

Friday, 18 November, 1983

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PRIME MINISTER

Main Events:

You attend the enthronement of the Archbishop of York.

Princess of Wales visits Maytrees Home for the Blind, Bristol.

Chancellor of the Exchequer on the Jimmy Young radio programme.

FDP, SPD and "Green" party special conferences on Pershing deployment begin, West Germany.

CEGB faces asbestos levels changes.

British Rail Board meets for discussions on fare increases.

Chesterfield Labour Party meets to agree selection procedure for successor to Eric Varley.

Prime Minister Trudeau's talks with Mr Nakasone, Tokyo.

European Year of small and medium-sized enterprises special conference on the problems facing small businesses opens, Edinburgh.

British Ice Dance championships begin, Nottingham.

Statistics:

Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (Oct).
Insolvencies in October ("British Business").

Publications:

Policy Studies Institute report on the Metropolitan Police's handling of the Deptford fire investigation.
HMI reports on schools in Notts, Merseyside, Devon and London.
HMI survey on the West Midlands Education Service for Travelling Children.

Parliament

Commons:

Business:

(Private Members' Bills).
Second Reading of Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Amendment) Bill.
Second Reading of Caravan and Tent Sites Bill.
Second Reading of Televising of Parliament Bill.
The Department of the Environment's draft circular on the future of Green Belt Land (Adjournment Debate).

Ministers - see Annex

PRESS DIGEST

Autumn Statement

- Gets a roasting from the Sun, Express, Mail and Times on tax score; and generally from Mirror. Good words come from FT and Guardian.
- But FT says Conservative MPs sceptical about warning of possible tax increases - attempt to lower expectations.
- Most refer to ^{Chancellor's} quote about the winning combination of low inflation combined with steady growth.
- Labour says poor will be hardest hit and Institute of Directors attack Chancellor - straining loyalty of businessmen.
- D/Star, page 2 - Tax rises on way, says Lawson. 37,000 Whitehall jobs get the chop.
- Sun, small piece on page 1 - Lawson tax rise hint - but overall verdict is that economy is returning to prosperity; axe hits broolly brigade.
- Mirror, page 1 - Taxes are going up despite all those election promises.
- Express, page 2 - Lawson makes us pay - ½p in £ on income tax, or 1% on VAT; electricity up 3%; gas 5%. £1.35 insurance blow for higher earners. Youngsters lose rent bonus.
- Mail, page 1 - Nasty one Nigel - taxes may go up in spring. Some Tory backbenchers believe there may have been an element of kidology on taxes.
- Telegraph, page 1 - Higher taxes warning; boost for health service and education. City gives grudging approval; City page says tight fiscal policy is key to Lawson strategy.
- Times headlines "Lawson signals tax rises £500m". This "black streak" contrasts with optimism of Treasury forecasts and most Conservatives dismiss it as Lawson's "extra signal of determination".
- FT, page 1 lead - Lawson hopeful but sounds tax warning. Spending held; PSBR overshoot of £2bn; output to rise 3%. Defence pledge to end in 1986. Mr Heseltine quoted as saying it would be irresponsible to argue for more as though defence were immune from rest of economy.
- Guardian, page 1 - Lawson sets scene for austere budget - but political correspondent says it was seen as a threat to Ministers in charge of big spending Departments. Nationalised industries squeezed by £666m. Labour says recovery prospect is bogus.

Comment (Bad)

Sun asks if Chancellor remembers words from 1979 manifesto: "The State takes too much of the nation's income; its share must be steadily reduced." Pledge has been dishonoured every year since. Betrayal on grand scale. Cruel deceit on hopes of nation. If Chancellor fails he will sink his party and country.

Mirror: Stripped of its humbug, hypocrisy and bogus optimism, Chancellor's speech was old, old story. Only singer has changed; not song. We pay a heavy price for broken election promises limping their way back to Downing Street; and Terence Lancaster, rehearsing the banana skins of the last few months, says more and more of strongest supporters think you have run out of luck.

Express: Devotes page 1 to comment headed "Lawson in Blunderland". This is a confession of failure. Abject and humiliating failure. Government has let us all down. Is this Government in power or just in office? Alarming Ministers lack will, courage and strength of character to cut public expenditure. Intolerable they should be so smug about it.

Mail: under heading, "No excuses for Nigel", says Britain is clawing its way out of recession and with inflation under control recovery should be sustained. But let us hope Mr Lawson does not continue as he has started on spending and taxes. There is scope for cutting both and for that Mr Lawson needs an axe of steel not rubber - and nerves of the same.

Times: leader writer thinks Chancellor is "off to a patchy start". His statement indicates slippage rather than reinforcement of sound financial policies. PSBR should have been cut to take account of asset sales - it's imprudent to use capital receipts to finance current expenditure.

Comment (Good)

Guardian - Generally not everything goes right with British economy - at least not all at once. But if canvas painted by Mr Lawson holds its colour we may even come to count our blessings after a small rise in taxes.

Telegraph: One of the most encouraging forecasts for the economy anyone can remember. Now clear turning point occurred in 1981. But there remain grounds for anxiety though things not as bad as Mr Lawson painted them. No raiding of contingency reserve. Likely he will have room for manoeuvre. One overriding impression: the sense we have passed into a new era.

FT - says it is a moot point whether tax rise warning should be taken very seriously; PSBR forecasts notoriously subject to error. Relatively harmless budgetary statement which leaves MTFs where it was. Overall package - Sam Brittain's "Economics of no change" - deserves a fair wind.

John Butcher

- D.Star - Maggie sorry on 'workshy' storm - you are forced to apologise in public for John Butcher.
- Sun - Tory's "Idle North" clanger; so sorry, says PM.
- Express - MP rues "workshy" jibe.

NATO

Lord Carrington in line for NATO Secretary General; you are his strong backer for job.

- He says "This is pure speculation".
- Express suggests the way you indicated Lord Carrington is in line for job was snub for Geoffrey Howe because you didn't defend him.
- Guardian says you were goaded into a slip which caused a stir in international circles.
- Times says Heseltine confirms NATO 3% target abandoned.

Defence

- Chancellor Kohl suggests Russians about to drop insistence on including British and French strategic deterrents in INF talks; but FT says most Western officials see this move as propaganda ploy.
- Ceaucescu calls on European leaders not to let their countries be used as sites for Russian and American weapons.
- The Tablet says Mgr Kent should either leave the Church or CND; playing into hands of Communist propagandists.
- Catholic Bishops' conference expresses grave concern about deployment of Cruise.
- Humphrey Atkins to chair Defence Select Committee.
- Mirror centre page Q & A feature on Cruise.

- RAF grounds VC 10s because of fault on wingflap control cables.

Soccer Violence

- European Sports Ministers demand tougher penalties.
- Four England fans face up to 5 years' gaol for attacking police in £100,000 riot in Luxembourg.
- We formally apologise to Luxembourg; Luxembourg sports Minister suggests banning British teams.
- Chairman of FA wants all hooligans to be prevented from leaving these shores - but doesn't say how.
- Looted fur coats and jewellery seized from returning fans.
- Sun leader says people of Britain owe a deep, heartfelt apology to Luxembourg; we don't blame their police chief for saying he never wants another England fan in his country; things have nothing to do with mass of decent supporters; donates £500 to Luxembourg home for handicapped children.
- Mail leader, headed Britain's shame, says the longer our criminals are kept behind bars in Luxembourg the more satisfied people here will be. Indeed, ought we not to foot part of the bill for sentences for Britain is responsible? We reared these louts and indulged their loutishness. We should crack down with sentences. Law has to hit them harder than they hit society.

Sport

- Football Association reported to be planning to play match in Argentina as part of South African tour next year.

Unions/Pay

- NGA fined £50,000 for refusing to obey injunction on Stockport Messenger.
- B/Telecom warns POEU it may sue over industrial action against privatisation; but POEU scales down its action.
- Prospect of Shell tanker drivers' settlement grows with slightly improved offer - union leaders to recommend acceptance.
- UK Atomic Energy workers vote on 3.25% over 18 months.
- Threat to residential homes grows as NALGO decides to step up dispute.

Industry

- Mercury to be B/Telecom's only rival for next 7 years; guillotine motion on BT Bill on Monday.
- £70m launch aid for Rolls Royce TB211-535 engine.
- AA says a quarter of people who stayed in British hotels last year had a complaint.

Local Government

- Tories poised to take over Brent Council after accepting Jamaican born defector from Labour.

Housing

- Southwark Council seeking to evict one of its members - of the Corbyn family - for £800 rent arrears.

Windscale

- Radiation levels in Windscale fish could be far higher than previously thought, according to D/Star quoting MAFF report to be published today.

Law and Order

- Judge attacks "sadistic" Woolworths for prosecuting 77 year old widow for shoplifting - company now says its procedures are under review.
- Pictures of girl, 25, mugged at St Albans by man who laughed as he kicked her in face.

Solicitors

- To be allowed to advertise in local newspapers following Law Society decision.

Health

Roy Griffiths says nurses could take most of top NHS jobs - they have potential.

Wareing's Disabled Bill

- Times reports Government is mobilising the pay-roll vote to defeat Bill.

Religion

- Man who murdered mother 14 years ago on way to qualifying as Church of Scotland Minister.

International

Russia: Times says Andropov is planning a visit to Poland according to Warsaw "official sources".

South Africa: British housewife won't hang - but hired black murderer will - for murder of her second husband; she goes to gaol for 20 years.

Middle East: French warplanes kill 39 and injures 15 and others in attack on rebel bases in Lebanon.

El Salvador: Troops shoot dead 100 "Lefties", including women and children in 3 Northern towns.

Russo/Chinese border - re-opened for trade.

Tanzania - re-opens land border with Kenya which has been closed since 1977

BROADCASTING

Saturday, November 19

Radio 4	10.05am	<u>The Week in Westminster</u> : Presenter Margaret Buty. Interviewees include Elwyn Jones, Robert Atkins, Bob Clay, Bryan Gould and Terence Higgins.
Channel 4	7.00pm	<u>Seven Days</u> : Includes interview with Bruce Kent and also with Ruth Lister of CPAG. Rhodes Boyson will respond to Ms Lister.
Channel 4	7.30pm	<u>Union World</u> : Clydebank - its reputation for craftsmanship and reliability.
<u>BBC 2</u>	8.55pm	<u>The Kennedy Legacy</u> : discussion of the impact of J F Kennedy on the 20th Century.
Radio 4	10.15pm	<u>The 1,000 Days of J F Kennedy</u> : Second of 2-part documentary assessment of the Kennedy administration.

Sunday, November 20

ITV	Noon	<u>Weekend World</u> - Interview with Nigel Lawson.
Radio 4	1.00pm	<u>The World this Weekend</u> : Item on Cuba; atomic energy; the social workers' dispute; and possible interview with Neil Kinnock.
ITV	5.00pm	<u>The Queen's tour</u> to Kenya, Bangladesh and India.
Channel 4	5.45pm	<u>Face the Press</u> : Interview with Jeanne Kirkpatrick the USA Ambassador to the UN.
BBC 2	6.25pm	<u>The Money Programme</u> : Item on the Business Expansion Scheme; pension mortgages; and interview with Roy Hattersley.
Channel 4	9.20pm	<u>People to People</u> : A film about the fight for recognition and equal rights by Bangladeshi Youth Organisation.
Radio 4	11.15pm	<u>Inside Parliament</u> : Interview with Sir Philip Holland on Select Committees. Discussion with Sir Anthony Kershaw, John Tilbert and David Alton. Item on Standing Committee on Police and Criminal Evidence Bill followed by discussion between Eldon Griffiths and Mr Kilroy Silk.

Ministers:

Mr Jopling visits Tesco's supermarket, Thornton Heath.

Mr Heseltine visits Plessey Telecommunications and speaks to Birmingham University Conservative Group.

Sir Keith Joseph has talks with Secondary Heads Association, Banbury School.

Mr Jenkin visits the West Midlands.

Sir Geoffrey Howe speaks to National Farmers' Union, Exeter.

Mr Brittan visits West Midlands' Police Force.

Mr Younger meets Mrs Planinc, Yugoslav Prime Minister, for talks and dines with Lord Caldecote, Edinburgh.

Mr Ridley visits Mersey Docks, Liverpool.

Mr MacGregor speaks at the Norfolk Young Farmers' Club award presentation, Norwich.

Mr Buchanan-Smith speaks at Oil Industries Club dinner, Grosvenor House.

Lord Avon attends advertising presentation by the Electrical Standards Institute, Electricity Council.

Lord Glenarthur visits Barnsley Hall Hospital, Bromsgrove, Worcs.

Mr Gow visits Torridge District Council.

Lord Elton visits West Midlands' Fire Brigade.

Mr Hurd visits Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Mr Mellor visits Nottingham Probation Service.

Lord Gowrie visits South West Arts Area.

Mr Whitney chairs round-the-table conference on overseas student issues.

Mr Mackay opens day-care hospital for the elderly, Kircaldy and meets the Association of Scottish Local Health Councils, Edinburgh.

Michael Ancram speaks to the 14th annual conference of the Scottish Association for the Study of Delinquency, Peebles, and meets representatives of the construction industry, Edinburgh.

Lord Gray has talks with the Scottish Landowners Federation, and meets the Chairman of Tweed Commissioners (Salman), Edinburgh.

Mr Stewart attends Scottish Engineering Employers Association lunch and visits UB Biscuits Ltd., Edinburgh.

Mr Baker opens Information Technology Centres in the City of London and Hackney.

Mr Channon visits the Export Credits Guarantee Department, Cardiff.

Mr Butcher visits Bromsgrove Casting and Machine plc, Droitwich, and visits Warwick University to launch Coopers and Lybrands' Midland Centre for Manufacturing renewal.

Mr Lamont visits the East Midlands.

Mr Trippier speaks to the European Year of small and medium-sized enterprises, Edinburgh.

Mr Fletcher speaks to Wolverhampton Chamber of Commerce.

Mr Stradling Thomas opens MEP Resource Centre, Welsh Joint Education Committee Office, Cardiff.

TV AND RADIO

"A Week in Politics"; Channel 4 TV; Peter Jay looks at current affairs (2030)

"Any Questions"; BBC Radio 4; panel of Roy Hattersley; John Biggs-Davison; Claire Brooks and Tim Coogan (20.30)

"Third Opinion"; BBC Radio 3; Peter Oppenheimer and sir Peter Maitland look at national and international issues (2120)

"The London Programme"; ITV; looks at how the police have so far failed to catch the London Rapist (2230)

"Picture of Health"; Channel 4 TV; "A Bit of Class" - 1st of new series looks at how social inequality can affect your health (22.30)
