

8 April 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister visits 'Better Made in Britain' Exhibition
Press launch of new Social Security leaflets
Conservative local government election campaign
?Statement on water privatisation

PUBLICATIONS

HMT: Finance Bill

PAY

National Health Service Administration, Clerical and Secretarial grades;
130,900; 1 April

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Scotland; Foreign and Commonwealth; Trade and Industry

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Promotion of Wind Energy (Mr James Wallace);

Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill: Remaining Stages

Afterwards,
Prayers on English and Scottish National Health Service Charges and Services Regulations. Details will be given in the Official Report.

Followed by:
Motions on International Defence Headquarters Orders. Details will be given in the Official Report.

Adjournment Debate: The A34 at Stone, Staffordshire (Mr J Heddle)

Select Committees: Welsh Affairs
Subject: The condition and repair of privately-owned housing
Witness: Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Welsh Office

Trade and Industry
Subject: Motor Components Industry
Witness: British Automotive Parts Promotion Council

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Select Committees (Cont'd)

Social Services

Subject: Problems associated with AIDS

Witnesses: Mr Christopher Patten, MP, Minister of State for Overseas Development; Rt Hon Kenneth Baker, MP, Secretary of State for Education and Science

Environment

Subject: Pollution of Rivers and Estuaries

Witnesses: Institution of Water and Environmental Management; Nature Conservancy Council (at approx. 5.15 pm)

Joint Committee Private Bill Procedure

Witnesses: Ramblers' Association; RSPB: Countryside Commission; Nature Conservancy Council

Committees on Private Bills

County of South Glamorgan

(Taff Crossing) (Clauses No, 2, 4, 6, 12 to 14, 17, 18, 26, 27, 33, 34 and 36 and so much of the Preamble as related thereto)

Unopposed Bills

1. George Donald Evans and Decoran Jane Evans (Marriage Enabling) Bill (Lords)

2. Hastings Borough Council

Lords: Short Debate to call attention to the case for creating a sense of unity and purpose amongst all United Kingdom citizens.

Short Debate to call attention to the situation in the Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied areas of former Palestine

Patents (Amendment) Bill (HL): Third Reading.

Registered Establishments (Scotland) Bill: Second Reading

UQ to ask HMG what progress has been made in the repair and renovation of the housing stock.

MINISTERS - See Annex

PPRESS DIGEST

MAIN NEWS

- Election fever subsides a bit.
- Herald of Free Enterprise righted at Zeebrugge - 63 bodies so far recovered. Mirror leader calls for a sense of urgency in relieving financial stress of dependants.
- Harvey Proctor to be arrested on four charges of gross indecency with 2 youths.
- Labour Party holds up business in Commons for half an hour demanding resignations of Keith Best and Eric Cockeram for share deals.
- It also launches a new policy for women who would have their own Ministry with women Cabinet member and staff of 300. Independent says it is a ministry women would do better without.
- Express says Kinnock would like to forget Britain has had a woman at the political helm for 8 years.
- Meanwhile, rally to promote black section of Labour Party goes ahead in Birmingham.
- Japan reaches trade agreement with USA; agrees to study our concerns.
- Robert Maxwell joins call for Japan to give our exporters a fair deal; Foreign Secretary in Commons debate calls on Japan to open up its market. Mail: Britain tells Tokyo - we are "furious".
- E/Telecom announces 3-year collaboration agreement with Nippon Telegraph and Telephone.
- Inquiry into alleged Freemason corruption in Hackney reveals incompetent management and connection between councillors and trade unions described as very near corrupt.
- George Younger pledges support for British helicopter industry.
- Sun draws attention to glowing New York Times account of what you have done for Britain.
- Black raider in Deptford repeatedly hits 60 year old man in face with hammer and drives nail file into ear drum and eye, and slashes his body with knife, to try to get him to reveal non-existent hoard of cash.
- More clashes between police and IRA as IRA funeral is called off a second time because of large police presence; stalemate in hostage taking incident at Macgilligan Prison.

MAIN NEWS (Cont'd)

- Crackdown on dirty dogs announced - new by-laws.
- Reagan refuses to allow Americans to occupy their new Embassy in Moscow until he is sure it isn't bugged.
- Today's silly story - Express thinks the RSPCA is getting things out of proportion in protesting about a (dead) cockle hurling contest in Gower on the grounds it will undermine the dignity of the cockle. Not half as much, the Express says, as this silly protest undermines the dignity of RSPCA.

ELECTION

- Glasgow Herald notes Labour support in Scotland has dropped 8% to 42%: Labour 42; SDP/Libs 25/Conservatives 18%/SNP 14.
- Sun: Maggie can't be rushed. You deliver a firm "I'm in charge" message to Commons.
- Express: Furious Maggie lashes out over poll date fever and attempts to bounce you into an election; City page says Stock market is crying out for you to name the day.
- Mail: "Maggie fed up with poll fever".
- Telegraph: Election date is my choice alone, insists Thatcher; leader says if Alliance does well in local elections you would be advised to get the House up early for a long summer recess through which Owen and Steel would sink from view.
- Times says morale of Labour supporters dropping as general election nears. Latest poll shows belief in Tory win is growing. Market researchers unveil measures to expose misleading or unreliable opinion polls during election campaign.
- Independent: Tories set price they would pay to break Labour: willing to see Alliance with between 60 and 80 seats bringing about the break-up of the Labour Party.

POLITICS

- Sun says Jim Callaghan, in interview with Channel 4 on Friday, tells trade union leaders it serves them right for losing power under your Government. You were right to introduce secret ballots and curb bully boy picketing.

- FT: Ken Clarke says unions have been saved from even steeper decline by Government's employment legislation.
- Times: Kenneth Clarke says only trade unions which treat members responsibly and democratically deserve to survive in economy of future.
- Times: Roy Hattersley says Ministers have no cure for jobless even figures suggesting average jobless figure in Cabinet members constituencies much lower than elsewhere.
- Independent: Reform of local councils to become Tory priority; Scottish Labour and Alliance MPs call for a Scottish Assembly.
- Bryan Gould, Labour's election campaign manager, talks up the North/South divide argument and will use it as a central pillar in the Labour Party's campaign (FT).
- Mr Healey tries to attack the "miracle of Moscow" visit as being fruitless waste of time.

CURRICULUM

- FT: Mr Baker's standard curriculum proposals reveal a further plank in the manifesto for the General Election. The announcement brought cold response from the NUT but no objections from NAS/UWT.
- Star: Baker bid to bring back 3 Rs.
- Sun: Big lessons shake up.
- Mirror: Three Rs shake-up by Tories.
- Today has a centre page feature on Kenneth Baker's "blueprint for a classroom revolution" and a news story "Exams for pupils, 7".
- Daily News: Frances Morrell, ILEA, denounces ideas as an election gimmick; leader says the proposals deserve the warmest welcome.
- Mail: Baker spells it out: All our schools must teach the 3 Rs.
- Telegraph: Baker outlines plan for national curriculum.
- Guardian leads with "Baker sets out new national curriculum" - teaching unions warn of plans to impose uniform standards; leader says the general principle is very desirable but it is clearly an election gimmick. Mr Baker moves from one exciting scheme to another like Mr Toad whose japes always ended in tears.
- Times: Kenneth Baker sets out details for basic national curriculum. John Clare feature "traces the long path to a national schools curriculum" and the parts successive Ministers have played since 1977. Credit goes to HMI.
- Times: Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association tells members not to attend annual parents' meetings in case they are criticised in public.
- Independent: Baker reveals aims for national school curriculum.

NURSES

- Commons clashes with Kinnock well reported - "Your Government (Labour) couldn't hold a candle to it (present Government's record).

NURSES (Cont'd)

- Star news feature headed "Give nurses the money" says Norman Fowler has ordered the daftest Government survey of all time - the research to find out why so many nurses are leaving hospitals. But the real reason is pay.
- Sun: You claim Tories are good medicine for nurses.
- Today: Maggie shuns pay pledge for nurses.
- Express: Row on nurses' pay rise; feature on girls who would rather quit than strike.
- Times: Nurses say Government should bring in legislation to protect elderly from physical abuse, based on child abuse laws.

AIDS

- AIDS adviser to Royal College of Nursing tells infected nurses to keep quiet because otherwise they face a witchhunt.
- Times: Prison medical director says AIDS carrier figures in prisons grossly under-estimated.

INNER CITIES

- Mail leader says that if rent control can be jettisoned in addition to the introduction of urban development corporations, the prospect for the inner cities could be brighter than for many a long year.

TRANSPORT

- Times: Objectors lose fight to stop M1/A1 link crossing site of Eattle of Naseby.

LAW AND ORDER

- Times: Nearly 60% of junior and middle rank lawyers seek new jobs as low morale hits Crown Prosecution Service.

DEFENCE

- Sun leader asks if you can imagine a worse bargain than getting rid of nuclear weapons and having to match Russian conventional weapons and bring back conscription; it would reduce us to the plight of the Soviets who have beggared themselves to pay for their war machine.
- Independent: Healey urges zero option on short range weapons.
- Independent: French parliamentary report calls for Anglo/French missile development.

INDUSTRY

- Times: Courage pub company to be floated for £1bn in summer.
- Airbus decision will come this month, says Lord Lucas.
- FT: Government is considering breaking the hold of B/Telecom and Mercury Communications operators over the transmission of specialised business services by satellite.
- FT: Japan's own trade statistics contradict the core British argument that the UK trade deficit has been rising sharply on the back of increasing Japanese exports to Britain.
- Lord Young asks industry to aid "TV College".

HOUSING

- New planning guidelines will prevent development of surplus hospital sites being developed within the green belt.
- FT leader looks at the Government's plans to put the management of some council estates into private sector hands and concludes there is a good case for reform - especially in the use of housing associations.

WILBERFORCE

- Wilberforce's retirement featured in Star: takes a half page in the Daily News. Mail: Exit Wilberforce, No 10's top cat; a cartoon in the Telegraph.

KENYA

- Sun leader asks us to imagine the outrage if two political prisoners beaten to death in Kenya police cells within a month, had died similarly in South Africa.

GORBACHEV

- Times: Mr Gorbachev refused "at least twice" last weekend to visit Prague because of differences over programme - leader discusses diplomatic illness. Whether Mr Gorbachev's cold is to suit himself, his hosts or some other group not quite clear. Your visit diplomatic triumph - but Moscow leaders may have judged its leader's performance differently.
- Independent: Peter Jenkins says we should welcome Mr Gorbachev's reforms lest we be "sucked into the vortex of its failure and corruption".

EC

- Times: British firms could be excluded from EC research projects if Government continues to block extra funding.

MIDDLE EAST

- Independent: Peres meets PLO supporter in Rome.
- Independent: Libya jams BBC World Service news programmes.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Independent: South Africa's elections offer no hope for the blacks; a right wing victory could set the battle lines.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Lord Young attends Careers Service Annual Conference; later attends Associates Economic Representatives in London
- DEN: Mr Walker presents Energy Schools Competition awards, Electricity Council
- DES: Mr Baker speaks at DES/DEM Careers Services Conference, London; later attends Social Services Select Committee enquiry into AIDS, House of Commons
- DTI: Mr Channon, meets Tunisian Ambassador, London; later attends reception at Lancaster House for Better Made in Britain event, with Mr Shaw and Mr Clark
- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses the Square Mile Club, London
- HMT: Mr MacGregor addresses CBI Conference on Winning Government Contracts
- HMT: Mr Brooke addresses the Parliamentary Liaison Committee for Small Businesses; later opens Balham Customs Office
- HO: Mr Hurd attends Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrates Annual Dinner
- MAFF: Mr Jopling visits Forestry Commission's Research Station, Alice Holt Lodge, Farnham
- WO: Mr Edwards attends Better Made in Britain exhibition, London
- DEM: Mr Lee attends Better Made in Britain exhibition; later hosts reception for disabled lobby, Admiralty House
- DEM: Mr Trippier visits JTS Scheme, Crawley
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits the Royal Society of Arts
- DHSS: Mr Major visits Possum Control, Slough, Buckinghamshire
- DHSS: Mr Lyell visits Manchester Artificial Limbs and Appliances Centre, Whittington Hospital, Manchester
- DOE: Mr Patten speaks at the local Government Chronicle seminar, London
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave addresses the management of Historic Towns seminar, Bath
- DTI: Lord Lucas delivers opening address at Computers in Transport and Distribution 1987, Wembley
- DTI: Mr Clark launches Policy Search Reception, London; later, with Mr Pattie, visits Better Made in Britain exhibition, Kensington
- DTI: Mr Pattie launches Resource at QEII Centre, London
- DTp: Mr Mitchell opens Eurotunnel Recruitment Centre, Ashford; later chairs 11th CFL Joint Consultation Committee Meeting, Ashford
- MAFF: Mr Thompson addresses Farm Fresh Hatchery dinner, Chorley, Lancs
- MOD: Lord Trefgarne and Mr Freeman visit Better Made in Britain exhibition, London
- WO: Mr Roberts attends Careers Education lunch, London; later attends Aluminium Federation lunch, House of Lords

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTI: Lord Lucas visits Iceland (to 9 April?)

FCO: Mrs Chalker departs for Ethiopia (to 11 April); visits Kenya (11-12 April); Somalia (12-14 April) and Mauritius (14-16 April)

TV AND RADIO

Environment Secretary Mr Ridley interviewed by TVS on planning issues

"Comment"; Channel 4 (19.50): An SDP politician speaks in this week's alternative to the party political broadcast

"The Thatcher Effect"; BBC Radio 4 (20.15): Programme 4: 'The Public Servants'. In the last of this series Mary Goldring looks at the change wrought by the 'Thatcher Effect' upon the people who "run the country"

"Diverse Reports"; Channel 4 (20.30): Angela Phillips reports on the case of a young woman bank employee who, on failing pregnant, gets no maternity grant, just four months maternity benefit and loses her job. She argues that in Denmark she would be treated differently and that British parents have a tougher time than their European counterparts

"The Sword of Islam"; ITV (21.00 and 22.30): The programme claims for the first time to have gained an insight into the opinions and motivations of the two most feared groups of the Islamic Revolution, in Egypt, Jihad and Lebanon Hizbollah. At 22.30 "exclusive" interviews with the leaders of Hizbollah and "unique" footage of their "fighters" in action obtained by a Granada team will be screened

"Their Lordships' House"; Channel 4 (00.25)
