

Monday, 6 April 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Duchess of York attends a private view of the Turner Bequest, Clore Galley, Millbank

Commercial Management introduced at Rosyth and Devonport dockyards.

National Association of Licensed House Managers Annual Conference, Blackpool (to 9 April)

European Parliament, Strasbourg (to 10 April)

Amalgamated Engineering Union National Committee, Eastbourne (to 15 April)

IMF/IBRD (to 10 April) meets in Washington

NATO briefing tour of Britain (to 10 April)

Zebrugge ferry to be raised

Civil Service regional strikes begin

STATISTICS

DTI: Credit Business (Feb)

DTI: Retail Sales (Feb-final)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Transport; Wales; Energy

Business: Opposition Day (11th allotted day): There will be a debate on an Opposition Motion entitled "The Growing Social and Economic Inequalities in Britain"

Prayers and Motions on Scottish Legal Aid and Advice Regulations. Details will be given in the Official Report.

Adjournment Debate: The future of Play Board (Mr M Colvin) --

Select Committees: PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Subject: Service Hospitals; Proposed Defence School of Music. Witness: Sir Clive Whitmore, KCB, CVO, Ministry of Defence

Lords: Civil Legal Aid (Financial Conditions) (Scotland) Regulations 1987. Motions for Approval

Advice and Assistance (Financial Conditions) (Scotland) Regulations 1987. Motions for Approval

Banking Bill: Report. Lord Young of Graffham/ Lord Beaverbrook.

Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Bill: Second Reading.

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- Scottish opinion polls yesterday gave Conservatives 35% - only 2% behind Labour.
- Three opinion polls over the weekend between ^{put you} 6 and 12 points ahead with Labour in third place in two of them and equal second in the third. Express leads with a 9-point poll lead - up, up and nearly away, it says; but you want to get 40% - Alliance hold steady.
- But the press believe you won't go to the country on May 7.
- Sun telephone survey puts you well ahead in Tory marginals and those where Alliance are second and only 3% behind in Labour marginals - voting intentions virtually unchanged from 1983.
- Kinnock urges Labour voters not to switch to Alliance - there will be no soft pedalling of policies; but he has a tense and twitchy time with Matthew Parris on LWT. He says only Labour can defeat you.
- Guardian launches series on how you should spend your third term.
- Gorbachev postpones visit to Czechoslovakia because of a cold, but some papers wonder whether it is a diplomatic illness caused by problems with his generals or resistance from Czech hardliners.
- Pravda says you are still the captive of the nuclear deterrent strategy - but its tone is respectful.
- New York Times gives its readers an upbeat picture of Britain whose road to recovery began when you came to office in 1979 (Express).
- Mail forecasts inflation steady at 4%.
- Guardian interprets the Chancellor as saying we shall enter the EMS after the election.
- Government expected to order EH 101s from Westland this week, but 2000 redundancies forecast.
- Salvage of Herald of Free Enterprise delayed by weather; raising ferry now expected tomorrow.
- Cousin of Queen, allegedly listed as dead for 26 years, turns out to be long term patient in Redhill NHS mental hospital.
- Keith Best alleged to have obtained four lots of Jaguar shares in same way as he got five times his proper allocation in B/Telecom - will face a new investigation by his constituency.

• MAIN NEWS (Cont'd)

- Prison officer, and possibly a Free Presbyterian Minister, being held hostage by 28 Loyalist prisoners at McGilligan Prison, Northern Ireland.
- 17 youths arrested in fracas in Rochdale town hall square when part-time policewoman collapses under hail of cobblestones from a mob of fighting yobs.
- Foreign Secretary fails to win EC support for measures against Japan - to be studied further. Guardian says Japanese decided on Friday to open up Tokyo Stock Exchange further to foreigners.
- Malcolm Rifkind has his foot in plaster after falling from horse.
- Bishop of Peterborough attacks Rhodes Boyson for claiming that people who have children outside marriage are evil.
- Today claims Libya is blowing up millions of pounds worth of advanced Russian weaponry in Chad to prevent it falling into the hands of the West.

POLITICS

- Sun urges you to go for June 11 - election fever is paralysing Westminster and you are on the crest of a wave.
- Today claims election fever has virtually put a stop to proper Government and the uncertainty is bad.
- Express says you must decide for the nation's sake. The electorate could be bored or exasperated by the autumn.
- Mail thinks there is every indication you will go in June which it says is soon enough.
- Telegraph leads with you resisting May 7 but senior Tories predict you will find June hard to resist.
- Independent: Senior Tories pour cold water on May election fever.
- Independent: Kinnock vows not to dilute policies as latest polls contain more bleak news for Labour.
- Independent: Tories will focus election promises on inner cities.
- Independent: Editorial says Kinnock is the prisoner of an imminent election. Serious reappraisal of Labour's policies has been pre-empted by the start of the campaign.
- Times P1 lead: "Kinnock goes to war against the Alliance". Mixed views on timing of election among Conservative MPs. With economic optimism growing some believe there will never be a better time.
- Times leader looks at Kinnock's leadership. His party still alive but at lowest ebb since he became leader. Nation does not accept Labour's non-nuclear defence policy or claims of being able to stand up to trade unions. Was leadership candidate of Left; remains the man of the Left.
- Long Guardian leader spends most of its time bemoaning the lack of a coalition agreement between Labour and Alliance.
- Times: Labour heading for bitter dispute over black sections. Hattersley virtually orders Bernie Grant to keep out of Birmingham.
- Birmingham black section of Labour Party being set up in defiance of NEC.
- Alliance propose a massive increase in NHS spending today to create 60,000 jobs.
- Lesley Abdela, in Today (surprise surprise) that women are deserting Tory and Labour Parties for the Alliance in droves.
- Telegraph leader says nothing Kinnock or Hattersley offered this weekend would tempt the electorate to back Labour.
- Times: MPs call for Minister of Play following voluntary liquidation of Play Board.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Lewisham Council said to be planning to send black pensioners on a Caribbean holiday at ratepayers' expense.
- Conservatives on Brent warn banks they will refuse to honour a £150m sell and leaseback agreement covering council buildings to get round Government controls on spending.
- Times: Government to unveil today plans for developers to apply direct for urban regeneration grants cutting out local councils.
- FT article argues that inner city task forces experiment is a small beginning. It is not yet clear whether they will continue since many urban problems require solutions from outside task force areas.

UNIONS

- Sun feature headed "Everybody's getting out, brother" examines the TUC financial crisis with people quitting trade unions "in their thousands".
- Independent: First Division Association civil servants warned that unless they take strike action Government unlikely to increase pay offer.

INDUSTRY

- Express leader on the banks' big profits but woeful service to their customers, says their opening hours are a ridiculous anachronism but the longer hours now being proposed by Barclays and Midland on selective basis are still short by other working day standards.
- Times: Yorkshire engineering lathe ~~maker~~ signs deal in Tokyo that could lead to 20% boost in Britain's faltering exports of machine tools to Japan.
- Times: Stockbrokers say Rolls-Royce profits will soar after privatisation
- Times: Workers benefiting from profit-sharing schemes could be up to £80 year worse off because of new regulations proposed by Government, says CB
- Independent: Government to quit European helicopter deal; MoD to help Westland with orders, but 2000 are likely to lose their jobs. Short feature resume of the Westland story and how it still "haunts" you.
- Austin Rover launches revised models.
- New Daf Trucks Company starts operations today.

RESEARCH

- Times: Government's delay in approving space plan threatening future of Britain's place in international satellite projects.
- George Walden, writing in Times, defends Government's record on scientific research and urges industry to make more positive contribution.
- Independent: Universities cannot accept private research funds because they lack funds to maintain laboratories where such research could be undertaken.

ECONOMY

- Times: Pound, share prices and gilts will push higher today following opinion polls. Bank of England unlikely to allow early cut in base rates
- Times: Public confidence in Britain's economic prospects at highest point since before last general election, says MORI poll.
- Independent: Wales rides recovery wave as Scotland slumps in survey of long term jobless figures reveals regional surprises.

ECONOMY (Cont'd)

- Paris Club agrees rescheduling plan for African states debt.
- Construction industry improves. More projects being built to time and within budget.
- G7 will seek to endorse their Paris accord to prevent slide in value of the dollar.
- OFT to carry out survey of consumers credit experiences.
- CBI warns Government that National Insurance changes could undermine profit-sharing schemes.
- Department of Employment to launch part-time jobs initiative to replace moderately successful "Job Splitting Scheme".
- The DTI prepares retaliation plans against Japan.

DEFENCE

- Denzil Davies claims the Government is to strip the nation of its air defences.
- Express says you are increasingly angered by Armed Forces Officers who claim services are being starved of funds when spending is up 29% in real terms.
- Times: George Younger to announce £400m helicopter order. Rejects pressure to buy American Black Hawk.

NHS

- Royal College of Nursing, on eve of conference, says nurses need a pay rise of at least £1000 a year to stop them leaving NHS; 30,000 said to be leaving each year.
- Independent: Peter Kellner refutes claim that NHS problems are being solved and argues against a May election. Report "The Health Divide" undermines Government's attempts to use selective indicators to show that health problems are being solved.

WELFARE

- Consumer congress at Liverpool University told that 1,250,000 women looking after elderly or disabled relatives are saving the State £7bn a year.
- The Chancellor took upon himself the role of pension reformer in his budget. (FT).
- State pensions to be increased this week.

EDUCATION

- Government inspectors find Brent schools plagued by violence and intimidation.
- Study gives poor marks to parents for helping their children with homework.

LAW AND ORDER

- Daily News leads with a Metropolitan Police report which "paints a glossy picture of two Londons split by money and jobs but united in their fear of crime".
- Guardian says Home Secretary is to isolate the worst crime figures for 10 inner city areas preparatory to a pre-election initiative.
- Times: Home Office goes ahead with trials of genetic testing over sample of immigrants to see if it can establish whether people are related.
- Times: Mental condition of Moors murderer Ian Brady worsens.

PEOPLE

- Our Ambassador in Chile to be questioned over selling duty free cars abroad.

EC

- Times: In wake of your visit to Moscow, EC agree on need for cohesive European response to "proliferating" disarmament proposals of Mr Gorbachev.
- Independent: Britain objects as EC seeks stronger US ties. We want to strengthen bilateral ties not multilateral.

MIDDLE EAST

- Independent: Mr Tindemans to begin Middle East shuttle to maintain political momentum of Middle East peace conference.

PAKISTAN

- Independent: Profile on Prime Minister Junejo says he is the wallflower of Pakistan politics.

USSR

- Independent: France expels 6 Soviets citizens for spying. Editorial says Glasnost should not be allowed to affect our national security.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Lord Young attends Action for Jobs breakfast presentation, Newport.

DOE: Mr Ridley speaks at Nature Conservancy Council's European Year of the Environment (EYE) Crime Prevention Conference, Cambridge

DTI: Mr Channon meets Omani Ambassador, London

HO: Mr Hurd opens IFSEC Exhibition on Crime Prevention, London

SO: Mr Rifkind performs handover ceremony at Hoover, Cambuslang; delivers opening address at Royal College of Nursing, Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow; later performs ground breaking ceremony at Caledonian Paper, Irvine; and addresses Scottish Engineering Employers Association dinner, Western Club, Glasgow

WO: Mr Edwards, Mr Roberts and Mr Robinson attend breakfast briefing with Lord Young on Action for Jobs, Newport

DEM: Mr Lee launches Jobshare, Manchester

DEM: Mr Trippier speaks at Essex Industry and Business Exhibition; later inaugurates Ethics Tourism video

DES: Mr Dunn visits St Marie RC School, Warwickshire

DES: Mrs Rumbold visits Education 2000, Letchworth

DES: Mr Walden visits York University; later addresses Anglo-German conference, Newcastle

DHSS: Mr Major visits Remploy, Chesterfield

DHSS: Mrs Currie speaks at International Conference on Alcohol Problems, Liverpool

DOE: Mr Waldegrave speaks at Pollution Abatement Fair, Birmingham

DOE: Mr Patten launches Urban Regeneration Grant scheme; later visits National Association for Care and Resettlement of Offenders, new headquarters in Kensington and Chelsea

DOE: Mr Tracey visits Islington; later speaks at Rotary Club of Liverpool Charter Dinner, Adelphi Hotel

DTI: Mr Butcher addresses official opening of ARASA offices, Manchester University

DTI: Lord Lucas attends reception of Camden Association, London

DTP: Mr Bottomley attends Second Severn Crossing press conference Bristol; later attends Clearway Competition, Guildhall, London

MAFF: Mr Thompson visits Huntingdon

OAL: Mr Luce speaks at opening of exhibition by Bournemouth and Poole College of Art and Design

WO: Mr Roberts attends Severn Bridge strengthening contract, press conference, Severn Bridge

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DEM: Mr Clarke attends Anglo-German seminar on deregulation, Bonn

HMT: Mr Lawson attends IMF/IBRD, Washington, USA (to 10 April)

HMT: Lord Caithness visits Channel Islands (to 10 April)

TV AND RADIO

Education Secretary Mr Baker interviewed on BBC Radio Education Programme.

DHSS Minister Mrs Currie interviewed by Terry Wogan, BBC TV (19.00)

"You and Yours"; BBC Radio 4 (12.00): 'All consuming questions': A 'You and Yours' special from the consumer congress in Liverpool. Facing questions from consumer groups at the congress will be Michael Howard QC MP, Consumer Affairs Minister, DTI; Michael Meacher MP, Shadow Social Services Secretary; Charles Kennedy MP, Alliance Spokesman on Social Security

"World in Action"; ITV (20.30): Profile of Judge Pickles.

"The Eleventh Hour: Homelessness"; (22.55): Second of three programmes to mark the International Year of the Homeless which focuses on Britain's homeless young people. It features the experience of young people in Edinburgh and Livingston New Town.

"Their Lordships' House"; Channel 4 (00.25): Daily edited highlights of the proceedings in the House of Lords
