

11 February 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Anglo-Italian Summit and press conference

Prince and Princess of Wales visit Portugal (to 14 February)

Duke of York, accompanied by the Duchess of York, takes his seat in the House of Lords

BA share allocation basis announcement

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STATISTICS

HMT: Economic Progress Report

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PUBLICATIONS

Equal Opportunities Commission: Annual Report

SO: Boundary Commission's Report on Interim Review of Parliamentary Constituencies

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PAY

British Airports authority, all grades; 7,000

NHS Administrative, Clerical and Secretarial grades, 68,900

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Scotland; Foreign and Commonwealth; Trade and Industry

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Parental Leave  
For three hours: Timetable Motion one: Abolition of Domestic Rates etc (Scotland) Bill  
Petroleum Bill: Remaining Stages  
Motions on Scottish Housing Grant and Revenue Orders.  
(Details will be given in the Official Report)

Adjournment Debate

The Settle/Carlisle railway line. (Dr D Maclean)

Select Committees: WELSH AFFAIRS

Subject: Rail Services to and in Wales  
Witness: Chairman, British Railways Board

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: Motor Components Industry  
Witness: to be announced

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: Skills shortages  
Witness: Engineering Industry Training Board

Select Committees (Cont'd)

HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Prisons

Witness: Prison Officers' Association

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Northern Ireland Appropriation Accounts  
1985-86

Witnesses: Officials from Northern Ireland Departments

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: The problems associated with AIDS

Witness: Medical Research Council

TRANSPORT

Subject: Decline of the UK registered merchant fleet

Witnesses: NUMAST (at 4.15 pm); Captain Lloyd (at  
approx 5.15 pm)

ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Pollution of Rivers and Estuaries

Witness: Water Authorities Association

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS

UNOPPOSED BILLS

1. West Glamorgan [Lords]
2. County of Cleveland [Lords]

Lords:

Short Debate to call attention to the case for a comprehensive strategy to end the problems caused by maintaining and conserving an adequate and efficient level of heating.

Short Debate to call attention to the case for further improvements in the national schemes for the parking of vehicles used by handicapped people, in the interests of both the general public and severely disabled people.

Local Government Act 1986 (Amendment) Bill (HL): Third Reading

Infant Life (Preservation) Bill (HL): Committee  
UQ on the Minority Rights Group Report on Co-Existence in  
Some Plural European Societies

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PRFSS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- Good reception editorially for rural economic policy, but Telegraph says Nicholas Ridley will announce soon plans to allow development on thousands of acres of redundant hospital land, much in Green Belt.
- Threat of new strikes in schools next month - two biggest unions (NUT and AMWT) - to ballot members on half-day strikes.
- Benn protests in House over Norris McWhirter's taking out writ banning showing of the Zircon film and naming MPs, including himself, in it; Speaker to rule today.
- 6,000 face sack today because 52 firemen at Manchester Airport refuse to end their dispute; ACAS asked to intervene.
- Alliance reported to be benefiting from fall in Labour support in Greenwich.
- 130 applicants for post of BBC Director General, but only 2 insiders. BBC senior officials expect Isaacs to be appointed.
- Russia frees 140 dissidents - Mail leads with "The Gulag Gates Open".
- Some hopes for release of hostages in Lebanon; Express says Western Governments must resist every plea and every temptation to bargain with hostage takers.
- EC agrees to get rid of 1m tonnes of butter mountain at cost of £400m to British taxpayers.
- Lord Snowdon asked to resign as Design Council adviser after row with chairman over critical article.
- Granada TV planning to reconstruct Westland affair in the early summer with journalists playing roles. John Profumo denies helping BBC with plans for a programme on the affair in June.
- Bishop of London makes it clear (Mail) he would be prepared to lead a breakaway movement if the ordination of women goes ahead.

RURAL ECONOMY

- Sun, Star ignore it; Today leader says Government is right to want change but Labour is right to be suspicious. This week's proposals should be seen as part of a serious debate but instead of empty pine forests and new urban jungles we should be aiming for more Hampstead Heaths and Dartmoor; inside news piece headed "Farmers jeer Jopling over food deal 'sell out'".
- Mirror: Minister is told to quit by farmers.
- Express: Jopling's job on line as farmers pass a no confidence vote; leader welcomes Government's proposals so far as they go. Difficult to see harm in them.
- Mail: Maggie defies farmers' fury - you come to rescue of Michael Jopling.
- Telegraph leads with Jopling has Thatcher confidence; leader says behind the muddled presentation, Mr Jopling's discussion document contains some useful thoughts but it is not a substitute for a radical assault on CAP.
- Guardian, somewhat predictably, leads with "Two Ministers (Jopling and Ridley) carpeted for land bungle"; leader says you would think from the preheated response of politicians and pressure groups that the Government's plans entailed the abolition of rural Britain. No one is suggesting national parks are devoured piecemeal or areas of outstanding natural beauty should be despoiled.
- Times: Recriminations intensified yesterday between Ministers in MAFF and DOE. Some officials pointed an accusing finger at Mr Gummer as the source of leaks, but there were equally spirited claims from MAFF that DOE was guilty; your backing for Mr Jopling was seen as less than enthusiastic.
- Times leader says the new proposals will have to be carefully watched. But the cries of pain are premature.
- Independent: You try to patch up farmland row. You were not amused by the public display of disarray between Mr Jopling and Mr Ridley. Mr Jopling's package failed to excite delegates at the NFU conference.
- Independent leader says Ministers would be foolish to leave conservation of the "general beauty of the countryside and the environment" entirely to the tender workings of the market.
- FT: Farmers' union snubs Jopling who is seen as having mishandled parliamentary and presentational aspects of the land use announcement. Nevertheless, Ministers confident they have "stabilised the position"; you defend Mr Jopling and express "complete confidence" in him.
- FT leader says Mr Jopling's basic proposal is simply common sense. What does not make sense is to bar otherwise acceptable development to conserve land for farming.

GREENWICH

- Alliance said to be benefiting from a fall in Labour support - BBC Newsnight poll shows Labour 43/Alliance 31/Conservatives 25.
- Today leads with Alliance on the march and jubilant.
- Independent: Tactical voters raise Alliance hopes of victory at Greenwich.

POLITICS

- Sun cross with Tory Reform Group for joining in Roy Hattersley's plea against tax cuts. Why do they have so little faith in their country and the transformation their own leader has achieved? George Gale in Mirror says if Chancellor needs to benefit the country and his party he should cut taxes and not spend more.
- FT: Working Peers list expected shortly is bound to be controversial and upset the Alliance.
- Today feature on your 12 years as party leader headed "Lady Luck - 12 years of good fortune still works its magic for Mrs Thatcher"
- Mr Kinnock has given the key task of drawing up Labour's programme to cut unemployment to Mr Bryan Gould, rather than to John Prescott, shadow employment secretary (Times).
- Geoffrey Smith, in Times, says he does not believe you have decided when to call the election. But the longer you dither the greater the risk of upsetting the electorate. You need to discourage all thoughts of an early election. You can still decide to go in May if it looks right.

INDUSTRY

- Claims that ICI announced 1250 fertiliser redundancies on TV without first telling those involved.
- National Audit Office criticises spending of £1bn a year on training without having any real idea of the skills needed by industry.
- Harrods facing industrial action because management is trying to "steamroller" in new working hours.
- Norman Willis, TUC, feature in Express, on need for firms to maximise exports.
- Government preparing to give £1m to company to promote development in North East and Cumbria.
- Times: Lord Pennock is to step down as the British co-chairman of EuroTunnel. The Bank of England is concerned about progress on the project.
- Times leader says the Government's face is at stake. You have endorsed the link as a national project and, politically, it will be seen as a test case for private sector infrastructure.
- Guinness was understood last night to have decided to offer the chief executive post to Anthony Tennant, chief executive of Grand Metropolitan.
- Talks begin over plan for £90m pit at Margam, West Glamorgan.
- US gets go ahead to vet British firms working in sensitive technology in the defence field.
- Independent: George Younger signed \$7bn deal in Saudi Arabia to provide training and support for Tornados and other aircraft.
- Deadline set for comment on SIB rules.
- Ian Lang asks Scottish Office officials to make detailed study of Caterpillar.
- Business in the Community, the organisation supported by Prince Charles, has asked City institutions to help alleviate unemployment problems.

LAW AND ORDER

- Star says if Home Office can do nothing about ticket touts sport should put its house in order and keep tickets out of their hands.
- Sun claims hundreds of Royal Navy ratings are guilty of drugs offences.
- Prison Officers say they are angry at having to keep lid on jails - threatening industrial action over changes in working practices.
- Government to launch a £3m Crimewatch campaign later this year.
- Mail comes out in favour of Appeal Court being able to increase lenient sentences.
- Times: Prison governors have forecast a record jail population this year and say labour relations are at their worst for 40 years.

BBC/ZIRCON

- Independent: Professor of Constitutional law at Edinburgh University says that we ought not to be surprised that this Government finds it difficult to acknowledge openly the proper role of the law officers.

EDUCATION

- John Vincent, in Sun, counsels caution about talking of bringing back grammar schools - what people really want is a bit of the famous GS quality at the local comprehensive.
- Independent: Hundreds of Inner London teachers to be offered £1000 to move schools in a bid to end union block on redeployment.
- Independent: New council urged for university grant role in report by DES appointed independent committee chaired by Lord Croham.

AIDS

- Today says Government is right to give AIDS research wartime priority. A national emergency demands no less.
- Times: An application for an extra £10m to find a vaccine against AIDS is being blocked by the Treasury, says the Medical Research Council.
- Government to boost search for AIDS cure by targetting research.

HEALTH

- Independent: Government is being urged to ban number of food dyes which may cause cancer and birth defects. Government pressed also to fund £100m per annum drive to get rid of asbestos.

COLD WEATHER

- 87 died of hypothermia in last month's freeze up, according to DHSS.



PEOPLE

- Public tributes to Harold Macmillan felt to have been done in appropriate style.
- Star claims Prince Charles has had a briefing from the Home Secretary on law and order.
- Today pictures of Diane and Mrs Burgdorf looking happy.
- Plenty of coverage of Denis Thatcher at Child of Achievement Awards.

SOVIET UNION

- Independent editorial referring to release of dissidents says it would be naive to think there need be no limit on Gorbachev's daring - no Communist state has made itself that popular.

USA

- Robert MacFarlane left a note after taking overdose of Valium.
- Independent: MacFarlane in good condition in hospital; friends say he was depressed by prospect of giving evidence on the Iran/Us hostage deal.

IRELAND

- Tom King, commenting on Express poll showing two-thirds want us to pull army out of Ulster, says British public opinion is turning against Unionis campaign against Anglo/Irish Agreement.
- Haughey, in 'phone-in, confirms Anglo/Irish Agreement will stand if he wins.

ZIMBABWE

- Sun says we are gluttons for punishment in giving Zimbabwe £10m aid after they publicly insulted our Foreign Secretary on a visit.

AUSTRIA

- Letter to you from Alois Mock suggestion Waldheim should resign is a forgery.

LEBANON

- Times: Israel is thought to be close to a deal over the hostages. There is hope too that Terry Waite will be freed with the help of President Assad of Syria; George Shultz has denounced as "animals" the Palestinians holding American hostages in Lebanon.

- DEM: Mr Clarke gives the KMG Thomson McLintock lecture to City University at the Barbican Centre
- DOE: Mr Ridley launches and presents Dockland Business Club awards at National Westminster Banqueting Hall, London
- DTI: Mr Channon attends Anglo-Italian Summit, Whitehall Place, London
- HO: Mr Hurd attends Anglo-Italian Summit, Whitehall Place, London
- MAFF: Mr Jopling attends Anglo-Italian summit, Whitehall Place, London
- MOD: Mr Younger attends Anglo-Italian summit, Whitehall Place, London
- DEM: Mr Trippier presents CITB Open Tech Certificate, London and later attends Management Development Action Group, Dewhurst House, London
- DEN: Mr Hurd meets with the Institute of Directors, London and later attends Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Exhibition, Wembley
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits Hereford and Worcester (to 12 February)
- DES: Mr Walden visits Hammersmith and Fulham Adult Guidance Centre, London
- DES: Mr Dunn visits East Sussex
- DOE: Mr Tracey speaks to Westminster School
- DOE: Lord Skelmersdale attends the tenth channel fixed link joint consultative meeting, Folkestone
- DTP: Mr Spicer attends British Airways first day of trading, photocall, London
- DTP: Mr Mitchell chairs the tenth channel fixed link joint consultation meeting, Folkestone
- DTP: Mr Bottomely attends bridge naming ceremony, Rochester Way relief road, Eltham
- FCO: Mr Eggar addresses Royal Society Lunch, London
- HO: Lord Caithness visits youth custody and detention centres, Wsk, Gwent
- HO: Mr Hogg visits Holloway Police Station, John Radcliffe Hospital and later addresses Oxford Law Society
- MAFF: Mr Gummer attends National Farmers Union AGM 'Question Time', London
- MAFF: Lord Belstead visits Grain '87, Stoneleigh
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TV AND RADIO

"Woman's Hour"; BBC Radio 4 (14.00): Interview with Muriel Allen, the first woman governor of a "lifefers" male prison, Kingston in Hampshire

"File on 4"; BBC Radio 4 (16.05): With Michael Robinson

"Analysis"; BBC Radio 4 (20.15): Examines the City's regulation issues facing the practitioners, the Government and the Bank of England

"Comment"; Channel 4; (19.50): With an SDP politician

"GCHQ"; BBC Radio London (22.00)

"Split Screen"; BBC 2 (22.05): Two films with opposing views about the scheme to build a barrage across the River Mersey to harness tidal power and create electricity. The scheme, which is funded by Government and private industry, is seen on one hand as a key to Merseyside's economic revival and on the other as an ecological disaster

"Diverse Reports"; Channel 4 (22.30)

"Their Lordships' House"; Channel 4 (11.30)

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