

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister hosts reception to commemorate Commonwealth Games

Princess Anne presents Butler Trust Awards for meritorious conduct by prison officers, London

Princess of Wales visits Raeden Centre, Aberdeen

Mr Stanley visits USA (to March 19)

New round of GATT - preparatory meeting committee, Geneva (to March 20)

European Legislation Committee visits Lisbon (to March 20)

St Patrick's Day

STATISTICS

MAFF: Food facts (4th qtr)

HO: Statistical Bulletin; Prison Population Projections (to 1994)

DTI: Retail sales (Feb-prov)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Transport; Wales

Business: Gas Bill: Remaining Stages (1st allotted day)
Adjournment Debate
Policy on intervention buying within the EEC (Mr G Howells)

Select Committees: PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Subject: International Collaborative Projects (Cmd 9464); Major Projects Statements 1984 (Cmd 9633)
Witness: Mr P K Levene, Chief of Defence Procurement, Ministry of Defence

Lords Consolidated Fund (No 2) Bill: All Stages
Museum of London Bill: Third Reading
Latent Damage Bill (HL): Second Reading
Local Government (Temporary Provisions)(Northern Ireland) Order 1986: Motion for Approval
Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 - Motion for Approval
Mental Health (Northern Ireland Consequential) (Amendment) Order 1986 - Motion for Approval
UQ on whether HMG approves of a closed shop in the sale of overseas holidays where this cannot be proved to the exclusively for the benefit of the consumer

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTBUDGET

- General feeling that smokers, drinkers and drivers will be hit in order to give back smaller tax concession that was talked about a year ago.
- D/Star: Tomorrow Chancellor has a chance to put things right, after last year's Budget for Jobs which did not provide them, with a Budget for expansion and investment even if that is at the expense of tax cuts.
- Sun expects tax cuts to be minimal but higher allowances for lower paid; leader applauds your vision and shares your faith, but complains of delay and backsliding by your Ministers, including Nicholas Ridley, over privatisation of B/Airways. Small minds have no place in Cabinet with big ideas.
- Today claims it will be an enterprise Budget.
- Express: Nigel marks time with a give and take Budget; tax benefits for low earners - expected to put £1 or £2 a week into pockets of average earners; purpose of getting the economy right and winning the next election. Next year he should have enough money to splash out down to 25% tax rate.
- Mail says petrol tanks are full to overflowing in bid to beat tax rise; Auberon Waugh, in Mail, bemoans the rising cost of Government administration. Another news story says no jam today in the Budget.
- Andrew Alexander, in Mail, says there is remarkably little news in advance of the Budget this year to get a grip on.
- Telegraph says minimal tax cuts are likely.
- Guardian says Budget is likely to announce a rapid expansion of inner city task forces; forecasts "a balancing act"; leader says the tax rug has been pulled from under Chancellor's feet, but three basic problems ducked in previous Budgets remain - infrastructure, poverty and need to get into high technology.
- Times P1: Lawson aims tax cuts at creating jobs and will present an extremely buoyant picture of British economic prospects with inflation heading for 3% next year; leader says this is Chancellor's greatest political test. It advocates smooth entry into EMS.
- FT: Chancellor will seek to shrug off impact of collapsing oil revenues.
- Express commenting on Sheikh Yamani's call for us to cut North Sea oil production, says the loss of income through lower oil prices is a small price to pay for achieving a greater good for a greater number.
- Times says Yamani is ready to meet you over output and FT says prospects of UK and Norway in curbing production likely to dominate OPEC.

INDUSTRY

- John Selwyn Gummer attacks shops for selling an unacceptable number of poor potatoes.
- Keith Waterhouse's take-off of inner city entrepreneur's encounter with Loony Left council leader when he brings prospect of jobs to town.
- GMBTU claims Government is planning to sell up to one third of British Gas to foreign investors.
- Today claims that only half B/Rail trains arrive on time.
- Malcolm Edwards, marketing director, one of 4 new NCB board members. Walker upgrades NCB men who headed strike recovery.
- Report claims that Sunday opening will deprive 250,000 children of parents on Sunday - Family Policy Studies Centre.
- Guardian P1: One of few to give publicity to Peter Walker's statement in support of nuclear industry; says he dismisses Select Committee report as nonsense.
- Guardian claims that GCEB is being forced to sell 30 properties and shelve plans to create 1,300 jobs by Government's denial of £8m.
- Group Lotus considering expansion of output from 800 to 10,000 cars a year under plan discussed by GM, its majority shareholder.
- Fiat and Ford are to merge their Euro heavy truck operations.

B/AIRWAYS

- Lord King will accuse you today of backtracking on your promise to privatise B/Airways but you will not change your mind (Mirror). A showdown meeting - Express; Mail says Labour will press you to sack King because of his big spending on campaigning for early privatisation. Mail leader says if King makes no impression on you today, he is ready to drum up City backing for a management buyout. And in this struggle, the Mail is on King's side.
- Mail says King faces a snub from you, and claims that you are facing a backbench revolt over the issue.
- Telegraph reports soured relations between King and Nicholas Ridley but B/Airways report to be trying to lower the temperature in advance of your meeting.
- Guardian says you will reject King's appeal to go ahead with privatisation.
- Times: Thatcher firm against BA buyout hope.

UNIONS

- Sun, continuing its campaign against TGWU, says that a man who was exposed as a ballot rigger last year is again in charge of a TGWU election still branch secretary - leader says this is quite disgraceful.
- Clive Jenkins, ASTMS, holds out the prospect of strikes without pickets or demos; simply be knocking out computer systems.
- Guardian says Conservative Trade Unionists voiced their concern about GCHQ to Norman Tebbit at Felixstowe and complained FCO ministers had not responded to a request for a meeting.

MEDIA

- Police show what Sun describes as a "terrifying arsenal of weapons" used during six hour seige of Wapping on Saturday night. 10 policemen and six horses hurt. 28 arrested.
- Mail claims a red flare rocket was fired at the police.
- EBC very nearly sweeps the board with BAFTA awards.

HOUSING

- Reward Regional Surveys says difference in price of housing between rest of country and London is dividing country into two nations - average price of three bedroom semi in central London is £63,425.
- Shelter says first time buyers are being ripped off by mortgage brokers, solicitors and estate agents.
- NEDC urges a state fund to help people who cannot afford to repair their homes.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Anti-AIDS adverts appear - part of £2.5m publicity campaign.
- Reports of a dramatic new treatment for Downs Syndrome children which forces them to breathe properly and ultimately changes the shape of their faces.
- Times says Conservative MPs are trying to ensure that new family credit is paid to mothers.

EDUCATION

- Teachers in Kent to continue pay dispute in spite of national settlement.
- Mail says teachers at an Isle of Dogs school are threatening to walk out today if three pupils, suspended for allegedly intimidating an Asian master, are allowed back.
Oxford
- Sir Patrick Neill/ says Government's policy is one of progressive reduction in already inadequate support for students.

YOUR SPEECH

- D/Star: The old style Margaret Thatcher is back in business after a super-confident speech which left even the wettest Cabinet waverer in no doubt who is in charge. Not before time.
- Sun small piece P2 saying "Moaner" - which turns out to be Anthony Beaumont-Dark - hits back at Mrs T. He says your remarks were ill-advised and rubbishing your own side shows a weak case. Today also uses Beaumont-Dark's comments.
- Express says you lead your party and the country because you lead not to gain momentary applause but to change attitudes and the country's prospects. You have confounded the faint-hearted with your speech and cheered your real supporters, the silent majority.
- Telegraph - relaxed Thatcher is a tonic for her troops; leader looking forward to another 7 years, says it is up to you and your close supporter to seek more effective ways of mobilising support for the reforms you espouse.
- Guardian says you should have gone to Stockholm; your failure to do so was an eloquent and revealing insult, and your speech was a pretty shoddy performance.
- FT says it was almost as if Westland had never happened - not mentioned at conference along with Heseltine and Brittan.

POLITICS

- Hattersley says Labour will go into election with just 2 simple promises - to do everything it can to cut unemployment and to help the poor; everything else will have to wait.
- Mail: Hattersley way is for the better off to pay - prints John MacGregor's breakdown of £24bn increase in expenditure proposed so far by Labour.
- Mail claims Sir Richard Body MP was largely responsible for a Private Eye story which won Sir Frederic Bennett MP £25,000 libel damages; Chief Whip and 1922 Committee considering the matter.
- Norman Tebbit, Telegraph says, has launched a major effort to track down and register Britons abroad who are eligible to vote.
- T E Utley, in Telegraph, hopes your next manifesto will contain more privatisation and fundamental reform of social services, but hopes it will not be couched in language of free trade dogma.
- David Owen claims you are giving comfort to Right wing racists in your party - Government's approach to racial minorities is condescending.

RAPE

- Geoffrey Dickens says he will name the Humberside vicar (who has twice refused the Archbishop of York's request to resign) accused of child molestation.
- Jerry Hayes MP, barrister, warns against the change in the law advocated by Geoffrey Dickens so that cases against children can be heard as if they were against adult women; could become a blackmailer's charter.
- Two more rapes reported over the weekend in Birmingham and Lanarkshire.
- Sun hopes Attorney General is in no doubt, in making his statement today on alleged rape of a girl of 8 by a doctor, what the public expect of him: a decision to prosecute now.
- Mirror says Dickens, by naming doctor, has not served justice but only his own publicity seeking ends. He has broken the fundamental rule of English criminal law that no one is guilty until the courts decide so, and has abused Parliamentary privilege.
- Times says Norman St John Stevas MP, who originally raised case of 8 year old, is to write to Dickens today to complain about his conduct.

LAW AND ORDER

- Bus crews in London have a 15-1 chance of being assaulted at work - 1200 cases last year.
- Today claims that a shortage of Customs Officers in allowing in to Britain a tide of hard drugs; leader says drugs smuggled in have increased six-fold since you came to office and the number of Customs Officers has decreased by more than 1000. This is scandalous and if the Government is serious it must take urgent action on manpower.
- Express says a new hallucinatory drug called Ecstasy from California is about to arrive in Britain.
- President Zia, on TV, pledges himself to halt the flow of heroin (Express

PEOPLE

- Strong rumours of Prince Andrew's engagement to Sarah Ferguson this week.
- Stefan Terlezki's father has died on eve of MP's visit to see him again.

SINGAPORE

- Two Britons helping to tunnel into collapsed hotel in search of survivors.

FRANCE

- Right narrowly wins overall majority in General Election. National Front get about 37 seats; Communists do badly. Express sees an uncertain time ahead for France. Telegraph says Chirac is front runner for Premier.

FALKLANDS

- New tax on fishing.

NICARAGUA

- Reagan appeals over the heads of Congress to voters for cash to help rebels in Nicaragua.

SWITZERLAND

- Voters reject UN membership to protect neutrality.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling meets Indian Minister Sig. Pandalfi, London
 - MOD: Mr Younger meets US Defence Secretary, Caspar Weinberger
 - DES: Sir Keith Joseph visits University College, Swansea (all day)
 - DEM: Lord Young opens RICS Conference, Cardiff
 - FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses Foreign Press Association lunch, London
 - HO: Mr Hurd visits Maidstone prison; later visits TVS TV centre, Maidstone
 - SO: Mr Rifkind and Mr Stewart meet South of Scotland Electricity Board and North of Scotland Hydro Electricity Board, Edinburgh
 - DTI: Mr Channon meets Sir Yue-Kong Pao, China Light & Power, London
 - MAFF: Mrs Fenner addresses National Office of Annual Health lunch
 - DES: Mr Patten visits Leicester University (all day)
 - DEM: Mr Trippier addresses CBI on further education for women, London; later addresses Institute of Electrical Engineers, London
 - DEN: Mr Hunt opens Energy Efficiency Breakfast Special, Nottingham
 - DEN: Mr Goodland opens Eastern Electricity Energy Marketing Conference, Cambridge
 - DOE Mr Patten speaks at Housing Corporation luncheon
 - DOE: Sir George Young launches West London Business exhibition
 - DHSS: Mr Newton opens Artificial Limb and Appliance Centre, Norwich
 - DHSS: Lady Trumpington attends meeting of Schizophrenia National Fellowship, Oxford
 - HO: Mr Waddington visits Slough
 - SO: Mr MacKay dines with Norwegian Environment Minister, Edinburgh Castle
 - SO: Mr Stewart gives interview to Glasgow Herald on Commonwealth Games
 - SO: Lord Gray opens Marshall's "Chunky Chicks" plant, Coupar
 - DTI: Mr Morrison visits Telford; addresses North West Export Club
 - DTP: Mr Mitchell inaugurates Tonbridge/Hastings Railway Electrification
 - WO: Mr Roberts marks start of work at Mid Glamorgan new railway station
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TV AND RADIO

"Money Box"; BBC Radio 4 (10.00): Repeat of Saturday's programme

"Micro Live"; BBC 2 (17.30): Lesley Judd tries out the multi-million pound air traffic control simulator at RAF Shrewsbury

"4 What It's Worth"; Channel 4 (18.00): Second of two programmes to mark Energy Efficiency Year, compares Britain's energy saving record with that of other countries

"Open Space"; BBC 2 (19.40): Members of PAIN, Parents Against Injustice, demand improvements in the system which failed to save Jasmine Beckford and sometimes allows innocent parents to be accused of abusing their children

"Horizon"; BBC 2 (20.10): "In the Wake of HMS Sheffield" examines lessons learnt by the Royal Navy from the Falklands War

"World in Action"; ITV (20.30): 'Inside Ponting's Whitehall' - Clive Ponting talks about the 'secretive world of Whitehall politics'

"Panorama"; BBC 1 (21.30): 'Schools: Selling the Children Short' report on claims that there is no Government money to pay for better schools and higher standards and asks if education is being quietly privatised - includes interview with Education Minister, Chris Patten

"Newsnight in Paris"; BBC 2 (10.55): Report on the outcome of the French elections
