

PRIME MINISTER

DIARY

Cricketers in South Africa.

EC: Informal Development Council meeting, Brussels.

Jaruzelski in Russia.

Aims of industry outline socialist threat to industry.

English Tourist Board announcement on camp and self-catering sites.

Labour Party publishes alternative budget proposals.

Hijack victims return home today.

Duke of Edinburgh visits Sri Lanka (until 3 March).

FT World Motor Conference, Geneva.

International Light Show, Olympia.

Electricity Council Conference, Harrogate.

Hydraulics and Pneumatics Exhibition, Birmingham.

International Electrical Exhibition, Birmingham.

Drawing Office Show, Wembley.

International Production Engineering and Productivity Exhibition and Conference, London.

Statistics:

UK official reserves (Feb).

Capital issues and redemptions (during the month of February).

Publications:

Census 1981 County Monitor - Hereford and Worcester.

Immigration Statistical Bulletin, Fourth Quarter, 1981.

Parliament:

Commons:

Questions: Prime Minister, Employment.

Business: Supply (14th allotted day): Until about 7 o'clock there will be a debate on the Adverse Effect on the Consumer of the Deliberate Government Policy to Increase Gas Prices by 23%, and afterwards a debate on the Situation in Central America.

Both debates will arise on Opposition Motions.

The Question will be put on all outstanding Votes and Supplementary Estimates.

Select Committees: ENVIRONMENT: Enquiry into methods of financing Local Government in the context of Government's Green Paper (Cmnd 8449). (Witnesses: R Jackman, London School of Economics; The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors).

Lords: Departments (N.I.) Order 1982: Motion for Approval. Appropriation (N.I.) Order 1982: Motion for Approval. Limitation Amendment (N.I.) Order 1982: Motion for Approval. Civil Government (Scotland) Bill(HL): Report.

Ministers - see ANNEX

PRESS DIGEST

Cricket

- The "Dirty Dozen" as Kaufman describes them create a furore but the British press is by no means against the tour.
- John Carlisle MP tables motion congratulating cricketers on going to South Africa and attracts 33 signatures; in defiance of your dismay and Mr MacFarlane's allegations of deceit.
- Assurances will have to be given that none will be selected for England this year if India and Pakistan tours are to go ahead.
- 15 OAU Commonwealth nations threaten to boycott Commonwealth Games.
- Northants officials particularly outspoken against tour - sec. says they are political pawns who have succumbed to greed and chairman calls for them to be banned for life.

Comment:

D/Star: acted like businessmen selling their assets to highest bidder; would the outcry be same if businessman had made big deal; can't expect cricketers to do what heads of Govt and big businessmen not prepared to do.

Express: cricketers and claptrap - you may be entitled to some moral outrage because of your stand on Moscow Olympics but even then you smack of humbug; South Africa not as odious a tyranny as Russia; sport should not be taken too seriously.

Mail: bound to have regrettable consequences; can't complain if havinf bowled a bouncer at Commonwealth and Test and County Cricket board they get one in return.

Telegraph: points out that South Africa cricket has been multi-racial for some years but says it won't do any good. Govt has paid its dues to the protection racket of anti-apartheid; will T & CB insist on their absolute right to select the best team fot this year's Tests?

Times: Correct course is for T & CB to live up to earlier warnings and ban players from selection for England, but to go further and ban them from county cricket would be wrong.

Guardian: Guilty stealth of the exercise destroys any attempt to argue from principle.

Race

- 115 British sporting personalities on new UN blacklist for contacts with South Africa.

Hijack

- More weapons found on plane and departure of victims for Tanzania delayed; son of one of hijackers in hospital with serious brain condition.
- Kambona pleads for families of hijackers to be allowed to stay here; will be in danger if go home; Telegraph says Govt may allow them to stay.

Industrial Problems

- Amersham: G Goodman, Mirror, says it is a scandalous affair and experience ought to stop Govt from rushing ahead with plans to dispose of further juicy pickings; disposals game reaching such proportions that some Civil Servants say it could be damaging national interest.
- PAC decide not to investigate Amersham but disposal of British Aerospace.
- Edward Du Cann says supporters of greater scrutiny into Nationalised industries and other bodies receiving public money may vote against Govt if it turns them down.
- Times, commenting generally on disposals, says that unless managerial discretion is to be a mockery there must be room to make mistakes.
- De Lorean: Mirror says firm owes 158 Northern Ireland suppliers £25m and 50 might go to wall. Mr Prior says Govt will not forgo priority as preferential creditor to help them.
- Times: Hopes high that Times Newspapers will be saved from closure; Murdoch suspends 210 clerical dismissals as good will gesture; NATSOPA believed to have agreed to nearly half clerical redundancies required and union is to take direct charge of white collar branch.

Rail

- 35 railmen barge into talks and hurt a receptionist in revolving door; talks break down again on 8 hour day and go to RSNT.

Laker

- B/Cal wants Laker's licence for Los Angeles route.
- Tourists still stranded in USA and FCO working on problem of getting them home.
- Sproat examining possibility of protecting scheduled air passengers in same way as package tourists.

Economy

- North Sea Oil price may be cut today; Saudi output said to be 15% below 8.5bpd ceiling.
- Signs that interest rates are falling in France and Italy.
- But leading US indicator slumps bringing setback for recovery hopes.

Unions/Pay

- { Yorkshire miners want simple majority for strike and 25% pay rise next time round; will boycott any events in honour of Joe Gormley.
- { Ford Motors unions in USA agree to freeze pay for 2½ years in return for job security - 73% vote for.
- Halewood Ford troublemaker admits his record looks bad but says he's not militant or troublemaker; had a lot of family trouble; hopes dispute may be settled.
- { Sun says it is incredible NALGO strikers went to check on teenagers in care 55 miles away - not to see how they are but to satisfy themselves they would be coming back to sleep on floor and take makeshift meals.
- Campaign by Civil Service unions against Rayner economies in statics collection which, it is said, will make it more difficult to monitor effect of Govt policies.

Industry

- French approve £500m cross Channel link and CEGB expects to get full approval.
- More than half a million young people joined YOPs over last 11 months compared with 360,000 over previous full 12 months.
- OFT considering new curbs on rogue traders who do botched home repair jobs.
- BL Metro top salesman to go on to new challenge in autumn; leaving company.
- Grade's empire back on market.
- British Enkalon closes factory in Antrim after £20m losses.
- Barclays 8% increase in profits to £566m disappoints.
- George Turnbull, Talbot, says people at all levels in industry recognise that the old ways are not standing test of international competition.
- Derek Ezra says pit productivity hit new record last month.
- Guardian Young Businessman of the Year is chairman and MD of Micro Consultants Ltd, Peter Michael, who built up firm from scratch.
- BL at centre of political row over disposal of assets and suspicion of insider trading.

Ministers:

Mr Tebbit meets Thomson Organisation Board of Directors.

Mr Tebbit meets Hon J M Bolger, New Zealand Minister of Labour.

Mr Younger and Mr Fletcher meet Scottish Arts Council, London.

Mr Jenkin gives "Industry Today" address, Crypt St Pauls.

Mr Baker speaks at Production Engineering and Productivity Exhibition, London.

Mr Raison speaks at Wilton Park Conference on "Breeding Grounds for Violence". (am).

Mr Finsberg opens Cranleigh Day Hospital, Cranleigh, Surrey. (2.00 pm)

Lord Trenchard attends Unilever Chairman's dinner.

TV/Radio:

Mr Nott, IRN, interview on Defence matters.