

25 June 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

State Opening of Parliament

The Queen attends a concert at the Royal Albert Hall

The Princess of Wales visits a Help the Aged sheltered housing scheme at Southdene, Huddersfield; later visits the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary

The Prince Edward visits the Provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island in Canada (to 30 June)

EC: Standing Committee on Employment, Brussels

CPEC: Ministerial Meeting, Vienna

STATISTICS

DEN: Energy Trends (Apr)

DTP: New vehicle registrations (May)

PUBLICATIONS

HMI: Report on Aspects of YTS

HMI: Report on ILEA: Sir James Barrie infants school, Wandsworth

HMI: Report on ILEA: Hungerford Junior School, Islington

HMI: Report on Manchester LEA, Meade Hill School

PARLIAMENT

State opening of Parliament

Debate on the Address

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

Solicitor threatening legal action in High Court for return of children in care on "false" charges of parental abuse. Woman doctor concerned denies being over zealous; Independent leader says this case shows social workers have to exercise quite disproportionate responsibility.

Owen supports his MPs who reject merger with Liberals but advocate "closer links".

Kinnock apparently confident of getting one-man, one-vote in election of candidates; Ken Livingstone goes on TV outside Labour Party HQ to attack idea and Mail says some kind of electoral college other than a simple one-man one-vote system is more likely.

Hattersley being blamed for Labour's defeat because of their "botched" tax proposals.

TUC opts out of Job Training Scheme because it offers only "token training" and "unjust pay rates"; Norman Fowler says decision is "indefensible"; TUC membership falls to 9,243,297 - drop of 342,432 and £300,000 in income - 24% fall during last 8 years.

Two-day Civil Service strike starts today - CPSA decides to go ahead with pay battle alone after SCPS ends its action; Government imposes 4.25% deal.

Telegraph leads with report that Tory MPs are very uneasy about scrapping rates and introducing community charge.

Government alleged to be about to ban LEAs subsidising outings, field trips, music lessons etc and make parents pay for extras; Kenneth Baker denies allegation and says Government is committed to principle of free education.

Centre for Policy Studies says children are leaving school unable to speak and write correct English because teaching of subject is inadequate.

Star welcomes signs of tougher Government approach to sentencing, notably on child abuse, and Scotland Yard's new guidelines cracking down on domestic violence. Mirror says for far too long police have failed to act in these cases.

Sun welcomes liberalisation of drinking hours, confirmed yesterday by Home Secretary, and says its readers are behind it 2-1.

Sun considers the idea to give local labour preference in council contracts is wrong and dangerous.

Express says you have sparked off a boom in self employment with hundreds of thousands rushing to set up their own businesses.

Euro Court backs claim by housewife for disability pension because a rare disease prevents her from doing housework - wider implications for DHSS - could cost millions.

BMA, Royal College of Nursing and Institute of Health Service Management say Government should take a lesson from Marks & Spencer and Sainsbury and make hospitals more inviting. Guardian says they want NHS spending to rise at least in line with growth in national income.

Bedford Van workers reject Japanese-style working practices, including a no-strike agreement, notwithstanding threat of redundancy.

Guardian says you have told colleagues you are now in favour of televising the Commons on which there will be an early chance to vote.

Royal Shakespeare Company to appeal direct to you if it fails to clear its £1.1m deficit.

Dublin: Haughey survives vote on health service cuts.

Mail leader on release of Lt Astig, in Argentina, on kidnap, torture and murder charges, says it is now clear Alfonsin is a weak man being manipulated by armed forces. The last thing we should do is rush into an arrangement with this regime.

Sun notes that under Socialism, France's industrial growth has been cut by half and that inflation and unemployment are rising - how they must be wishing they had a Madame Thatcher.

Waldheim gets icy reception in Rome on way to visit Vatican which generates controversy across the world.

Soviet amnesty announced last week may now include dissidents and other political prisoners (Independent).

Korea's most important dissident Kim Dae-Jang freed from house arrest.

Independent feature lists possible problems facing Hong Kong over next ten years and says the Hong Kong Government needs the outspoken support of the British Government to deal with them.

Wright book set for US publication next month (Independent).

Soviet Union and China prepared to renew diplomatic relations with Israel if they are able to take part in international peace conference (Times).

Syria fails to get American journalist freed in Lebanon (Times).

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Telegraph leads with Conservative MPs alleged disquiet over abolishing rates and introducing community charge; Sun has a feature headed "End of the great rate robbery - Tories set to foil barmy burghers" - ie high spending LAs.

Express, welcoming increase in self employment, says Government must now encourage one and two-man bands to become 3 and 4-strong units.

Mail says the biggest shake-up in education since the Second World War will be outlined in the Queen's Speech.

Telegraph leaders say the Queen's Speech should herald a new radical dawn for Britain. It must push through potentially unpleasant or contentious measures; on trade union reform says opposition to the further changes will come from the usual quarters but there is a better way for unions - agreements which stress benefits for members. Have moderate leaders the courage of the EETPU to come out fighting?

Hugo Young, in Guardian, says the Government is aware of the objections to rates but is determined to act. It has closed its eyes and charged and its majority will be its battering ram, but if more than 50 MPs decline to be enlisted it won't go through.

Independent: Queen's speech to unveil radical Tory package which will show your government has not run out of steam; on education it says parents are to pay for school "extras" in new education legislation, although principle of free education remains in tact.

Times: Institute of Directors calls for immediate reduction in top rates of income tax.

Times: Opposition expected from medical and temperance groups over planned change in pub hours. BMA says it would exacerbate the increasing incidence of alcoholism.

Ronald Butt, in Times, discusses the planned "poll tax" and what happened last time it was introduced 600 years ago. Supports the

"uniform business rate" but has doubts about individual poll tax. Says the scheme has all the hallmarks of a bright idea dopted before all the details have been thought out.

Times: Government urged to develop coherent policy on family, including reform of divorce laws and taxation, to prevent break up of family life.

FT: Association of District Councils decide not to oppose rate reform but ensure that new legislation is workable.

POLITICS

Today says grandparents of 10 year old boy awaiting heart surgery who became an election issue intend to go private because they believe he has been forgotten about after the election.

Guardian leads with "struggle for SDP future in the open". While SDP MPs are against merger, Shirley Williams, Roy Jenkins and Bill Rodgers campaign for it. Marplan poll suggests people would be more likely to vote for Alliance if it had one leader but they are evenly split over who it should be - Steel or Owen.

Guardian says Kinnock has told close friends one man one vote should not dilute existing voting rights of union branches.

Livingstone to speak on same platform as Sinn Fein next month.

Michael Meacher, in Guardian, cites 3 factors for Labour's defeat - rising living standards, Thatcherism's ideological dominance, and your image and the respect you command "among probably a majority even of her non-supporters". It is vital for Labour to extend its class appeal.

Independent: Labour looks inward after election defeat and launches a root and branch analysis of the Party's political role; editorial on SDP urges them to hold a referendum on their future. This would not solve the problem of the realignment of the centre left, but would keep the social democratic option in place.

Peter Jenkins, in Independent, says SDP is being offered a desperate survival plan in the hope of something better turning up.

Times P1 lead says Kinnock makes deal with unions to weaken far left. To get his plans for one-man-one-vote passed at party conference, he has promised unions a continued voice in election of parliamentary candidates. Plan expected to be vehemently opposed by party activists.

Times: You are expected to snub Alliance again by putting forward the name of only one former Liberal MP for a dissolution honour.

Discussing row between SDP and Liberals, Geoffrey Smith in Times, says it always astonishes him how politicians can tear each other apart in the name of brotherhood.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Camden foster parents threatening to strike for allowances to be doubled because of changes in their duties.

Baroness Cox, at London conference organised by National Council for Christian Standards in Society, says sex education leaflets promoting "positive images" of homosexuality are threatening family life.

INDUSTRY

Peter Walker, in book on coal dispute, claims Ian MacGregor nearly led to defeat and disaster for Government.

North Sea oil rigs may be floated into London dockland to provide accommodation for migrant workers developing Canary Wharf.

Times: Cecil Parkinson says Government has no plans for early privatisation of coal industry.

UNIONS

Today leader says we are still waiting for an answer to George Woodcock's question "What are we here for?" 20 years after he asked it. The unions are as divided as ever but trade unionism will only work where it is flexible, responsible and democratic. Trade unionists do not want unions which regard them as cannon fodder in political struggles in which they do not believe.

GMBTU sets aside 10 executive seats for women.

Bill Jordan, AEU, says they face 5 more years of an "anti-manufacturing Government".

Guardian says CPSA call for an all-out strike was a spectacular own goal in Civil Service strike but parts of the Civil Service, like benefit offices, are on the verge of collapse under the sheer volume of work and Ministers' neglect of their responsibilities as employers has created a fertile ground in which Militant can grow.

Independent: Bill Morris, of TGUW, says blacks are failed by unions and criticises Labour's handling of black sections issue.

Times: CPSA in disarray after head-on clash between Militants and moderates over call for ballot on all-out strike. Leader says ballot is indication of almost certain defeat. Calls for Civil Service reform as crude cuts in numbers has affected morale and lost some of best talent.

FT: John Macreadie, Militant deputy general secretary of CPSA, gets seat on TUC General Council.

EDUCATION

Independent feature on Sheffield's plans to break the "tyranny" of school subjects by introducing new subjects but national curriculum could pre-empt the attempt.

EC

Foreign Secretary warns EC that we shall not agree to increase resources until tight financial controls are agreed

FT: Delors wants Brussels Summit to agree commitment to farm policies more closely linked to market prices and an enforceable system of expenditure control. Leader says seldom have expectations for a European Summit been so low or the auguries so depressing. The main thing lacking seems to be the political will of the member states to reach any compromises on anything.

DEFENCE

Independent: Laurence Friedman argues that a regular scrutiny of defence plans is not a defeat in face of soaring costs.

HEALTH

Independent: Biggest private pathology lab calls for pathology services to be licensed.

LAW AND ORDER

Daily News says Scotland Yard has been warned by two American police forces that one of its senior officers was linked to a mafia syndicate smuggling cocaine from Colombia.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DTI: Lord Young addresses opportunities for work and training scheme

DES: Mrs Rumbold visits BBC, Broadcasting House, London

DHSS: Mrs Currie attends meeting of the Association of Overseas Doctors, the Hilton, Park Lane

FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses Annual General Meeting of the European Year of Women

MAFF: Mr Thompson addresses Institute of Food Science and Technology Conference, Cavendish Conference Centre

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Mr Eggar departs for Vienna, NEDAC Conference on drug related issues
