

24 April 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

BNFL steam train visits to Sellafield begin

Mersey/Humber Strategy Conference, Manchester Polytechnic

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STATISTICS

DOE: Local Housing Statistics

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business

Private Members Bills: Protection of Animals (Penalties) Bill: Remaining Stages. (Mr Harry Greenway)

Motor Cycle Noise Bill: Remaining Stages. (Mr Robert Adley)

Crown Proceedings (Armed Forces) Bill: Remaining Stages. (Mr Winston Churchill)

Adjournment Debate: The allocation of licenses for the North Norway fishery (Mr J Wallace)

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- Swift clearance of pay review body reports - and 9.5% for nurses in one go - plus your remark in Questions about plans to put things to the people "very soon" increase expectations of June election. Opposition parties say it is a pity justice has to await an election.
- John Biffen speaks of the "few weeks left" to complete Parliamentary business.
- Mail P1: "It's just got to be a June election: nurses win big pay rise and MPs are told the day (almost)".
- Lots of coverage over your confirmation that Sir Maurice Oldfield was homosexual; Owen says you must now allow Parliament to examine the security services.
- Express has 2 page feature on your interview headed "Raring to go".
- Pops take little note of your proposal to remove dole money as an option for 16-18 year olds, described by Kinnock as forced labour.
- Daily News claims an "hitherto unrevealed business link" between Lazards, Westland's financial advisers and a Swiss merchant bank at the heart of allegations that a mystery group illegally acquired shares in Westland - it says this could reopen the whole issue.



MAIN NEWS (Cont'd)

- Home Affairs Select Committee suggests letting small time crooks out of jail provided they wear an electronic device which records their movements; Home Secretary 'cool' on idea (Express). Express leader thinks it is time for the Government to consider bringing private enterprise to bear on the problem of prison accommodation.
- Guardian finds "obvious" civil liberties objections to the electronic device idea.
- Cost of Guinness scandal to company put at £125m.
- Ford made £109m profit last year - sales second highest in history; Vauxhall production at Luton at a standstill because of maintenance strike.
- Caterpillar tractor plant sit-in ends.
- Honda to make car engines in Britain to meet EC requirements on local content.
- B/Rail pays 4.5% to workers regardless of union objections.
- Government doubles to £80,000 maximum compensation for victims of sea disasters like Zeebrugge; Sir Jeffrey Sterling admits tragedy occurred because of human error.
- Off duty RUC man shot dead in Londonderry - ninth RUC officer murdered by IRA this year.
- Harold Macmillan's grand-daughter, Rachel, 31, dies after being robbed at knifepoint - ?overdose.
- Scottish engineer, Robert Maxwell set free in Libya - will fly home this weekend.



POLITICS

- Frank Field, Labour MP, says tactical voting in some marginal seats could beat Conservatives - but gets hauled over the coals for implying people should vote Alliance.
- Mail leader says "Socialists on their own have no chance of beating the Tories. Who says so? Frank Field for one.... Stuart Weir, for another. He is Editor of the New Socialist... Eric Hobsbawm, too, the old Marxist guru.... As a major political force Socialism is almost at its last gasp."
- Sun leader, after printing two page interview with Kinnock yesterday, says if he can't do better than this "appalling performance" it will not give him the "hospitality" of its columns for another 15 months. It will wait until he has something to say. All it got was "a load of long winded waffle".
- Daily News comes out against tactical voting.
- Express: Maggie set to halt dole for dead end kids.
- Ferdy Mount, in Telegraph, says the Labour Party can only be destroyed by a decisive Conservative majority. And the Conservative vote is firming up at a level comfortably over 40%.
- Independent: Move to heal Labour rift inside black sections as black prospective candidates express their total opposition to attempts by Labour's executive to withdraw candidature of another black member.
- Times: You gave the broadest hint yesterday of a June election when you told MPs that "very soon" the Conservative manifesto would include a plan to stop unemployment benefit to 16-18 year olds who refused to take jobs, continue education or accept a training place.
- Times: Voters in this year's local elections will essentially be choosing whether they want more services or low rates, argues political editor, Robin Oakley.
- Labour will today spell out the Party's campaign strategy to supporters at Northampton rally.



NURSES/PAY

- Star P1: 9.5% pay rise for nurses; leader says they have won the substantial pay rises they so richly deserve by patience and persistence (unlike the teachers).
- Sun P2: Angels' delight! Nurses get pay rise up to 12.7% - welcome tonic from Maggie. You play the guardian angel; leader says teachers should ponder the bumper increase for nurses, since nurses were in a far better position to blackmail the public.
- Today P1: Nurses win pay tonic. Election 'soon' as Tories announce £920m deal; leader says you are nothing if not an astute politician and know when to make a tactical retreat.
- Mirror P2: Pay rise "bribe" for the nurses.
- Daily News P6: Election chances rise as 'angels' get the full 9.5%.
- Express P2: Bumper 9½% pay deal to keep nurses.
- Mail leader headed "They deserve every penny" is delighted at the award. And what of it if you have given them the money because of the imminence of polling day?
- Telegraph P1 lead - 9.5% rise for nurses starts poll campaign. Leader says the recommendations of the review bodies are by most people's standards "very generous". In present pre-electoral climate the Government can hardly be blamed for paying the awards in full but this is no way to proceed in the longer run.
- Guardian (ungraciously) leads with "Mrs Thatcher pays up" - a pre-election sweetener.
- Independent: Nurses and doctors get full pay deal; salary awards and your manifesto hint point towards a June election. You limit Civil Service rises.
- Times P1: Cabinet approves £920m pay awards. Nurses' and doctors' leaders applaud the increases.
- FT sees decision to award nursing staff full 9.5% pay rise as a vote winner; Opposition leaders described the decision as cynical pre-election ploys.
- Hector MacKenzie, COHSE, said "Nurses are not going to be fooled into voting Conservative when the Government has treated them so badly in the past".



TEACHERS

- Today: You condemn teachers for continuing disruption in schools "in spite of the best pay deal they have ever had".
- Express: Maggie tells teachers: defy union strike call. And Baker gets tough with Brent. Lord Scarman says Labour's plans to kill off thousands of private schools are illegal.
- Charles Moore, in Express, says this was the week the teachers lost the battle for public opinion.



OLDFIELD

- MPs want to know how he got away with it for years.
- Star suggests that he may have helped to cover up the Kincora scandal.
- Sun: MI6 boss was poof, says Mrs T.
- Today: MI6 chief was a homosexual.
- Mirror: Storm over gay spy boss - MPs demand tight check on secret agents; leader says your admission came after a 7-year cover up.
- Daily News: Owen in call for spy chief inquiry.
- Express: Why gay MI6 supremo was not fired; leader on "Sex and the single spy" says few will be reassured by your statement. The worry is not so much that our security has ever been compromised, but how our security services seemed blissfully aware that a potential security risk sat at their head.
- Mail leader says you should make an oral statement to the House to allow questions to be put. At the same time you might furnish a list of former British agents over the past 30 years who neither worked for the Russians nor displayed character defects which rendered them about as suitable for security work as RU prop forwards auditioning as ballerinas.
- Telegraph: MI6 Chief "lied about homosexual life".
- Guardian: Secret sex life of MI6 Chief Oldfield leaves MPs aghast.
- Independent: MPs reacted with dismay to the revelation that Sir Maurice Oldfield was a homosexual.
- Times P1 lead: Ex-MI6 Chief a homosexual, says Thatcher. Revelations caused a political storm at Westminster with renewed demands for tighter control and Parliamentary scrutiny of the security services. Leader says you were responsible for appointing a security risk to the most insecure post of the United Kingdom. In a way, that made your candour of yesterday all the more admirable. It must have been a difficult admission to make. Fortunately for you, the public probably does not regard Prime Ministers as being directly responsible for what goes on in the security services.
- FT: Homosexuality of MI6 Chief was "risk to security".



DEFENCE

- Independent: Geneva talks begin with Mr Gorbachev announcing willingness to talk about SR missiles in the Eastern Soviet Union and mainland USA. US scientists voice doubts about Star Wars progress.

INDUSTRY

- French Government to sell CGCT for £51m to Ericsson of Sweden and the French Matra electronics and defence group rather than to rival bidders from US and West Germany. Row may erupt as US claims French are fuelling protectionist sentiments. US said "It is not acceptable to have a US market that is open to all-comers while markets in other countries are politicised." (FT)
- Boesky pleads guilty in US court - part of deal worked out between Boesky lawyers and the US Justice Department so that Boesky would help US government with investigation and win a lenient sentence.
- Japanese Prime Minister's advisers urge cut in trade surplus. An advisory committee report to Nakasone urged Japanese Government to take steps to expand domestic market in order to hold back protectionism and defend free trade.
- Giles Shaw says that Japan has electronics plan for UK soon. He said that trade tensions had not affected investor sentiment in Japan.
- Sir Trevor Holdsworth, GKN chairman, to be chairman of British Satellite Broadcasting, holder of the UK direct broadcasting by satellite franchise.
- Midland Bank has offered to consider granting union recognition in its investment banking division provided 30% of staff join.

HEALTH

- Times: Government is planning to introduce regulations in next Parliament covering protection of frozen embryos as well as surrogacy and terms of running test-tube baby services.



## LAW AND ORDER

- Independent editorial says the cautious response by the Home Office to such a shocking report on prison life is depressing.
- Times: Judge Pickles challenges Lord Hailsham to air his differences with him in a television debate.
- Times: Howard League rejects as "zany and irrelevant" the use of American-style electronic tagging for offenders on probation.

## SOVIET UNION

- Independent: Anatoly Koryagin, dissident psychiatrist released by Soviets, is due to arrive in Zurich today.

## SRI LANKA

- Independent: Colombo in all-out bid to annihilate Tamil bases.

## AUSTRALIA

- Independent: Foreign Secretary unmoved by nuclear free plan for South Pacific.

## EC

- Important economic study on development of EC says more needs to be done on redistribution of benefits and promotion of faster economic growth.

## PAKISTAN

- Times: Government of Pakistan confirms it has agreed to buy three Type 23 frigates for about £560m from Yarrow Shipbuilders.

## SOUTH AFRICA

- Rent protest in Soweto enters second day. Independent editorial says Afrikaners will stick with Botha in spite of the fact that their country is now run like a Third World banana republic.

## JAPAN

- Times: Tokyo has indicated that it is bringing forward the date when British financial institutions can operate on its Stock Exchange to spring next year.



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Clarke addresses Mersey Humber Conference, Manchester Polytechnic

DES: Mr Baker speaks at Daily Express Awards Ceremony Presentation,  
London

DHSS: Mr Fowler visits East Hertfordshire Health Authority

DTp: Mr Moore visits Croydon Police

HO: Mr Hurd visits Wandsworth on crime prevention

DEM: Mr Trippier speaks at National Seminar of UK Federation of Business  
and Professional Women

DES: Mr Walden attends Young Industrialists Business Fair, Milton Keynes

DTI: Mr Butcher visits IMI Titanium, Birmingham; later lunches with West  
Midland Transport Executive

HO: Mr Mellor addresses West Sussex Magistrates' Association, Arundel

HO: Lord Caithness visits Leicestershire Fire Brigade

MAFF: Lord Belstead visits Vale of Evesham, Aberystwyth

MAFF: Mr Thomson attends BPF British Quality Chicken Ceremony, Brown  
Hotel, London

SO: Mr Ancram attends UK 2000 Scottish Lunch, Environmental  
/Conservation Campaign, Norton House Hotel, Edinburgh

SO: Mr Mackay attends Moray House Video in Schools launch, Edinburgh

WO: Mr Robinson presents first aid awards, Newport

WO: Mr Roberts visits Development Board for rural waters facilities and  
presents Mid Wales Business Awards, Aberystwyth

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTI: Mr Clark visits Chile (to 29 April)

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#### TV AND RADIO

Education Secretary Mr Baker on air for Any Questions from Bourn, Lincs; later interviewed by New York Times

"The Education Programme"; BBC 2 (19.30): Sarah Kennedy presents the third of the weekly live series reporting on all aspects of the world of education

"What the Papers Say"; Channel 4 (20.00): This week Julia Langdon of Mirror Group Newspapers and Chair of Parliamentary Lobby, casts a critical eye over the last week's national newspapers.

"Callaghan"; Channel 4 (20.20): In the third and last of his series of interviews with Brian Walden, James Callaghan MP reflects on the lessons of his career and speaks about the defence of Britain and the Labour Party's current defence policies

"Any Questions?"; BBC Radio 4 (20.20): This week guests are The Rt Hon Kenneth Baker MP; Frances Morrell, leader of the ILEA; Anne Sofer, Member of the SDP national Committee and Simon Jenkins, writer and 'Sunday Times' columnist. The programme is chaired by John Humphries and comes from Thurlby, Lincolnshire (Re-broadcast tomorrow at 13.10)

"Tomorrowland"; ITV (22.30): Brian Walden and John Taylor describe the problems that arise because the South-East of England is attracting an ever-growing proportion of Britain's economic growth. As a result it is thriving while other regions are said to languish. The programme was first shown in 1986. Next Friday at the same time a new programme, 'The Tomorrowland Think Tank Report', explores possible solutions.