

1 May 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister departs for Korea (to May 4)

Green demonstration over Chernobyl disaster outside
Department of Energy building

Wales TUC annual conference, Llandudno (to May 3)

Expo '86 Vancouver begins (until October)

STATISTICS

DEN: Energy Trends (Feb)

HO: Refugee statistics 1985

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Northern Ireland; Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Prime
Minister

Business: Opposition Day (13th allotted day) - "Family and Community
Care - Putting People First"

Motion on the Agricultural and Horticultural Co-operation
Grants (Extension of Period) Order

OPPOSED PRIVATE BUSINESS

County of South Glamorgan (Taff Crossing) Bill

Adjournment Debate

The denial of war service credits to pensioners of the
overseas civil service (Mr I Stanbrook)

Select Committees: AGRICULTURE

Subject: The effects of pesticides on human health
Witnesses: Friends of the Earth; Nature Conservancy
Council; Campaign for Freedom of Information; Soil
Association

Lords Education Bill: Committee (4th Day)

Museums and Galleries (Prohibition of Admission Charges: House to
be again in Committee)

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTCHERNOBYL

- Confusion over what is going on there.
- US more cautious about a meltdown in a second reactor.
- USSR maintain only 2 have died; 197 taken to hospital and 49 released.
- Warnings in Poland and Scandinavia about drinking water and using unwashed vegetables; some children told to stay indoors. Over 100 British students being brought out. Daily radiation checks in Britain.
- You told Zamyatin you are "angry" about Russian secrecy. Sun: "Mrs T ticks off envoy". Express: "Red envoy gets a rap from Maggie".
- Tour operators suspend holidays in Russia.
- More alarmist reporting: Sun: 70,000 Red children face death from cancer But on an inside page Sun says you've more chance of dropping dead reading its article on nuclear power than from contact with radiation. Today: "Horror that will haunt Russia for generations".
- Sun leader says the Kremlin doesn't give a damn about people, and you might imagine that this appalling record of callousness would produce a fall out of anger in the anti-nuclear brigade in Britain. But there is to be no demo outside the Russian Embassy - only outside our D/Energy. CND are either Red stooges or willing instruments.
- Mirror writes of a shadow over Europe. Its leader says panic is spreading in Europe. The Soviet Union's pretence to be the people's friend has been exposed by the way it has handled the catastrophe. It tries to save its face at home at the expense of lives of others abroad.
- Today: The international community is entitled to demand the whole truth Openness must be a key test of Russia's good faith towards the rest of the world. No other country wants to make capital out of the disaster; we only want to help. Unless Russia comes clean it will not be easy to trust her in future.
- Express asks whether the Russian fall-out will be fatal for Sizewell, even though majority of its people living near Sellafield, it says, are not worried about the Russian incident. Its leader says the incident will have dealt a serious blow to public confidence in the safety of nuclear power. Government must ask Layfield to delay his Sizewell report until all the evidence on Chernobyl is available - a small price to pay.
- Telegraph: Thatcher protests to Russia - joined by Reagan and leading European Ministers in demand for information. Interviews Ron Gausden who managed Windscale plant which caught fire in 1957. Leader describes Russia as a bad neighbour. Casts enormous doubt over the trustworthiness of Soviet Russia.
- Times: You are deeply concerned about the extent of the damage and angry with Moscow for keeping silent for three days; three senior officials asked to see Sir Bryan Cartledge and assured him that the fire was out and Britons were in no danger. Radiation levels in Austria are 17 times higher than normal.

CHERNOBYL (CONT'D)

- Chernobyl was run for far too long and was not properly serviced, says Economist Intelligence Unit.
 - Times leader says the catastrophe is bound to raise public fears over nuclear power programmes. The Government must be more open about its long-term energy policy.
 - FT: Prices leap on world commodity markets. "Anything with a nuclear label on it is bad news now", one Cabinet Minister is reported saying.
 - Guardian claims radioactive cloud is now heading for Italy. Soviet officials privately concede 300-400 may be facing slow death. Another story headed "Sympathetic Thatcher demands more details from Ambassador". A forceful request. Leader says safety must take over from silence. All Gorbachev's PR successes have been obliterated overnight. But nothing will stop Russia and France forging ahead with nuclear power so we must go for international safety control.
 - Hugo Young, in Guardian, thinks the effect of Chernobyl and Libya is to show Government policy for nuclear power and American bases to be vulnerable. Uncontrollable events outside these shores have alerted a population to what might happen within them.
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- Times: British Government setting up a "green" unit of high-flying civil servants and scientists to coordinate environment policies across departments.

PRISON DISPUTE

- More than 100 prisoners riot in various jails and some fires started; some prisoners escape. Statement by Home Secretary today. Police called in to restore order.
- Sun claims at least 55 prisoners escaped.
- D/Star says prison officers deserve to be pretty well paid but that is absolutely no excuse for their industrial action. Home Secretary however has played a hamfisted part in creating the mess. Overcrowding plus pay should be the subject of serious talks.
- Telegraph and Times make it their main story.
- Times with by-elections pending the Opposition is certain to make maximum political capital out of the "breakdown of law and order"; leader says Douglas Hurd must convince the public that the disruption is worthwhile if managerial responsibility and efficiency can be re-established.

MEDICAL/WELFARE

- Case of 16 year old Portsmouth boy who solves a life saving problem, which defeated American doctors for 25 years, on his home computer. How to speed up tests which predict heart attacks.
- Psychiatrist who helped drug addicts in London jailed for 14 years for his role in a drug smuggling ring.
- Times: The Government has promised to tighten local authority procedures in cases of child abuse after forcing Dennis Walters MP, to withdraw his proposals for strengthening legal safeguards, in spite of wide all-party support.

NURSES

- Threaten campaign if their pay award is not enough.
- Central Council for Nursing to put forward proposals for biggest changes in profession since Nightingale on May 13 (Guardian).

EDUCATION

- Today finds a message for State school teachers in the increased numbers of children going to private schools: parents are paying for higher standards which Sir Keith has been trying to set in the State sector and which teachers have been resisting.
- NUT now bringing forward strike ballots aimed at 21 Labour controlled LEAs.
- Mail leader says thousands of village schools are under threat of closure because they are uneconomic. Parents should resist.
- Rhodes Boyson throws his cap into Education Secretary ring with speech (Telegraph).
- FT article says there is a "phoney peace" in Britain's schools. War could easily break out again.
- Low pay is putting undergraduates off teaching as a career.

ECONOMY

- FT: Inflation will fall below 3% by the end of the year and stay low next year, says the Item Club! The Chancellor will be able to cut income tax by 2p in the £ in each of the next two budgets.

INDUSTRY

- Ron Dearing, Post Office, hires 90 casual workers from dole queue to clear backlog of mail in Leeds where 2000 postmen have banned overtime over work study exercise.
- Sun leader on Ian MacGregor's turning the coal industry round, says it is a thousand pities we are losing him. Telegraph says NCB, in light of falling oil prices, will be saved by Government fudge.
- Bernard Matthews now goes into the roasting chicken business at 99p a time - chickens come from France. NFU protests.
- British taxpayer forking out £190m a year to maintain EC grain mountain. Mail leader says that to make matters worse much of the grain is valueless. CAP looks doomed to collapse under its own weight.
- Bright ideas from employees saved 90 firms £8m last year.
- FT: The Government has retreated over two important aspects of the Financial Services Bill, yielding to backbench pressure. The SIB will be the only body to which regulatory powers may be delegated and the Trade and Industry Secretary may grant the SIB powers to prosecute.
- FT: The sale of Unipart has been delayed again because of two new blows to its profitability.
- FT: Government plans to sell British Gas are threatening to cause a major legislative hold-up in the House of Lords.
- FT: Channel Tunnel Bill is in breach of Commons Standing Orders and will need special permission to proceed.

MEDIA

- Mail claims 1m new readers as a result of its serialisation of the Windsor love letters. .
- Christopher Fildes, Telegraph and Spectator, wins Wincott award for financial journalism.

POLITICS

- Today feature says that until Labour wins the battle for moderate policies a brave new face will not be enough.
- Frank Chapple, in Mail, says Labour candidate in West Derbyshire isn't a moderate, he's a Leftie. It will take more than the expulsion of Hatton to cleanse the Labour Party.
- FT: MORI gives Labour 39%, Tories 35% and Alliance 25% in national poll. Labour support is rising entirely at the expense of the Alliance.

UNIONS

- Marius Goring gets injunction preventing Equity from enforcing its ban on appearances in South Africa.
- AUEW suspends its links with CND.

TRANSPORT

- Air fares in Europe set to tumble after EC court rules price fixing is illegal. Express notes British Government has been pushing hard for airline deregulation.
- Summer campaign against drinking and driving.

DEFENCE

- Labour says it will^{not}/be forced into keeping Tridents by compensation arrangements.

LIBYA

- 19 Britons expelled in retaliation for our throwing out 22; 60 Italians and 36 Spaniards also ordered to leave.
- Frank Chapple, in Mail, says you were unfair to Kinnock to say he is soft on terrorism. You were a member of a Government which let Leila Khaled go.
- USDAW conference stops militants sending letter of sympathy to Gaddafi.

MEXICO

- Major earthquake NW of Mexico City but no casualties reported.

AFRICA

- Geldof calls on you to join a world-wide job to help starving.

INDIA

- Fire wrecks a factory making heavy water for Orissa nuclear plant.

JAPAN

- Tokyo edgy under threats by Left wing radicals to crush Summit at all costs.
- Times: "France will speak with one voice in Tokyo even if that voice is sometimes expressed through two different mouths" says Chirac's chief diplomatic adviser.
- FT: The US trade deficit, surged again in March, heightening Administration concern about increased protectionist sentiment on Capitol Hill. At Tokyo the US will stress that America's partners must do more to help.
- Japan goes into the Summit with no evidence to show that its surpluses are shrinking. It hopes Libya and the Soviet disaster will divert attention.

KOREA

- Times: President Chun says he is ready to amend the Constitution before his tenure ends in February 1988; the danger for the Government and Opposition is that student radicals will increasingly try to take over.

NETHERLANDS

- Times says the Queen of the Netherlands snubbed you at Bilderberg after you accused them with doubts about the Libya raid of appeasing terrorism.

FRANCE

- FT: Mitterrand sees authority slipping towards Chirac.

USA

- Administration sacks a Pentagon leader - Assistant Under Secretary who failed a lie detector test; previously dismissed because his dabs were on disclosure.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Lord Young and Mr Clarke meet Canadian Employment Minister, London

DOE: Mr Baker attends Civic Trust reception to celebrate 'environment week', London

HO: Mr Hurd records interview for 'CREDO' programme

DTP: Mr Ridley addresses British Aggregates and Coated Macadam Industries, London

MAFF: Mr Gummer addresses British Poultry Federation lunch, London

DES: Mr Walden launches local collaborative project, Wimborne

DEN: Mr Hunt visits Betwys Colliery; addresses Dyfed County Councils energy efficiency seminar, Carmarthen

DOE: Mr Tracey attends Sports Aid Foundation Ball, London

DOE: Sir George Young visits priority estates project, London

FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses the Royal Institute for International Affairs

DHSS: Lady Trumpington visits Cheyne Centre for mentally handicapped children, London

OAL: Mr Luce speaks at presentation of Hunting Group prizes

DTI: Mr Pattie opens new offices of Traincom Company

DTI: Mr Butcher attends President of ERA Technology Ltd luncheon, Surrey

DTI: Lord Lucas attends GEC centenary exhibition, London

DEM: Mr Trippier opens Armitage Norton Consultant's head office, Manchester

DTP: Mr Spicer opens Worksop by-pass; later visits Rolls Royce, Derby

DTP: Mr Mitchell attends Channel Tunnel Road Show organised by CTG, Birmingham; later receives presentation from National Express, Birmingham

WO: Mr Robinson opens 'Brand New Homes 1986' Show, Cardiff; later addresses Association of Welsh Health Authorities, Carmarthen

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith departs for OTC Houston, USA (to May 7)

DTI: Mr Morrison departs for USA (to May 5)

TV AND RADIO

"Tomorrow's World"; BBC 1 (29.00): includes an item on a special card that can easily be carried containing details of medical history

"Worldwise Reports"; Channel 4 (20.00): "Living off the Land", looks at crofting in Scotland and the use of chemicals in farming

"Timewatch Special"; BBC 2 (20.00): "All the King's Men": a programme which narrates a tale of deception and personal rivalry at the heat of the British Secret Service during World War II

"TV Eye"; ITV (21.30)

"Question Time"; BBC 1 (22.25) with Archy Kirkwood MP, Dr Oonagh McDonald MP, Geoffrey Pattie MP
