

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Publication of Mr Callaghan's book "Time and Chance"

EC: Economic and Social Committee Plenary Seminar, Brussels

Launch of new Job Training Scheme advertisements

STATISTICS

CSO: Index of output of the production industries (Feb)

OPCS: Census Newsletter 1981-1991, Census tests and consultations

OPCS: Mortality Statistics; Childhood 1985 England and Wales

OPCS: Livebirths, Stillbirths and deaths: registrations, 31 January - 27 February 1987

PRESS DIGEST

MAIN NEWS

- Sun telephone poll gives Conservatives 17% lead - 44/27/27.
- Mirror makes much of a Radio 1 Marplan poll which gave Labour a big lead: 43/Con 27/SDP/Libs 25 among first-time voters.
- MPs angry over legal blunder which prevents extradition of 26 Liverpool soccer fans to Belgium to face charges in connection with Heysel Stadium tragedy: calls on Attorney General to explain.

- Pops devote much space to the rape of 4 year old girl in Hamilton and search for her attacker.
- Telegraph claims a breakthrough is near in arms control talks. But Times says hopes fade.
- Reagan believed to have proposed a Summit with Gorbachev in the autumn.

- Irish diplomat accused of selling passports to Middle East nationals for up to £15,000 fails to turn up in Dublin.

MAIN NEWS (Cont'd)

- Two youths, 17 and 14, charged with attacking Jan Leeming at BBC.
- Far Left Labour Briefing attacks "Kamikaze Kinnock" - stop this man it says, before he loses Labour the election; but 4 Black activists rally to Kinnock.
- Benn attacks Labour's opposition to black sections as foolish.

- Alliance uncomfortable after Owen's hints he would prefer a deal with Tories; Steel says he would back Labour in a hung Parliament (Mirror): but in Daily News says he will work with Tories.

- Rhodes Boyson warns foreign banks they could lose the money they have loaned to Left wing councils. The councils will not be bailed out by Treasury.
- Deputy head of Swindon Enterprise Campaign, which attracted 30,000 jobs to the town, says Left wingers have stultified effect over last 2 years.
- Lord Chalfont, in Express, reveals that a large British delegation, including a (unnamed) Labour MP, is in Libya to help Gaddafi celebrate the first anniversary of the American raids.
- Orders for 3 container ships from China guarantees work at Govan for 2 years; Harland and Wolff announces 500 redundancies.
- Saunders, Guinness, denies ordering his secretary to shred documents.
- Prison population rises to 49,559, the highest on record.
- Scargill ends press conferences after NUM executive meetings on top of ban on Sun at NUM annual conference; but Today, which is also banned because of its links with Shah, notes he hasn't banned TV.
- Mail says the moderate AMMA which is opposed to strikes is receiving more than 400 applications a week for membership.

MAIN NEWS (Cont'd)

- Good news from factory input and output price indices.
- Mail unveils the £69,950 converted garage in Chiswick 8ft 3" wide and 18 ft long.
- Dr Pauline Cutting freed from Lebanon camp and now in Cyprus.
- Reports that Abu Nidhal has patched up quarrel with Arafat's PLO.
- David Owen attacks BBC for showing too many violent programmes and challenges Corporation to prove they do not harm viewers.
- Elton John is planning to leave Britain and set up home in Los Angeles because of "hounding".
- Esther Rantzen leaving "Childwatch" because of the stress; says she is too stretched.
- Football League claims that soccer violence inside grounds is now under control.
- Turkey asks to join EC.

PROSECUTION RIGHT OF APPEAL

- Star says that after the Master of the Rolls' intervention there is no excuse for Government delay but his ideas are much too limited.
- Sun however takes Sir John Donaldson to task for saying criticism of inadequate sentences could reduce respect for the law; it is the judiciary, by substituting a feather duster for an iron hand, which has led the law into disrepute.
- Express says Government should respond to Sir John's criticism (and that of Lord Chief Justice) and bring Criminal Justice Bill into line with their views.
- Guardian finds Donaldson's ideas unappealing. We do not have lenient sentences in the UK. We need more alternatives to prison not longer sentences.

YOUR VISIT TO RUSSIA

- Times reveals much public self criticism by your TV interviewers, one of whom says they had "the acute feeling that we were the first to tread a path unknown to Soviet journalists".

HEYSEL EXTRADITION

- Mirror leads with "DPP - Disgraceful, pitiful, pathetic".
- Today leads with "Bungled"; leader says the blunder breaks a solemn promise by you that Government would do everything possible to bring those responsible to justice. The reddest face should belong to Hetherington, DPP.
- Express says what makes the botch-up worse is that it follows another over extradition of IRA suspects.
- Independent: MPs from all parties say they will be seeking explanation of what went wrong from Sir Michael Havers.

EDUCATION

- Independent: University College, Cardiff decides against sacking its principal.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Haringey puts out book promoting homosexuality; council describes it as "suitable reading for 13 year olds and upwards"; Express leader describes this as a disgrace, especially against the background of AIDS. And Kinnock claims he has 'rid his party of extremists'.
- Times: Local councils face higher costs for borrowing.

INDUSTRY

- Mail leader on Sir John Harvey Jones' warning about scientific brain drain, says if we want to keep our boffins we shall have to pay them competitive salaries - and that will have to apply more widely. And if we are to do that for nurses there should be widespread support for a bed and breakfast charge in hospital.
- Telegraph leader says a trade war would cause incalculable damage.
- Three major banks impose pay settlement of 5-7.3%.
- Times: Glaxo criticised for miserably thin returns as it sits on £712m cash.
- Times: ICI denies it could be forced to leave Britain over "brain-drain" of scientists. Has no problems - 5,000 applicants from new graduates for about 450 jobs each year.
- Times: EEC warns Japan that its trade surplus with Western Europe becoming intolerable. FT: EC prepares tougher action against Japanese.

INDUSTRY (Cont'd)

- Times: Civil Service fails to attract enough high grade recruits; analysing recruitment procedures to detect any cultural bias against ethnic minorities.
- Times: Civil Service union leader says Lord Young out of touch and should take stock of what was causing strikes.
- Independent: Civil Service Commissioners say, in their annual report, that best specialist graduates are being lost to the City.
- Independent: Black candidates may be unfairly excluded from the Civil Service because of cultural bias in some of the entry tests, the Commissioners believe.
- Independent: Only 11% of employees succeed with equal pay and sex discrimination cases, according to Equal Opportunities Commission.

ECONOMY

- Times: Jobless set to fall below 3,000,000 mark - steady increase in number finding work. Young voting for first time see unemployment most important problem facing them.

JAPAN

- Independent: Nakasone may retire early as local election defeats are seen as rejection of his sales tax plan.

EC

- Times: UK delays EEC cash crisis vote for research and development funding.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Independent: US Ambassador, Edward Perkins, joins local anti-apartheid leaders in attack on South African curbs on political protest.

MIDDLE EAST

- Times: Saudi Arabia understood to be trying to bring about cease-fire in Iran-Iraq war.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Lord Young visits The Guardian newspaper

DES: Mr Baker addresses last session of Committee of Directors of Polytechnics at Coventry, Lanchester Polytechnic; Mr Walden also attends

DTI: Mr Channon previews New Sainsbury National Gallery Wing, London

HMT: Mr MacGregor addresses the Westminster Group Dinner, London

HO: Mr Hurd addresses United Newspapers, Savoy

DEM: Mr Trippier visits Northern Ireland (to 15 April)

DEN: Mr Hunt attends Breakfast Special, Stoke on Trent

DES: Mr Walden addresses Unit for the Development of Adult and Continuing Education Conference, Salford University

DHSS: Mrs Currie visits Breast Cancer Screening Centre, Edinburgh

DHSS: Baroness Trumpington opens Wessex Ambulance Training School, Chippensham, Wiltshire

DHSS: Mr Lyell speaks at the York Scientific meeting, York University

DTI: Mr Pattle visits Oxford

DTI: Mr Clark meets with Plymouth and Government officials to discuss dockyards

DTP: Mr Bottomley visits accident investigation and prevention schemes, Somerset

MOD: Lord Trafgarne and Mr Hamilton address Oracle '87, London

TV AND RADIO

Education Secretary Mr Baker on Call Nick Ross, BBC Radio 4, (08.30 to 10.00 am)

"Which Way?"; ITV (10.30): A "Jobwatch" special presented by Tony Wilson is the first of three programmes screened in a "ring an expert" format for parents and school leavers looking for advice on whether to remain in education or seek full-time work
