

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets Hansard Society Radio winners and later the Spanish Foreign Minister

Public Expenditure White Paper and Mr MacGregor's press conference

Guinness board of directors meets

STATISTICS

Overseas travel and tourism figures (Oct)

Advance energy statistics (Nov)

Building Societies' monthly figures (Dec)

PUBLICATIONS

WO: Royal commission on ancient and historical monuments, Interim Report

PAY

NHS administrative, clerical and secretarial grades; 130,500.
Continuation of negotiations on improvements to allowances for computer staff

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Scotland; Foreign and Commonwealth; Trade and Industry

Business: Ten Minute Rule Bill: late payment of debts

Opposition Motion entitled "The Crisis of the Cold"

Motion on the Industrial Training Levy (Construction Board)
Order 1987

Adjournment Debate

The Helsinki Accords on Human Rights - the case of Mr Alexander Ogorodnikov (Mr K Hargreaves)

Lords: Short Debate to call attention to the situation which arises from the difference between the prosperity of the South East of the country and the decline in other areas, and the case for an effective regional policy to redress this imbalance.

Short Debate to call attention to changes in Britain's commitment to international institutions, and to the consequences for Britain's influence on world affairs and the prospects for peaceful co-operation.

Licensing (Restaurant Meals) Bill

HEATING/WEATHER

- Decision to pay heating allowance this week main story, but the amount is said to be "mean".
- 13 more dead as freeze up continues.
- Threat of blackouts because of record demand; some panic buying reported.
- Price of heating oil rises by up to 11p a gallon - Mirror describes oil companies and their OPEC friends as the greediest cartel; Express as opportunist.
- It becomes fashionable to praise railmen, postmen, bus drivers.
- Mirror launches a lifeline to give advice to people about heating; newspapers dispensing much advice on how to keep warm.
- Star P1: Fiver for the old folk in freeze crisis - you do a dramatic U-turn and tear up the rules; leader says sooner rather than later the Government has seen the error of its bureaucratic ways but it is a pity it needed their campaign to persuade it. A small step in the right direction.
- Mirror P1: U-turn on heating cash as the old die - you gave in to pressure.
- Today P1 lead: Help at last. £5 payout as 7 more old folk die. You cut through red tape; another story says the decision quashed any lingering doubts that the Government is planning a rush to the polls. Catches Labour on the hop; leader headed "election softens the heart" says you were quite right; the pity is that Govt invented such a stupid scheme in the first place.
- Sun leads with "The fiver lifesaver - heating cash for needy". You order emergency handout. John Vincent, columnist, says someone blundered on the scheme and you spotted it, but you must provide a simple solution to this recurrent problem.
- Express P1: Maggie Melts - £5 cold AID now." Red tape cut in bid to help old and poor. The Iron Lady becomes the Snow Queen - a masterful move which trumps your political opponents; in another story Paul Potts says senior Ministers were claiming first blood of election year after Labour pulled out of Commons debate on the economy and were making the most of what appeared to be a tactical mistake by Kinnock. Leader says seldom can calls for Government action have been so promptly met and the Government has done the right thing. The system must be flexible.
- Mail P1 lead: Maggie cuts old weather rules - £5 now for the old folk. You swept aside red tape; but front page leader says it is still not enough in spite of welcome change on procedure. £10 would be nearer the mark.
- Telegraph P1 lead: Red tape cut to pay out cold cash aid.
- Guardian P1 lead: Thatcher change of heart on £5 payment; leader on a dramatic change of Government heart which has not, however, disposed of the issue.
- Times P1 lead: Arctic blizzards prompt No 10 action on cold weather payments; Government's about-turn on £5 freeze aid. Government Whips confident the sting has been taken out of the issue.

HEATING/WEATHER

- FT: Thatcher ensures heating payment; initiative reflects political pressure.
- Independent P1: Climbdown on cold payments; last night the Government bowed to the public outcry; editorial says pensioners and those on supplementary benefit should receive an automatic additional winter payment.

POLITICS

- Conservatives have 5-point lead in Harris poll - 42/37/Alliance 20.
 - Sun says more voters are abandoning Labour because of its anti-nuclear policy.
 - Kinnock sacks Norman Fuchan as Arts spokesman after row over whether Home Office should retain responsibility for broadcasting.
 - Mirror says Kinnock is forming an inner cabinet - Hattersley, Smith, Cunningham and Gould.
 - Sun leader says it is happy for Reagan that Kinnock has called off his second visit to the USA; let's hope the Wandering Windbag now waits until he is invited; John Vincent, columnist, says there is no precedent for an Opposition party trying to destroy confidence in its own country's currency - but Labour knows they won't get in unless disaster befalls the economy.
 - Mail leader says that, to judge from Harris poll, Chancellor's tax cuts policy is more popular than Labour's soak the rich policy. It is obvious that unless European countries follow the USA in slashing top tax rates, they will lose their talent - in this situation Labour's egalitarian ideas are just out of date.
 - Archie Hamilton, Defence Minister, says Gorbachev must be praying for a Labour election victory; but unilateral disarmament makes a war more likely.
 - Telegraph leader says Enoch Powell should declare his interests; they should be ready to submit to testing no less rigorous than those they impose on others by statute.
 - Times says Conservative MPs were cock-a-hoop as a heady atmosphere built up on only the second day back after Christmas; but leader says the country should face the fact that by the end of the year Kinnock may be Prime Minister. If Labour can avoid repeating the 1983 proof of its incompetence, it has a chance of electoral reward.
- Michael Mates becomes chairman of Defence Select Committee.

GUINNESS

- Mail says Guinnessboard is planning to make a full confession about how it won Distillers battle - naming Cazenove, Freshfields and Bain.
- Independent alleges Guinness had a £200m slush fund for secret share deals.
- More likely to go after company's board meeting today - will discuss a £200m share price support scheme during Distillers' bid.
- Morgan Grenfell announce internal review into Guinness affair.

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- Bishop of Durham, in talk in City, attacks "morally and socially outrageous salaries" being paid in City.

ECONOMY

- £ falls to record low against German mark but up against \$. Fifteenth consecutive day of Stock Exchange rises.
- Tim Congdon, in Times, in praise of Tory control of spending over which it has control.
- Norway plans oil production cuts in support of OPEC - by about 7.5% in first six months.

INDUSTRY

- Sun leader in praise of Simon Baldwin and David Wilkins and other youngsters identified by CBI who started their own business rather than face unemployment.
- Express says Graham Day is to ask Government to stump up another £500m for Rover, or close down what is left of British car industry.
- Austin Pickersgill workers return to work after 6 week strike.
- Airbus Industries wins £1.3bn deal for 50 Airbus A3205 from Irish firm.
- Rover employ another 150 workers because Rover 200 in demand overseas (Independent).

UNIONS

- NUJ attracting comment for fining 95 Wapping journalists; George Gale, in Mirror, says the union is in a fine mess and brings contempt upon itself. It will surely hasten the day when the closed shop is outlawed.
- Sun says SOGAT faces possible bankruptcy because its members have voted against a 58p levy to fund Wapping fight; emergency meeting next week to decide whether to abandon dispute.
- Independent: Telephone engineers claim their strike is aggravating problems caused by the cold weather but BT say the weather is more of a problem than the overtime ban.

MEDIA

- Indexing of BBC licence fee to be announced today.
- BBC World Service wants to make itself heard in Britain.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Sun portrays RSG announcement as "Maggie's big rates truce" - a winter warming bonus which should peg rate rises next Spring to just over 1%; Telegraph: "Ridley curbs rate rises"; Guardian: Ridley imposes rate cuts of up to 38%; Times: Ridley's spending spree.
- Mail leader on the prospect of £30,000 a year councillors under Labour's local government reforms, says it all goes to show how dedicated Labour is to creating jobs - and well paid ones - for the boys.
- Independent: Rate capped councils borrow City millions to stave off cuts. Councils are borrowing at high rates of interest in the form of rent on their property.

EDUCATION

- 100,000 children missed school in London because of unofficial strike by teachers.
- Education Select Committee calls for higher grants for students and embarrasses Government (Telegraph).
- Independent: National Audit Office says cost of maintaining surplus school places until 1992 will be £152m.
- ILEA study shows that the longer children stay at Inner London schools the more dissatisfied their parents become (Independent).

AIDS

- John Vincent, in Sun, says AIDS campaign seems to be working in a way - nearly everyone knows the facts, but stopping the disease is another matter.
- You have given the go-ahead, according to Mail, for a film advertisement which lampoons you.
- NHS appoints its first regional AIDS coordinator in the Mersey area.
- Independent: Irish RC Bishop says condoms will give further encouragement to permissiveness which would encourage the spread of the disease.

CHILD WELFARE

- DHSS White Paper on child care now published - plans for emergency powers to seize children at risk.
- Telegraph: Tougher law on child abuse planned.

LAW AND ORDER

- Mail says police in London have been told to spend less time investigating motor crime - eg thefts from cars - and concentrate on uglier offences like mugging and sex attacks.

DEFENCE

- Mail leader headed "Watch it Weinberger" refers to his second oblique swipe at Labour's defence policy. Labour's policy is indeed nonsense but Reagan's men should take care they do not look as if they are trying to tell British people how to vote.
- Independent: US flexibility is the key to progress at the Geneva Arms talks which reopen tomorrow.

LEBANON

- French journalist seized as Terry Waite starts his mission to free Western hostages. Express says Waite was stunned by kidnap.

PUERTO RICO

- Worker charged with murder after 96 died in New Year's hotel blaze.

NIGERIA

- Lynda Chalker accused of racism by newspaper during her 6-day visit.

USA

- Four MAFIA Godfathers jailed for 100 years each.

IRAN

- Ayatollah Khomeini reported to be near death.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

- Independent: Mr Pattie says the EC wrecked chances of its own technology programme by its intransigence over the budget.

FALKLANDS

- Independent: Edgar Bronfman, President of World Jewish Congress, said he had delivered a message to you from President Alfonsin. FT says Alfonsin sent an olive branch with Bronfman.

GIBRALTAR

- Independent: Editorial says you should put an end to ambiguity and remind the Spanish of the political and moral realities inherent in the Gibraltarians' wish to remain British.

HONG KONG

- Times says Dr David Wilson is to be Governor.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTER (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling launches "Finding Out About Farming", United Oxford and Cambridge Club, Pall Mall; later attends Bulmers Centenary lunch, Savoy Hotel
- DEM: Mr Lee visits Employ, Cricklewood
- DEM: Mr Tripper opens North Wiltshire and Froome Enterprise Agencies
- DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses Northampton Senior Management Conference
- DESS: Mrs Currie visits South Tyneside Health Authority
- DTI: Mr Pattie speaks to Papermakers Machinery Association and later meets German newspaper correspondents
- DTI: Mr Howard visits Northern Ireland
- DTp: Lord Brabazon lunches with the Royal Yachting Association, Boat Show, Earls Court
- DTp: Mr Mitchell visits Docklands area
- MAFF: Mr Gummer attends Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Dinner, Savoy Hotel
- MOD: Mr Hamilton visits HQ Strike Command, High Wycombe
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TV AND RADIO

- "You and Yours"; BBC Radio 4 (12.00): Presented by John Howard
- "16 Plus"; Channel 4 (17.30): YTS - First Choice, Last Resort - looks at what the Youth Training Scheme has to offer in terms of education in South Yorkshire, Wales and Scotland. Also an interview with MSC Chairman, Bryan Nicholson
- "Comment"; Channel 4 (19.50): A Conservative MP, speaks on the alternative to the party political broadcast
- "Diverse Reports"; Channel 4 (20.30): A critical look at the prison's Fresh Start programme from a prison officer's point of view. Includes filming in Hull Prison
- "Pete Murray's Night Line"; LBC Radio (22.00): 'Phone-in investigation into pre-school education with Anthony Marlow, Conservative MP and Vicky Hunt, Chairman of the National Campaign for Nursery Education
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