

12 May 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

HM The Queen attends Thanksgiving Service, Windsor to mark sescentenary of the Treaty of Windsor; later hosts luncheon for President of Portugal

Prime Minister meets Portuguese Prime Minister

NEDC meets

EC Fish Council, Brussels

EC Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels (to May 13) (Foreign Secretary attends)

European Parliament Plenary Session, Strasbourg (to May 16)

Society of Civil and Public Servants annual conference, Blackpool (to May 16)

Civil and Public Servants Association annual delegate conference, Brighton (to May 16)

Transport and Salaried Staffs' Association annual delegate conference, Bournemouth (to May 16)

Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union national industrial conferences, Scarborough (to May 16)

Institute of Directors "Conference on re-skilling Government" report

600th anniversary of Treaty of Windsor with Portugal

Major roadworks begin on M1 (expected to last until September)

STATISTICS

DTI: Producer price index numbers (Apr-prov)

PUBLICATIONS

MOD: Defence Estimates

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions:

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS on infrastructure and investment in the North West; Enterprise, and choice; and Family Policy

MOTION FOR THE SPRING ADJOURNMENT

Select Committees

Lords: Debate and motion for resolution on televising the proceedings of the House. (Report of Sub-Committee published 7 April)

UQ on pirated copyright material

PRESS DIGESTPOLITICS

- John Biffen's LWT 'Weekend World' broadcast calling for a balanced ticket appeal at the next election and more public spending.
- Norman Tebbit, also on TV, says policies will not be changed. But presentation needs improving. Malcolm Rifkind says party should listen to demands for more public spending.
- D/Star P8: "Teamwork key to victory - Biffen". Government faces a General Election disaster unless it ditches its one woman band image, he says.
- Sun P4: "Share the burden, Maggie told". He wants a balanced group of Ministers - including your eventual successor, to spearhead next election campaign; leader says it had to happen - stories about a bid to get rid of you. But replace you with whom? It rejects Messrs Walker, Heseltine, Pym, Tebbit and Hurd and adds: "The plain fact is that you stand head and shoulders above any possible successor. Plenty of time to recover".
- Mirror P2: Maggie 'will hand over to No 2 - She'll quit after next election things Biffen". He comes close to agreeing you have become an electoral liability.
- Today P6: Sue Cameron says the Tory Party is struggling to come to terms with the fact that you are its biggest liability; leader says the message from Thursday is clear: the people of Britain are fed up with the Government and more especially you. You are seen as no longer in touch with what the voters want and need.
- Express P2: Top Tory calls for a change in party's image. Biffen tells Maggie: stop trying to go it alone.
- Mail: Biffen warns 'solo' Maggie. Malcolm Rifkind also piles on the agony by insisting on the need for the party to listen to demands for more public spending; leader heading "Oh no Jon, no John, no!" says mediaeval monarchs had their wine fools to chuckle home truths others were not licensed to utter; you have John Biffen. But yesterday this impish and man must have strained indulgence to the limit. Whatever he is up to he has stirred up the leadership issue and it can do the Tories nothing but harm.
- Telegraph: Biffen calls for balanced Tory ticket.
- Guardian leads with "Biffen triggers race for Thatcher heir. Cabinet Ministers shatter uneasy Tory peace".
- Guardian says the great good economic fortune which has handed the Chancellor a window of opportunity will not in the end matter if the Government continues to destroy itself from within. We no longer have a coherent administration which knows where it is going and what it wants to do.
- Times leads with "Tory strategy to offset Thatcherism"; leader says, after Biffen broadcast, you have a real struggle ahead to reassert yourself and your policies. The sum of Mr Biffen's remarks is that you should lead the party into the election like some latter-day El Cid, a propped up politician needed only because the time is too short to accustom the troops to a replacement.

POLITICS (Cont'd)

- FT notes open divisions about future strategy between Cabinet Ministers.

- Express says Militant Tendency have enrolled 12 year olds in Swansea to get control of Labour Party; leader notes that Militant, far from being cowed by Kinnock, are more determined.
- Hattersley says the Tories can't win the next election - they'll lose whatever they do.
- Kinnock tells new Labour controlled councils that he will not back confrontation with the Government.
- David Knox MP wants minimum qualification age for MPs reduced from 21 to 18.
- Mail has a very loyal interview with Jeffrey Archer.
- Bruce Anderson, in Times, airs alleged argument between you and Norman Tebbit over production of new document modelled on The Right Approach.

CHERNOBYL

- Danger finally over, say Soviets
- Milk and fresh vegetables off the menu in large areas of Europe.
- Sun says Russia has offered to build Gaddafi his own nuclear power plant.
- Today says West is puzzled by Gorbachev's failure to speak up on disaster
- Guardian says staff shortages in the nuclear inspectorate are delaying scrutiny of nuclear sites; enthusiasm of Highland Regional Council for expansion of Dounreay not blunted by Chernobyl.
- British conservationists criticise Government for withholding information about Chernobyl fall-out.

ECONOMY

- Inflation forecast to fall to 3.5% this week; Sun says with mortgages lower and petrol prices still to fall further, inflation of 2.7% is being predicted for May.
- Telegraph claims electricity price increase of 5% is to be trimmed by 3% because of oil price reductions and negotiations with the NCB.
- Civil engineering orders show signs of pick up.
- EEPTU rejects TUC/Labour Party moves towards voluntary regulation of pay.
- DHSS providing £255,000 over 2½ years to establish a new independent body for the analysing and discussion of public expenditure.
- Kenneth Baker to warn LEAs tonight of Government's alarm at 6% pay deal for manual workers.

INDUSTRY

- Austin Rover storing 5000 Maestros and Montegos at an airstrip in Northants, but £20,000 luxury Range Rovers increase sales by 33% in 1985.
- Today uses up a lot of space on the short comings of British Rail.
- TUC calls for retirement at 60.
- Pressure mounting for Britain to fall into line with Europe as 40 tonne lorries.
- Claims that £500m will need to be spent on M25 in next 10 years to deal with overcrowding.
- Times says NCB will return to profit this year if it can persuade another 15,000 miners to leave.
- Clive Jenkins, ASTMS, survives Left wing challenge.
- FT investigation shows it remain difficult all over the country to recruit highly skilled people.

MEDIA

- SOGAT says it will go on picketing Wapping in spite of further violence on Saturday; 41 charged; 7 policemen hurt.
- Police and unions blame outside agitators; police to study videos.
- But print union leaders accuse police of over-reacting.
- SOGAT and NGA publish names, addresses and telephone numbers of printers and coach companies operating at Wapping.

EDUCATION

- NUT executive called today to ratify interim pay settlement in return for peace in schools.
- National opinion poll shows 89% of businessmen say schools are failing to meet the needs of industry; 57% say YTS does not reach standards attained in other countries; Lord young says standards must be raised.
- Telegraph says education will be one of the issues, along with unemployment and the welfare state, on which the next election is won or lost.
- Teachers in Islington primary school ban police from visits to give advice to children.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Survey shows British doctors spend less time with their patients than anywhere else in the world.
- Plan to close Westminster Hospital postponed until after General Election at the behest of Barney Heyhoe.

LAW AND ORDER

- Police Magazine, published by Police Federation, says Labour's "freedom and fairness" campaign will be treated with scepticism in view of abyss opened up between police and Labour Party.
- Intruder steals one of the Queen's Land Rovers from Royal Mews - new security scare (Mail).
- Government this week to publish its proposals for a family court.

TERRORISM

- Syria reacts with tit for tat expulsion of 3 of our diplomats. Express welcomes the robust action by the British Government and has dramatically pointed the finger at Syria as a state up to its neck in terrorism. Mail wants to know why, if Syrian Embassy is patronising or promoting terrorism, is it not being closed down like the Libyan People's Bureau.
- Tunisian arrested in France suspected of Marks and Spencer bombings in London and Paris.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Unionists reject new exploratory talks with Government because of failure to suspend Anglo-Irish Agreement.
- Times says if Unionists decide to negotiate alongside the Agreement they will be in the strongest position to extract concessions.

AUSTRIA

- Greville Janner MP claims that Kurt Waldheim was implicated in deaths of 7 British Servicemen during World War II.

INDIA

- David Mellor, according to Express, has threatened to expel two Indian durggs officers working in Britain if Gandhi continues to ban two British Customs men from Bombay.

NORWAY

- Devalues Krone by 12%.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling attends Service at Windsor Castle to mark the 600th Anniversary of the Anglo-Portuguese Treaty of Windsor; later lunches with HM the Queen; then attends reception at the Portuguese Embassy, Belgrave Square
- MAFF: Mr Gummer on return from Paris attends reception at the Portuguese Embassy, Belgrave Square
- SO: Mr Rifkind opens new premises of Havelock Europe plc, Renfrew
- MOD: Mr Lamont attends lunch hosted by HM The Queen, Windsor
- DES: Mr Walden visits Leicester University
- DEM: Mr Trippier visits Yorkshire; later speaks at lunch of Hammersmith and Fulham Business Club
- DEM: Mr Lrag speaks to Letter File Manufacturers Lunch; Durrants Hotel
- DEM: Mr Lang interview on Woman's Hour discussing Jobsearch, Portland Place
- DOE: Mrs Rumbold meets Austin Mitchell MP and Grimsby Council delegation (Nirex-Nuclear dumping sites)
- DOE: Mr Tracey opens Northcroft Recreation Centre, Berkshire
- DHSS: Mr Whitney visits Moorfields Eye Hospital
- DHSS: Baroness Trumpington attends Seminar for DHSS/NHS Staff Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park
- WO: Mr Robinson attends Welsh Centre for International Affairs Dinner, Cardiff
- DHSS: Lady Trumpington attends DHSS/NHS staff seminar, Windsor
- HO: Mr Shaw attends lunch to mark 2nd Cross-Channel Conference on forensic science
- SO: Mr MacKay attends Scottish Health Education Group Symposium, Peebles; later hosts SHEG reception, Edinburgh Castle
- SO: Mr Ancram meets Bathgate CAB, Edinburgh
- DTI: Mr Butcher visits Interior Design International Exhibition, London
- DTp: Mr Mitchell opens Tiverton Parkway Station
- DTp: Lord Caithness attends unveiling of Plaque at Blue Starline, Tilbury, and later attends reception aboard a Maersk Company vessel on the Thames (Mr Hunt (DEN) also attends)
- WO: Mr Robinson opens Family Care Housing Association, Newport; later attends Welsh Centre for International Affairs dinner, Cardiff
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTI: Mr Clark attends 2 day Foreign Affairs Council

MAFF: Mr Gummer attends EC Fisheries Council, Paris

MAFF: Mr Gummer attends meeting with Mr Guillac, French Fisheries Minister, Paris

FCO: Mrs Chalker departs for EC Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels (to May 13) (Mr Clark, DTI also attends)

FCO: Mr Eggar chairs UN Head of Mission Conference (until 13 May)

TV AND RADIO

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

"On Being a Judge"; BBC Radio 4 (11.33): Second interview with Judge James Pickles - does prison do any good?

"Made in a Lab"; ITV (22.30): Case study approach to the ethical problem raised by test tube babies

"The Marketing Mix"; Channel 4 (18.30): Marketing isn't selling
