

24/3

PRIME MINISTER

DIARY

Mrs Gandhi's visit - you open Science Museum Exhibition.

Nuclear Planning Group, Colorado Springs.

TUC: General Council.

Issue of Stamps featuring Youth Organisations.

Labour Party National Executive.

European Parliament, Strasbourg.

Whaling Commission, Brighton.

Shell UK Annual results.

EC: Economic and Social Committee Plenary Session, Brussels.

Arab League, Tunis.

National Society for Clean Air Spring Workshop, Nottingham.

Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition, Earls Court.

British Ski Trade Show, Harrogate.

London Fashion Show, Olympia. .

Electro-Optics/Laser International Exhibition, Brighton.

Scottish Building and Public Works Exhibition, Glasgow.

Industrial Law Society - Anthony Lester QC speaks on "Discrimination in Employment: the Impact of Community Law".

HO Bicentenary Lecture: Lord Allen of Abbeydale - "Reflections of a Bureaucrat".

Colombia Space Shuttle.

Grand National Rescue Plan Announced.

Statistics:

New vehicle registrations (Feb).

Construction - new orders.

Publications:

Statement and Summary of the Education and Library Accounts 1980/81.  
Developments in the European Communities July-December 1981 White Paper.  
Public Boards of a Commercial Character White Paper.

Pay:

University technicians: Further discussion on 12% claim.

Parliament

Commons:

Questions:

Scotland, Foreign and Commonwealth.

Business:

Second Reading of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgements Bill (Lords).  
A debate on the CAP PRICE PROPOSALS FOR 1982-83 contained in European Community Document 4624/82. Other relevant documents for debate will appear in the Official Report.  
Motion on the Industrial Relations (Northern Ireland) Order.

Select Committees:

INDUSTRY AND TRADE: The Post Office (Witnesses: Post Office Unions Committee; Private Sectors Competitors: i) Association of International Air Couriers, ii) Securicor).

SCOTTISH AFFAIRS: Rural Road Passenger Transport and Ferries. (Witnesses: Mr Malcolm Rifkind, MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland and officials of the Scottish Development Department).

WELSH AFFAIRS: Scrutiny of Welsh Office Departments (Witnesses: Welsh Office Health and Social Work Group).

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS: Biotechnology. (Witnesses: The Royal Society).

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS: Working practices in the NHS. (Witnesses: Sir Kenneth Stowe, KCB, DHSS; Mr A L Rennie, CB, Scottish Home and Health Dept; Mr T P Hughes, CB, Welsh Office).

EMPLOYMENT: The Commission for Racial Equality's draft Code of Practice for the elimination of racial discrimination and the promotion of equality of opportunity in employment. (Witness: Sir David Lane, Chairman, Commission for Racial Equality).

SOCIAL SERVICES: Age of retirement. (Witnesses: DHSS and Government Actuary).

TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE: The 1982 Budget and the Government's Expenditure Plans 1982-83 to 1984-85. (Witness: Chancellor of the Exchequer).

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONSOLIDATION &c BILLS: (To consider the Civil Aviation Bill (Lords), the draft Land Compensation (NI) Order 1982 and the draft Criminal Evidence (NI) Order 1982).

Lords: Debate on the increase in crime, and the problems involved in the maintenance of law and order, and the need to strengthen and support the police.

Ministers - see Annex

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PRESS DIGEST

Hillhead

- Gallup suggests Labour 33½%, Conservatives 27%, SDP 26%, SNP 12½% while pundits continue to offer their own views of the outcome.
- Daily Telegraph leader says victory for Jenkins could lead to 5 years of unwanted and nightmareish Labour rule.

Unemployment

- Fall in overall total interpreted as boost for Government before Hillhead.
- Mirror leader calls drop "an illusion".
- Express welcomes "hard-won recovery".
- Mail says better days are on the way.

Law and Order

- Debate continues with suggestion that some of the pressure is off Mr Whitelaw. Leaders in heavy dailies comment adversely on police statements.
- Telegraph advises police leaders to avoid "excited oratory".
- Guardian says policemen soon to be off balance. Aim should be to ensure that police become more effective in preventing and detecting crime. Welcomes Sir Kenneth Newman's appointment.
- Times says there is no cause for panic but there must be a coherent policy on sentencing. It is necessary to reduce the number of non-violent criminals in prison. The personalizing of attacks on Mr Whitelaw have strengthened his position.
- Financial Times comments on apparent "political campaign by the forces of law and order". Popular nostrums will not provide instant remedies for social ills.
- Mr Whitelaw expected to propose extension of police stop and search powers. Sun welcomes promise to "go in hard" against rioters.
- Daily Mail says Whitelaw "deep in trouble with country over crime". According to NOP poll 80% believe sentences for violent crime should be tougher.
- Mr Whitelaw yesterday urged courts to order offenders to compensate victims.
- Sir D McNee urged public to "get off backs" of police.
- James Jardine to retire as Chairman of Police Federation.

- Woolworth's security man warns on growth of "shop muggers".
- Times (page 8) profiles the Home Secretary.

#### Unions and Disputes

- Teachers' union leader threatens "examine chaos".
- NUT official in Liverpool threatened with sack for spending 4 days a week on union business.
- One hundred of the 17,000 baggage handlers on strike at Heathrow returned to work yesterday.
- Edinburgh Court of Appeal upholds decision on right of workers to "sit in" at Plessey.
- New trains for electrified St Pancras Bedford rail un-used because NUR have not agreed to dispense with guards.
- Unions write to employers warning them against using the Employment Bill.
- FDA support most TUC proposals for action against Employment Bill.
- Unions weakened by high unemployment. Considerable support for Mr Thatcher's policies - Ray Buckton.

#### Pay

- Nurses reject 6.4% offer.
- Select Committee reports on MPs' pay. Sun calls for MPs to set an example of restraint.
- London restaurant owner tells court he employs foreigners because he cannot get British people to work for him.

#### Transport

- More than 1m passengers a day lost to LT since higher fares were introduced.
- Centre for Policy Studies report on converting railways to roads sent to PM.

#### Industry

- Five institutions including British Steel start new venture to create jobs by bringing new technology and experience to aid small businesses.
- Government yesterday announced plans to issue private licences for answering and message services through telephone network.
- American Budget Renta firm "extremely close to buying 1,000 De Lorean cars.

#### Oil

- BP and Texaco follow Shell with price increases.

#### EEC

- Foreign Ministers to meet again on 3 April. Lord Carrington gave guarded welcome to Commission proposals. Cheysson said it was important that the link was now broken between agriculture prices and the budget.

- Telegraph says "broad impression is that farm prices will be generally agreed next week with Britain withholding final assent".
- 100,000 farmers demonstrate in Paris for higher farm prices. Commission report demonstrates that their real income has suffered more than in other member countries.
- EEC to bring complaint about Japanese imports to Gatt Council meeting on 3 March.

#### EMS

- Franc drops to permitted minimum against Dm - despite rises in interest rate.

#### International

- Coup in Bangladesh by military reported on early morning news. No further details.
- Military coup in Guatemala said to be in favour of return to democracy.
- Begin refuses to resign after Knesset fails to give vote of confidence. Tindemans comments on West Bank violence. Fear of Israeli annexation.
- US prices rose by only 0.2% last month - 7.7% over year.
- Nigeria halts imports following revenue drop.

#### Northern Ireland

- Government plans new university and overrules Chilver Report.
- Ex-prisoners claim RUC paid top informers up to £80,000. (Radio news this morning carried RUC comment that informers came forward spontaneously because they were tired of the conflict.

#### Defence

- Seven Navy bases to close with 4,000 compulsory redundancies. House of Commons complaints about method of announcement.
- Foot gives pledge in Hillhead of unilateral nuclear disarmament.

#### Local Authorities

- Mr Heseltine will today warn councillors about overspend. It is clear they are planning to overspend around £1,000m or more (DT).

#### National Health Service

- OME "secret" survey says that more than one-third of junior hospital doctors are on duty for more than 100 hours a week.

#### Welfare State

- Arthur Seldon in Mail says most taxes go back to the households they came from.

#### POWs War Pay

- Treasury records of pay withheld from British POWs have been found in the Public Record Office.

Ministers:

- Mr Tebbit addresses CBI conference on Understanding Business Realities, Centre Point. (11.15am).
- Mr Tebbit speaks to Enterprise Club, House of Commons.
- Mr Heseltine chairs and other Ministers attend routine meeting of Consultative Council on Local Government Finance. (4.00pm).
- Mr Fowler visits Burdett House Toy Library, All Hallow's Church Hall, London. (3.30pm).
- Mr Fowler visits and Mr Finsberg attend dinner, Royal College of General Practitioners, London. (7.30pm).
- Mr Biffen attends British and South Asian Trade Association Indian Conference.
- Mr Morrison visits Brent and Kilburn Careers Offices. (9.30am).
- Sir George Young opens new estate at Ovex Wharf on Isle of Dogs for London Housing Association.
- Lord Bellwin pays Inner City visit to Hammersmith and Fulham.
- Mr Buchanan-Smith addresses International Whaling Commission meeting, Brighton.
- Lord Ferrers addresses Standing Conference on Countryside Sports, London.
- Mrs Fenner addresses United Kingdom Agricultural Supply Trade Association Dinner, Hotel Inter-Continental, London.
- Mr Rossi addresses City Conservative Forum lunch, St Botulphs Church Hall, London. (1.00pm).
- Mr Finsberg attends lunch, North West London Jewish Day Centre, Michael Sobell Centre, London. (11.30am).
- Lord Elton attends Voluntary Council for the Under Fives AGM, Thomas Coram Foundation for Children, London. (11.15am).
- Mr Wakeham visits APV, Crawley.
- Mr Lamont visits Rochdale.
- Mr Clarke attends opening of Alexandra Wing of the London Hospital by the Queen. (4.15pm).