

8 April 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets President of Kiribati; hosts dinner in honour of President of Korea

House of Commons returns after Easter Recess

EC Research Council

EC Internal Market Council, Luxembourg

IMF/IBRD meetings, Washington (to April 11)

Association of District Councils, tourism conference, Stoke-on-Trent (to April 9)

HMS Coventry launched, Swan Hunter Yard, Tyneside (subject to industrial action)

Education Secretary appears before Education, Science & Arts Select Committee on 'Achievement in Primary Schools'

STATISTICS

DOE: Housing starts and completions (Feb)

DTI: Credit business (Feb)

DTI: Retail sales (March)

PUBLICATIONS

OAL: SI - Ministers of the Crown Transfer of Functions (Arts, Libraries and National Heritage) Order 1986

PAY

DEM: BNFL industrials; (8,700); settlement date 1.6.86; unions claim unspecified increase, a reduction in working hours and improved holiday allowances

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Education & Science; Defence; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Right to Interest (Mr R Ottaway)

Dockyard Services Bill: Remaining Stages

Adjournment Debate

The proposed closure of the Huddersfield School of Architecture (Mr B Sherman)

Select Committees: EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS

Subject: Achievement in Primary Schools

Witness: Rt Hon Sir Keith Joseph Bt, MP, Secretary of State for Educations and Science, and Dept of Education and Science Officials

PROCEDURE

Subject: Public Bill Procedure

Witness: Rt Hon John Biffen, MP Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL

Great Yarmouth Outer Harbour Bill

Lords Land Registration Bill (HL): Committee

Highways (Amendment) Bill: Committee

Latent Damage Bill (HL): Committee

Lothian Region (Edinburgh Western Relief Road) Order Confirmation Bill: Second Reading

Surrogacy Arrangements (Amendment) Bill: Committee

Housing (Multiple Occupation) Bill (HL): Second Reading

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTNORTHERN IRELAND

- 14 members of the RUC have been forced to leave their homes over the last week because of Loyalist attacks; Chief Constable says sinister forces are coordinating these.
- More attacks overnight.
- Mirror leader asks what the Ulster Loyalists are loyal to. Their campaign against police homes is as cowardly as any waged by IRA. They should understand that the people of Britain would as soon be united with a rattle snake. And where are the Loyalist leaders who have complained long and loudly about IRA terrorism. When will they denounce Protestant terrorism?
- Guardian reports a row between OUP and DUP over violence aimed at police families; Peter Robinson accused by chairman of OUP of not doing enough to put an end to attacks.

LAW AND ORDER

- Troops on standby in case Prison Officers vote for industrial action. Express says we should not dismiss POA claims lightly but the public is entitled to expect a self denying ordinance from officers.

- QC recommends Humberside vicar should stand trial on child sex charges; DPP considering evidence.

- Express feature on Indian woman, Harrow East Liberal candidate, whose home has become a fortress because of threats.

TERRORISM

- Express says it is appalling USA should feel obliged to beg for European help against Gaddafi; we should be rushing to help. Our airlines should refuse to fly to Libya and our airports should refuse Libyan flights.

DRUGS

- D/Star praises idea of Customs freefone encouraging people to give tip-offs about drug dealing.

PEOPLE

- Bailiffs seize the furniture and possessions of Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody MP for failure to pay rates; she owes Commons £2,000 in restaurant bills. Rates now paid. She tells Mirror she will pay her debts.
- Two Liverpool footballers accused of assault.
- Geoffrey Smith, in Times, says what Healey said about Kinnock was accurate and Kinnock's inexperience would make it inevitable that any Kinnock Government would operate more by collective leadership than has been the practice for many years.

FULHAM

- Sun says the skids are under the Alliance bandwagon.
- Guardian claims there is a secret move by Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham to sell its interest in 16th Century Fulham Palace to a holding company yet to be established.

INDUSTRY

- Amstrad buys out Sir Clive Sinclair's computer operation for £5m.
- Mail thinks one of the things wrong with this country is that the makers and marketers can't work more together as a team.
- Drift mine in Yorkshire, opened 7 years ago at cost of £30m, closed because of geological problems. S. Yorkshire pits overall turn massive losses into £25m profit.
- HMS Coventry launched in the middle of the night on Tyneside to avoid consequences of strike.
- J C Bamford joins bidders for Land Rover.
- Corby firm which has developed by hydroponic method of growing crops in water gets £42m order from Japan.
- Mail finds a 46p gap in the price of petrol across Britain - from 158.7p in Cardiff to 205p in Marylebone.
- Mail feature on how all the world is following Britain's lead and privatizing.
- Badger control policy modified and should significantly reduce numbers killed to protect farms.
- Beecham shares soar in speculation of a takeover bid.
- Guardian says Government is to impose a three line Whip in support of Shops Bill. FT: Leading DIY retailers are planning to give about £30,000 in pennies to charity to draw attention to the number of customers using their stores on Sundays.
- Many firms are in trouble with their technological preparations for the Big Bang and if they are not ready in time there could be chaos, says the Chairman of the Stock Exchange projects committee.
- A British consortium is bidding for a contract to build 3 power stations in India worth £914m. The UK government has said it will consider backing the bid with aid.
- FT: Indonesia will boost its tin output to 27,000 tonnes a year from the 22,000 tonnes was restricted to under the ITC quota system.

ECONOMY

- Hopes rising for a cut in interest rates.
- Oil prices up \$2 a barrel; £ gains 1.5c to reach \$1.4680 in New York.
- Guardian leader says the realignment of EMS should be a salutary lesson for you. It is high time your "dithering" stopped.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Mail leader says the Government should not save money at the expense of nurses' homes.
- Survey says as many as 20,000 NHS employees have been injured as a result of violence in hospitals.
- FT: On Thursday, the Government will announce the go-ahead for the use of nuclear radiation for pasteurising food.
- Guardian says Glaxo, ICI and Beechams are fighting an attempt by a small company to halve the selling price of their ulcer, heart disease and asthma drugs,
- Times says cost of repairing building faults in the new £4.28m cardiac block at Great Ormond Street has risen to £13.24m.

MEDIA

- Kinnock says Murdoch's offer of Gray's Inn Road plant to sacked printers is "intriguing" but not an adequate resolution of dispute.
- SOGAT offers to scale down Wapping picketing if police change their tactics - restricting exits lorries are allowed to use to allow greater freedom of movement for residents. Guardian leader says it is clear only Mr Murdoch's rights of free passage count for much with the police.
- FT: Rupert Murdoch is setting up in-house bargaining and consultative arrangements with his employees modelled on Japanese techniques.
- Jon Snow, with Left leanings, to succeed Glyn Mathias as ITN political editor.
- Times report on the refusal by the Guardian, FT, Telegraph newspapers and the Observer to print Murdoch's full page advertisement setting out his Wapping case.

EDUCATION

- 10,000 cut in the number of Poly students causes concern.
- Sun says Sir Keith Joseph has been an able and conscientious Education Secretary and has not lacked courage but he will not stand for Parliament again so why not replace him now? He should be replaced by Chief Whip who is just the chap to tame the classroom bullies. Telegraph leader also canvasses his early replacement. Telegraph prints leader page by Sir Keith setting out his hopes for education.
- Liberal/SDP Alliance say school governors who support Militant Tendency are being instructed to undermine the authority of head teachers and infiltrate staff rooms and parent groups. Bernard Levin, in Times, covers Militant circular in detail.
- Conservative support among students has dropped by half since the election, according to Marplan poll, because of cuts in grants and welfare benefits.
- Hugo Young in Guardian says the social fabric of the country is being ripped apart in our schools; we need a new strong Minister and Government action.
- Times leader says the Government is showing every sign of thinking on its feet as it runs to keep up with events moving too fast for it. You should find some way of convincing the public that the Government knows where it is going.

HOUSING

- House prices up 9.7% last year to average of £36,000, in London up by 19.5% according to Halifax.
- Mortgage arrears on council homes sold to tenants are growing at an alarming rate, according to the Association of Metropolitan Authorities.

DEFENCE

- Express says Reagan is to risk a new cold war by confronting Soviet Union on a series of super power disputes ranging from nuclear disarmament to the spread of terrorism.
- Kinnock affirms Labour's intention immediately to scrap Britain's nuclear deterrent.
- Peter Levene has set in train £300m savings in defence procurement (Telegraph).

FCO

- Is attacked by Sun leader for selling off our deputy Ambassador's flat in Paris with a saving of only £25,000.
- Businessman Shiner, acquitted of helping a Libyan drugs smuggler to get out of Britain, accuses FCO of putting him on a "show trial".

A

Asks permission to examine UN files on Kurt Waldheim who is .
have Nazi past.

FLANKS

Claims that scores of relatives of servicemen killed in Falklands have
missed out on a trip there because South Atlantic Charity refused to
help them with fares. Sun says this shows precious little compassion by
the Charity Commissioners who say they do not qualify for aid.

ISRAEL

- FT: Israel teetered on the edge of fresh national elections yesterday as
Labour's partner in the coalition National Unity Government refused to
accept Peres' demand that the Finance Minister be dismissed.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Black activists yesterday threatened a consumer boycott and mass strikes
if the Government takes action against Winnie Mandela following her
weekend call to blacks to dismantle apartheid themselves.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling visits National Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Silsoe
- MOD: Mr Younger meets South Korean President
- DEM: Lord Young, Mr Trippier and Mr Lang attend press conference to launch 'Action for Jobs' umbrella campaign
- HO: Mr Hurd speaks at ACPO National Drugs conference, Wakefield
- DTI: Mr Channon meets Korean Republic Minister; lunches with BICC; meets President Korean Republic
- MAFF: Mr Gummer visits S E Fishery, Brighton
- DEM: Mr Lang lunches with President BEC
- DEN: Mr Hunt addressed "Get More for your Monergy with Insulation" seminar Portsmouth; later visits Beaumont (UK) Ltd, Romsey
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave addresses Anglo-German foundation on rates Green Paper, London
- DOE: Sir George Young opens Taylor Woodrow office development, London
- DHSS: Mr Newton addresses Partially Sighted Society, London; addresses Regional managers Conference, Bournemouth
- DHSS: Lady Trumpington visits Cheyne Centre for mentally handicapped, London; later visits two social services units, London
- DTI: Lord Lucas addresses Ingersol Engineering Manufacturers Practise Seminar, London; meets Czech Minister, London
- DTP: Mr Bottomley opens Straight Line Wet Grip Braking Track, Nuneaton
- WO: Mr Robinson attends BMA reception, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTI: Mr Clark attends EC Internal Market, Luxembourg
- DTI: Mr Pattie attends EC Research Council, Luxembourg
- DTI: Mr Howard attends EC Consumer Council, Luxembourg

TV AND RADIO

- "The Local Network"; BBC Radio 4 (16.05): New series of programmes which looks at how news is reported locally and reflects on the influences and differences in national and local concerns
- "O'Donnel Investigates the Food Business"; BBC 2 (19.30): New series of programmes on the politics of food and health. Tonight's programme focuses on the Common Agricultural Policy and its over-production and over-protection methods
- "Medicine Now"; BBC Radio 4 (20.00): Report on the state of medical care
- "4 What It's Worth"; Channel 4 (20.30): Includes items on irradiated