

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh open the new hospital building, Musgrove Park, Taunton and visit Bridgewater, Somerset

The Duchess of York presents the Student of the Year Awards for 1986 at the Oxford Air Training School

Guild of British Newspaper Editors' Conference (to 10 May)

PUBLICATIONS

DTI: British Business

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS
Hearing Aid Council Act 1968 (Amendment) Bill: 2nd Reading
(Mr Laurie Pavitt)

Tobacco Smoking (Public Places) Bill; 2nd Reading (Mr Roger Sims)

Coal Mining Subsidence Bill: 2nd Reading (Mr Frank Haynes)

Adjournment Debate The Staffing shortage in the National Health Service in the London Borough of Newham
(Mr R Leighton)

Lords: Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill: Second Reading
Stansted Airport Aircraft Movement Limit Order 1987: Motion for Approval
Sex Discrimination and Equal Pay (Offshore Employment) Order 1987. Motion for Approval
Race Relations (Offshore Employment) Order 1987. Motion for Approval
Access to Personal Files Bill: Second Reading

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- Election in June looks a dead cert after better than expected Tory performance in local elections. Labour do badly in West Midlands and SDP/Libs not as well as they hoped.
- Telegraph says a cut in base rates awaits polls.
- Ernest Saunders, Guinness, arrested on attempting to pervert the course of justice charges; bailed on £500,000.
- Ladbrokes want inquiry into City "skullduggery" over their shares. Stock Exchange to have its own inquiry.
- Lester Piggott, ex-jockey, on £200,000 bail on charges of cheating the taxman.
- IRA murder suspect set free in Dublin by judge on technicality.
- Gary Hart expected to pull out of presidential candidature race today.
- 1250,000 apply for Rolls-Royce shares - but many could be disappointed. Express: People's capitalism roars on. Unofficial dealings give investors 32p profit.
- Austin Rover to step up Metro production because of demand.
- Professor Roland Smith, ex House of Fraser, tipped as new chairman of B/Rail.
- Pay settlements average 5.1% in first quarter of this year.
- Civil Service strike affects Customs & Excise - seen as opening Britain to smugglers. Express sees strike as a threat to Labour.
- Prison Service identifies 200 troublemakers among long term prisoners as candidates for special units (Telegraph).
- Children at Cornish school go on strike in protest against teachers on strike.
- ILEA claims teachers are defying union instructions and flocking to apply for redeployment.

MAIN NEWS (Cont'd)

- Two 15 year old hooligans, sentenced to community service in Norwich, sent to Southern Spain to do it.

- Westminster Council orders ITN to remove Portakabin from its roof, from which it broadcasts Superchannel, on planning grounds.

- Thousands besiege Waltham Forest Council's mayor making a protest against Labour's rate rise.

- Cost of NIREX pulling out of 4 potential waste sites put at £21m.

- South Africa - Star sees election result as a vote for repression; Sun - nothing to weep over; with country virtually under siege it made sense to stick with tough guy Botha who should now have the confidence to resume reforms. Daily News: Botha's position and methods have been strengthened. Mail: A massive shift to the right and any further interference from outside will make matters worse. Telegraph: If Botha interprets his success as a licence to dally on reforms there are signs others may move against him; Guardian: Botha is depressingly undamaged. Independent: Botha's pyrrhic victory.

- John Carlisle MP embarrasses fellow MPs with a tongue in cheek guide to freeloading on his status as MP.

- Mr Lubbers escapes bomb attack on his home.

LOCAL ELECTIONS

- Cabinet on red alert for election meeting on Monday.

- Star: It's on. June election as Labour lose ground.
- Sun: Poll boost for June 11 - triumph for Maggie. Tories heading for greater success than they dared hope.
- Mirror: It looks good for Thatcher - all set for June poll. Gloom for Labour.
- Today: Kinnock's disaster. Maggie gets the vote she needs to head for an election hat trick.
- Daily News: Tory success points way to June poll. Labour and Alliance in low spirits.
- Express: Poll boost for Maggie - delighted Tories hold key councils; sad Labour hit by vote slump; Alliance stalls in breakthrough bid.
- Mail: Maggie's mind is made up.
- Telegraph: Council poll green light for June 11. Tory cheer as support holds up.
- Guardian: Tory support holds solid in local elections. Labour suffers reverses in Midlands.
- Independent: Strong Tory showing points to June 11 poll.
- Times: Early results raise hope of June election. Little cheer for Labour.

POLITICS

- Sun leader on Kinnock's banning of union leaders from party press conferences during the election says it is all part of Kinnock's campaign to hide the true face of Socialism and get into Downing Street by stealth.
- Joe Haines, in Mirror, devotes most of his Friday page to bewailing the performance of the Labour Party and the Left and attacking Clare Short for being stupid over Sharon Atkin.
- Today columnist - Show me a Labour MP who sincerely believes his party will win the General Election outright; they haven't got a cat in hell's chance. Hattersley rumoured to be ready to quit.
- Editor of New Socialist quits after row with Labour Party hierarchy on issue of tactical voting which he supports; Guardian leader says Labour is dotty to shut its ears to the idea.
- Times: Kinnock excludes far left from group to run Labour Party's general election campaign.
- Geoffrey Smith, in Times, writes that as you prepare to decide on election, Conservatives have one enormous advantage - they offer prospect of strong Government - and one particular handicap - you need an overall majority more than either of your rivals.
- John Hoskyns, writing in the Times, offers four vignettes of economic life in the 1960s and 1970s as many people seem to have forgotten how the chaos of public policy during that period affected their lives. He looks at the fine tuning of the economy with expenditure plans being repeatedly altered between 1971-76; taxation and Healey's VAT increases; controls, including incomes policy, social contracts and price, dividend and exchange controls; and the problems with trade unions.
- Malcolm Rutherford in the FT examines Conservatism in advance of an election. He thinks there has been an excess of it, especially over MI5 which was offering itself for reform.

MI5

- Today devotes a page to a leader saying there seems to be no dodge or creative bureaucratic convention you will not stoop to in order to keep us ignorant about the MI5 case; and the Treasury Solicitor's letter warning newspapers not to publish material for Wright's book.
- Guardian claims that a former senior MI5 officer in charge of sections which orchestrated the alleged smear campaign against leading politicians has recently been brought back as adviser to Security Service.
- Writing in the Times, Michael Evans says that to function properly MI5 has to remain secret and independent of Government. Ministers are told only what they need to know.
- Independent: Goldsmith denies MI5 role, says he has never met Mr Wright. Surprise grows over your stand on MI5.
- Independent: Diary flaunts D Notice on naming Head of Security Service.

MEDIA

- Express on Appeal Court order for Independent journalist to reveal his sources says it is a matter for considerable concern. A test case for journalists' right to protect sources.

• EDUCATION

- Independent: Authorities by 1991 must close equivalent of 2000 schools as rolls drop.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Times: Health and Safety Commission say one in ten health staff assaulted last year.
- Times: Regional health authorities should intervene where there are "cross-border" patients' disputes.

LAW AND ORDER

- Times: Judicial Studies Board give sentencing guidelines to JPs to improve consistency and reduce controversy on matters such as granting bail.
- Times leader says Government should seriously study possibility of early experiment of private prisons.
- Independent: Fines for carriers of illicit asylum-seekers likely to become law.

HOUSING

- Times: North Housing, largest housing association, launches £65m private loan package to be raised in City to fund building of 2,000 houses for rent.

EC

- Mail leader on "monumental folly" of CAP, as revealed by selling beef mountain to Brazil which then returns in cans, says the task for Euro statesmen is to make the most dignified funeral arrangements for CAP.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Independent: Editorial says Mr King should remember that the Anglo-Irish Agreement is at best a means to an end: not an end in itself.

MOZAMBIQUE -

- Independent: British troops may help in rebel war. Chissano backs you on South Africa. The book of London photographs given to Chissano contrasted with his gift of a carving of starving mother and child.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Lord Young visits Middlesbrough

DEM: Mr Clarke opens IBM office, Warwick; later speaks at Templeton Conference Oxford, on Government Objectives on Management Initiatives

DTP: Mr Moore visits the AA, Basingstoke

LCD: Lord Hailsham speaks to the Derbyshire branch of the Magistrates Association

DES: Mr Walden attends NAB Committee meeting, Metropolitan House, London

DOE: Mr Waldegrave visits Yorkshire Three Peaks Project

DTI: Mr Butcher attends opening of Woolston Warehouse

DTI: Lord Lucas attends Reception Celebration of 42nd Anniversary with Czech Ambassador, London

DTP: Lord Brabazon visits Stornoway

HO: Mr Hurd visits Leeds prison and Prison Service College

HO: Lord Caithness visits Wakefield Prison

MAFF: Lord Belstead visits Seaford

SO: Mr Lang visits East Kilbride New Town and later opens Hydro-Electric Scheme, Dalry, Ayrshire

SO: Mr MacKay visit Northern College of Agriculture, Aberdeen

SO: Lord Glenarthur meets Scottish Council on Disability, NSAH and later launches Computerised Information Service

WO: Mr Robinson opens CT scanner, West Wales Hospital, Carmarthen; later opens Pathology Department, Singleton Hospital, Swansea

TV AND RADIO

DOE Minister Dr Boyson takes part in BBC Radio 4s Any Questions

DTI Minister Mr Howard interviewed by TUAM on Timesharing

TV AND RADIO (Cont'd)

"Passage to Britain"; Channel 4 (14.30). This programme looks at the Sikhs who left the Punjab to come to Britain. The symbols of their religion are said to have probably caused the greatest difficulties

"The Education Programme"; BBC 2 (19.30). In this week's programme The Rt Hon Kenneth Baker MP is in the studio to answer questions about areas of current concern in education

"What the Papers Say"; Channel 4 (20.00). John Lloyd, of the 'New Statesman', casts a critical eye over the week's papers

"A Week in Politics"; Channel 4 (20.15)

"Any Questions"; BBC Radio 4 (20.20). Dr Rhodes Boyson MP, Julia Langdon, Dafydd Wigley MP and Trevor Jones. Chaired by John Timpson and broadcast from Llantrisant, Mid-Glamorgan
