

PRIME MINISTER

DIARY

State visit of Sultan Qaboos of Oman.

EC: Agriculture Council, Brussels.

EC: Energy Council, Brussels.

Glasgow rape case - Judges to decide whether private prosecution can proceed.

Greenlandic Parliament considers EC membership post referendum.

Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition, Earls Court.

BOTB board meeting.

International Glass and Glass Technology Exhibition, Birmingham.

Autoquip Exhibition, Olympia.

Civil Catering Association AGM, Knowsley.

Materials Testing '82 Exhibition, Birmingham.

RSNT continues.

Soviet Trade Union Congress opens.

Publications:

- "Health and Safety - Manufacturing and Service Industries 1980" - annual report of HM Chief Inspectors of Factories and Explosives. (11.00 am).
- Census 1981 County Monitor - Durham.
- Census 1981 County Monitor - West Midlands Supplement, Birmingham Special Area.
- Countryside Commission Annual Report (3.30 pm).

Pay:

- Scottish Further Education Teachers: Joint Negotiating Committee.
- Electricity Supply Power Engineers (29,300): National Joint Board meeting considers claim.
- West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Platform Staff: Management response to claim.

Parliament:

Commons:

Questions: Prime Minister, Education and Science.

Business: Proceedings on the Consolidated Fund (No 2) Bill.

Select Committees: ENVIRONMENT: Enquiry into methods of financing Local Government in the context of Government's Green Paper (Cmnd 8449). (Witnesses: Association of Metropolitan Authorities and Association of District Councils).

WELSH AFFAIRS: Water in Wales. (Witness: Secretary of State for Wales).

Lords:

Legal Aid Bill (HL): Committee.
Civil Government (Scotland) Bill (HL): Third Reading
Salmon Fisheries (Protection)(S) Bill(HL): Committee.
Deer (Amendment)(S) Bill(HL): Committee (2nd Day).
U.Q. on hard drug taking by the young in major cities.

Ministers - see Annex

PRESS DIGEST

Law and Order

- You are backing Mr Whitelaw and taking a personal interest in problem; some newspapers say you will spearhead a new crusade against crime; you will take opportunity to support Home Sec in Questions today.
- Mr Whitelaw, on TV, wants a lot less criticism and more help for police and wants police to go in hard against violent criminals.
- Chief Constable Anderton, in toughest speech yet against political interference wants police forces removed from political control of local authority appointed Watch Cttees - says there is a long term political strategy to destroy the proven structures of the police.
- Mail pursues its vendetta against Mr Whitelaw: he is played out, time for him to be ennobled.

Rail

- Communist vice president of ASLEF tells YOUNG Socialists in Fife "We are prepared to be storm troopers in fight against this Tory Government".
- Buckton tells RSNT - see it our way or else; supported by his bully boys at inquiry.
- Mail: Here we go again unless train drivers agree without let out to more efficient working they should not get a penny piece out of their pay claim; if they fancy themselves as the hard men they should be on the receiving end of some very hard bargaining.
- Guardian: long been tradition of British Rail to attempt to divorce pay and productivity; Govt must not subsidise inefficiency; what fairnes is there in telling taxpayer he has a moral obligation to puur money into bottomless pot.

Labour Law

- Scargill calls on British trade unionists to defy Tebbit's law - this vicious legislation; wants whole trade union movement to go to war against it; thinking of moving NUM HQ to Sheffield.

Unions/Pay

- Sun says Britain's trade unions spoke with two voices yesterday - one wisely with Duffy coming out with ultimatum to Labour Party over need to curb militants, in trying to remove moderate MPs; and the other Scargill. (GLC's Livingstone hoping to replace Freeson as candidate in Brent East.)
- Royal College of Nursing distances itself from Willie Hamilton who is cheered at pay rally of nurses when says Princess Margaret is a useless middle-aged floosie.
- Scottish teachers win arbitration.
- Now B/Airways cargo handlers go on strike in support of baggage handlers.
- IRSF votes to accept Civil Service technology agreement thereby virtually ensuring its acceptance.
- Low Pay Unit say hairdressers need a 40% pay increase instead of 11% they expect.

Economy

- Weather blamed for slump in industrial production to 15-year low.
- Large majorities for Government in Budget debate.
- FT leader says that rules governing international trade under threat and GATT framework must be reinforced.

Unemployment

- Labour launches its general election campaign with plan to get unemployment below 1m in 5 years and promise of new compact with unions, but it gets a very sceptical reception.
- Guardian: says until Labour spells out exactly what its economic policy is and offers some evidence that suggests it will work conclusion is it probably owes more to politics than economics.
- Mirror says Labour's plan would be painful but tolerable if it guaranteed success but weakness is they have no incomes policy; Geoffrey Goodman wonders whether there is any chance of a return to traditional place of work and work ethic in our society, and concludes rearmament is not the answer.
- Times leader says Labour policy evades key question - how can we cure unemployment without ceasing surge in inflation - it must answer it.
- Mr Heath calls on Govt for swift action to help jobless.
- 90 community sports leaders recruited by Sports Council at cost of £3m over 3 years to help with inner city problem.
- Guardian says hundreds of long term unemployed are facing sack in Govt sponsored workshops because of Mr Tebbit's decision to halt Community Enterprise Programme.

Industry

- B/Caledonian lost £7.9m last year - first loss for 6 years.
- Player making 1700 redundant in three places because of falling business.
- Big shake up soming for nationalised boards to improve efficiency, with introduction of more non-executive outsiders.
- BP made £1018m profit last year - drop of 25%.
- D/Star urges public to boycott sealskin products.
- Post Office try to end system by which postmen retire at 60 but continue working until 65.
- Public to be given c chance to buy a stake in Britain's airports.
- Jack Rampton, ex-Energy PUS, takes advisory job with American company with interest in North Sea.
- Telegraph leader says if Govt runs full course about £1bn will have been spent pandering to NUM's conservatism and keeping Gormley sweet - no prospect of NCB being put on commerical footing until pit closures decision reversed.
- Times says oil companies are withdrawing petrol station support so full budget increase will be passed on.
- Plaid Cymru wants a much higher price to be paid by England for Welsh water.
- Saatchi and Saatchi buy top American agency for £35m.
- You may back proposals for using hydro electricity in special power contract to help Invergordon.

Other Law and Order

- Senior police officer says BBC "Police" series which ended last night showed up bungling and inefficiency; pet to see any success on the ground portrayed.
- Insurance industry says burglary is a booming industry in Britain with record £105m pay out.
- Shirley Williams confirms SDP are thinking of legalising pot; press tells her to think again.
- Slum landlords alleged to be using strong arm men to persuade tenants to leave Marylebone slum flats.

Local Authority

- Wallsall Council puts housing department out on the beat operating from neighbourhood cabins close to tenants.
- Birmingham to announce today new measures forcing councils to put more building and maintenance work out to private sector.

Ireland

- Fears of a new IRA bombing wave as series of explosions kill 11-year old boy and injure many others.
- D/Express and others attack BBC Panorama programme last night which interviewed IRA terrorists in South in feature about problems of extradition; defended by Alan Protheroe; but Express says extradition issue could have been ventilated perfectly well without giving IRA propaganda platform.

- Mirror features chef in Hawaii on run who admitted in programme having hand in bombing causing 11 deaths.
- Ian Trethowan said to have approved; and Attorney General wrongly said to have been consulted.
- D/Star says Mr Haughey needs to make clear his position following wave of bombings so soon after election.
- Unionists pull out of devolution talks but Mr Prior intends to plough on.
- Molyneux may ask for a meeting with you.

Cricket

- Sidebottom, Yorkshire, joins South African tourists.

Education

- Children sit in at Ipswich school as parents and education chiefs row over fares.
- Rhodes Boyson being reported by STOPP to Euro Commission on human rights for advice to schools on caning ruling.

Housing

- Black Chairman of GLC police cttee being asked to resign by Tories for accusing Metropolitan police of being racist.

Carol

- Express diary says she is thinking of returning to Australia because of her problems in back biting Britain.

International

- Western Alliance: Times leader says France has put a question of stronger European voice on agenda and rest must respond.
- EC - food prices will rise 6% according to consumer groups if farm price goes ahead.
- USA agrees to send a peace envoy to Nicaragua and Cuba to try to improve matters, accepting Mexican offer to mediate.

B. INGHAM
16 March 1982

Ministers:

Lord Carrington addresses US Chamber of Commerce lunch, London.

Mr Nott and Lord Trenchard attend National Defence Industries Committee meeting.

Mr Walker and Mr Buchanan-Smith attend EC Agriculture Council, Brussels.

Mr Rossi addresses meeting for sponsors of publications for the blind, House of Commons. (2.30 pm).

Sir George Young launches Savoury Mill Building Book at the British Centre.

Lord Trenchard meets British Aerospace and Rolls Royce on future aircraft requirements.

Mr Rees attends London Exporters conference on trade with Nigeria.

Mr MacGregor addresses Norfolk and Suffolk Institute of Directors.

Mr Pisani, EC Development Commissioner, visits ODA.

Mr Mellor attends EC Energy Council, Brussels.