

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Local Elections

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh take the salute at a march past of the Honourable Artillery Company, Mansion House and later attend a reception at Guildhall

The Prince and Princess of Wales visit the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London

The Duchess of York visits The Red Arrows, Lincolnshire

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STATISTICS

DEM: Detailed analysis of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators

DOE: Housing starts and completions (Mar)

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PUBLICATIONS

DEn: Development of Oil and Gas Resources of the UK (3.30)

Charity Commission: Annual report 1986

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Home Office; Northern Ireland; Prime Minister

Business: Commons consideration of Lords amendments to the Banking Bill

Remaining stages of the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Bill (Lords)

Motions on Financial Services Orders

The Chairman of ways and means has named opposed private business for consideration at seven o'clock

Adjournment Debate: Provision for the mentally handicapped in Mid Kent (Sir J Wells)

Lords: Agricultural Training Board Bill: Committee (to be discharged)

Register of Sasines (Scotland) Bill: Committee (to be discharged)

Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Bill: Committee

Pilotage Bill (HL): Consideration of Commons Amendments

Parliamentary and Health Services Commissioners Bill: Report

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Lords (Cont'd)

Swanage Yacht Haven Bill (HL): Second Reading

Registered Establishments (Scotland) Bill: Committee

UQ to ask HMG what response they will make to the report "After Abolition" recently published by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- NOP gives you a 5% lead over Labour in Independent - 39/34/25. Mirror claims Labour is neck and neck with you in local elections and that this could mean the loss of 500 Tory seats.
- Neville Sandelson (SDP) says he will vote Tory.
- Larry Whitty says fewer than half trade unionists back Labour and there isn't enough self discipline in the party.
- Botha sweeps back to power.
- You stun and outrage Opposition in refusing an MI5 inquiry; you don't trust Kinnoch on security matters. Mirror unusually supporting you says you are right to refuse an inquiry but you should follow the logic of your decision and end contempt prosecutions against newspapers.

MAIN NEWS (Cont'd)

- SAS brought in to launch offensive against IRA. More officers for RUC and more helicopter support. 16 hurt at IRA man's funeral.
- Bank of England intervenes to stop interest rate cut.
- Defence White Paper gets little attention in pops. Express feature says all of us, as we enjoy high living standards, should remember that they depend on cheap nuclear defence. Mail says you fired an early salvo with a devastating attack on Labour's non-nuclear defence policy.
- Ministers thinking about introduction of national lottery in third term, though it won't be in manifesto (Times).
- Appeal Court orders Independent journalist to reveal his sources in City case; journalist to appeal to Lords. Independent editorial says nation may have to decide through Parliament whether it wants an active fourth estate or not.
- Attorney General says there will be no prosecution over the death of a 19 year old youth killed by lorry outside Wapping during demonstrations.
- Home Affairs Select Committee recommends privately run prisons.
- Investigation announced into addictive nature (and links with crime) of amusement arcades.
- Teachers' leaders promise not to disrupt exams.
- Report suggests London Weighting allowance should be doubled for nurses
- DHSS study, published today, says pensioners are better off than they have ever been.
- Child Poverty Action Group says nearly 4m children live on breadline. Today leader says evidence unearthed by Jeff Rooker on tax shows that those who have benefited most from tax cuts are those who needed them least.
- John Banham, new CBI director-general, ticks off Government at Neddy for using Korean teaspoons and French glasses on the table in front of them.
- William Casey, ex-CIA, dies.
- Sun highlights case of mother in Bow, E London, who pulled her son out of school where he was the only white boy in a class of 30 Asians and was held back.

MI5

- Star: "We cannot trust Neil" - Maggie in spy storm. Main casualty of exchanges is Callaghan; his demand blew up in his face when you revealed he turned down an inquiry 10 years ago.
- Sun: Sabotage! Mrs T hits at Labour on secrets.
- Mirror, alongside supportive leader: Thatcher No to spy plot probe. She reveals "all clear" by MI5 chief.
- Today leads its front page with your quote "There are no grounds for lack of confidence in the impartiality of the Security Services" and a headline: But are the British people satisfied with Mrs Thatcher? The front page leader says you cocked a snook at the people of Britain yesterday with an arrogance born from enjoying power too long.
- Express leads with: "No evidence of MI5 plot against Wilson. Premier tells Kinnock - keep security out of politics. Relations with Kinnock at all time low. Leader says you were right to refuse Callaghan an inquiry and you are right in thinking your statement will be reassuring to reasonable people. But you are probably wrong in hoping that people will stop raking over the embers. However, if Labour does continue the public are likely to take great exception to the Opposition making national security a political football.
- Mail leads with "4 month probe into plot. Maggie: MI5 are in the clear". You made it clear you will not play party politics with security services; leader headed "She is not like all the others" asks why ever did you not accept Callaghan's suggestion of an inquiry? It is hard to imagine any other tenant of No 10 not doing so! But you are not like your predecessors. You cannot be accused of putting expediency before principle. You have been true to yourself and spurned the easy way out.
- Daily News: Thatcher dismisses call for MI5 inquiry.
- Times headline "Secret inquiry cleared MI5 says Thatcher". You tell a stunned House that allegations are false. Lord Glenamara says DG did not contact him. Retired MI5 officer who was interviewed says Wright allegations are ridiculous; leader says you may live to regret your statement as the affair will not go away! Allegations will grow ever more specific. Wonders whether Callaghan thought he should perform one last service to Party. His late timing has about it the air of man doing bare minimum. All the more reason why you should have taken him up on it.
- Telegraph P1 lead - MI5 inquiry rules out Wilson plot. Report from Australia that Wright withdrew a statement issued on his behalf by lawyers, backing Callaghan's call for public inquiry; leader: Wright has had a good run, thanks partly to the miscalculation of Government. But the cry of cover up will persist. A new inquiry would not however be in the interest of the security services, nor the Labour Party and there is one other sound reason for your decision - our Governments don't normally institute inquiries into alleged scandals under preceding Governments.

MI5 (Cont'd)

- FT P1 lead: Thatcher rejects call by Callaghan for MI5 'plot' inquiry. Leader, headed "Mrs Thatcher at her worst", says there are times when your determination gives way to obstinacy. Unless, and even if, you have something to hide after all, it is difficult to imagine a more foolhardy decision in the circumstances. You should not be surprised if it returns to haunt you.
- Guardian P1 lead - PM frustrates campaign for MI5 inquiry. Labour infuriated. Way seems open for new wave of allegations about the Security Service. Kinnock angry at lack of warning on details of statement.
- Independent: You tell Commons that secret inquiry cleared spy officers of conspiracy. Editorial "A time to speak out" says it ill became you to speak of bipartisanship as you refused to consider some form of oversight of the security services.
- Guardian leader on "How can anyone be reassured?", says democracy let itself down yesterday. The DG's report is in every sense a Duff report. It does not reassure the public one iota. Only a judicial review could begin to do that. A shabby and stubborn statement.

POLITICS

- Star leader says party politics have been the ruination of local elections for far too long. Vote for the best local candidate you feel will do the best job.
- Express, urging people to vote in local elections, says who rules will determine the rates and local services and quality of schools.
- Times: Party chiefs expect local elections to provide you with good reason for 11 June General Election. Ministers thinking of an overall loss of some 600 or 700 seats. Crumbling Labour vote in some districts would give new impetus to Alliance.
- Sue Cameron writing in Times presents Conservative plans for reorganising Ministries, and suggests DHSS to be split into two; Environment to be dismantled; new "Green" Department to be created; MAFF to be cut back; and Energy abolished.
- Telegraph says a vote for Conservatives today can be justified on grounds of efficiency and financial rectitude.
- Independent: Peter Jenkins on the paradox of Thatcherism. In order to liberate the individual from the State it has to use the power of the state; in order that people may be governed less the powers of central government have grown; we have seen a growing authoritarianism in the name of liberty.
  
- Guardian says you are not to consult Cabinet about contents of manifest.

LABOUR

- Sun claims an exclusive in saying Kinnock has ordered union leaders to keep low in the election because they could cost votes even though they have contributed £3.5m campaign money.
- Today says black activists have called a truce for the time being in row with Labour Party - Sharon Atkin and suspended Birmingham councillor call off protest meeting "in interests of Party unity".
- Labour accused of dirty tricks over poster which shows an empty hospital ward - patients now living in the lap of luxury in a brand new hospital nearby (Express).
- Frank Chapple, in Mail, says Clare Short is right to complain Sharon Atkin has been harshly treated, though her punishment does not fit the crime. She should have been expelled a year ago along with hundreds more.
- Ken Livingstone, in Daily News, says there is still a long way to go to rid Labour Party of racism.

EDUCATION

- Sun leader says just when Frances Morrell was turning out to be quite sensible she got the sack as ILEA chairman by a union man who looks set to appease Left teachers. This, it warns parents, is very serious for educational standards will slip further.
- Today says this latest row in ILEA is yet another triumph of clashing egos over the Party's election chances. And the result is like swapping Tweedledum for Tweedledee.
- Mail says Frances Morrell's hopes that her "revolution" in ILEA would be continued by black working class woman instead of white middle class man sums up the authentic political passions of the latter day Labour zealot - race. class. sex.
- Daily News says Morrell's successor's immediate issue is redeployment of teachers. If he ducks it, progress made under Morrell will be lost.
- Times: New ILEA leader, Neil Fletcher, promises greater emphasis on anti-racist and anti-sexist policies in schools.
- Times: Cambridge dons furious over rejection of Rasta poet.
- FT: Seven regional technology colleges will be named today by Mr Baker.
  
- Independent: With the departure of Frances Morrell ILEA puts its faith in a more low key, concensus-minded stewardship.



INDUSTRY

- Nissan, replying to criticism from ex-employees that production lines were too fast and executives keep close tabs on everyone, says it is 90% rubbish.
- Times: Extra application forms rushed round country to cope with last-minute demand for Rolls-Royce shares.
- Times: World oil prices starting to climb.
- Times: National Audit Office says selective Government assistance to industry between 1972-86 was neither as cost effective as intended, nor always well targetted.
- FT: Rolls-Royce offer likely to be heavily subscribed when share offer closes at 10.00 this morning.
- FT: Dollar's decline will hit European quality car producers hardest warns EC report.
- FT: Deadline of May 31 is set for deal between Eurotunnel and French and British state-owned railways.
- FT: National Audit Office calls for tighter scrutiny of Government's aid to industry.
- FT: National Council for Voluntary Organisations calls for £76m plan to provide 30,000 jobs and training places.
- FT: Highland Express airline gets approval for £19 fare between London and Glasgow.
- FT: Treasury improves offer to senior civil servants with "performance points" worth up to £1,000 a year for Grades 6 and 7

MEDIA

- FT: News on Sunday faces cash crisis as sales decline from 700,000 to 350,000.
- FT: Main independent TV companies fail to adopt co-ordinated approach on election coverage; Thames Television will go it alone.

HEALTH

- Times: Britain launches a safer low-dose birth pill.
- Times: Leading infertility clinic - Wellington Humana Hospital - told to stop test-tube baby treatment making use of human eggs donated by relatives.
- Times: US test raises hopes for AIDS drug.
- Times: Head teachers tell MPs that Government's TV AIDS campaign has caused real fear among some young children. Call for national body to check plethora of material.

DEFENCE WHITE PAPER

- Times: White Paper - Tories stand firm on defence with leader describing it as something of a holding operation.
- Independent feature article challenges the assessment that the conventional imbalance is an argument against cuts in nuclear weapons. Tories plan to bridge defence funding gap.

MOZAMBIQUE

- Independent: UK gives Mapute an extra £15m aid.

ARMS CONTROL

- FT: Bonn Cabinet still divided over 'zero option' offer.

JAPAN

- FT: China warns Japan of tough action over trade imbalances.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses Royal Institute of International Affairs, London

WO: Mr Edwards visits North Wales (to 11 May)

DES: Mrs Rumbold visits West London Institute of Higher Education, Middlesex

DHSS: Mrs Currie speaks at the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry Dinner, The Medical School, Birmingham

DHSS: Baroness Trumpington visits Turf Cutting, Fazakerly Hospital, Liverpool

DOE: Lord Skelmersdale addresses the Building Contractors Federation AGM, London

DOE: Mr Waldegrave opens Risk Perception seminar, London

DTI: Mr Pattie addresses Design and Technology Education Conference, Kingston

DTI: Mr Butcher addresses Engineer Quality Assurance Board, London

DTp: Mr Mitchell presents the Minister of State Cup to the British Rail North London line; later addresses the Institution of Civil Engineers, London

HO: Mr Hogg addresses Farming Board Inspectors Conference, Windemere

HO: Mr Mellor addresses Senior Command Course Conference, Bramshillon, on drugs

MAFF: Mr Thompson addresses British Poultry Federation AGM

MOD: Mr Stanley meets President Chisano of Mozambique, London

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TV AND RADIO

"This Week"; Channel 4 (20.00)

"Question Time"; BBC 1 (22.05). Harriet Harman MP, Peter Riddell, The Rt Hon Peter Walker MP and Des Wilson

"Local Elections 87"; BBC 1 (23.30). David Dimbleby presents full national coverage of the local election results

"Their Lordships' House"; Channel 4 (23.10)

"Local Election Special"; BBC Radio 4 (24.00). David Sells presents coverage of the results; with Peter Kellner, Robert Harris, David Williams (SDP), Ken Livingstone (Labour) and Nicholas Freeman (Conservative)

"Local Elections-National Summary"; ITV (00.30)

ITV's local election coverage

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