

22 July 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets "Special Olympics" competitors (photocall)

The Queen holds an Investiture at Buckingham Palace

The Princess of Wales receives the Honorary Freedom of the City of London, Guildhall, accompanied by the Prince of Wales. Prime Minister attends

TUC: General Council

Announcement of BAA tender allocations

Announcement of Membership of Interim Advisory Committee on Teachers' Pay

STATISTICS

DOE: Construction - new orders (May)

DTI: Trade Figures (May)

SO: Motor Vehicle Offences 1985

PUBLICATIONS

DES: ABRC public expenditure survey on launch of information technology initiative in schools

DHSS: Joint Working Party report on residential care

SO: Scottish Hospital Trust Annual Report (11.00)

PAY

National Health Service, Ambulancemen; 18,000

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Scotland; Foreign and Commonwealth; Trade and Industry

Business: Motions on the Pensioners' Lump Sum Payments Order and the Supplementary Benefit (Requirements and Resources) Amendment Regulations

Afterwards Motion on the Hovercraft (Civil Liability) (Amendment) Order

Followed by Motion on EC documents relating to research and development in telecommunications. Details of the EC documents concerned will be given in the Official Report

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Adjournment Debate: The operation of the availability for work test in Crewe and Nantwich (Mrs G Dunwoody)

Lords: Short Debate to call attention to proposals for the establishment of Family Courts

Short Debate to call attention to the report of the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis for 1986

Infant Life (Preservation) Bill (HL): Second Reading

UQ on whether HMG are satisfied that all local authorities are complying with current civil protection regulations and guidelines

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

Fears of Gulf escalation - and your readiness to give protection to ships which opt for the Red Ensign - dominates papers.

MPs vote themselves 22% pay rise. Liberal move to cut the increase for those with other jobs defeated.

Labour MPs heckle Dave Nellist when he calls on them to give part of their rise to Labour Party.

Police get £12 a week pay rise - up to £39 a week for Chief Superintendents - 7.75%.

Frickley colliery back at work.

NatWest cuts mortgage rate by 0.75% to 10.5%.

F K Industries Group take over Babcock International in £426m deal but Babcock end up with 60% of shares.

Mail says your bid to boost enterprise in unemployment black spots has proved a massive success, based on inquiries to Small Firms' Service.

HSE calls for improvement to ageing Bradwell nuclear power station.

DPP to investigate allegations of cruelty at Southwark old folks' home - claims that staff helped several to die of cold. Mail leads with official report on home calling for sacking of 9 "carers".

Lord Chief Justice signals opposition to Lord Chancellor on longer judges' working hours and merger of county courts and High Court.

Judge Michael Argyle gets a wiggling from Lord Chancellor for remarks about illegal immigrants and death penalty.

Bulgarian colonel kicked out of Britain for spying - Today: Ivan the terrible spy gets the boot.

HMI report on state of education covered either from angle of deprivation or poor quality of teaching in schools.

Nicholas Ridley in a bit of a storm over his admission on radio that "snoopers" will be required to enforce community charge; Mail leader sympathetic.

Telegraph critical of your "misjudgement" in appointing Richard Branson to lead anti-litter crusade; it says everyone who forms opinion has a responsibility to stop littering Britain.

Express says Israel now has a nuclear missile capable of hitting every major Arab capital.

Amnesty International accuses Kenya Government of torture of political opponents.

Lord Trend dies, 73.

Mitterrand's son and two of his grandchildren injured in head on car crash - he flies to family in Spain.

Edwina Currie makes news - and pictures - by eating a marigold.

GULF

Star: Britain in the Gulf frontline - you give go ahead for oil tankers supplying West to register as British ships; leader says one false move in the Gulf and the consequences for the rest of the world could be horrendous. But the outside hope produced by the UN resolution must be pursued with all vigour.

Sun: Our Exocet ships guard oil tankers - our protection will be extended to any vessel which switches to Red Ensign; leader says Britain and US should never have involved UN and Russia in the crisis. The UN is useless and Russia is self sufficient in oil, so there is no reason to give her a toe hold in that vital part of the world.

Mirror: Foreign ships threatened by the Iran/Iraq war may be able to sail under the protection of the British flag; feature headed: "As tension mounts, the world awaits a showdown".

Today: British sailors enter waters of war; leader says we must be prepared for Iranian retaliation and the big danger is of the USA and USSR being dragged into confrontation. A multi-national peace keeping force must be established immediately.

Daily News: Red Ensign for rent - Britain gets deeper into crisis, prepared to reflag Kuwaiti tankers.

Express leads with Kuwait plea to fly Red Ensign - you make clear that any vessel that registers with Britain would be given automatic naval protection; leader headed "US must stand firm"

says USA has little option but to act as a superpower in this part of the world and it is depressing to hear the likes of Owen saying USA's action is provocative.

Mail says Reagan last night rejected an offer from Moscow for direct talks with Gorbachev on war.

Mail news story - Maggie sails into Gulf 'rent a flag' storm.

Telegraph leads with "Kuwait seeks Red Ensign protection" and you hold out the prospect of Britain becoming more involved by saying Kuwait can apply to fly Red Ensign and qualify for naval protection. Gorbachev tells Reagan he is ready to help take the heat out of the situation.

Guardian: Escorted tankers edge into Gulf. Reagan rejects Moscow offer of superpower talks.

Independent: US rejected a Soviet proposal for crisis talks on the Gulf. Dr Owen said that it would be "madness" for the Americans to take any action which did not have the backing of the Soviet Union. You refused to rule out the possibility that Kuwaiti vessels might be re-registered under the Red Ensign.

Times leads with Britain ready to put its flag on Gulf ships. You make it clear that Britain has no political objections to foreign ships registering to fly British flag in the Gulf. Kuwait asks Britain to let them reflag ships as US have done. Concern of both sides of Commons with Conservative MPs saying Government should prevent registrations in present circumstances. White House caution on Soviet peace initiative in Gulf.

Times leader under heading "Solidarity in the Gulf" says the time is coming when words might have to be backed by action. Should this happen it should not be left entirely to the US. Much more effective if all major Western powers with warships accepted their share of burden.

FT: US rejects Soviet offer of talks on Gulf co-operation. In the House, you disclaim "rent-a-flag" allegations. Leader says UN Security Council implicitly accepts non-compliance with its resolution and acknowledges its own responsibility to do something about the Iran/Iraq war.

INNER CITIES

Sun leader says inner cities are everyone's problem but the message has not reached the CBI which says that tax cuts and fresh incentives are needed if they are to join your crusade. However, when they help the inner cities they help themselves because so long as they remain neglected they will be a burden on the country.

Today says inner cities are cashing in on tourist boom; and tourism is expected to create 250,000 jobs in next five years.

EDUCATION

HMI report gets wide coverage.

Star: Dossier of shame in our schools - more than one third of children get a raw deal; one in three teachers fail to reach satisfactory standards.

Mirror devotes most of P2 to crisis in our schools - crowded classes, too few teachers, shortage of books, parents forced to foot bill. Leader says the report is frightening reading and it makes liars of Ministers who denied charges of neglect.

Today: Black mark for bad teachers - they don't plan lessons and can't keep order, say inspectors.

Express leader seizes on report's finding that children are viewing TV more and reading less. But reading is an unmatched source of pleasure and instruction so mothers should turn off the set.

Mail: Teachers who only rate E for effort; lack of discipline, sloppy work and poor buildings get schools a bad report.

Telegraph: Poor quality teaching in too many schools is a serious matter for concern.

Times: Third of all teachers not up to job. Leader says report is a complete justification (if such is still needed) for the radical reforms proposed by Government.

Times: Employers not convinced that new GCSE exam will improve standards in spelling, grammar and punctuation.

RATES

Nicholas Ridley admits councils may have to employ squads of snoopers to enforce community charge (Daily News); leader says that to collect the charge will involve a substantial incursion by Government into private lives.

Express features the man with the most thankless task in Britain - Michael Howard selling community charge.

Mail leader: "Greater love for the poll tax hath no Cabinet Minister than that he should admit (as did Nicholas Ridley yesterday) the need for teams of snoopers to ensure its collection. But let's not get too emotive about this. All taxes need snoopers to enforce them."

Sir George Young, in Telegraph, says community charge is intended to be fairer than the present rates system but he says it is regressive and betrays his party's ideals.

Independent: Cabinet is expected to agree tomorrow to phase in the poll tax over 3-4 years to quell Tory protests.

TAXES

In direct contradiction of yesterday's Guardian story about tax windfall in prospect for rich, Telegraph today says rich will have to pay national insurance on their income from shares, pensions and bank deposits if Chancellor goes ahead with plans for reform of taxation.

INDUSTRY

Today features easy accessibility to young people in shops of drugs, alcohol and glue.

Almost £1bn to be spent on commuter rail links facelift in London area; part of £3bn B/Rail investment to improve services and cut cost of taxpayers' support.

Mail, commenting on your forming ACOST says this is a characteristic response from you to a chorus of complaint from scientists that the country is not investing enough in research. You have not thrown money at the problem; instead you are throwing yourself at it.

Sir George Jefferson, chairman of B/Telecom, replies to complaints, in Mail feature.

Select Committee report suggests buyers made £300m killing out of B/Airways privatisation.

Independent: Government is facing fresh defiance from trade unionists at GCHQ. SCPS members will argue that they did not submit to 1984 union ban as they did not accept the £1,000 compensation.

Inland Revenue rejects idea of introducing tax incentives to encourage industry to spend more on research and development either directly in a company or in universities - Times.

Times: 90,000 addresses in London and Essex without post because of two separate unofficial disputes about casual workers and promoted postmen.

Times: PSA expected to be privatised.

FT: Contractors could gain £100m in bonuses if they finish the Channel Tunnel project early.

MEDIA

|| Lord Chalfont says BBC had ignored its duty to report politics objectively, fairly and impartially.

PETER WRIGHT BOOK

Independent: Vice-Chancellor, Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, said he was baffled by the Attorney General's attempt to continue the ban on Wright book.

EC

Lord Denning writing in Times looks at the "unjust EEC tax demand", saying Britain must stand by its zero option on VAT.

FT: Environment Ministers agree car exhaust plan, setting tighter pollution standards for cars with engines over 2 litres, to come into effect in October 1988.

SOUTH AFRICA

Independent: Unwelcome homecoming for white South Africans who met the ANC in Senegal last week.

FIJI

FT: Britain lends diplomatic pressure to dissuade Fiji from declaring itself a republic.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Mr Baker and Mrs Rumbold meet with the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, London
- DHSS: All Ministers attend reception at Association of County Councils, London
- DTI: Lord Young addresses London Diplomatic Association
- HMT: Mr Lawson addresses all-party group of MPs on debt, Goring Hotel, London
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor meets Dairy Trade Federation and Biscuit, Cake, Chocolate and Confectionary Alliance; later addresses Home Grown Cereals Authority annual harvest luncheon, Waldorf Hotel, London
- WO: Mr Walker attends Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Show, Builth Wells
- DEM: Mr Lee hosts the Thanet Action for Jobs presentation
- DEM: Mr Nicholls visits York and Humberside
- DES: Mrs Rumbold makes keynote speech at Education Support Grants conference on Information Technology in Schools, Coventry
- DES: Mr Dunn visits Towers Secondary School and Homewood Secondary School, Ashford
- DHSS: Lord Skelmersdale attends CBI Conference, London; later visits Nucleus Hospital, Maidstone, with Malaysian Prime Minister
- DOE: Mr Chope meets Residuary Body Chairmen in Newcastle
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave visits Nottingham
- DTI: Mr Atkins visits the three inner city task forces in London
- DTI: Mr Maude visits Sleepzee Centre, Merton
- DTp: Lord Brabazon visits Immingham Dock to open a terminal
- MAFF: Mr Gummer visits East of England show, Peterborough
- MAFF: Mr Thompson addresses Association of British Abattoir Owners lunch, London
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington visits Harpenden Laboratory
- OAL: Mr Luce attends literary reception, Lancaster House
- ODA: Mr Patten addresses a joint meeting of the West Indies Committee and the British-Caribbean Parliamentary Group, House of Commons, London
- WO: Mr Roberts opens Crossland Llandarowg by-pass; later attends Celtic Studies Conference dinner, Swansea
- WO: Mr Grist attends Association of County Councils reception, London
-

TV AND RADIO

"Tomorrow Talking", ITV (1130). The first of a new series in which sixth-formers say what they think about a wide range of subjects - love, sex, marriage, politics, jobs, God, and the generation they will take over from.

"You and Yours", BBC Radio 4 (1200) looks at the provision of childcare for working parents.

"The Cook Report", ITV (2030), is a new series with investigative reporter Roger Cook.

"Today in Parliament", BBC Radio 4 (2330).

"Their Lordships' House", Channel 4 (0030).
