

4 July 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister visits Nottingham and Grantham

TUC Health Services conference

British Dental Association annual conference, Manchester (to July 6)

Society of Education Officers annual conference, Swansea (to July 6)

Independence Day, USA

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STATISTICS

DTI: Car and Commercial vehicle production (May-final)

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PUBLICATIONS

DES: Times Higher Educational Supplement feature on higher education and industry

FCO: Treaty Series No 32 (1986) Exchange of Notes between Government of UK of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Government of Belize (14.00)

DTI: 'British Business' includes feature on World Aid section of DTI; market report on trade shows in the US

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representation) Bill: Lords Amendments (Mr T Clarke)

Protection of Children (Tobacco) Bill: Lords Amendments (Mr J Home Robertson)

Protection of Military Remains Bill: Lords Amendments (Mr M Mates)

Incest and Related Offences (Scotland) Bill (Lords): Remaining Stages (Mr J Wallace)

Obscene Publications (Protection of Children, etc) (Amendment) Bill: Remaining Stages (Mr W Churchill)

Adjournment Debate

Funding problems of St Andrew's University and their impact on local communities (Mr W Hamilton)

Lords

Motion to take note on the situation in South Africa

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PRESS DIGESTWATER PRIVATISATION

- Sun: Election fever gripped Westminster last night as the Government ditched yet another piece of controversial legislation that could cost votes. Top Tories interpreted the move as preparation for a June 1987 poll. Neil Kinnock secretly summoned the Shadow Cabinet for an emergency summit.
- Star: 'Water bill shelved'.
- Mirror: 'Private water bid down the sink'. It is a humiliating climb-down, caused because NALGO was threatening court action. Some of the £7bn from the sell-off would have paid for tax cuts.
- Express: 'Plug pulled on water sell-off'. Ridley delay hits plan for early cut in taxes.
- Mail: This further humiliating slippage in the Government's privatisation programme leaving a £6.7bn hole in the Chancellor's calculations for pre-election tax cuts. It also raises speculation about an early election.
- Today: 'Water sell-off halted'.
- Guardian: A further humiliating blow to the Government's increasingly accident-prone privatisation programme. It raises doubts about the ability to raise £4.75 billion over the next three years from privatisation to help pay for tax cuts.
- John Cunningham says the announcement was made in a disgraceful and cowardly way.
- Telegraph: Describes the decision as "a serious blow". A former Tory Minister is quoted as saying that this puts off tax cuts.
- Times: Mr Ridley was forced to make a late night statement after claims that it was scandalous to announce the decision by written answer.
- FT: 'Flotation of water authorities put off in surprise about-turn'. The move reflects the desire of the government's business managers.



SOUTH AFRICA

- Sun: White vigilantes are preparing for a bloodbath by equipping themselves with bullet-proof vans packed with guns.
- Mirror: The head of De Beers has criticised the state of emergency and the arrest of responsible and moderate trade union and community leaders.
- Mirror: Joe Haines says your government won't take any real action against South Africa because most ministers prefer the whites to the blacks.
- Mail: In an exclusive interview with John Dickie, Sir Geoffrey Howe talks about his peace mission. He brusquely dismisses suggestions of a rift with you.
- Today: Sir Geoffrey is set to go to South Africa next week.
- Guardian: Sir Geoffrey will almost certainly go to Cape Town for a brief reconnaissance next week, followed by a more prolonged visit during the second half of the month.
- Reagan's adviser on African affairs has been snubbed by the ANC.
- The Swiss banker who was appointed as mediator between South Africa and its creditor banks has resigned. (Times)
- Leader says South Africa needs the goodwill of the international banks more than the banks need South Africa.
- Telegraph: Leading South African businessmen yesterday urged President Botha to talk to the ANC.
- Times: More bombings in Cape Town.
- FT: Article by Malcolm Rutherford examines the "confident gamble" you have made. You have more or less held the Conservative party together.



PEACOCK REPORT

- Express: Tough keep-it-clean rules are to be imposed on the television revolution envisaged for the next decade.
- Leader says it looks as though Peacock will be shelved. But the country should not have to wait until the 1990s for real choice in broadcasting.
- Mail: 'Pay as you view by century's end'.
- Leader says: "As so often in the past, a Government unsure of what to do appoints an inquiry in the hope that somebody else will make the policy for it. Despite the great expense, this ploy hardly ever succeeds except in producing delays.
- Today: 'Peacock's ruffled feathers'.
- Alasdair Milne attacks deregulation proposals.
- Leader says Peacock's proposals should be treated with extreme caution.
- Guardian: Leader says we are back in the old, familiar world of nothing happening infinitely slowly. Everything has been tipped back into the "bucket of fudge".
- Telegraph: Leader says that if the Home Office seeks to pigeon hole Peacock it will find that consumer dissatisfaction will continue to cause it nothing but trouble in the years ahead.
- Times: Leader says it is time to experiment with a little advertising on BBC. Otherwise the licence fee will increase, public resentment will grow and the BBC will continue as part sacred cow, part political football.
- FT: The Government is considering extending the franchises of Britain's 15 independent TV companies for up to two years.

INDUSTRY

- FT: Companies should be more vigilant about the impact they have on the environment, says the CBI.

OIL

- FT: Prices fell sharply yesterday as the market continues to assess last week's meeting of OPEC.

TIN

- Times: Sir Adam Ridley of Hambros Bank suggests that Whitehall should pay its "gambling debt".

GAS

- FT: B/Gas is likely to pay its shareholders substantial dividends costing £250-£325m in the first year after privatisation, says James Capel.



TRANSPORT

- Star: Nearly half the people of Britain are against the Channel tunnel, according to a Common Market survey, but every other EEC country is overwhelmingly in favour.
- Times: There has been a sharp increase in road deaths.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Star: The DHSS investigating allegations that some pharmacists are substituting cheaper, non-branded drugs - and then claiming the full amount back from the NHS.
- Mail: Staff at the Medway Accident Centre, Gillingham, face attack so often that they are demanding permanent protection.
- Today: At a press conference Child Poverty Action Group says that in Britain the rich live it up while the poor starve under 'apartheid'.
- Telegraph: The health service has become more efficient over the past year both in the number of patients treated and in savings achieved, says the National Association of Health Authorities.

EDUCATION

- Times: The Government has been forced to drop plans to bring the police on to student campuses to guarantee freedom of speech.
- The number of pupils aged 18 applying for university places has increased but there are more applicants aged over 25.

TOURISM

- Times: Many Britons are now taking three foreign holidays a year.

DEFENCE

- Telegraph: Peter Levene apologises for misleading the Commons Defence Select Committee over the warship building programme.



LAW AND ORDER

- Mail: Two rape victims have accused a British diplomat of trying to buy their silence. The students, attacked on holiday in the South of France say he offered them £3,000 not to testify against the 19 year old French youths. A report is now with the DPP.
- Mail: Legislation forced on Britain by the European Court is resulting in the release of rapists and killers from mental hospitals.
- Guardian: The Solicitor General says that investigations into Mr Kevin Taylor, a Manchester businessman, are separate from inquiries into John Stalker.
- Two reports on the Broadwater Farm riot will challenge Sir Kenneth Newman's demand that what is needed is new equipment to deal with such disturbances.

TSE

- Mail: The TSB says it plans to go ahead with its share flotation, probably this September, following yesterday's House of Lords ruling that depositors do not own the bank's assets.

CHALLENGER II

- Express: Picture of you and Richard Branson.
- Also in Times.



MALAYSIA

- Express: Kevin Barlow will be told today whether he is to be reprieved or not.

ROYALTY

- Sun: Prince Charles urges tourists going to Spain: "Don't let the bombers spoil your fun".
- Star: IRA says the Royal Family is not on its hit list.
- FT: The Duke of Edinburgh has asked the Government to play a more active part in solving Britain's housing problems.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Sun: Nearly one in six local authorities are now contracting services out to private companies, according to a survey in the Local Government's Chronicle.

NUCLEAR

- Sun: The ban on the movement and sale of lamb is to be eased.



NUCLEAR (CONT'D)

- Guardian: Cattle in Surrey, Kent and North Yorkshire have been found with radioactivity 10 times the danger level for human consumption.
- The Lothian and Border Police Board want an evacuation plan feasibility study for people within 50 miles of the new Torness power station.

UNIONS

- Guardian: Norman Willis says the expulsion of the electricians union from the TUC could lead to more Wappings.
- Telegraph: John Macreadie of the CPSA hits out at "filthy smear campaign".
- The CPSA meets on Tuesday to decide what to do.
- Times: The NUM wants retirement at 50.

PEOPLE

- Telegraph: Lord Stockton continues to improve.

US/USSR

- Times: President Reagan is optimistic about another Summit with Gorbachev.



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

MAFF: Mr Jopling attends Soviet Ambassador's reception for Mr Murakhovsky

MOD: Mr Younger and Lord Trefgarne attend City presentation on defence procurement; Mr Younger later gives interview to STV's "Three's Company" programme

DES: Mr Baker visits Cumbria LEA

DEM: Mr Clarke visits MSC, Sheffield

HO: Mr Hurd visits Bristol

SO: Mr Rifkind presents Scottish Business Achievement Award for 1986, Edinburgh

HMT: Mr MacGregor appears on 100th edition of Anglia TV's "Cross Questions" programme

HMT: Mr Lawson addresses Blaby Men's Committee

WO: Mr Edwards opens and tours Norgine Ltd, Hengoed; visits Pembroke School

DEM: Mr Trippier visits Rossendale Ground work (all day)

DOE: Mr Waldegrave addresses 'Risk Perception' seminar, QEII Conference Centre

DOE: Mr Tracey attends Henley Royal Regatta

HO: Mr Waddington attends opening of Deptford Enterprise Agency by HRH Prince of Wales

OAL: Mr Luce opens Lichfield Festival, Staffordshire

SO: Mr Ancram attends AGM of Historic Houses Association for Scotland, Edinburgh

SO: Mr MacKay opens Stonehaven police station, Aberdeenshire

SO: Lord Gray meets Scottish Tourist Board

DTP: Mr Spicer opens Kidderminster/Severn Valley railway station, Kidderminster

HMT: Mr Brooke visits Customs & Excise, Dover

WO: Mr Roberts addresses WJEC meeting, Caernarfon

WO: Mr Robinson opens Blaena Enterprise Centre

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TV AND RADIO

"Any Questions?"; BBC Radio 4 (20.45): Mary Goldring; the Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson; Rodney Bickerstaffe; Dr Anthony Clare

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