

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets President Sasson-Nguesso of the Congo and later attends a Memorial Service for Sir Edward Youde

Irish election

?DHSS announcement on waiting list allocations

PUBLICATIONS

DEM: Employment Select Committee Report: Discrimination in Employment

HMT/CSO: Public sector borrowing requirement (Jan)

HMT: 1986/87 Spring supplementary estimates

NAO: The Measurement of Farming Incomes

MOD: 1987/88 Defence Votes A

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Education and Science; Defence; Prime Minister

Business: Opposition Day (8th Allotted Day), until about seven o'clock there will be a debate entitled "The problems and needs of disabled people". Afterwards there will be a debate entitled "Women in the Community". Both debates will arise on opposition motions.

Motion on the social security (payments on account, overpayment and recovery) regulations.

Adjournment Debate

The lack of a breast cancer screening scheme in Bolton
(Mr T Sackville)

Select Committees: COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL
Essex [Lords]

Lords: Advocates' Widows' and Orphans' Fund Order Confirmation Bill

Chevening Estate Bill

Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill

Debate on the Report of the European Communities Committee
on EEC Forestry Policy

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- Labour Party in a bit of a mess this morning.
- Row over alleged remarks by David Elunkett in Woman's Own saying "If I had to put my last £5 on the election.... my head tells me I might end up starving". Claims he has been misquoted - a terrible and offensive distortion.
- Gorbachev speech to "Peace Conference" well received and thought to have stolen a propaganda march on Reagan who is increasingly portrayed as a recluse in White House. He attacks SDI. Sakharov applauds Gorbachev (Today)
- Begun still in Soviet jail in spite of statement by Soviet official.
- Speculation that Reagan may resign (Today).
- Jan Leeming tells of the attack upon her in BBC; recovering from spray over her face. BBC order security investigation at TV Centre; Sun reporter finds its easy to get in and have a meal and drink there.
- Sir Nigel Broackes resigns as Director of Eurotunnel.

LABOUR PARTY

Kinnock, in broadcast, rejects idea of coalition.

- Star: Policy U-turn by Labour in response to polls; they fear their appeal is too narrow and does not take account of new found prosperity and home ownership.
- Mirror: We're on a winner, says Neil - on course for outright victory.
- Today leads with Labour gets election blues - a double attack brought on by Blunkett and Kinnock's warning to party that they are too far behind in polls to win.
- Express: 'Neil won't win' storm hits Labour.

Bryan Gould, after Labour inquest, confesses "I would certainly not claim we are doing brilliantly. We would like to be 3% ahead."

- Mail leads with "Storm over Kinnock to lose" and front page pictures of how Kinnock has aged in 3 years.
- Labour was embarrassed last night over a report, vehemently denied, that David Blunkett had predicted you were heading for a third election victory (Times).

Labour MPs yesterday warned against a McCarthy-style Whitehall witch-hunt in the wake of allegations that 269 Militant Tendency activists are in the Civil Service.

- Mail leader says that as Labour wilts in the opinion polls Kinnock hoists still higher the earnings above which people will be tax squeezed. But the truth is that they would clobber everyone.
- Telegraph: "We will lose" quip angers Labour; strategists seek a sharper image. Whether Blunkett's words were exactly as quoted, the thought is shared by a number of senior figures.

ALLIANCE

- Express notes that Ian Wrigglesworth pledged Alliance to oppose tax cuts in Budget and that Alliance leaders show surprising loyalty to ideas they should have rejected when they quit Labour Party.
- Times: The Alliance is gambling on its opposition to tax cuts to win Greenwich.
- FT: A new partnership between the Government and the Civil Service has been proposed in a letter from the Alliance to the Civil Service unions.
- Paul Johnson, in Mail, says that in your wish to destroy Socialism you speak with authentic voice of Britain but your instinct is to keep the two party system. And that is the background to your refusal of Alliance peers. Owen is right to express his outrage at this. You need Alliance support to kill Socialism.

POLITICS

- Star writer asks us to imagine Kinnock fighting an election on a pledge to reform unions and destroy their stranglehold on the party - yet that in effect is what you have done in challenging the featherbedded farmers.
- Sun says Blunkett's remarks, later denied in a face saving operation, placed a huge question mark over Kinnock's grip on party leadership.
- Express leader, noting Blunkett's remarks that people respect your toughness and the fact that you know where you are going. But it says it would be shrewder still of Blunkett to start acknowledging your success has come because of your policies.
- The Institute of Directors yesterday urged the Government to "finish the job" by introducing further legislation regulating trade union affairs (FT).

INDUSTRY

- Selby pit stopped in row over bonuses.
- UK productivity rising faster than our major international competitors.
- Robert Maxwell claims Standard has intimidated street vendors for handling his new 24 hour paper.
- Conservative MPs have succeeded in toning down an all-party report on racial bias in employment to be published this morning.
- Jaguar has developed a four wheel drive system that is vastly superior to the products of BMW and Mercedes.
- The CAA will spend £200m on upgrading Britain's air traffic control system in a programme to avert a threatened strike by controllers.
- Mail 2-page feature on miner's son who has bought a mansion in NE - "Two nations? try telling that to miner's son who has just bought Marquess's mansion".
- 1,000 Unilever jobs to go on Merseyside and Essex.

MEDIA

- Britain is losing political, economic and cultural benefit by failing properly to promote its films and TV abroad, a report by the British Council says.
- The BBC took out a High Court injunction last night to stop a cinema showing the Zircon film. But the action was too late to stop the film being screened.
- FT: Harlech TV yesterday secured a High Court injunction to prevent Journalist stopping work in protest at the Zircon affair.
- FT Today newspaper has launched a £3m promotional campaign in a bid to boost its circulation.
- Mail reports growing opposition within BBC to David Dimbleby as DG because of his close personal relationship with Duke Hussey.

UNIONS

- The Government is to look again at ways of curbing strikes in essential services, but senior Ministers are divided on the question.
- Independent: Ministers plan new curbs on trade unions. D/Employment officials are putting finishing touches to Green paper to be published next month. Mr Clarke indicated to Institute of Directors that Government was considering longer-term legislation to outlaw strikes in essential services and further restrict the closed shop.

ECONOMY

- Wage rises are holding steady at 4.9%, says the CBI (FT). Times: The CBI has defended the right of companies to stick with national pay bargaining but rises must be related to performance.
- FT: Dubai to cut oil output by 10%.
- Manufacturing output is at highest level for 7 years.
- Mail: Factories boom as Britain fights back.
- UN says British living standards are among the highest in the world.

BUDGET

- Today, commenting on idea of raising limit for mortgage relief to £35,000, says Government could pick up many votes from those on basic social security if it were to concentrate more effort on those who most need help rather than on aiding those who need it less.

EDUCATION

- Express says Adam Smith Institute is urging you to privatise universities if you win a third term - starting with Exeter, Salford, St Andrews and Bristol.
- Times: Ministers are planning to take the unprecedented step of placing advertisements in national newspapers urging parents to rally to the Government's side and pressurise the unions into acceding to Mr Baker's package.
- DES has warned that teachers run the risk of being sued by parents if they show the cartoon film, "When the wind blows", portraying the slow death of an elderly couple after a nuclear attack.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Sun doesn't seem to understand why "Loony Left Hackney" has banned professional boxing from the borough.
- Westminster City Council investigate sale of broom cupboard as Knightsbridge flat for £36,500 - was planning permission given?
- Hackney Council social services director has been working from home to highlight accommodation crisis.
- Times: London ratepayers could get a 2p in the £ rate cut next year from savings made by the Government-appointed body winding up the affairs of the GLC.
- Haringey now owes £155m.

HOUSING

- A survey of the northern region shows that more than half as many houses again as the national average are up for sale and actual sales completed are up 25% on countrywide figures.

LAW AND ORDER

- Private detective in court claims that you wrote to him congratulating him on his bugging work. Our denial ignored, presumably for contempt of court reasons.
- Sun says TV companies must take seriously implication of an Old Bailey rape case where a rapist said he had been aroused by rape scenes on Thames TV and Channel 4.
- Granada's 'World in Action' claims that thousands of people fail to get jobs because they are put on blacklists drawn up by private detective agencies with police help.
- Tighter measures to combat soccer and other hooliganism on ferries announced yesterday.
- Mary Whitehouse to put on shock video show for MPs this evening - scores expected to attend. Express says MPs are queuing for the show.
- Metropolitan Commissioner tells Society of Conservative Lawyers that multi-ethnic inner cities are a challenge to the style of British policing on which we have acted since 1829.
- Police in the most crime-ridden areas of London cannot enforce the law as they should for fear of provoking public disorder, but there are no "no-go" areas, Sir Kenneth Newman said yesterday (Times).

LAW AND ORDER (Cont'd)

- Independent: Sir Kenneth Newman describes cannabis smoking as "a minor offence by any standards", but insists he is not advocating "no-go" areas in inner cities.
- Independent leader claims number of secret or semi-secret trials has increased in recent years.

DEFENCE

- George Younger reported to be trying to root out "moles" who are leaking precise details of movements of Cruise missiles; Star says he should also be rooting out Militants.
- Times: The growing dispute between London and Washington over SDI was highlighted yesterday when Britain wanted that the US had not yet made out a case for deployment.
- FT: Britain is close to a compromise with the US on the long-running clash over whether US trade law can apply in the UK.
- Telegraph leader says your visit to Russia is timely; Guardian: Thatcher holds key to Star Wars pact.
- Independent Mr Younger says the case for deployment of SDI is not made, as he sets off for Washington.

HEALTH

- Lord Whitelaw has privately promised Government backing for Lords Bill which could raise drug costs by £100m a year.
- Independent: Health and local authorities are spending up to £40,000 a year per patient for private psychiatric treatment because of lack of necessary facilities.

AIDS

- Judge, sentencing a man to 12 years for raping a schoolgirl, says rape victims are terrified they may have caught AIDS; the law, he says, can only reflect this by passing heavier sentences.
- Lord Jellicoe, chairman MRC, offers to be a guinea pig for vaccine; says he will be 73 in five years' time - "It won't matter then".
- Fears that foreign suppliers are flooding British market with inferior condoms.
- Times: Foreign visitors will be refused entry to Britain if they are known or suspected to have AIDS, under plans likely to be government approved soon.
- Independent: Proposals for making condoms available to prisoners have been rejected. But Cabinet Committee has given go-ahead for a special 12-bed treatment unit at Brixton Prison.

PEOPLE

- Terry Wogan attracts some attention for saying his TV earnings of £350,000 a year are peanuts. He says BEC has lost its way.
- Express picture of Mark and Diane Thatcher arriving in Australia.

TERRY WAITE

- Star says diplomats have almost given up hope of securing early release of Waite.
- The pro-Iranian Hezbollah party yesterday rejected a hint by Wally Jumblatt that they are holding Terry Waite (Times).

GEMAYEL

- Sun: "Free Waite" pledge by President Gemayel on his visit to you.
- Today: Picture of Gemayel shaking hands with you over caption "I'll try to save Terry Waite".
- Express: Gemayel pledge on Waite.
- Independent: Britain is taking the lead in a quiet but intense campaign to stop any European partners dealing with terrorists. You said so again when you met President Gemayel.

EC

- Foreign Secretary fighting plan for oil and fats tax which would raise price of margarine 25%.

IRELAND

- Sun says anyone who gives a damn about good relations with Ireland will hope and pray Haughey does not win today. He is an implacable enemy of Britain and a scheming rogue.
- Lady Ewart Biggs to boycott Oxford Union debate because Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein, has been invited to speak; so has John Eiggs Davison; John Patten MP urges students to boycott debate.
- Convicted terrorist prevented from entering Britain in Liverpool.

RUSSIA

- Lord Chalfont, in Express, warns West that this is not the time to be contemplating generous concessions in arms control in response to Gorbachev's liberalisation, but for common purpose, realism and vigilance.

TAMILS

- A planeload of illegal immigrants to be sent packing today in toughest crackdown yet on foreigners trying to con their way into Britain (Sun). Today says 64 Tamils are to go.

GERMANY - Count Lambsdorff fined £60,000 for tax evasion.

CHERNOBYL: US radiation expert suggests 75,000 could die of cancer around the world directly as a result of disaster.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DTI: Mr Channon opens Which Computer? show, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham

DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith addresses Society of British Gas Installers "Post Privatisation" seminar, Hyde Park Hotel, London

DOE: Mr Tracey visits Chertsey Association of Play Industries, Chertsey

DTP: Mr Mitchell visits Channel Tunnel Rail Link Information Centre, Waterloo, London

NIO: Mr Scott meets Amnesty International, London

TV AND RADIO

"Brian Hayes Show"; LBC (12.00); Phone-in with Bryan Gould, Labour MP for Dagenham and the Party's campaign co-ordinator, talks about the policies of the Labour Party

"Newsnight Afternoon"; BBC 2 (15.03): with Nick Clarke

"Years Ahead"; Channel 4 (15.45): Robert Dougall talks to Dr David Owen about SDP policies with special reference to the over-60s

"The 20th Century Remembered"; BBC 1 (22.50): Len Murray, former General Secretary of the TUC, talks about Mrs Thatcher's style of government, admitting that it took the TUC two years to come to terms with the new Toryism. He also talks to Geoffrey Goodman about the issue of union membership at GCHQ and the miners' strike

"Their Lordships' House"; Channel 4 (00.15)

"Questions of Defence"; BBC 1 (23.30): Continuing series of the history of NATO.
