

24 June 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen presents new Colours to the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards,
Buckingham Palace

The Princess of Wales attends the Women's Golden Jubilee Concert
at the Palladium Theatre, London

Prime Minister is host at the Eve of Session dinner

EC: Transport Council, Luxembourg (to 25 June)

TUC: General Council

Labour Party NEC

STATISTICS

DOE: Construction: New Orders (Apr)

HSC: Second Report, session 1986-87, selected cases Nov 1986/Mar 1987

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

British Aerospace wins £1bn order from Australian based group for its entire production run of 72 146 freight jets - but Telegraph leads on reports of company's economy drive and prospect of job cuts. Times leader says the order could have a profound effect on aircraft design from noise standpoint.

Gavin Laird, AEU leader, says union leaders must accept the verdict of their members, 60% of whom did not vote for Kinnock, and work as best they could with the Government. Living standards have substantially improved.

Civil Service unions fall out over strike action and SCPS call off action, while CPSA goes to ballot on all-out strike; Express says you are set to win this fight.

SDP leaders reject Douglas Hurd's overtures to join Conservatives; agree on joint approach with Liberals to Queen's Speech.

Chancellor believed to have signalled further tax cuts next Spring in ebullient speech about the no longer sick man of Europe's economy.

AMA calls for new approach to housing tax relief affecting both owner-occupiers and tenants.

UDM launches a political fund which would go to help candidates "on merit" regardless of party label. Sun says the TUC, in refusing UDM membership, are afraid of democracy "which is probably the reason they are fast becoming extinct.

Inquiry ordered in Cleveland into allegations by parents that they have been wrongly accused of molesting children; Mail says it is overdue. Guardian says Salford is to have the country's first child abuse clinic aimed at improving methods of obtaining evidence and training social workers.

Thames Water attacks Government's water privatisation plans - National River Authority is "overkill".

Adam Smith Intitute calls for you to privatise all nationalised industries and such services as prison, fire and ambulance.

Independent: European Commission says 1000 research jobs are threatened unless British Government lifts its veto on the Community research budget.

More than 75% of used cars offered for sale not fit to be on the road, according to D/Transport and trading standards officers.

Police in Leeds on standby after 2 nights of violence in Chapeltown district.

Independent reports that Civil Servants in Department of Environment are getting TV training in "unprecedented" move which could lead to politicisation of Civil Service.

Times: Government accused of not doing enough to protect British travellers from risk of being affected by AIDS abroad. Medical Travellers Service want Government to put money into countries with high incidence of AIDS for screening purposes.

BBC apologise for Radio Ulster broadcast by former Panorama reporter that Prince Philip had been photographed with two naked girls.

Preview of your interview with Russell Harty.

A £20m TV series based on your life is being planned in the USA, with Lee Remick tipped to play you.

Feature in Telegraph reports one opponent of Bishop Durham saying he has "marginalised" the office of Bishop.

Allegations by Newsweek and US News & World Report magazines of adultery by George Bush, presidential candidacy feared wrecked.

Mugabe announces he is scrapping special seats for whites in Parliament.

You back the proposed international peace conference on the Middle East after meeting with Peres.

Times leader says Mr Peres is in unusual position for a Foreign Minister of having more support abroad than at home. His grand tour of Europe begins well with you giving him what he wanted - unequivocal support for a Middle East peace conference.

Times: US-Soviet talks to be held in Washington next month in effort to remove obstacles holding up arms control agreement.

Gorbachev accuses the West of delaying agreement (Independent).

Syria steps up work to free hostages (Independent).

POLITICS

Express P1 - Booming Britain! You ain't seen nothing yet, says Lawson. The best is yet to come.

Feature in Daily News, says Douglas Hurd's suggestion that the SDP should join the Tories may be premature, but it could be the logical conclusion to the growing split in the Alliance.

Daily News says Kinnock is to face critics at Labour Party's NEC today over the cost and personal nature of the election campaign.

Edward Pearce, in Express, on SDP/Libs, says it is not possible to take the "blood feud" seriously. He says had Owen thrown in his hand his enemies would have rejoiced. Owen and his bright young men, as distinct from the rest of the Gang of Four, can best be saved by a federation which chose a Prime Ministerial candidate ahead of an election.

Guardian says a special conference on constitutional change is being considered by Labour to rally support for Kinnock's one-man one-vote principle for selecting candidates.

Guardian leader says it suits a lot of interests to pretend David Owen is a Tory which he is not. Owen's difficulty is that he is not as powerful as he wants to be and he has to decide whether to opt for a more modest role.

Times: SDP MPs to unveil plans today for avoiding a merger with Liberals but bringing the two parties closer together.

Woodrow Wyatt in Times explains why SDP must fight on. He looks at how the Labour Party has changed since Gaitskell's death and says that a number of the remaining moderate Labour MPs will feel unable to live any longer with the ultra-left majority. That is what the SDP should be looking ahead to, not committing suicide.

Independent: Home Rule in Scotland has an emotional rather than practical appeal. Feature article says "vox pop" is mixed and if Labour are to make devolution an issue, they have a lot of educating to do.

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Chancellor's speech at Edinburgh interpreted as giving signal for another 2p off taxes next Spring, and cuts in higher rates.

Telegraph leader says that British Socialists who extol the Swedish model turn a blind eye to the fact that automatic welfare payments there are denied to all under 20. Other Western governments understood long ago that the worst possible start to adult life was an automatic place in the dole queue.

Guardian leader claims that in a welcome attack of post electoral nerves the Government is thinking of modifying its pledge to remove benefits to the under 18s and it doesn't like the idea of a job search fee, either.

Lord Young, says self-help is key to Government's plan for reviving jobs in run-down inner city areas as chances of big firms coming to rescue were very remote (Times).

Times: Chancellor stresses need for further reforms to improve efficiency of the economy. Pledges Government to tackle problems of private rented accommodation and promises measures to encourage profit-related pay. Business and Finance comment says his speech contained a strong, if oblique, message on the Government's commitment towards the inner cities and its other electoral graveyard, Scotland. What is needed now is a further effort at tackling the rigidities which still inhibit change and growth.

Sun leader on Norman Fowler "one of the flops of the last Government" for failing to defend "the Tories excellent record on health" says it has a sinking feeling about his performance after 2 weeks at Employment for looking at the Australian idea of job search payments to unemployed youngsters.

Mail leader says it is not fair to the community who have currently to maintain in idleness the estimated 100,000 youngsters who refused to take a job or join the YTS: That is why Norman Fowler's decision to stop benefit to 16 and 17 year-olds who refuse to accept work training or further education is sensible and just.

Ken Livingstone reported as calling on Labour Party to admit Communists who, he said, would provide "ideological ballast". Any group that believes in social change or socialist order should be in the Labour Party, he claims.

Express says you are to crack down hard on MPs who oppose rates reform; leader says one of your main difficulties over the last 8 years has been beating the obstacles to change put in your way by

bureaucracy of vested interests. On rates you must assert your leadership since the election gave you the go-ahead.

In another leader on Gavin Laird's remarks, the Express says Laird has virtually endorsed the Chancellor's "you have never had it so good" boast. But to listen to Kinnock you would have thought Labour achieved an historic victory.

FT: Mr Ridley is said to be displeased that his Cabinet colleagues seem to be advocating some sort of review of urban policy.

Peter Jenkins, in Independent, says you must shift the welfare debate onto higher ground and persuade people that your market philosophy has a social purpose which can improve the quality of health, education and housing.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Daily News says Labour councils in London look likely to accept cuts in jobs and services they have resisted for 2 years in the face of bankruptcy, surcharge or takeover by a commissioner.

Sun says Ealing is planning to let single women have their homes decorated at ratepayers' expense provided they do not speak English.

Sun leader on Camden's plan to introduce psychologists to help staff with problems says that is rich when the councillors themselves have enough problems to reduce Jung and Freud to nervous wrecks!

Mail says Lewisham has admitted that it has an "appalling" problem - on average workers are taking more than 5 weeks' sick leave a year at the cost of more than £400,000. A nurse has been appointed to counsel staff.

UNIONS

Mirror leader says the TUC is learning new tricks and facing up to the truth that if it doesn't change its ways the carthorse will end up in the knackers' yard - all this brought on by GMBTU's decision to seek a new image.

Mail feature says that in the wake of your third election victory it would be hard to imagine a more dispirited group than the TUC General Council meeting today. They are bereft of ideas in a world which has for them changed beyond all recognition. The reality they cannot bear even to think about is that their

relationship with the Labour Party may have become mutually destructive.

Independent editorial on new unionism and old ways says unions links with Labour Party, block votes etc must go if unions really want to change their image.

EDUCATION

HMI report that good discipline is the norm in schools.

Times: Kenneth Baker and his Ministers "closeted in secret council of war" at Chevening aimed at reviewing tactics and strategy for new Parliament. Attention closely focussed on controversial new Education Bill.

LAW AND ORDER

Group of businessmen to found a Community Action Trust to fund rewards to people who help police with information about crimes of violence.

TRANSPORT

Times: Cab-share scheme between London stations to go ahead despite collapse of experimental scheme at Heathrow.

Lord Bethell in Times calls for cheaper air fares in Europe and looks at EEC Transport Ministers' meeting. He concludes: We should be ready to break the crippled European airline industry's leg and reset it properly.

EC

FT: UK is understood to be close to a final decision on whether to lift its lone opposition to the EC's planned research budget. You tell M. Martens that Britain opposes extra funds for the EC until the agriculture budget is brought under control.

FT: Japan may complain to GATT over EC's decision to extend anti-dumping duties to components of products made or assembled in the EC:

FT: Hope seen for cheaper flights as EC transport ministers meet to discuss air liberalisation package.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES, ETC)

- DEN: Mr Parkinson addresses the Union of Democratic Mineworkers Annual Conference, Weymouth
- HO: Mr Hurd addresses Press Association Lunch, Savoy, London
- WO: Mr Walker attends Chinese Ambassador's Farewell Reception, London
- DES: Mr Jackson attends opening of the Chemical Industries Association conference
- DES: Lady Hooper attends the Federal Trust for Education and Research, London
- DHSS: Mr Newton speaks at Care for Carers seminar, Victoria Baptist Church, Eastbourne
- DTp: Mr Bottomley attends the British Road Federation AGM, Leicester Square; later receives Cypriot Minister of Communications, followed by lunch at Admiralty House
- DTI: Mr Atkins visits Arthur Lee and Sons plc, Sheffield
- HO: Mr Hogg visits ICI laboratories, Cheshire
- MAFF: Mr Gummer attends UK Federation of Business and Professional Women, Melton Grange, Woodoridge
- MAFF: Mr Thompson visits Dow Chemicals open day, Letcombe Regis and buffet lunch
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington attends Lincoln Show
- ODA: Mr Pattern addresses London Diplomatic Association luncheon, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTp: Mr Channon attends EC Transport Council, Luxembourg (to 25 June)
- HMT: Mr Lawson addresses the Swedish Chamber of Commerce
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