

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh give a reception at Buckingham Palace for the winners of the Queen's Awards for Export and Technology which the Prime Minister attends

Prime Minister gives interview to "Woman" magazine

TUC: Employment Policy and Organisation Committee

?Statement on Local Government Bill by Environment Secretary

?DTp announce cost of British Airways launch

?Statement on Welsh Development Agency

PUBLICATIONS

DHSS: Statutory Instrument: The personal injuries (Civilians) Amendment Scheme 1987

DHSS: The Naval, Military and Air Forces etc (Disablement and Death) Service Pensions Amendment Order 1987

PAY

NHS Ambulance Officers; 3,700

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth; Trade and Industry; Environment

Business: There will be a debate on a motion to take note of the Government's expenditure plans 1987/88 to 1989/90 (Cmd no 56).

Motions on the Rate Support Grant (Scotland) order and the revaluation rate rebates (Scotland) order.

Adjournment Debate

Housing capital allocations for the Scottish new towns
(Mr R Cook)

Select Committees:

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: Motor Components Industry

Witness: The Rover Group

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: Skills shortages

Witnesses: UCATT; Federation of Master Builders;
Building Employers' Confederation; Chartered
Institute of Building

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Select Committees (cont'd)

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Control over Professional and Technical Staff; Control over Nursing Manpower

Witness: Mr L Peach, DHSS

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Problems associated with AIDS

Witnesses: British Medical Association; Royal College of Nursing

ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Pollution of Rivers and Estuaries

Witnesses: Chemical Industries Association; Confederation of British Industry (at approximately 5.15 pm)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Subject: British cultural diplomacy

Witness: Sir David Orr, MC, LLD, Chairman, British Council

JOINT COMMITTEE

PRIVATE BILL PROCEDURE

Witness: Chairman of Ways and Means

Lords

Debate to call attention to the need for accurate statistics to measure the present levels of unemployment and the causes of unemployment; and to the case for an assessment of the long term consequences of failing to deal with the problem.

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- Times MORI poll of marginals suggests Conservatives could be re-elected with majority of 94; swing from Conservatives in marginals smaller than country as a whole. Sun describes it as "Poll despair for Kinnock." Today calls on you to name the day now.
- Speculation that the Chancellor will have up to 4p off income tax available after good borrowing figures - 2p off basic rate; 5p off higher rate and something off borrowing the hottest tip.
- High Court judge rules 64 Tamils can stay pending review of their case; many of them strip off at Heathrow in protest at impending deportation.
- Civil Service Unions demanding 15% rise, and rail unions demand 14%. Express leader says Government should give the Civil Service unions the fight they are spoiling for. It is an opportunity to show other employers the way. Mail leader says Government must say "NO" to this massively inflationary claim - it doesn't think there will be much public sympathy.
- Russians release Koryagin and Ogorodnikov but no firm news of Begun's release.
- Little coverage in 'pops' of allocation of £25m to cut hospital waiting lists by 100,000.
- Government endorses its Green Belt policy by rejecting £500m new plan for a new town in Essex - but covered only in "heavies".
- Heavy voting in Irish General Election thought to have improved Haughey's chances.
- And now, after the £36,500 broom cupboard flat, the £35,000 garage in Holland Park.
- Archbishop of Canterbury calls on Muslim kidnappers of Terry Waite to release him.
-
- Polling day in Truro March 12.

POLITICS

- Edwina Currie claims Labour is being led by Glenys Kinnock who has not been elected to anything - Labour Party outraged.
- Sun leader on Blunkett's denial that he predicted defeat for Kinnock in General Election says it would back the Woman's Own editor and reporter against the word of a wheeler dealer like Blunkett. Today says Blunkett has confessed he can't remember everything he said. Express says he repeated yesterday his view that Tories could win. Guardian says Blunkett does not need to feel guilty: it is "extremely obvious" that Labour may not win the next election.
- Express leader on Kinnock's Panorama interview is headed "The truth and nervous Neil's big tax lie". However rattled he may be, that is no excuse for telling whoppers. He seems unaware that doubling VAT to pay for £3bn tax cuts would raise £15bn.
- Mail report on the confusion surrounding Labour's tax plans and says the Chief Secretary has calculated that Labour would soak virtually everyone earning more than £14,000 a year.
- Telegraph says however that Hattersley made clear last night that a Labour Government would introduce higher taxes for all those earning more than £25,000 a year; leader headed "Grand Prevaricator" says Kinnock found himself under acute pressure from Robin Day on three points - economy, defence and consequences of a hung Parliament. With such a set of policies to defend he was a brave man to face Day.
- Times says Alliance in Greenwich by-election accuse Mr Kinnock of attempting to win votes of young people by offering free entertainment.
- Independent leader says there must surely be a limit to the number of times the same government can "give the unions back to their members". This Green Paper will be your fourth bite at the union cherry and should, therefore, be designed as definitive.

BUDGET/ECONOMY

- Today: Tory dream of slashing income tax to 25p is within Chancellor's grasp.
 - Express P1 lead: Tax bonanza go ahead. Chancellor bang on target for treasure chest Budget; feature on how Labour's sums don't add up.
 - Mail: Lawson heads for bumper Budget.
 - Telegraph P1 lead: Lawson gets best news for years. Tax boom cheers City. Interest cuts likely after Budget.
 - Times reports that big tax cuts and lower interest rates are firmly in Budget; leader says imaginative tax changes which help the economy to work better will deliver both economic and political rewards.
 - Independent: Tax revenue boosts hope of 4p cut. Yesterday's figures confirm that the Chancellor will have about £4bn to play with on Budget Day.
 - FT: Low PSBR raises tax cut hopes; general view of independent economists is that the Chancellor will go for a 2p reduction in basic rate and announce a £6bn PSBR next year.
 - Chancellor is being advised by fellow Ministers that it would be politically unwise to reduce higher rates of tax before the election; FT leader says every political instinct will argue for cuts but economic prudence might point the other way. Mr Lawson should make a budget for incentives and combine political attack with fiscal prudence. He should press on with national insurance reform and reduce standard rate.
 - Guardian: Revenue bonus gives Lawson Budget leeway - on course for a spectacular Budget.
-
- Government may simplify exchange-rate law if convinced that the scheme devised could be applied effectively in practice and meet with a broad measure of agreement.
 - Revision of regional aid policy in 1989 well received says DTI report.
 - Star complains about beer prices going up in advance of Budget.

INDUSTRY

- Telegraph says there may be a legitimate case for providing B/Aerospace with a portion of launch aid, but a case for it has not been made out yet.
- New car prices in Britain now among lowest in Europe.
- Vosper Thornycroft to cut 400 jobs in Portsmouth and Southampton because of mine hunter delays.
- New Jaguars changing hands at £5000 over list price because of 9 months delay in delivery.
- British Coal's £10 a week final offer to UDM causes a rumpus - "honeymoon over for breakaway union" (Mirror).
- Today says Simon Gourlay, NFU, faced vicious criticism from 100 Tory backbenchers for union's vote of censure on Michael Jopling.
- Clive Sinclair bounces back with another computer - cost less than £200.
- Times: Government yesterday gave into heavy political pressure and put forward amendment to Banking Bill which would give itself sweeping powers to prevent Japanese institution from taking over British Banks.
- Eurotunnel consortium picks new British co-chairman but does not name him (Times).
- Independent: Countryside "no longer just a factory for food". In an interview, Mr Waldegrave says the ending of the "farming first" presumption in countryside planning is a watershed which should be welcomed.
- Treasury Ministers propose stronger powers to control foreign shareholdings in UK banks.
- Halifax first building society to offer consumer loans. £350m to be available this year.
- NAO report urges greater scrutiny of farm subsidies. MAFF criticised for having no systematic local investigation of incomes.
- Rover sells its Australian arm to management.
- CBI criticises Government proposals to restrict the role of auditors.

MEDIA

- Kinnoch tells journalists' protest rally against BBC Zircon searches that Government views press independence as "attempted espionage".
- Group of media analysts have questioned viability of new 24-hour London Daily News (Times).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- George Gale, in Mirror, draws attention to Hackney's incompetence - he says things have come to a pretty pass when two unions take issue with the council for taking on so many - and too many - workers that they can't accommodate them.
- Kenneth Clarke announces spending of £1m on one of Britain's most rundown and crime-ridden housing estates in South London.
- Government hoping to replace domestic rates with flat rate community charge much faster than originally intended. Mr Ridley tells Times he would like if possible to see switch in one year rather than ten.

EDUCATION

- Today says Kenneth Daker is about to stop lessons on gay sex in schools.
- Today says Left wing teachers have in effect banned a Metropolitan police film warning children about the danger of sex attackers; leader says this is because the video is designed to be explained by a police officer on the spot and ILEA NUT leaders won't have the police in classrooms at any price because they are "racist".

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Mirror leads with report that there are so many child victims of sexual abuse that Great Ormond Street's waiting list for psychiatric treatment has grown to 4 months.
- Mail says Meacher has revealed that private old people's homes face a major loss of income under a Labour Government.

AIDS

- All four TV channels to join war against disease.
- Mail says we are third in the European AIDS league behind France and West Germany.
- Health authorities bracing themselves against explosion of AIDS cases, according to survey conducted by PA regional staff (Times).

LAW AND ORDER

- Home Secretary has set up a Ministerial group to superintend campaign against racial attacks.
- Sun leader on "wicked" speech by black spokesman defending murder of policeman at Broadwater Farm riot in which he said blacks were not sorry the PC was killed, says this is an incitement to black youths to go out and kill a copper.
- Today says MPs emerged from Mary Whitehouse's TV nasties show asking "What was the fuss about?". Mail says the show left MPs bitterly divided.
- 3 men charged with conspiracy to obtain TSB shares by deception.
- Times says Government has agreed to drop opposition to Private Member's Bill giving individual right to inspect personal files.

RACE

- Employment Select Committee want you to have a black YTS trainee and a black to be in cast of "Yes Prime Minister".
- Mail says Militant dominated Liverpool City Council has one of the worst records for employing coloured people.

IRELAND

- Professor Paul Williamson pulls out of Oxford Union debate over invitation to Gerry Adams, saying organisers should learn difference between debate and sensationalism.
- Sun leader says it is difficult to imagine anything more offensive than the Oxford Union inviting Gerry Adams to speak against Lady Ewart-Biggs and Adams should be kicked out on his ear.
- Mirror leader describes those responsible for the invitations as "clever clots". Lady Ewart-Biggs was not only tricked, as she claims; she was also cheated and betrayed.

DEFENCE

- Times reports that you and senior Ministers divided on future of SDI.
- Mr Younger reported in Washington as saying Britain would insist on reading fine print in any US interpretation of ABM Treaty.
- Independent: Thatcher attacked as 'lickspittle' over SDI support. In Washington, Mr Younger made it clear that Britain disagrees with the so-called "broad" interpretation of the ABM treaty.

EAST/WEST

- George Gale, in Mirror, says when you visit Moscow you should deliver to Gorbachev the full and warm support of the West for his Westernising policy - West has everything to gain from such a policy of enlightened self interest.
- David Owen, in Oxford, wants you to insist on being involved in all future arms control talks.
- Mail says it may have cost the Kremlin £2m to stage their Peace Conference but it was worth it in propaganda terms.

PEOPLE

- Lord Crowther-Munt dies, 66.
- Senior Tories want May 10 to be made Bank Holiday to commemorate Winston Churchill's wartime leadership in place of May Day.

BEIRUT

- 21 die in new battles between factions.
- Independent: Final showdown feared in new Beirut bloodbath.

LEBANON

- Shia Muslim militia to lift four-month siege of Palestinian camps (Times).

MOZAMBIQUE

- To what extent should Britain prop up Mozambique's tottering Marxist regime against the onslaught of a rag-tag anti-Communist movement asks Times leader. Question highlighted by Chris Patten's promise of further aid to Mr Joachim Chissano's increasingly desperate Frelimo regime.

AFRICA

- Independent: You suggested to President Sassou-Nguesso that African countries should organise a constitutional conference on South Africa.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEN: Mr Walker visits Birmingham International Station to open share shop

DES: Mr Baker visits Norfolk LEA

DTP: Mr Moore meets the Bulgarian Minister of Transport, Marsham Street, London

DEM: Mr Trippier at Action for Jobs breakfast, Middlesbrough

DEM: Mr Lee visits Leeds to open 500th TRES office

DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith addresses the CBI Energy Conference, Cardiff

DHSS: Baroness Trumpington opens Mid-Down Health Authority, Mentally Handicapped Childrens Unit, Horsham, Surrey

DOE: Lord Skelmersdale visits Channel Tunnel fixed link sites in Kent

DTP: Lord Brabazon visits Channel Tunnel fixed link sites in Kent

FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses International Management and Development Institute, Guildhall, London

HO: Mr Mellor gives opening address to the Financial Times conference on Cable and Satellite Television, London

HO: Lord Caithness visits Gloucester Prison and later addresses Administrator Officers Conference, Great Malvern

MAFF: Lord Belstead addresses Orsett Farmers Group lunch, Essex

MAFF: Mr Thompson lunches with Naomi Arnold-Wimpy, Royal Horseguards Hotel, London

MOD: Lord Trefgarne addresses SDI Conference, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTI: Mr Channon speaks at German Chamber of Industry and Commerce

FCO: Mrs Chalker departs for European Parliamentary Plenary Session, Strasbourg (to 19 February)

TV AND RADIO

"Comment"; Channel 4 (19.50): A Scottish National Party politician speaks in an "alternative" party political broadcast

"Out of Court"; BBC 2 (20.30): David Jessel, Sue Cook and Ed Boyle look at legal issues

"Diverse Reports"; Channel 4 (20.30): Argues that in view of the inadequacies of community care, there should be more thought about the positive role played by hospitals in the treatment of the mentally ill

A Party Political Broadcast by the Labour Party; BBC 1 (21.00); BBC 2 (22.50); BBC Radio 4 (01.35); ITV (21.55)

"Split Screen"; BBC 2 (22.20): Two partisan views on Government Aid to the Third World. Lord Bauer, Conservative Peer, Lord Hatch, Labour Peer.

"Their Lordships' House"; Channel 4 (00.30)
