

10 April 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attend a service of the Royal Victorian Order, St George's Chapel, Windsor; and later give a reception in St Georges Hall, Windsor

House of Commons rises for Easter Recess (to 22 April)

Princess of Wales represents The Queen at the Sovereign's Parade, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

Secondary Heads' Association Annual Conference Nottingham (to 12 April)

?Lucas to announce car component factory closure in Finchley

STATISTICS

Bank of England: Quarterly analysis of bank advances (mid-Feb)

BSC/DISPA: Usable steel production (Mar)

CSO: Tax and price index (Mar)

DEM: Retail Prices Index

DOE: Homelessness Statistics (4th qtr 1986)

DTI: Finished steel consumption and stock charges (4th qtr-final)

PUBLICATIONS

DES: HMI Report on Curriculum Matters; Mathematics 5-16, Response Document

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions

Business Timed Easter Adjournment Debates until 3.00 pm

Adjournment Debate: The conservation of underdeveloped Crown land and woodland in and around Gillingham, Kent

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- Government's £350m Westlands order not enough to save 2,000 jobs.
- Government orders inquiry into House of Fraser deal.
- In open letter in Guardian David Steel challenges you and Kinnock to a TV and radio election debate.
- Land Rover look for 700 workers.
- You are to force pace over trade reprisals against Japan. Healey acting as paid consultant to Japanese company.
- Kinnock suspends Birmingham Labour Party in bid to head off far Left coup.
- Sun says you'd find Owen a job at drop of hat.
- Praise for Princess of Wales for meeting AIDS victims and shaking hands.
- Claim and counter-claim in who bugged who row between Moscow and Washington.
- Civil Service unions warn they could plunge country into chaos in pay battle.
- Mixed reporting on whether or not Mr Gorbachev received warm welcome in Prague.
- Liberals oust Militant in Liverpool.
- 5,000 march over 62% rate rise.
- Keith Best says he's done nothing illegal.
- Row continues over Bishop of Birmingham appointment.
- Twenty-nine defraud DHSS of £250,000.
- Nurses want trouser suits.
- Fears over computer equipment and low morale at Heathrow.

POLITICS

- Mail: Kinnock suspends Birmingham district Labour Party in desperate bid to head off a far Left coup. May also move against city councillors backing local blacks-only section. Leader says whatever action he takes against extremists they are more typical than he and his friends are of today's Labour Party.
- Star: "Kinnock goes on black warpath". Bernie Grant plans to defy Kinnock and set up black party section inside Commons.
- Sun asks whether David Owen will go to Tories after election and says you would find him a job at drop of a hat.
- Express: Labour supporters reeling from double poll defeat. Lewisham and Liverpool council by-elections won by Alliance. Tories come close second in Lewisham.
- John Redwood says Labour's plans to attack thriving private sector businesses would cut jobs.
- Express leader attacks Alliance on its education policies. It seems to have chosen good Tory ideas - and come up with moderately good ones of its own. And chosen bad Labour ideas - and come up with moderately bad ones.
- Joe Haines in Mirror says most opinion polls aren't worth the paper they're printed on. Even the best is subject to an error of a million votes. Tactical voting is already at work.
- He also looks at the "Government's new poll tax" and without naming names compares your Dulwich rates with those of a couple of pensioners in a council house. Under poll tax the amount you paid would drop from £3,060 to £1,136 a year. The other couple's costs would rise from £317 to £1,136 a year.
- Chris Buckland in Today discusses election dates. 7 May would give you a large majority but nothing is so sure about June, September or whenever else.
- Guardian: Best bought shares in 8 sell-offs. Editorial says Best's decision not to stand at next election lacks principle but Labour and Alliance have good reason not to want a by-election. Mr Best is not the only one with an ulterior motive in the affair.
- Times: Labour pledges itself more strongly than ever to work for a united Ireland.
- Times: Assessing the significance of the local elections, political editor, Robin Oakley, says you and Mr Tebbit will retire to the study at Chequers on May 10 to determine the timing of the general election.
- Guardian: Concern over unemployment diminishing according to Marplan poll
- Guardian: Mr Tebbit asked to intervene over profligate spending by Euro MPs at junkets.
- Guardian: David Steel challenges you and Mr Kinnock to a television debate in an open letter.

JAPAN

- You want EEC backing on Japan but would go it alone if necessary. Sun leader says Michael Howard's mission failed because Japanese did not believe his threats of retaliation.
- Express: You are stepping up fight for tough trade measures with Japan despite opposition from some Ministers.
- Express: Healey acting as paid consultant for Japanese electronics giant - now in Japan on six-day visit.
- Times: Thatcher looks to Europe for help on Japan. You reiterate Britain's willingness to take sanctions, but the emphasis is switching to joint action by the EC.
- Times: G7 warns Japan that it must implement newly approved Paris accord or face additional action in Venice Summit in June.
- Telegraph: You are forcing pace over consideration of trade sanctions against Japan. You reveal your impatience at Cabinet at limited nature of action that can be taken.
- FT: Tokyo doubts London's threats. Japanese officials say every effort is being made to resolve difficulties but Britain won't send a task force so what is the point?
- FT: Britain and Japan do a deal on steps to thwart international fraud.
- FT: CBI warn us of protectionism fears.
- Japanese officials say their current thinking is part of a long term strategy and they will try to avoid any retaliation through mutual discussions but they cannot be more specific at the moment.

CITY

- Telegraph: Lloyds of London plan to raise £134m to deal with effects of losses and frauds at PCW insurance syndicates.
- Telegraph: American director accuses Guinness of staging "desperate international hunt" for £5.2m.
- Telegraph leader looks at the problems facing the City - Guinness, Gas share frauds, PCW affair and now the House of Fraser - and says the vigorous activity by Department of Trade when there is evidence of wrongdoing is a sign that the system of regulation is working; not that it has failed.

ECONOMY

- Times: IMF raises fears of a growth recession with forecast of only two and a quarter percent for industrialised nations this year.
- FT: IMF forecasts a slowdown in international growth. Member nations seek to reassure the markets by reaffirming the Paris accord. Chancellor insists that the Central banks of the Seven stand ready to intervene if necessary to support the dollar.

INDUSTRY

- Most papers report £350m Government order for Westland but not enough to save 2,000 jobs.
- Independent leader says Government should accept it does have responsibilities to industry which cannot be discharged by passing a vulgar non-intervention policy.
- Government orders inquiry into House of Fraser share dealings.
- Express: Private firms brought in to clean Inland Revenue offices caught fiddling tax.
- Telegraph: Land Rover to recruit 700 as demand rises. 18 months ago they sacked 1500 and shut 15 sites.

ENVIRONMENT

- FT: Water meters to be introduced if Tories win election.

UNIONS

- Star: Civil Service unions warn that Government departments, including DHSS and Customs, will grind to halt and airports thrown into chaos in pay battle.
- Guardian: Scargillo loses six-day week battle.
- FT leader suggests Ministers should show Civil Servants some appreciation for the progress made on efficiency.

MEDIA

- LWT appoint Greg Dykes as new Director of Programmes to replace John Birt who has become Deputy Director General of BBC.
- LBC journalists to fight plans to axe 32 jobs.

EDUCATION

- Mail: Mori poll shows most parents do not think teachers are underpaid.
- Sun: Headmasters will be given sweeping new powers to run schools if Tories win next election.
- Express: Notts headmaster urges parents to check drinks cabinet as 12 and 13 year olds stagger around drunkenly in school playground.
- Today leader says teachers should have even more money than Mr Baker has got for them. But striking is no way to get it.
- Today: Teachers snub Kenneth Baker by not inviting him to their Easter conference.
- Guardian: Neddy's long term perspective group report calls for more investment in education and contains cogent arguments for a national grid of fibre optic cables.

HOUSING

- Times: Prices likely to rise by 14-15% this year, according to Halifax.
- Guardian: Homelessness doubles to 100,000 highest since records began with Homeless Persons Act 1977 according to a Government report to be published today.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Mail: Halle Orchestra faces cutbacks as Manchester's left-wing council gives grant of £20,000. Annual grant to gay and lesbian community is £500,000 and is to spend £95,000 on nuclear-free unit.
- Sun: More than 5,000 march on Waltham Forest town hall over 62% rate rise.
- Independent: Halifax puts political football on the rates as Calderdale Council assumes a controlling interest in Halifax Town FC.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Picture of trouser suit nurses want to replace existing uniforms.
- Independent: An LSE study challenges the class health comparisons in the "Health Divide" report. Unemployed health levels improving slowly not getting worse.
- Telegraph: 29 who defrauded DHSS of £250,000 over five years sentenced. Majority of women defendants aged between 20 and 52 were of Irish origin.

LAW AND ORDER

- Mirror: Battling 73 year old grandmother wins fight to take to court man she believes murdered her granddaughter nine years ago. Derbyshire Police refused to prosecute.
- Mirror: Labour say police should make women's safety top priority as many are afraid to leave home because of rising crime and rape attacks.
- Today: Lawyers believe English soccer fans facing trial over Heysel Stadium disaster will escape extradition because of legal slip-up.
- Telegraph: Two British drug officers being posted to Caribbean to help set up intelligence network to combat major supply route for heroin and cocaine.
- Times: Pay bonuses are to be given to lawyers working for Crown Prosecution Service and other Government departments in London in an attempt to remedy problems of staff shortages.

PEOPLE

- Profile on Kenneth Clarke - Benign Tory logic of which he is a master is not always easy to follow; but then he is the kind of man who would read the "Riot Act" smiling.
- Neil Kinnock tells Westminster journalists that Mr Best has not resigned immediately because you are afraid of a by-election in North Wales.
- Claims that Keith Best and Eric Cockeram both made multiple applications for Gas shares. Best says he's done nothing illegal. Paying penalty for silly mistake. John Hamshire in Mail writes about Best under heading "Rise and rise.... and fall of a Yuppy MP." Mirror leader describes him as a "squalid man in a squalid party".
- Prince Charles breaks royal safety rules by travelling in same plane as his two sons.
- Commons plea from Kinnock and Steel for debate on appointment of Bishops. Both Stepney and Kensington say they do not correspond to their stereotypes.
- Guardian leader says nominations from the Church should go straight to the Queen in the form of only one name, thus enabling Church to make its own selections.
- Times: Prime Minister's role should be eliminated from process of selecting Bishops, according to Rt Rev Colin Buchanon, Bishop of Aston.

AVIATION

- Mirror: Dodgy computer puts Heathrow in peril. Equipment "cannot be trusted" and breakdowns "hit central centre twice a month".
- Times: Air traffic controllers at West Drayton complain of low morale, inadequate equipment and stressful workload.

ZEEBRUGGE FERRY

- First bodies are expected to be shipped back to Dover today. Salvage company to start pumping out ship. New rules to bring sea travel more into line with aviation safety rules are likely outcome of inquiry.

PRAGUE

- 150,000 cheer Mr Gorbachev as he arrives in Prague.
- Express: Thousands take to streets in Prague to stage silent demonstration against tyranny of Czechoslovakia's Communist regime.
- Telegraph: Husak fails to give Gorbachev usual embrace.
- Independent: Gorbachev urges Czechs to follow Soviet Reforms. Editorial says Czechs hope Mr Gorbachev will not push too far or too fast on reforms.
- Times: Dubcek veterans proclaim faith in Gorbachev. Letter signed by four senior members of Dubcek administration, backing his reforms, was handed in at Soviet Embassy last Saturday.
- FT leader says Mr Gorbachev will have to tread carefully in spreading the glasnost gospel in Prague.

EAST/WEST

- Times: Moscow offer of freeze on arms spending. Warsaw pact proposes freeze for up to two years on its own spending and that of NATO, opening the way for troops and arms cuts in Europe without delay. US State Department says, at first sight, the proposal looks significant, but close examination would be needed.
- Times: ^{Herzog}~~Aginor~~ Herzog of Israel in Berlin, calls on Mr Gorbachev to unlock gates of Russia for "silent masses" of Jews.
- Independent : Howe shares Moscow insights with Shultz.
- Independent: New Soviet mood heartens West at Vienna CSCE meeting.

SHIPPING

- Times: The merchant fleet, which played such a crucial role 5 years ago, has been rundown to an unprecedented extent. British-owned and registered ships have shrunk by almost 50% compared with just before the Falklands war. Leader argues that Government should address the decline as a defence problem of some priority.

DEFENCE

- Telegraph: Ministry of Defence unveil multi-million pound project to instal 12,000 computer terminals in Britain's vast defence bureaucracy.
- Independent feature says the zero option is the weak link in arms control. Europe's disarray is a threat to its own security as we now face an agreement which is more likely to detract rather than enhance our security.
- Guardian: MoD have commissioned private consultants to investigate its development programme at Aldermaston which has overshot budget even with a number of projects behind schedule.
- Guardian: Sweeping defence review certain to follow election whatever the outcomes.
- FT feature analyses European helicopter projects in the light of the Westland decision.

MIDDLE EAST

- Independent: Hussein fails in defence of Syria. Likely to cause new difficulties with Britain's European partners.
- Guardian: Injured evacuated as Syrians relieve key camp.

BRAZIL

- Times: Two killed and 85 injured as troops repress Rio train riot. Political crisis appears to be deepening as State governors call for removal of finance minister.

HONG KONG

- Independent: Pageant and protest as Hong Kong Governor takes over.

EC

- Independent: Irish Supreme Court ruling puts EC treaty reform in disarray. Treaty reforms would infringe the Republic's constitution.
- Times: European Parliament votes by 141-4 to deplore Britain's stand against research programme proposals.

TERRY PERKS

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Lord Young attends Towards an Enterprise Economy conference, North Oxfordshire
- DEM: Mr Clarke speaks at Wragge and Co, solicitors
- DES: Mr Baker visits Nottingham University; later attends Secondary Heads Association annual conference dinner and speaks at the Jesse Boot Conference Centre, Nottingham; later speaks at SHA conference dinner
- DTI: Mr Channon attends Focus Germany conference, QEII Centre, London
- HMT: Mr MacGregor addresses Chelmsford Businessmen's Association lunch
- HO: Mr Hurd visits Cheshire Police
- MAFF: Mr Jopling unveils Wave Reflection Wall, Morecambe
- SO: Mr Rifkind visits Highlands and Islands Development Board, Inverness; Walkers Biscuit Factory, Aberlaur; Grants Distillery, Dufftown; later addresses annual banquet of Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce, Aberdeen
- DES: Mr Dunn addresses National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations conference/dinner
- DES: Mr Walden attends opening of the congress of Alliance Francais College European
- DTI: Mr Pattie attends EMF Foundation meeting, London
- DTp: Lord Brabazon opens the annual conference of the Advisory Committee on Beach Life Saving for Devon and Cornwall, Plymouth
- DTp: Mr Bottomley attends Motor Show at the G-MEX Centre, Manchester
- DTp: Mr Spicer addresses the Air Transport Operators Association Annual General Meeting, RAF Club, Piccadilly.
- MAFF: Lord Belstead visits Institution of Water Engineers and Scientists, River Engineering Section, Shepton Mallet; later opens Turiban Foods Ltd factory, Suffolk
- MOD: Mr Freeman visits RAF Abingdon
- SO: Mr Mackay visits Fishing '87 Exhibition, Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow
- WO: Mr Roberts addresses National Council of Women of Great Britain, Aberconwy
- WO: Mr Robinson attends lunch at Homeowners Friendly Society, Cardiff

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- MOD: Lord Trefgarne attends the Deutsche Strategie Forum, Bonn

TV AND RADIO

Education Minister Mrs Rumbold interviewed for Education Programme BBC 2

"What the Papers Say"; Channel 4 (20.00): Michael Leapman, freelance journalist

"Callaghan"; Channel 4 (20.15): New series. The first of three programmes in which James Callaghan MP reflects on the lessons of his career. He tells Brian Walden whether he sees a return to the "consensus government" of the Seventies and what future he sees for the unions and the Labour Party

"Their Lordships' House"; Channel 4 (14.15): Repeat
