

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets Admiral Nitze and Mr Richard Perle

Prime Minister has lunch with "The Star"; later receives first issue of "Inky Fingers" magazine

Shimon Peres meets Mubarak in Cairo

EC: Economic and Social Committee Plenary Session, Brussels (to 26 February)

TUC: General Council

Launch of Women's National Commission action plan "Women into Public Appointments", House of Commons

HM Customs Drugs Conference

Resumption of United Nations talks on Afghanistan, Geneva

DHSS statement on breast cancer screening

Publication of Broadcasting Green Paper

Review of 'A' levels announced

STATISTICS

DOE: Digest of Environmental Protection and Water Statistics No 9 1986

DOE: Construction - new orders (Dec)

PUBLICATIONS

DTI: Monopolies and Mergers Commission Report - Tate and Lyle Plc and Ferruzzi Fironisania Spa and S&W Bensford Plc

HO: Radio: Choices and Opportunities: A Consultative Document

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Trade and Industry; Environment; Scotland

Business: Opposition day (9th allotted day). Until about 7 pm there will be a debate entitled "Priorities for the Elderly". Afterwards there will be a debate entitled "Health Care and Services for the Elderly". Both debates will arise on opposition motions.

Motion on the annual report from the European Court of auditors for 1985. Details will be given in the Official Report.

Adjournment Debate

The future pattern of agricultural land use (Mr A Steen)

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Select Committees: NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK BROADS BILL

WELSH AFFAIRS

Subject: The condition and repair of privately-owned housing

Witness: Welsh Office

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: Motor Components Industry

Witness: A B Electronics, Lucas

DEFENCE

Subject: The implications for the United Kingdom of Strategic Defence

Witnesses: Ministry of Defence officials

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: Skills shortages

Witness: The CBI

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Disposal of New Town Assets

Witnesses: Mr T M Heiser, CB, Department of the Environment; Mr D M Woodhall, Commission for the New Towns in England

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Problems associated with AIDS

Witnesses: Terence Higgins Trust/Body Positive; London Lighthouse; Mr Anthony Grey, Albany Society

TRANSPORT

Subject: Decline of the UK registered Merchant Fleet

Witnesses: Nautical Institute (at 4.00 pm); Institute of Freight Forwarders (at 5.00 pm approx); Marine Society (at 5.20 approx)

ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Pollution of Rivers and Estuaries

Witness: Natural Environment Research Council

SOUND BROADCASTING

Subject: Radio broadcasting of proceedings of the House

Witness: Mr Christopher Capron, Head of Parliamentary Sound Broadcasting, BBC

JOINT COMMITTEE

PRIVATE BILL PROCEDURE

Witness: Society of Parliamentary Agents

Lords:

Short Debate to call attention to the dangers of the extremes of unilateral disarmament and of escalation of thermo-nuclear weaponry

Short Debate to call attention to the deterioration in prison conditions as recorded in various recent reports

Employment Guarantee Bill (HL): Second Reading

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- Lots of coverage - in highly positive vein - for your Institute of Directors' speech.

- Col North's secretary "turns Queen's evidence" and discloses she helped North shred documents linking him with the arms deal. She was also having an affair with son of Contra leader suspected of being a double agent.
- Law Lords rule that a father does not have the right to stop an abortion - decision must rest with woman. Anti-abortionists now try to raise man's costs which are put at over £40,000.
- Home Secretary admits that 6 alleged Nazi war criminals are living in Britain, but it is highly unlikely they can be prosecuted.

- Tamils given leave by court to challenge Home Office deportation order.
- Guardian's front page lead has a welder revealing an alleged cover-up of potentially serious faults in Hinckley Point nuclear power station.

- Kinnock having a day out in the USA on March 27 to see Reagan - Labour's advisers hope that your Moscow headlines will push Reagan's rebuff for Kinnock policies off front pages (Sun). Others see it as skilful upstaging of you (Today).

- Syrians shoot 20 Hezbollah fundamentalists in West Beirut.

- US calls on NATO's Supreme Commander to retire; most papers say he's been sacked; the reason is thought to be his opposition to some of Reykjavik ideas: to be succeeded by a hard liner.
- American Police Foundation, under pressure from Irish lobbyists, cancels visit by Ulster Chief Constable.
- Tom King apologises to Dublin for soldiers' crossing of Republic border to plant anti-terrorist listening device.

- YOUR SPEECH - Gets a lot of positive coverage - and Hattersley denounces it as describing an economy in Britain no-one could recognise.
- Star: Maggie's dream of a greater Britain - confident about a healthy nation getting stronger every day. In your most buoyant and fighting mood.
 - Mirror: Maggie "is all woman" - a reference to your distaste of being a phenomenon.
 - Today: We're riding high, says Maggie. Your pep talk more in flavour of Harold Macmillan; leader on the "vibrant" picture you painted of your Government. There is truth in it but it isn't the whole truth. It leaves out the poor, unemployed, criminals and their victims, homeless and sick etc.
 - Express: My vision of future by Maggie.
 - Mail: Maggie's dream for the future - you beat the drum for Britain but warn against big tax hopes.
 - Telegraph P1: Thatcher plans her new term. And back page picture of you with screen image in background, showing you "projecting a larger than life image".
 - Guardian: Prime Minister pledges tax cuts will help lower paid - "a confident, strutting performance".
 - Independent: Your photograph dominates story that future prosperity of UK hinges on halting the brain drain.
 - Times: Your speech yesterday will make it virtually impossible for Chancellor not to cut taxes.
 - FT: You set out tax-cutting priorities and a radical Conservative programme for the next Parliament in a "characteristically ebullient" speech. The Institute of Directors platform was an opportunity to set out some of the themes of the next Conservative manifesto.

GREENWICH

- John Vincent, in Sun, says the by-election has become a vote on which Londoners think of the Loony Left.
- Mollie Parkin, author, shocks Labour by-election cabaret with "a savage attack on Royal family". Party trying to distance Kinnock and Mrs Wood from it - they were both present.
- Jon Akass, in Express, says it is more than possible Alliance will win.
- Mail: Alliance in push for victory; leader examines pros and cons of various outcomes from the Conservative point of view and says we shall see whether rock hard party loyalty overrides basic British distaste for extremism.
- Mail news report says enthusiasm gave way to panic in the streets yesterday as nearly one third of Labour MPs descended on the constituency.
- Times: Roy Jenkins "scents victory" in Greenwich. Opinion polls show Conservative vote is collapsing as Tories switch votes to Alliance.

POLITICSLabour

- John Vincent, in Sun, says the charge against Kinnock is that he is unfit to rule. At 44 he remains what he was at 24 - a Welsh student politician with a flair for spouting.
 - Express: Kinnock risks all in second American trip. Telegraph says Tory strategists believe the visit could deal a death blow to Labour election chances.
 - Independent: Labour approves £6bn jobs plan without specifying number of jobs to be created.
 - Times: Labour Party launches stinging attack on Government's record on NHS spending which it claims has been cut by 5% in past 4 years.
 - Woodrow Wyatt, in Times, looks at Mr Kinnock's recent 'Panorama' interview and what he said about nuclear deterrent. Mr Kinnock, he says, might get some sympathy from some of his own generation, but little from the great majority who want to keep our own nuclear defences so that our foreign policy can be more independent.
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POLITICS (Cont'd)Conservatives

- Marplan poll in Express shows 44% think Budget tax cuts will make election victory more likely.
- Express leader says one third think tax cuts should be the Budget priority and another third more spending on NHS. But it is a mistake to think we must have tax cuts or extra NHS spending. The economic growth brought about by tax cutting will produce jobs and the extra resources we want for the health service.

- Threat to your seat in Finchley in boundary changes after next election.
- John Selwyn Gummer says he may be forced to resign from Government over Sizewell.

UNION LEGISLATION

- Sustained attack from Labour Party and unions over Government's Green Paper plans for further reform - "a blacklegs' charter" (Bickerstaffe).
- Star: Scargill faces ballot in union shake-up.
- Sun leader welcomes "Tory plan to ensure that everyone has the right to work". And "at long last we'll have truly democratic unions in this country". News story headed "Unions' closed shops get chop".
- Mirror: Tories step up war on unions.
- Today: "Tory blitz on union chiefs is scabs' charter".
- Express: Storm over tough new curbs on the unions.
- Mail: New curb on union bosses - in the most ruthless attack yet on abuse of power; leader says the furious gnashing of teeth at TUC HQ shows how radical are the latest proposals. All of it should not so much weaken unions as change their character. It may make union barons see red but for union democracy it should be the green light.
- Telegraph leads with "Tories plan to outlaw closed shop - Labour uproar over "industrial slavery"; leader says this Government has been preoccupied by the abuse of political power by unions; it has done little to reduce the unions' economic power and if Lord Young can succeed in that task he will earn the gratitude of the unemployed, but the opposition of even the most moderate union bosses will be difficult to avoid.
- Guardian: Ombudsman plan for union discontent.
- Guardian leader says what is wrong with the Green Paper is the single-minded pursuit of the industrial relations fox (union power) to the exclusion of other more important means of accountability - eg leaving City corruption to self regulation.
- Independent: Sweeping curbs on union power in government. Memories of miners' strike shape new trade union laws.
- Times; Leader supports Green Paper saying gradualist approach to labour law has proved to be the right one. The more representative unions which the new proposals will foster are likely to strengthen both British industry and ultimately the unions themselves.
- Times: Norman Willis accuses Government of "setting up trade unions" as an election issue and Alistair Graham dismisses it as "a series of petty proposals".
- Government's proposals on industrial relations more radical than widely expected. Mr Clarke says he sees electoral advantage if the proposals become an issue. The Alliance claim many of the features stemmed from their own ideas; wholly supportive leader says the consultation paper is Green only in polite fiction. It is clear the Government has made up its mind and the proposals will form a substantive part of the Tory manifesto. The Government's step-by-step approach to unions and industrial relations is one of its success stories and if the latest proposals are implemented the anarchy of the past could be forgotten.

PEOPLE

- Harvey Proctor kicks man who has been embarrassing him out of flat after showdown.
- Mirror says Harvey Proctor is unfit to be an MP and should go immediately. Proctor says he won't go.

- Sun claims Elton John "is at the centre of a shocking drugs and vice scandal involving teenage rent boys".
- Sun hails "the triumph of the spirit" in Egun's vow to carry on fighting for the rights of Soviet Jews to practise their religion in Russia.
- Mark Thatcher has dust up with press photographers in Australia for invading privacy.

EAST-WEST

- Star says we can no longer turn a blind eye to the fact that Reagan is a lame duck president and that it is doing America and the West no good at all. If he is not capable of bouncing back it would be better if he stood down now. In the meantime you have new and awesome responsibilities thrust upon you as the representative of the free world Gorbachev must respect.

USA

- Mail says the Reagan v. Regan big fight overshadows the USA.
- Independent: White House says President Reagan has suffered a genuine lapse of memory over Iran arms deal.

INDUSTRY

- NATWEST becomes first British bank to return annual profit of £1bn.
- Telegraph says 2,300 jobs will go over 4 years at Devonport under new commercial management.
- Lord Hanson backs £1m new City Technology College in Solihull - ignored by "pops".
- Little coverage in "pops" for Energy Select Committee report on coal industry which says coal mines threatened with closure should be offered for sale.
- Independent: Handsworth campaign seeks to involve inner city unemployed in building projects by organising small building firms in the area.
- Times: Secret research work on new RAF safety equipment could have huge commercial spin-offs.
- Times: Aerospace industry brings record trade surplus of almost £2,000m to Britain in 1986.
- Times: Government gives £5m boost for tourism jobs.
- Times: Government to end bridge job training scheme which has helped more than 22,700 redundant executives and managers.
- Times: 400 clerical staff at Aldermaston and Burghfield strike in battle to bring their pay in line with other workers. Asking for between £500 and £2,000 a year.

LAW AND ORDER

- Government decides not to appeal against award of 5p TV licences concession to pensioners living in council houses as distinct from council homes.
- University authorities at Liverpool stepping up security after wheelchair-bound girl student robbed of her purse by 2 men.
- Independent: Tamils granted leave to appeal. Tim Flesher gives sworn statement for Home Office that Tamils were part of an organised racket.
- Independent: Labour women MPs seek new policies on rape.
- Times: Two 15-year-olds cleared of murder of PC Blakelock at Tottenham riots. Four still facing murder charge.
- Times: Wolverhampton council to give financial backing to family for inquiry into man's death following struggle with police.

- 5 English soccer fans jailed for 6 months in Spain for smashing up a disco.

SPORT

- ITV and Channel 4 announce they are to stop covering sports events backed by tobacco companies.
- Independent editorial says soccer's future looks barren and that clubs should show greater imagination; and that factors other than financial should be taken into account.

MEDIA

- Naughty Mail picture showing Yuppies reading Standard and new Evening News and tramp reading London Daily News, under heading "You can judge a paper by the company it keeps".

AIDS

- Ministers approve an explicit video campaign for schools.

HEALTH

- Times: 1,000 children to be vaccinated against meningitis after outbreak at Lincolnshire comprehensive school.
- Times: Cash raised from seized assets of drug pushers will not go towards helping addicts, Government ruled yesterday.

RELIGION

- Independent editorial in favour of ordination of women says a cautious approach to women's ministry should be adopted.

BEIRUT

- Independent: Syria seeking new links "for Waite release". Britain unwilling to enter talks with Damascus.

MOSCOW

- Times: Brutal new form of gang warfare which has broken out in Moscow streets is causing growing concern of Soviet authorities.

EC

- EC warns that European brain drain to US will gain fresh impetus unless Britain, France and West Germany agree to increase research spending.
- Agriculture Ministers agree new milk quota rules.

FALKLANDS

- Times: American planes to use Falklands base as terminus for flights from Houston to Rio de Janeiro. First plane to land on 12 March. Stressed that plans do not involve US Air Force.

DEM: Lord Young speaks at Industrial Society Conference on Two Year
YTS: A Growing Initiative, London

HMT: Mr Brooke addresses the Customs Drugs Conference, London

HO: Mr Hurd launches publication of Broadcasting Green Paper, later
visits Lewisham police station, London

MOD: Mr Younger addresses House of Lords' all party defence study group

DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith performs the opening ceremony of the University
College of London Underwater Non-destructive Evaluation Centre,
London

DEN: Mr Goodlad attends Crime Prevention seminar, Home Office, London

DES: Mr Walden visits University College, Swansea

DOE: Lord Skelmersdale speaks at launch of British Water Industry
Group's report, Overseas Business in London

DTI: Mr Pattie launches Vistel II (telephone device for the deaf),
Institute of Directors, London

DTP: Mr Spicer addresses the annual dinner of the Aerodrome Owners
Association, Royal Lancaster House, London

DTP: Lord Brabazon attends presentation lunch with Lloyds Register,
London

MAFF: Mr Gummer lunches with British Association of Leisure Park and
Piers Association, St Ermins Hotel, London

MOD: Mr Hamilton visits a nuclear submarine (to 26 February)

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe departs for Bonn for Bilateral with Herr Genscher

DTI: Mr Butcher visits Portugal

DTP: Mr Mitchell visits Paris for CFL Rail discussions with
M. Douffiages

TV AND RADIO

Education Secretary, Mr Baker interviewed by BBC external services

"Party Political Broadcast"; BBC Radio 4 (13.35): For Conservative
Party. Also 21.00 BBC 1; 20.55 ITV; 22.25 BBC 2

"Newsnight"; BBC 2 (22.30)

"Diverse Report"; Channel 4 (20.30): Eleven people are in charge of the
BBC - the Board of Governors. But who are they? How do they see their
job? Raymond Snoddy of the Financial Times

"Their Lordships' House"; Channel 4 (12.25)
