by International Broadcasting Trust of major Third World issues; pt 1 - Food: looks at situation where famine and food surpluses co-exist. |

Wednesday, October 19

- | | | |
|-----------|---------|---|
| Channel 4 | 8.30 pm | <u>20-20 Vision</u> : "The Trial of Carol Compton" - the plight of Scottish nanny charged with murder and arson in Italy. |
| BBC 1 TV | 9.25 pm | <u>Rough Justice</u> : new series; review of 1982 series' impact in exposing miscarriages of justice. |

Thursday, October 20

- | | | |
|----------|---------|---|
| ITV | 9.30 pm | <u>TV Eye</u> : examines the NHS. |
| BBC 1 TV | 9.55 pm | <u>Reflections</u> : Ludovic Kennedy interviews Harold Macmillan. |

Friday, October 21

- | | | |
|-------------|---------|--|
| BBC Radio 4 | 8.10 pm | <u>Any Questions</u> : panel of Baroness Phillips; Austin Mitchell, Bob Battersby and Peter March. |
| LWT | 10.30 | <u>The London Programme</u> : new series. |
-

Main Events:

Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Kostandov begins visit to UK (until 23 October).

DoE announces Rate Support Grant proposals.

EC Foreign Affairs Council, Luxembourg (until 18 October).

EC Agriculture Council, Luxembourg (until 18 October).

EC high-level working party on North-South dialogue meets, Paris.

Vehicle excise duty campaign launched, London.

Department of National Savings' new deposit bonds go on sale.

Mr Callaghan visits Moscow (until 21 October).

Trade unions submit report on alternatives to closure of United Biscuits factory, Liverpool.

1-day miners' strike, Scotland, in protest against planned closure of Monktonhall colliery, Edinburgh.

National Joint Council for Local Authorities meets for further management/union (NALGO) talks on continuing work-to-rule by residential social workers.

International banks' deadline for resolution of Argentina's debt renegotiations.

Meeting of Phillipines' creditor banks, New York.

International congress and exhibition of computer systems and applications opens, Munich (until 21 October).

Statistics: Retail sales (September - provisional).

Ministers: See Annex.

PRESS DIGEST

New Cabinet

- Some unions glad to see Mr Tebbit go but Mr King says policies won't change.
- Some papers make a point about Mr Tebbit's "attack" on Norman Fowler on TV.
- D/Star - You endorse Norman Tebbit as new Right-hand man; consolidates his position of power within Cabinet.
- Sun leads with "Tebbit is the Man - 'worst enemy' Norman gets Parkinson's job". Mr Tebbit now just a heartbeat away from Tory leadership.
- Mirror, page 2 and 3 - "Tebbit is the new man in charge - Thatcher's hard liners move up in Cabinet re-shuffle". Mr King's appointment does not mean Government is going soft on unions.
- Express, page 1 - Now Tebbit is Maggie's key man - has hardly a serious rival in sight for next Tory leadership; your favourite son gets public seal of approval. Number of Treasury and ex-Treasury Ministers in Cabinet now 8 out of 21. CBI welcome Mr Tebbit's appointment.
- Mail, page 1 - Tebbit takes over - promotion for scourge of unions. He will now provide even more support for you in fight over NHS cuts. And he will now switch his remorseless gaze from unions to nationalised industries to improve efficiency. Now firmly in running to succeed you one day.
- Telegraph - Step up for Tebbit. 'Softer' King takes on battle for union reform. TUC glad to be rid of 'bogey' Tebbit. Mr Tebbit's move is surprise in view of union legislation. Mr King's style closer to that of Softly Softly Prior. Mr Ridley's promotion gives you another Right-wing ally.
- Guardian, page 1, says Cabinet moves further to right. Mr Ridley captures immediate attention of Tory MPs and Ministers on Left of party. Regarded by wets as well-mannered Neanderthal in terms of economic policy. Seen as deliberate signal you intend to take on Wets. Some see Mr King as modest balance factor; notes almost uncanny silence of Labour Party's new leaders.
- Times, page 1 - Tebbit takes over Trade; King and Ridley move up. Mr Ridley seen as hard line monetarist.
- FT, page 1 lead - Tebbit given Trade and Industry in re-shuffle, and brings in strong supporter in Nicholas Ridley. Two main aims - minimise changes and preserve political balance. Moves ensure key economic posts remain with sympathetic Ministers. Mr King has rare distinction of holding 4 Ministerial posts in less than a year.

Parkinson Affair

- Times suggests you were instrumental in keeping Parkinsons together and that Ian Gow was go-between.

- Suggestions that Mr Parkinson is still torn between wife and Miss Keays.
- Mr Parkinson asks his so-called friends to shut up. Says he will stay as MP.
- D/Star, front page says Mrs Parkinson refused a quickie divorce with full backing of daughters; inside it highlights alleged attack by Mr Parkinson on Mr Tebbit and Mr Tebbit's on Mr Fowler. And another feature asks who is the real loser - Miss Keays or Mrs Parkinson?
- Sun inside page says Mr Parkinson pledges to rebuild life with Mrs Parkinson; meanwhile there is bickering over cash settlement for Miss Keays because of her statement to Times.
- Mirror leads with picture of Mr Parkinson and family with heading "Togetherness".
- Express, inside 2 page geature of Parkinsons battling on together. Also features Mr Tebbit's remarks on TV attacking press as bunch of pigmies who brought down great man.
- Mail, page 1 picture of family out walking over heading "I will stay on as MP".
- Telegraph, page 1 - picture of family out walking and story "I stay on as MP"; back page features Mr Tebbit's TV attack on Mr Parkinson's pygmy critics.
- Guardian page 1 - Single column piece on Mr Parkinson's "Staying on as MP" message.
- Times, page 1 lead on your key role in saving Mr Parkinson's marriage with Ian Gow as go between. Ministers dismayed by intense media pressure on Mr Parkinson last week and Miss Keays' refusal to remain silent.

Political Comment:

D/Star - Politically Parkinson affair should be 9-day wonder, but personal stress and strain and political ramifications will go on for months if Ministers not careful. Get back to running the country, of which there is much to do. Nation does not have plenty of time.

Sun, under heading "Tough Guy takes over", says Mr Tebbit deserves a broader arena and could well be more effective than Mr Parkinson. But there is a loss - his departure from Employment with job of bringing unions within the law only half done. Hope Mr King's actions match his promises; in another leader it suggests Mr Parkinson's talents should not be lost to the country - he should be sent to important Ambassadorial post.

Mirror, under heading "The real scandal", says you may claim the Cabinet knows where it is going but not every member is going the same way. What will they do when spending cuts come to be made? Will they fight again and give in again? Or make a stand again and retreat to another last ditch? If they do that, it will be the real scandal.

Express, under heading "Beware this dangerous animal", says Mr Tebbit will get all the support he deserves from them. But then picks a bone with him for attacking press as pigmies and throwing stones while living in glass house. Effrontery of charge is breathtaking. Press reported events fully and fairly with due care and consideration. On the whole newspapers have been remarkably sympathetic to Mr Parkinson. Daily Express is sick and tired of being whipping boy for all ills of society.

Mail leader "Returning to the task in hand" says your main job is running country and not watching over Ministers' private lives. There are problems galore - prices rising again; economies needed in Defence spending; huge job to be done bringing health spending under control and persuading country it is essential to economic revival. Not to mention crime.

Telegraph says it would be a mistake to read too much into your re-shuffle decisions. Only reservations about Mr Tebbit's removal is that his talents could have been more usefully exploited where he was. Would be most unfortunate if unions were to interpret his departure as weakening of Government resolve. Promotion of Mr Ridley after all these years comes as a surprise. If Mr Tebbit sees his task of reducing Government role in industry and reaffirm commitment to liberating the economy he may succeed where others have failed.

Guardian below heading "A Cabinet in her own Image", says Mr Tebbit claimed on TV yesterday to be both a radical and a consolidator, but when it comes to public spending versus tax cuts he will be on tax cutter's side. More even than Mr Parkinson. Mr Ridley's instincts are likely to put him also on side of tax cuts. Mr King will alter approach to unions little.

Times sees promotion for Mr Tebbit - a good political choice that will have crucial role in Government efforts to establish better economic performance. Not best moment to be leaving D/Employment. But he has defined objective and laid groundwork to good effect; Bernard Levin asks since when did MP stand for moral perfection?

Industry

- Len Murray canvasses idea of TUC/Government deal - unless we have something to give we shall get nothing from Government.
- Bremen shipyard to close.
- Equity rejects latest attempt by its own Council to end Channel 4 and TV-AM adverts' dispute.
- Unions in ambulance service mounting campaign to kill off non-TUC union which is one year old.
- Sun feature on BL and Harold Musgrove, boss of Austin Rover, says productivity is up 100%; it costs less to make better cars, strikes are down to just 1.9% of working time; and losses are not profits.
- Keith Waterhouse, in Mirror, says B/Telecom work to rule potters on in a blaze of indifference; subscribers are few and far between who swallow union claim that privatisation will bring about deterioration in service. If competition makes third rate service second rate it can only be an improvement; B/Telecom threatens to sack engineers who won't work normally.
- Now Kent miners reject 5.2% pay offer; dockers to be asked to black imports of long life milk to protect milkmen's jobs; and CPSA vote today on whether to start political fund as a step towards affiliation with Labour Party; Residential social workers walk out of six children's homes in Northampton in pay dispute.
- Bob Ramsey, president of Institute of Personnel Management, says union assertiveness in hibernation, not dead; managers should not adopt too heavy-handed approach.
- Telegraph says militant but carefully anonymous dockers are forcing a private barge operation out of business by blacking him in defiance of tribunal findings, union instructions and port authority.
- Mercury seeks end to POEU action in High Court today.

Local Authority

- Ken Livingstone hands out £14,284 for mural opposite Imperial War Museum glorifying Greenham Common women.
- Sheffield City Council helps to pay for visit of 12 unemployed people to West Germany and Russia - £750 grant.
- Conservative controlled Westminster Council declares war on Mr Berger, biggest private landlord who is waging "harrassment of neglect war on tenants".
- Times says Left-wing council leaders have privately accepted they will have to make substantial cuts under new rate capping powers.

Health

- Guy's Hospital doctor threatening not to sign death certificate of kidney patients who die because of Health Service cuts.
- Andrew Alexander, Mail, says the truth is that a "free" NHS cannot in the long run be safe with any political party because demand for free medical care is literally unlimited; time for a more adult view of whole problem of NHS.
- Lady Howe writes to Kenneth Clarke to try to save South London Hospital for Women.
- NHS Administrators attack idea of chief executive for Health Authorities.

Law and Order

- Reports that up to 13 bodies in Derbyshire valley after 2 youngsters found buried there.
- Murder suspected of Lancashire solicitor found dead in burned out car.
- Saudi prince and dinner guests robbed at knifepoint of jewellery and cash worth £300,000 in dinner raid in Kensington.

Religion

- Grass roots opposition to Anglican proposals to allow some divorced people to remarry in church.

Northern Ireland

- Soldier killed by IRA booby trap.
- Battle for law and order costs £500m a year.

Economy

- Times says unexpectedly fierce Departmental resistance has dashed hopes of final agreement on public expenditure on Thursday.
- Japan expected to cut discount rate 0.5%.

Defence

- Mirror says Cruise and Pershing missiles are packed and ready to be flown to England, according to Washington Post.
- Mr Heseltine's feature page piece in Express underlines our determination to maintain peace through strength.
- Genscher gets nowhere with Gromyko.
- Guardian feature by EP Thompson calling all-out on next Saturday's CND demonstrations.

Falklands

- D/Star says Prince Andrew was the target of an Argentine assassination plot while on Mustique with Koo Stark.
- Talks to be held on claim for better pay for workers on airport project.

International

USA - Reagan expected to announce he will stand for another term today; Mrs Kirkpatrick said to be in line for Judge Clarke's job, but Telegraph says McFarlane has got it.

Nicaragua - Left-wing Government tells USA to stop waging war against them.

United Arab Emirates - We foil KGB bid to move in; cancel big Soviet trade and cultural exhibition.

Israel - Thousands go on strike as warning to Cabinet against rising prices.

Hong Kong - Bid to restore confidence by tying Hong Kong dollar to US \$ and scrap taxes on local currency deposits.

Lebanon - 10-15 wounded when Israeli troops fire on Moslem religious procession which turns nasty.

US Marine dies and 3 wounded in 7 hours of sniping and grenade attacks.

West Germany - 100,000 wounded over an anti-missile demonstration over weekend.

Iberia - Spain and Portugal say they may have to seek alternative unless they are brought into EC by 1986.

Russia - says Soviet officials are keen for improvement in relations with Britain but prospects of a Summit are remote.

Grenada - Prime Minister Bishop appears to have regained control.

B. INGHAM
17 October 1983

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

Mr Fowler attends Operational Strategy Presentation, Norman Shaw building (16.00).

Mr Raison visits ODA East Kilbride (am); the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine Midlothian; and the Scottish Education and Action for Development Centre.

Mr King attends RAC lunch, Pall Mall (13.00).

Mr Macfarlane visits East Midlands region.

Mr Shaw visits UK Atomic Energy Authority research laboratories, Risley, Warrington and dines with BNFL officials.

Mr Waddington visits Lancashire Constabulary.

Mr Stewart opens new Fortronic factory, Dunfermline.

Mr Michael Ancram launches film on Travelling People, Edinburgh.

Mr Mitchell visits British Rail Provincial Services, Derby (am).

Mr Stradling Thomas opens Cwm Draw industrial estate, Ebbw Vale (11.00).

Mr Roberts visits Urdd Yough Centre, Glan Llyn, Bala.

Gohu,

Peter.

lan Hensel

D

Af : Uhr

Paul Kamm

Ker Bohn

Wen Lant →

Gohu Bohn

Alan Pleiten →

Dann Gyppei →