

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Territorial Sea Bill published

Mr Baker meets Mr Pearman for more talks on teachers' pay

President Mitterrand visits Royal Institute of International Affairs (Private)

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STATISTICS

Labour Market Statistics: Unemployment and unfilled vacancies (Dec-prov) average earnings indices (Nov-prov) employment, hours, productivity and unit wage costs; industrial disputes

CBI/FT survey of distributive trades (end-Dec)

Quarterly analysis of bank advances (end-Nov)

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Northern Ireland; Agriculture; Prime Minister

Business: Remaining stages of the Coal Industry Bill  
Motions on the Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income) (Mauritius) Order and the Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income) (France) Order  
Opposed Private Business: The City of London (Various Powers) Bill

Adjournment Debate

The effect of recent planning decisions on Talbot Green, Mid Glamorgan (Mr B John)

Lords Family Law Reform Bill  
Social Security Benefits Up-rating (No 2) Order 1986  
Social Security (Contributions, Re-rating (No 2) Order 1986  
Social Security (Treasury Supplement to and Allocation of Contributions (Re-rating) Order 1986  
Statutory Sick Pay (Rate of Payment) Regulations 1986  
Family Income Supplements (Computation) (No 2) Regulations 1986  
Supplementary Benefit Up-rating (No 3) Regulations 1986  
Industrial Training Levy (Construction Board) Order 1987: Motion for Approval

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PRESS DIGESTTHE MAIN STORIES TODAY ARE:

- New aid for homeless.
- Row over Government's rejection of free TV for pensioners.
- Saunders, Chairman and chief executive of Guinness, sacked.
- Yard flying out to Belgium to question a man over the disappearance of Suzy Lamplugh, London estate agent who disappeared last year.

WEATHER/HEATING

- Today summarises position: good news - no more snow; bad news - no thaw in sight. But Telegraph says experts hold out hope of weather change
  
- Star P1: You launch operation lifeline for homeless; charity workers told Government will pick up bill.
- Mirror feature on how to keep your home warm.
- Sun: Currie's film warmer.
- Today reports MPs' praise for its red poster "I need help" which it is printing on its front page for use by readers.
- Express P1: all out cold war declared to protect thousands of homeless; in unprecedented move you issue blank cheque to relief agencies; leader headed "Heating humbug that cuts no ice" attacks Kinnock and Meacher for saying £5 is not enough as "opportunistic" when severe weather payments did not exist under Labour. Problem of old in winter is not primarily for Government whose help is not in any case ungenerous; it is that of relations and neighbours.



TV LICENCE

- Star, which is conducting a campaign for free TV for pensioners, says the £63 licence is coming soon.
- General approach to Home Secretary's announcement is that the TV licence is to be indexed.

MEDIA

- BBC in evidence to Select Committee, want TV world service; Tusa says BEC wants Government to "have the imagination to take the brave decision of authorising the historic step into international TV".
- Times: IBA survey of viewers finds that most think BEC is biased in favour of Conservative Party.

ARTS

- Times: Arts Council approves plan for 6 national theatre companies in English regions.

GUINNESS/CITY

- Board meeting severs all connection with Saunders forthwith.
- Two remaining Saunders' proteges on board invited to resign.
- Saunders could claim film compensation.
- Today leader says Bishop of Durham's criticism of City salaries was spot on in terms of timing; ethics of the City begin to look as savoury as a bear pit. Unless City and its natural political allies in your Government move fast to check the damage, Labour's charges will stick.
- Times: Guinness fires Saunders without compensation.
- Independent: Saunders is sacked in an attempt to limit damage.
- FT: Morgan Grenfell keeps its place as Britain's leading merchant bank for merger and acquisition work.
- Independent: Profile of Sir Jack Lyons, friend of Saunders, your host at a lunch and patron of the Arts.

POLITICS

- MAPPLAN in Guardian gives you a 2% lead 38/36/Alliance 23, but your personal rating improves 4% to 34 - best since 1984.
- Brian Sedgemore attacks Kinnock over sacking of Arts Spokesman, Norman Buchan, for "shabby-macho and grotesque" decision.
- TUC would present a £6bn spending programme to incoming Labour Government on roads, sewers, water systems, NHS and education (Express).
- Times: Suspicions that your Government is 'politicising' the Civil Service are dismissed by the Royal Institute of Public Administration.

BUDGET

- Star leader says Chancellor should devote any spare cash to "investing in jobs" and paying the elderly a decent pension.
- Frank Chapple, in Mail, says it is wrong to blame you for N/S divide; it's been growing ever since World War II. But new ideas have to be tried to narrow it and he advocates higher income tax thresholds for those who work in rundown and deprived areas.

INDUSTRY

- Austin Rover exported £356m worth of cars last year - best performance since 1980.
- BREL at Crewe make 281 redundant between April and May.
- Caterpillar announces loss of 1200 jobs near Glasgow - Scottish Office angry. Malcolm Rifkind finds it extraordinary.
- Independent: Paul Channon expected to give go-ahead to BTR takeover of Pilkingtons.
- FT: Plessey wins £3m order for digital telephones from DHSS.
- FT: Cummins to close engine components plant at Darlington with loss of 500 jobs.

ECONOMY

- FT: Institute of Directors will today urge tax cuts of £4bn in the Budget.
- FT: Dollar's slide continues. US Administration's willingness to see its slide continue compounded its weakness. White House described fall as "steady" and "orderly". Foreign Exchange dealers described yesterday's collapse as "free fall".

PUBLIC SPENDING

- Star: Education will benefit most from Chancellor's autumn spending U-turn.
- Mirror: Tories delay aid for jobs in hard pressed regions - another blow for regions, says John Smith.
- Today: You will go into next election with a "sell the lot" plan for privatisation bringing in £15bn over 3 years which would be used to slash income tax to bone - revealed in spending plans.
- Mail: Tories reveal their £15bn plan to bury state ownership.
- Telegraph: Coal and railways on agenda of speeded up privatisation programme to raise £15bn in 3 years; tax cut hopes boosted by news that Government's financial position is healthier than expected and slight undershoot of PSBR predicted.
- Times: Spending rise will not bar tax cuts. leader describes White Paper as a task half done, forming an important element of the manifesto. It says the Government was over-ambitious in aiming to cut public spending when it first came into office; but it finds disappointment that public sector growth has not been allowed to keep pace with overall economic growth.
- Telegraph City page says Government's public spending targets look more like a fairy tale every day.
- Guardian: Pre-poll boost for public spending.
- Telegraph feature says a poll tax to finance local government answers the wrong question; we can't solve the problem of financing local government until we decide exactly what we want local government to do.
- Independent: Public spending figures boost tax cut hopes. Sarah Hogg is sceptical of the Government's new planning techniques. White Paper is bidding for votes in a public spending auction.
- Independent: Editorial says Mr Ridley has taken rate increases off the political agenda but problem of rates remains. More control is of spending tempered by democratic controls at community level is the only way to reduce the unmanageable amounts of money local government spends.
- Guardian leader says the White Paper tells us a lot about the Government's "cynical" stance to anything with a public sector label. Why shouldn't public spending grow more or less in line with underlying growth? If the Government is really interested in wealth creation "rather than the consolidation of a pampered middle class welfare state" it should tackle the problem of reliefs - eg mortgage etc - head on.
- FT: Spending rise will lift public services, as ministers argue that extra cash will bolster services in priority areas of health, education, law and order; it says Mr MacGregor's remark: "We have very good control over public expenditure that we can control" summarises the Government's difficulties in defending its spending plans".

LAW AND ORDER

- Cardiff shoppers warned to be on the alert after incendiary devices were found in 3 stores after call from Animal Liberation Front.
- Mail attacks Metropolitan Commissioner for instructing his men to spend less time chasing car thieves; car thefts represent over a quarter of recorded crime in the capital and it is time the police did something more positive about it.
- Douglas Hurd says parents and teachers should be in the front line of the war against crime.
- Times: Police Federation attacks James Anderton for his speech on AIDS.
- Times: Prison Governors warn that crisis in gaols is deepening.
- Guardian leader says Commissioner's strategy represents a shift from property to people.

DEFENCE

- Nuclear disarmers claim that a third cruise missile base has been established at Boscombe Down.
- Swiss Defence Ministry recommend purchase of BAe Hawk trainer.
- Telegraph attacks as "disgraceful" our cancellation of Army's SP-70 Howitzer at cost of £88m to taxpayer - "a scandalous story of waste".
- Independent: Soviets are convinced new Geneva round of talks can become a turning point in the work of the US and Soviet delegations, says Gorbachev in a letter to UN Secretary General

EDUCATION

- Star awards black marks for those London teachers who went on strike this week in defiance of their union. "This once-caring profession is fast becoming a couldn't-care-less shambles".
- Express says Government is planning a crackdown on truancy.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Star leader gives warmest of welcomes to Norman Fowler's plans for new powers for child care officials, but it is a scandal Parliamentary time won't be found until after general election.
- Mail reports Women's Institutes' Federation complaining that many doctors are failing to alert women to urgent need for cervical cancer tests.

AIDS

- Sun leader says homosexual organisations can be a force for destructive evil. In Cambridge CHE are urging them not to take AIDS test because it could cause them unhappiness. It passes belief that any group should deliberately set out to sabotage the campaign against the scourge. They deserve to be treated as pariahs.

PEOPLE

- Prince Charles planning a Kalahari Safari with Laurens van der Post.
- Times: Profile by Robin Oakley describes Mr Tebbit as the man under fire all round - especially from his colleagues.

HOUSING

- Scheme to penalize gazumping by making buyers and sellers back their promises with hard cash launched - but estate agents say its impractical.
- Times: House-Builders Federation urges establishment of Ministry of Housing.
- FT: House-Builders Federation claims that a fraction of redundant farmland would be enough to meet house-building needs until the end of the century.
- FT: Construction Industry Training Board plans to train 4,000 skilled workers in building trades

YOUR VISIT TO OPERA

- Express: Picture of you with Domingo over story about your pledging to safeguard future of Royal Opera House.

GULF

- Baghdad takes a missile pounding, as Iran launches "last push".

LEBANON

- Terry Waite advises foreigners to leave West Beirut after French photographer is kidnapped.
- Mail says Waite is hopeful about release of British journalist, McCarthy.

GIBRALTAR

- Britain's firm stand "saddens" Spain.
- Times: "Shadow of Rock" dismays Madrid. Snr Ordonez expresses sadness and frustration but no anger after two days of talks in London.
- Independent: Spain and Britain still divided by Gibraltar. Spanish Foreign Minister "not happy at all". Britain thought the talks "friendly".
- FT: Ordonez warns that Spain's relations with Britain and multi-lateral relations within the EC will be adversely affected if stalemate continues.

HONG KONG

- Independent: Dr David Wilson has been chosen as the next Governor of Hong Kong.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses British/Mexican Society

HMT: Mr Lawson to address the Chertsey and Walton Conservative Association

DEM: Mr Lee visits Wardle Storeys, Brantham, Essex

DEM: Mr Trippier interviewed on Chelmsford local radio station

DHSS: Mrs Currie visits South Tyneside Health Authority

DTI: Mr Shaw visits Sheffield (Private Sector Steel)

DTP: Mr Bottomley chairs the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Annual Consultative Committee, Leeds

DTP: Mr Spicer visits London City Airport to mark the completion of the runway

MAFF: Mr Thompson attends Wine and Spirit Association Lunch

MOD: Mr Hamilton visits HMS Ark Royal (off Scotland)

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DES: Mrs Rumbold visits Japan (to 22 January)

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TV AND RADIO

"Woman's Hour"; Radio 4 (14.00): Looks at how the Alliance is faring in the race to get more women selected as Parliamentary candidates

"Opinions"; The Red Flag"; Channel 4 (20.00): In the first of four programmes examining the fibre of Socialism in Great Britain, John Lloyd editor of New Statesman examines the first 100 days of a future Labour Government - argues that it will successfully tackle unemployment and bring life back into British industry putting socialism into action.

"This Week"; ITV (21.30): With Jonathan Dimbleby

"Question Time"; BBC 1 (22.00): With Sue Lawley is the Rt Hon Kenneth Baker; Ian Hyslop - Private Eye editor; Shirley Williams

"Pete Murray's Nightline"; LBC Radio (22.00): The Metropolitan police take calls from listeners about their enforcement of the law in London

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