

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen visits National Portrait Gallery to see Elizabeth II: Portraits of Sixty Years exhibition

Prime Minister's reception for Mr and Mrs Burgdorf (photocall in the street)

EC: Budget Council, Brussels (to 13 February)

Unionist petition handed in to Buckingham Palace

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STATISTICS

DTI: Provisional figures of vehicle production

DEM: Labour Market statistics: unemployment and unfilled vacancies (Jan-prov); average earnings indices (Dec-prov); employment, hours, productivity and unit wage costs; industrial disputes

Bank of England: Financing of the CGBR (4th Qtr)

Bank of England: UK Banking sector statistics (4th Qtr)

Bank of England: Money stock (4th Qtr)

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PUBLICATIONS

DEM: New Earnings Survey, Part D

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PAY

NHS Ancillaries; 171,800

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Northern Ireland; Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Prime Minister

Business: Debate on a Government Motion on the Government's Employment and Training Initiatives  
Emergency Provisions Bill Committee Stage (continued)

Adjournment Debate

The supply of UK electrical products to BAOR installations.  
(Miss B Boothroyd)

Lords: Pilotage Bill (HL): Report  
Protected Shorthold Tenancies (Rent Registration) Order  
1987: Motion for Approval  
Rent (Relief from Phasing) Order 1987: Motion for Approval

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2.  
PRESS DIGEST

MAIN NEWS

- Marplan puts you 3 points ahead 38/35/Alliance 25 who are moving up campaign to get rid of Tories by tactical voting launches.
- Guardian and Independent lead with your alleged plans for radical tax changes in next Parliament - steep increases in VAT and gradual scrapping of income tax on below average earnings.
- One of the main talking points: Kenneth Clarke's speech renewing call for an end to annual pay rises and regional differentials, and merit rises. Meanwhile British productivity rises fastest in Summer <sup>if</sup>.
- Row over price of B/Airways; Labour says airline was seriously under-priced and that the sale was botched; price doubles with start of dealings
- B/Telecom workers vote to return to work by nearly 2-1; Manchester Airport firemen also call off dispute.
- Teachers come in for a lot of criticism for threatening more strikes.
- Scargill to demand a £64 a week rise, according to Sun; not living in real world says a colleague.
- Man wielding knife and hammer to appear in court today after his arrest outside Kensington Palace; two policemen injured.
- Judge alleged that British taxpayers are forking out millions in frauds which buy guns for Irish terrorists.
  
- Your congratulations to England's cricketers (who are hailed for their achievements) comes through. Guardian: Gattling bowls over P.M.

POLITICS

- Sun features "Horrific 100 days under Kinnock - VAT hits 39% as handouts go unchecked".
- Express and Mail suggest Kinnock is alarmed - even panicking about rise of Alliance in Greenwich.
- Times: Another survey has confirmed that Labour's support in Greenwich is falling and the Alliance is moving into a clear second place.
- Geoffrey Smith, in Times, on tactical voting, says he expects there to be many local variations in the election, which should caution everyone interpreting the national pools too blithely.
- Alliance candidates have been warned not to disclose their preferences during the election campaign for a deal with Conservative or Labour in the event of a hung Parliame

- New leader of European Democratic Group is Christopher Prout MEP for Shropshire and Stafford. Guardian says this sweeping Thatcherite win is hard to swallow for some Tory MEPs.
- The cost and benefits of holdings of portfolio capital overseas are both likely to be small, says the Institute of Fiscal Studies.
- Mr Ridley said yesterday he would not be disciplining any of his Ministers. Quotes had been invented by the press.

BBC/ZIRCON

- Express leader headed "Zircon: Does BBC really care?" asks why is the BBC sitting idly by while pirated copies of its Zircon film are hawked around. It is inconceivable EBC does not care about this, though it is conceivable they don't care about national security in view of their commissioning Duncan Campbell to make the film.
- The private attempt to serve writs against Duncan Campbell and others continued yesterday, although the first attempt failed (Times).

MEDIA

- Jeremy Isaacs C4, tries to stop Mary Whitehouse show in Commons next Thursday of film clips from TV showing rape, incest and violence.
- FT: Mary Whitehouse has written to Marmaduke Hussey expressing concern about the possibility of Jeremy Isaacs becoming BBC DG. It would open the door to excesses and bring the BBC into disrepute.
- Telegraph leader on choosing new DG says leadership is above all what the BBC needs now and post should not go to insider.
- Independent editorial is astonished that the makers of the Panorama programme libelling two MPs remain at their posts unpunished; astonished too that senior BBC managers were not told of Campbell's series of programmes. New DG's task must be to put Broadcasting House in order but he must not be afraid of controversy.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Camden's civil rights unit may ask all residents whether they are homosexual in survey to find out how police treat them.

LAW AND ORDER

- Madame Cyn cleared of controlling prostitutes in Streatham; Nicholas Fairbairn commends her for an honour for "keeping us all laughing during a cold winter". Anthony Beaumont-Dark is going to ask Home Secretary to tell police to concentrate on fighting crime instead of making fools of themselves. Telegraph says Madame appears to have presented only a limited threat to the public world.
- Number of rape cases in London up last year by more than 50%.
- Mirror prints allegations of a B/Airways ground hostess who trapped a drug ring and was refused an alternative job when the drug runners came looking for her on release from prison.
- A social worker refused to sit in on a police interview with a youth suspected of murdering PC Blakelock because of Haringey Council's policy of non-cooperation with police (Times).
- Independent: British prison officers visiting privatised US prisons comment that the prisons are possibly the worst conditions they have ever witnessed.

EDUCATION

- Guardian leader says one thing unites the education world - Kenneth Baker Bill is a bad thing. What divides them is what to do about it. Now is a daft time to try to spike the Bill - that should have been done as a trace, when it was launched not now when it is nearly law.
- Star says teachers are an extraordinary lot - always lecturing, seldom listening, never learning. Parents have had enough of their antics.
- Sun asks if teachers want to destroy the education system. For five years they have turned classrooms into battlefields. If teachers are determined to behave so shamefully, society's only response is to ban strikes in schools.
- Express feature on the two Freds - Jarvis and Smith ~~etc~~ - declaring class war.
- Mail says that for years the two largest teaching unions have fought each other like two ferrets in a sack; now they are agreed on one thing - to disrupt classes again. Mr Baker is acting reasonably; unions with utter irresponsibility.
- Times: Conservative MPs are urging the Government to withhold the teachers' 16.5% pay rise if they vote next week to renew their campaign; leader supports this idea. The sooner the DES pays heed to the awakening outrage on the Government's backbenches the better.
- Independent: Seven universities suffer serious cuts in annual grant. London business school says to increase students by 40% and cut expenditure by 35% whilst maintaining standards is not just difficult but an impossible feat of legislation.
- Independent: Teenagers want to be taught sex in school according to newly published stud

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Sun wants Lord King to be put in charge of NHS now that he's given BA lift off.
- British Dental Association says dental charges too high, socially divisive and a deterrent to proper treatment.
- Family doctors urged to seek out and check children of people who have heart attacks.

AIDS

- MRC canvasses idea of testing every pregnant woman for AIDS.
- Kenneth Baker and Norman Fowler back £20m MRC project to develop vaccine.

HOUSING

- Telegraph says market for privately rented houses and flats will be a central feature of Tory housing policy in next term.

INDUSTRY

- Labour Party demands inquiry into E/Airways flotation.
- Sir Nicholas Henderson's book, published today, reveals Channel Tunnel boardroom intrigue and chaos.
- Telegraph interprets Gouday's letter to you as NFU fighting back after your claim that the union was taking "a very short term view".
- 60 Labour MPs table Commons Motion condemning Harrods under the Al-Fayeds for undermining staff conditions.
- FT: Tony Blair, Labour Treasury spokesman, said taxpayers had lost £300m on BA flotation as a result of underpricing and £2.2bn of BT and British Gas were taken into account.
- Times: 'Tory drive to scrap annual pay increases'. Behind the radical plan is a desire to produce more jobs in the regions by enabling companies to pay lower rates there, and thus address the North-South problem; Norman Willis, TUC, described Mr Clarke's plan as a recipe for industrial anarchy, from which many employed would shrink; national pay bargaining allows flexibility in earnings and contributes to stable industrial relations.
- FT: Lonrho is increasing its mining investment in South Africa.
- Leading US officials are expected to meet tomorrow to discuss a full range of responses in the dispute over the alleged payment of subsidies to Airbus Industrie.
- Guardian says MAFF have suppressed first results of an experiment in low input farming with drastically reduced amounts of chemicals.
- Independent: Ridley dismisses NFU calls for J-pling's resignation. He says NFU does not run the country.
- Armstrad announces half year's profits of £71.3m.
- Independent: Big Bang brings fall in share dealing costs.
- Guardian argues that if the Government's analysis is correct that the Chunnel could generate macro benefits for the whole economy it is just the sort of occasion to put in public money.

PEOPLE

- Star says Mark Thatcher is to join an extreme Bible thumping group after his marriage.
- Attroney General's son says you made him take a fortnight off to get well.

ITALIAN SUMMIT

- Fails to surface in pops. Telegraph - third of a column led by hopes more dissidents will be freed in Russia.
- FT: Although following your talks with Sr Craxi you felt obliged to make a ringing decleration of loyalty to President Reagan, there is little doubt that you share European fears over the possibiioity of early deployment of SDI weapons.

RUSSIA

- Release of 140 more dissidents preoccupies media - whither Russia? Star says that Russia's record on human rights is deplorable but in Gorbachev it seems to have a leader willing to listen if slow to act.
- Today finds Gorbachev "a welcome breath of fresh air"; we can now believe his era is going to be different.
- Express speculates on whether Gorbachev's father was a British citizen who died in Siberia during purge.

BEIRUT

- International concern growing for conditions in Palestinian camps in Lebanon where 33,000 people are said to be close to starvation.
- Waite alive and well after unsuccessful attempt to escape, according to TV station.
- Mirror says a plan to free Waite, along with 25 Western hostages, is being thrashed out, involving 400 Arab prisoners in Israel.



BEIRUT (Cont'd)

- Mail says TV station reports his kidnappers beat up Waite after he tried to escape.

LIBYA

- Gaddafi calls you a murderer on Channel 4 - interview sympathetic to him; regrets shooting of Wpc Fletcher.

IRELAND

- Times: The Anglo/Irish Agreement is being pushed to the centre of the election campaign in a last-ditch effort to damage Mr Haughey.

COLOMBIA

- Mail reports all out war in "cocaine country" over drugs.

EAST/WEST

- Kenneth Adelman, head of US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, said yesterday that the western allies had no business telling Washington how to interpret the ABM treaty (Times).

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

MOD: Mr Younger visits RAF High Wycombe

WO: Mr Edwards attends Welsh Development Agency Board Dinner, Pall Mall, London

DEM: Mr Trippier at National Federation of Site Operators Convention, Birmingham

DHSS: Mrs Currie attends Regional Health Authority annual conference, Bradford

DOE: Mr Tracey makes opening address at Royal Institute of British Architects Conference on security and housing, Portland Place, London; later addresses London Visitors Bureau Convention at Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

DOE: Lord Skelmersdale meets the All-Party Disablement Group concerning access provisions in the building regulations, London

DTI: Mr Pattie visits Bristol

DTP: Mr Mitchell visits BR provincial sector, Derby and Leicester, for presentation

FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses London Chamber of Commerce, International Trade Committee and Export Financial Panel lunch

HO: Mr Waddington visits Newcastle

MAFF: Mr Thompson lunches with Good Housekeeping Magazine, Royal Horseguards Hotel, London

MOD: Mr Stanley attends Mountbatten Festival of Music, Royal Albert Hall

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TV AND RADIO

Environment Minister Mr Chope on BBC Radio Solent 'Viewpoint'

"Union World"; Channel 4 (18.30): Presented by Trevor Hyett and Mike Walsn

"An Ever Closer Union"; BBC Radio 4 (19.40): Continues its profiles of members of the European Community with a look at the Netherlands

"This Week"; ITV (20.00) with Jonathan Dimbleby

"Question Time"; BBC 1 (22.00): Sir Robin Day with Michael Heseltine MP, Simon Hughes MP, Diana Jeuda, USDAW, Charles Moore, Spectator

"Pete Murray's Nightline"; LBC Radio (22.00): Phone-in with Commander John Robinson on change of the Public Order Act at Scotland Yard, explains his use of the new powers

"Their Lordships' House"; Channel 4 (00.25)

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