

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets 'Saturday Superstore' competition winners

M. Delors visits Bonn

Wessex National Union of Students lobby of DES on student loans

PUBLICATIONS

TCSC: Report of the Treasury and Civil Service Committee on
the Public Spending White Paper

STATISTICS

CSO: Tax and price index (Jan)

BSC/BISPA: Usable steel production

DEM: Retail prices index (Jan)

CBI: CBI/FT Survey of distributive trades (end Jan)

BSA: Building Societies monthly figures (Jan)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: Crown Proceedings (Armed Forces) Bill: 2nd Reading. (Mr
Winston Churchill)
Housing (Houses in Multiple Occupation) Bill: 2nd Reading.
(Mr Donald Anderson)
South West (England) Development Agency Bill: 2nd Reading.
(Mr W W Hamilton)

Adjournment Debate

Government policy on the Council of Europe and Western
European Union. (Mr C Murphy)

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS - not much around.

- 3 leading Wall Street brokers arrested on insider dealing charges.
- Alliance anger over missing out on Life Peers - Steel says it is "typical of the mean spirited way" you conduct Government. Mail leader says it is uncharacteristically petty of you.
- Unemployment up for first time since July.
- Kinnock's plan to put 20p tax on petrol and phase out road tax, and withdraw business car perks; Sun puts rise at 32p; Express 40p.
- Chancellor to cut income tax by 2p - speculation after Cabinet's Budget discussion.
- Row over Edwina Currie's advice on how to avoid AIDS, and especially her suggestion to businessmen to take their wives abroad on business trips.
- Some B/Telecom men still out, in spite of settlement of dispute, because of new row over their being asked to revert to 5-day week.
- Caterpillar rejects your plea to keep Scottish plant open.
- Man in Cleveland who fired at two policewomen later found shot dead - suicide.
- Kinnock said to be furious with a plan by Irish elements to set up an Irish section of Labour Party to secure more Irish born MPs, secure troops out of Ulster and end jokes which make fun of the Irish.
- Guardian claims DPP has decided to exclude police from Guinness and other City scandal investigations.
- Duchess of York gets her "wings".
- More than 280 children - some as young as 10 - in jail in South Africa under emergency.
- Iran cancels visit by British arms dealers.
- Mrs Nixon, wife of ex-president, has operation to remove cancerous tumour from her mouth.
- Bush says he "expressed certain reservations on certain aspects" of President Reagan's decision to sell arms to Iran (Independent).
- Bishop of London says other Bishops would join him in approaches to RC or Orthodox churches if C of E voted for ordination of women.
- Government extends distribution of EC food surpluses to milk and milk products.
- Guardian: MARPLAN poll claims AIDS campaign is in danger of flopping.

POLITICS

- David Owen says Loony Left are not daft but deadly and Greenwich Labour candidate is one of them.
- Sun says "Heaven help the motorist if Labour get back in power". Idea is to use money from petrol tax to subsidise trains and buses. Hardly a vote winner.
- Mirror reports Labour leaders accusing Government of plotting massive increases in VAT - result of Guardian and Independent stories.
- Joe Haines, in Mirror, reports the Labour Party short of funds and says last year's campaigns by unions to retain their political funds were so costly that they emptied unions' coffers.
- Kinnock urges his party supporters to ignore tactical voting idea - anyone considering it should grow up. Today devotes a whole page to a leader in support of tactical voting.
- Express, referring to Parliamentary exchanges, says "Maggie pledges four more years".
- Express feature on Labour's desperate search for hope amid the gloom of Greenwich.
- Charles Moore, in Express, says the bravest thing for a Tory Government to do is to take on the farmers whose cossetting has done tremendous damage to countryside.
- Mail says you're not for retiring; draws attention to Lord Marsh's return to Greenwich on your side; and now Labour plans to put the squeeze on the motorist with criticism of this pouring in from all directions.
- Times: Yesterday you confirmed speculation that you may choose to serve throughout the next Parliament rather than stepping down in mid-term.
- Independent: The parties gear up for the political big sell. You want to ensure that the manifesto is a forthright document which sets out in the clearest political terms where you want to go in a third term. Alliance banks on tactical voting as Labour's machine is streamlined to avoid past idasters.
- Independent: Kinnock thinks it all right for Ealing to fly the SWAPO flag over the town hall.
- Mr Ridley attempts to calm Tory anxieties over land use (FT).
- Malcolm Rutherford says local government policy could yet lose you the next election and is one area where Labour Party thinking is ahead of you.
- Guardian leader says tactical voting is beginning to form part of the explicit agenda of British politics.
- Manchester City Councillor resigns Labour seat because of financial "incompetence" of Labour leadership.

INDUSTRY

- Chairman of MSC says boardrooms of Britain blighted by too many amateurs.
- Mail says Rolls-Royce has lost a £167 jet engine order from B/Caledonian to Americans because it could not deliver on time.
- Times: Civil airline pilots could soon be taking regular doses of a powerful hypnotic drug to help them cope with the ultra long-range flights being planned by the world's airlines.
- Independent: NUM chiefs veto talks on working week for £90m pit. NUM to call special conference next month to discuss big increase in subscriptions to avert cash crisis.
- Independent: Capital Radio comes to Stock Market with a value of £16m.
- Cuts in cement prices on cards after 3 main producers end 52 year old price agreement.
- Labour Party vows to take a tight regulatory grip on newly privatised B/Airways.
- Telegraph says the Chunnel is manifestly in trouble. You are right to insist that it must be built to produce a commercial return or it is not worth building. We do not want another Concorde.
- Sunderland Shipbuilders sack George Parker, managing director (FT).

EDUCATION

- Leaders of the two biggest teaching unions yesterday called on their members to vote for a rolling series of half-day strikes and mass rallies throughout the two weeks beginning March 9 (Times).
- Independent: Government in unprecedented move threatens to cut off grant to University College, Cardiff because of its financial mismanagement.
- Independent: Universities count cost of selective funding policy.
- 34 universities hit in grant allocations.

ECONOMY

- Reports suggest Chancellor got the all-clear to cut income tax by up to 2p at yesterday's Cabinet.
- Express: Tax cuts hope boosted - all systems go for tax cutting Budget: leader on attack on national pay bargaining, says it discomforts both unions and employers but Ministers are right. Our present system has been tremendously damaging - destroying jobs and creating inflation. Government should give a lead with 2m state employees.
- Mail leader on Kenneth Clarke's campaign, says if the cost of living is lower in the regions than in South East, why can't wage rates be lower, too? This would make people more likely to set up a business in North. Union big shots like Norman Willis, TUC, don't want local bargaining because it would reduce their power - not a terrible price to pay if it puts a lot more of their members back to work.
- The CBI and TUC are set on collision course at next month's NEDC over annual pay increases and national bargaining (Times).
- Times: After yesterday's Cabinet discussion, senior ministers are convinced that Mr Lawson will be going for a judicious mix of tax-cutting and reduced borrowing. No dramatic reforms are expected. Nor will every penny available be used to cut tax in the run-up to the election.
- Times leader says Mr Clarke's speech that it is easier to expose the lunacy of the present system than to construct good alternatives. Public servants reasonably want to stave off rising national income but don't have the options of profit-related pay and bonuses which are the key to flexibility.
- Independent: Jobless and pay deals go up; you are non-committal on major tax shift.
- Independent: Sarah Hogg argues for radical fiscal reform - fiddling with tax when the system should burn.
- Telegraph leads with "Lawson given clearance for tax cuts". Cabinet gives go-ahead for up to 2p cut. Bank of England believes that the Chancellor should use some revenue for lower spending and interest rates.
- FT: Bank of England signals that it wants Mr Lawson to pave the way for lower interest rates by reducing next year's PSBR. Further evidence of the buoyancy of Government revenues and the scope for cuts in income tax; Mr Lawson's tax policy given Cabinet backing with the Chancellor stressing that tax cuts would not play a disproportionate role in the Budget package.
- Institute of Fiscal Studies also agrees Mr Lawson can cut tax and borrowing. Latest key indicators suggest the economy does not need large stimulus.
- You indicate you are attracted to the idea of cutting top rate of income tax (FT).
- Westminster City Council considers pulling out of national pay bargaining
- Guardian persevering with its story about a switch from direct to indirect tax, says that what the Government seems to be considering is not simply VAT increases in luxury items but on food, fuel and children's clothes which would make it highly regressive.
- FT leader welcomes Mr Clarke's ideas on wage setting and urges him to put words into action in the Civil Service and parts of the public sector.

UNEMPLOYMENT

- Sun says your election hopes suffered a setback with yesterday's figures. Today: Unemployment figures cool election fever.
- Express: Cheer on jobless as steep rise levels out - Lord Young pleased to have come through January with seasonal figures level.

HONOURS

- Star chief goes to Lords (David Stevens).
- Sun: Basnett now Lord Muck.
- Mirror: Union chief is new peer.
- Today: Alliance slams peers snub.
- Express: 11 new peers named.
- Mail: Owen's fury at the "Duchess of Dulwich".
- Times: David Owen says you operate under different standards to other Prime Ministers.
- Independent: Peerless leaders' fury at you. Dr Owen says you besmirch the office you hold.

LAW AND ORDER

- Star consults its readers and finds 8-1 in favour of licensed brothels.
- NCB boss in court on corruption charges, jailed for 4 years and told to pay back all he had received in bribes (£34,000).
- Express's 2-page investigation of a "no go area" in South London.
- Times: Scotland Yard has been given by MoD a dozen military armoured personnel carriers for use in severe riots.
- The Government was attacked by the Law Society and Bar Council yesterday for failing to provide enough money for the legal aid scheme which, as a result, has hit a "serious crisis".

BBC/ZIRCON

- Times: The Special Branch was trying yesterday to recover a video tape copy of the BBC's film from ITN.

RACE

- Brian Clough, manager, Notts Forest AFC, apologises for calling African football nations: "a load of spear throwers who still go around eating each other"; West Indian organisation has complained.

PEOPLE

- Pictures of Mr Burgdorf with his Moss Bros bag.

RUSSIA

- Star says the beating up of yesterday's demo in Moscow is the other face of Gorbachev's Russia.
- Express says because of this we should not be carried away with release of another 140 dissidents.
- The Kremlin's efforts to improve its human rights image suffered another setback yesterday when, for the second time in 24 hours, Western journalists covering a peaceful demonstration by Soviet jews were roughed up (Times).

IRELAND

- Independent: King promises action against terrorist fraud.
- Fitzgerald draws with Haughey in TV debate. Haughey says he would not interfere with any benefits from the Anglo/Irish Agreement. Editorial says that elections without hope are a sad business indeed.
- Mail feature on Haughey and "why this man is bad news for all of us" - will make Britain scapegoat for Ireland's troubles.
- Times: Terrorist organisations are estimated to have pocketed £40m of taxpayers' money from fraud and intimidation within the building industry in the province over the past 10 years. Conservative MPs are calling on you to set up an inquiry.

NIGERIA

- Times: An urgent FCO damage-limitation exercise was under way yesterday to prevent the escalation of a dispute with Nigeria after Britain was ordered to close its visa-issuing office in Lagos.

PALESTINIAN CAMPS

- Independent: Aid officials say plight of besieged Palestinians worsens as children resort to rearing rats. Nabi Berri, leader of the Amal militia offers truce in war of camps; editorial says Red Cross is best placed to help but now is the time to cut through diplomatic prevarication.

MIDDLE EAST

- Independent; Shultz to press Shamir on Middle East peace talks during Shamir's visit to Washington next month.

WEST GERMANY

- Independent: West Germans press US to stick to ABM treaty.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Clarke makes inner city visit to Leicester

DHSS: Mr Fowler opens Maternity Unit, Sandwell District General Hospital, London

DTP: Mr Moore names Britannia Airlines 767, Luton Airport

HO: Mr Hurd visits Bristol Victims Support Scheme

DEM: Mr Trippier opens Rossendale Enterprise Trust, Bacup

DTI: Mt Pattie visits Cardiff

DEN: Mr Hunt presents Lighting Industry Federation Awards, London

DHSS: Baroness Trumpington opens International Hospitals Group head office, Stoke Park, Slough

DTP: Lord Brabazon visits Highcliffe Coast Guard Station

HO: Lord Caithness visits Essex Fire Brigade

MAFF: Lord Belstead visits British Wool Marketing Board, Bradford

MOD: Mr Hamilton visits Marconi, Frimley

SO: Mr Ancram visits Dundee District Council, Dundee

WO: Mr Robinson visits West Glamorgan Social Services

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DOE: Mr Waldegrave attends informal Environment Ministers Council Meeting, Brussels

MAFF: Mr Gummer visits Portuguese Trade Fair (prov) (to 15 February)

TV AND RADIO

"A Week in Politics"; Channel 4 (20.15): with Nick Ross

"Any Questions?"; BBC Radio 4 (20.20): John Timpson with David Mellor MP, Gerald Kaufman MP and Rosalind Gilmore, Director, St George's House, Windsor Castle

"The London Programme"; ITV (22.30): Examines the problems that the cost of living in the South East is so high that it prevents skilled workers moving to the region. It asks if regional pay agreements are the solution to the area's shortage of professional workers
