

Thursday, 10 November, 1983

PRIME MINISTER

Main events:

HM The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh begin State visit to Kenya.
UN General Assembly debate on the Falkland Islands, New York (vote on Friday).
NUM executive meets for discussions on overtime ban.
EC Special Budget Council, Athens.
Newham Asian children's school "strike" in support of "Newham 8".
Ecumenical service to celebrate 500th anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther, Westminster Abbey.
East Germany celebrates 500th anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther.
POEU delegat conference decision on Mercury telecommunications' Court of Appeal ruling.

Statistics:

Vehicle production (Oct-prov).

Pay:

ESSO Petroleum/TGWU oil tanker drivers: company's response to claim.

Publications:

Criteria for determining areas with high and low mortality.

Statements:

House of Commons statement on proposals to assist private owners of defective housing.

Parliament
Commons

Questions:

Northern Ireland, Prime Minister.

Business:

Debate on lack of employment opportunities for the young.
Debate on cuts in Community Centre and Social Services.
Consultative paper on the problems posed by long distance and regional travellers (Adjournment Debate).

Select Committees:

House of Commons (Services), Computer Sub-Committee:
Information Technology - Members' Requirements
(Witnesses: Mr R Morgan, Computer Development Officer;
The Serjeant at Arms Department; Mr D Todd,
Communications Manager),
Private Bill Committee: Ginns & Gutteridge, Leicester.
(Crematorium) Bill

Ministers - see Annex

PRESS DIGEST

Political Comment

- Sun leader says something strange and disturbing has happened to you for you have been guilty of misjudgement - wrong about Grenada where everything that has happened has confirmed USA right and you are providing Left with heaven sent opportunity to make mischief. You need better advice and all the help you can get. And, after all this, the Sun is still backing you.

- Times says question increasingly heard around Washington is what are you up to?

Bonn Summit

- Sun: You ask Russia for best possible Christmas present - dismantle SS20s and avoid Cruise deployment.
- Express: Red rockets plea by Maggie - you ask Russians for early Christmas present.
- Mail has picture of you with twins in hospital.
- Telegraph - Thatcher and Kohl resolute on missiles, Alliance in good heart and health; inside piece with picture on your visit to hospital.

Cenotaph

- Telegraph says more Dr Owen protests the more his motives are likely to be impugned but that does not mean keeping him out is defensible.

EC

- Foreign Secretary attacks Commission's paper on Budget which "cooks the books".
- Guardian leader says Commission has rendered agreement far more difficult. Can only have undermined reputation for impartiality. Commission's treachery - for that is what it is - would not stand up to cursory analysis by its economists who were apparently not allowed to come anywhere near.
- Times questions wisdom of Commission's intervention; you have every reason to reject it firmly, stick to your safety net formula.

Grenada

- President Reagan's popularity rating at highest level for 2 years following intervention.
- Governor General announces 8-man interim Administration to run island.
- SAS reported to have been getting ready to rescue Scoon just before invasion.
- Experts examining human remains, possibly those of Bishop, dug up on island.
- US accused of hiding true level of deaths and casualties - Telegraph reporter says he has been told 42 Americans (not 18) killed in action.

- Two Labour MPs, on return from island, say they got no co-operation from Americans.

Middle East

- Sharon urges USA to take immediate military action to stop Syria taking over Lebanon; wants US/Israeli force to occupy Shouf.
- PLO truce agrees and appears to be holding.

Northern Ireland

- Third Kincora inquiry likely.

Public Expenditure/Economy

- Cabinet will keep public spending bang on target (Sun) against background of unspecified new evidence, to be published next week, that economy is on mend.
- Mirror says Chancellor is expected to renew his appeal for higher gas and electricity charges today to cut Government spending; Mail says there will be a row over this.
- Mr Prior, says Express, last night says Britain now has a real prospect of economic recovery but wants initiative to protect weakest.

Sir Walter Marshall, CEGB, says £10 a ton cut in cost of coal would put Britain on road to full employment and prosperity within a year.

- Sir Douglas Wass's first lecture says Ministers don't have enough information which they have collectively to defend
- Saudi Arabia stockpiling oil in tankers.

Industry

- Appledore wins £5m ship order from Iceland.
- BP gets £340m for 12.5% sale of Forties.
- Post Office to save £25-55m over next 5 years under terms of new contract with B/Rail.

Leaks

- Mail first says Scotland Yard has identified the person who leaked Michael Heseltine's letter to you on Cruise - and then says it hasn't.
- Telegraph says probable identity has been given to DPP.

Defence

- David Owen continues campaign for dual-key.
- New York judge refuses to grant order to Greenham Common women banning shipping of Cruise to UK.
- Mail says logic may be on Government's side in continuing to resist dual key, but when 94% in its NOP survey want it logic is up against immovable popular emotion. It is quite an issue.
- Telegraph says there is strong resistance in Czechoslovakia to Russia installing new battlefield missiles.

- Guardian argues for a more concerted Euro defence structure within NATO.

Unions/Pay

- B/Telecom: POEU executive recommends observance of Appeal Court ruling to cease blacking Mercury; but appeal to Lords. Left wing branches fight recommendation to today's conference.
-) Express - judgement a victory for commonsense; Mail says POEU's morality is that of one who bashes a bystander when it can't get its own way.
- CPSA votes heavily against affiliation to Labour Party.
- Pay rises only if offset by productivity expected to be put to steel workers; say new financial crisis facing industry is due to rising energy costs.
- Proposals for a merger of AUEW and EEPTU.
- // Ian MacGregor says NUM overtime ban has already cost miners £1.5m and says that if industry's progress does not continue 5.2% offer would be undermined; hold a secret ballot he says.

Media

- BBC not to increase TV Licence for at least 18 months - how sensible (D/Star).
- Jimmy Young signed up by Yorkshire TV to do series of chat shows.

Housing

- Leeds Permanent opposes cut in mortgage rate after record month for lending.

Health

- Royal College of Nursing members compiling evidence of where cuts put patients' lives at risk.
- Kenneth Clarke promises to review DHSS circular on under-age prescription of pill.
- 20 firms who produced spectacles for NHS accused of making £5.2m more profit than they should have.
- Barts and The London Hospital to lose medical schools - to merge and move
- Roy Griffiths, Sainsbury's, to join NHS supervisory board.

Local Authority

- D/Star says Wensford (Cheshire) Council is having brown asbestos ripped out of council houses while families still live there - calls for Government to set enforceable limits on dust levels.

Politics

- Inquiry into Nicholas Winterton's election expenses following Alliance complaint.
- Model formula for election of Alliance candidates agreed.

Law and Order

- Express leader says there must now be a ruthless crackdown on merchants of filth and we must shake ourselves free of "cretinous" programme dogma that if we burn video nasties today we shall be burning books of tomorrow; report claims porn peddlers are setting losses through police raids off against tax.

- Mail feature says we should put the demons of drugs, pornography and violence and permissiveness back in bottle.
- Sociology lecturer, in New Society, says there is no harm in showing video nasties to children; far more disturbing to watch nightly news on Lebanon; Mary Whitehouse backs Lord Chief Justice's call for morality crusade against drugs, crime and pornography.
- Road tax fiddling cost £174m last year; more than half of fiddlers get away with it.
- Mirror says new crackdown on glue sniffing would not dent a jelly - voluntary, without penalties.
- Family of child killer, Ronald Waldron, who claims to have killed 25 people while working for MI5, in hiding because of fears of revenge. senior police officer says he was not known to police as killer when first employed by Special Branch.

International

- Amsterdam: A. Heineken kidnapped by 3 men who have yet to name ransom figure
 - Hong Kong: China sets deadline for conclusion of talks by next September. Richard Luce says no time limit can be imposed.
 - Falklands: Dalyell wins Labour MPs' support for a demand for a Select Committee investigation into the sinking of the Belgrano.
- Argentine to seek peaceful solution, according to Alfonsin; Caputo new Foreign Minister.

B. INGHAM
10 November 1983

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MOD: Mr Heseltine visits Royal Marine commandos' training centre, Lympstone (until 11 Nov)
- DOE: Mr Jenkin speaks to Chemical Industries' annual dinner
- DES: Sir Keith Joseph visits Somerset Local Education Authority
- DTP: Mr Ridley unveils Department of Transport war memorial, South Tower foyer, Marsham Street (10.00)
- HMT: Mr Rees speaks at Anglo-Portuguese Society annual dinner, London
- MAFF: Mrs Fenner speaks at the annual luncheon of the National Grocers' Benevolent Fund, Hilton Hotel
- DEM: Mr Clark speaks to the annual general meeting of the Devon County branch of NALGO on industrial relations, YTS and employment trends
- DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith attends Institute of Petroleum dinner, Aberdeen
- DEN: Lord Avon presents Shell Energy Awards, participates in the National Energy Managers' conference, and gives after dinner speech, Metropole Hotel, Birmingham
- DHSS: Mr Newton visits Southall DHSS office and local community centre (all day)
- SO: Lord Gray speaks at Local Government and tourism seminar, Edinburgh
- SO: Mr Stewart attends Chemical Industries Association annual dinner, London
- DTP: Mr Mitchell visits Norfolk Line, Great Yarmouth (pm)

MAJOR VISITS

- MAFF: Mr Jopling attends EC Special Budget Council, Athens (until 11 Nov)
- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe attends EC Special Budget Council, Athens (until 12 Nov)
- ODA: Mr Raison has bilateral talks with Italian MFA on the Lome Convention, Rome

TV AND RADIO

- "The Great Palace: The Story of Parliament"; BBC-2 TV; "These Five Hundred Kings"; pt 2 of 8 part series on Parliament (21.30)
- "TV Eye"; ITV; (21.30)
- "Question Time"; BBC-1 TV; Panel of Norman Fowler; Roy Hattersley; Shirley Williams; Wendy Hogg (21.55)