

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

EC: European Parliament, Strasbourg (to 20 February)

EC: Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels (to 17 February)

BA share allocation letters issued

SDI Conference, London (to 18 February)

Third Reading of Teachers Pay and Conditions of Service Bill,
House of Lords

STATISTICS

CSO: Index of output of the production industries (Dec)

DTI: Credit Business (Jan-prov)

DTI: Retail Sales (Jan-prov)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Energy; Transport; Wales

Business: Second Reading of the Broadcasting Bill (Lords).

The Chairman of Ways and Means has named opposed private
business for consideration at seven o' clock

Adjournment Debate

Hospital provision in Macynlleth. (Mr A Carlile)

Select Committees: ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Pollution of Rivers and Estuaries

Witness: Department of the Environment officials

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Subject: British cultural diplomacy

Witness: Arts Council

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Commercial work

Witnesses: Sir Patrick Wright, KCMG, FCO and Sir Brian
Hayes, KCB, Department of Trade and Industry

Lords: Teachers' Pay and Conditions Bill: Third Reading.
Channel Tunnel Bill: Second Reading.

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PRESS DIGEST

MAIN NEWS

- Russians say Josef Begun has been freed after week-long demos in support of dissident's release.
- Lebanon: Refugees allowed out of Rashidiyeh camp to get food and medical care.
- Jan Leeming, EBC news reader, attacked with spray in BBC offices just before going on air; recovering in hospital.
- Express highlights MORI poll in Sunday Times which gives Kinnock a personal drubbing; public had greater confidence in some respects in Foot at last election.

- Congress Armed Services Committee criticises Administration's handling of Reykjavik.
- Six held at Fishguard on arrival from Irish Republic on suspicion of terrorist offences.
- Soviet propagandists spare no expense to bring together 800 delegates from all over the world for 'peace conference'.
- Guardian Marplan poll of European opinion shows "deep uneasiness" about American leadership and Gorbachev more trusted to put an end to nuclear arms rise.

POLITICS

- Kinnock summons crisis meeting today to try to revive party's flagging fortunes (Mail).
 - Star says Kinnock is in trouble - thanks to his so-called friends, Left extremists. He needs to make sure that Lefties like Deirdre Wood, Greenwich, never get a sniff of hustings.
 - Sun says Kinnock is backing Left in his borough of Ealing where they are planning to raise rates by 80% - also supports Sinn Fein contacts, allowing discussion of homosexuality in schools and flying SWAPO flag above town hall; leader says Kinnock disowns crackpot councils in public but in private he gives them his full support.
 - Mail says Kinnock is badly out of step with his neighbours over the threatened 80% rise in rates.
 - Mail says Labour Party intends to use projected book by General Kitson which supports its view that Trident is draining away valuable resources
 - Express leader says voters must wonder if Kinnock has a death wish. Hardly a week goes by without Labour making clear that anyone who is successful or aspires to a better standard of living will face the Socialist lash.
 - Guardian says Labour expects to go into the election with its support stuck at 37% or so.
 - David Steel sets the price of PR on coalition with you.
 - Independent: A campaign to redress media allegations of "loony left" behaviour by Labour councils will be launched at Lambeth town hall tonight
 - Times leader says you are under no constitutional obligation to assist third parties, but you would probably have been wise to throw in a couple of Alliance members.
 - Times: The Alliance threat at Greenwich is growing.
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- Norman Tebbit threatened to leave TV screens blank for 5 minutes when BBC objected to sub titles for deaf on BBC 2.
 - Liberals pick Penhaligon's 24 year old researcher as Truro candidate.
 - SDP/Libs pledge restoration of trade union rights at GCHQ.

GREENWICH

- Harris poll gives Labour substantial lead - 48/Alliance 26/Con 25.
- Mail says Deirdre Wood, Labour candidate, admits she is 44; her age previously put at 40.

BUDGET/ECONOMY

- Times: The Chancellor is likely to raise the limit for tax relief from £30,000-£35,000 in the budget. But he may limit such relief to the basic rate of income tax. The move would be in response to pressure from you. There will also be 2p off the basic rate and the top rate will be reduced to 50%.
- Labour has launched a campaign to devalue what it believes will be a giveaway budget.
- Kinnock promises to increase taxes only on those earning over £30,000 a year.
- Today: Kinnock shuffles over taxes.
- Mail reports that petrol tax is likely to rise 6p, while unleaded petrol tax could be 4p cheaper.
- Lloyds Bank thinks special measures will cut unemployment to below 3m this year.
- Independent: Decision to go for a tax-cutting budget has shifted political ground in Labour's favour, claims Roy Mattersley; leader says the Government can scarcely retain its glee about what the Chancellor has in store. The debate within Cabinet is no longer about public spending versus tax cuts, but about whether to concentrate on reducing the basic rate or higher rates of tax.

INDUSTRY

- Sun feature on British firms which are putting Japanese and Germans to shame.
- Mirror says the Americans have backed down over Airbus after Chirac's tough remarks; leader says it is the result of Europe standing up and fighting back; Mail says Europeans should be robust with Americans over Airbus because if they pool their resources and fuse a common will to win they are big and brainy enough to take on Americans for civil suzerainty of the air. . . And Britain must not miss the chance to back it financially.
- Vauxhall's Carlton car a victim of its success (Telegraph) - customers have to wait for up to 8 months for delivery.
- Guardian says Government has conceded right of American trade inspector to examine books of British companies importing American parts, in spite of Attorney General's advice.
- CBI to challenge the Government's case for the abolition of national pay bargaining.
- Airbus will press ahead with development of the A-330 despite US criticisms (FT).
- Survey shows opinion on Channel Tunnel evenly split (FT).
- Independent: Frank Field MP challenges you to apply the same test to City fraudsters as is applied to Social Security fraud.
- Independent: Anthony Tennant, deputy chief executive of Grand Metropolitan, is expected to be offered job as Guinness chief executive this week.

UNIONS

- Sun leader on decision by NUJ executive to end Wapping dispute 11-9 says the fines on journalists still stand proving they are still the same old "National Union of Jerks".
- NUM tells TGWU it is broke and it won't get back the £2m it loaned the miners during the strike.
- Today claims that Ron Todd has told friends he will retire in 2 years' time.
- Claims that a row over alleged ballot rigging in National Union of Seamen is being swept under the carpet to help Kinnock in election.
- Two Left wingers seeking NUM vice presidency.
- Independent: A bitter political row has broken out within the NUM to find a successor to Mick McGahey.

BBC/ZIRCON ETC

- You have ordered an investigation into Militant infiltration into Civil Service - 270 said to be inside. Tory MPs want them flushed out.
 - Express leader says in Ian Curteis's book the new Director General will discover what's so desperately wrong with BBC - a revelation of deception, bias, low professional standards and half truths. The new DG should fire those responsible so that the rest are left in no doubt what standards are expected of them.
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- BBC's Northern Ireland controller orders major changes in a new drama series because it was feared it would turn IRA into heroes.

EDUCATION

- Claims that GCSE history examinations syllabus is so wide that most pupils can go through school without any grasp or feel for sweep of English history.
- In Telegraph Norman Stone, Professor of Modern History at Oxford, advocates casual labour for students to help themselves.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Association of Community Health Councils calls for a patients' charter setting out their rights, but Today says that won't be enough. The Government must make sure the NHS has enough doctors and other workers to meet needs of NHS.
- Independent: BMA urges hospital consultants to compile examples of cuts directly hitting patients.
- The BMA has warned the Government that consultants are finding it impossible to maintain the standards of patient care because of the financial squeeze on acute services (Times).
- A tuberculosis test widely used in schools could transmit AIDS, says Michael Meacher. DHSS says there isn't a problem.
- 67% of the public now support the advertising of contraceptives on TV, according to an IBA poll.

AIDS

- Star says an epidemic is sweeping through B/Airways cabin crew; 9 dead - 30 infected.
- Mirror says an American airline steward with AIDS was refused entry at Gatwick and sent home after being held overnight.
- MoD now admits that sailors from HMS Nottingham were allowed leave in Mombasa, where AIDS is rife.

LAW AND ORDER

- Government considering whether to impose a re-test on drunken drivers before they can drive again after conviction.
- Marconi facing police investigation into alleged over-charging on defence contracts.
- Mail says 150 High Street banks have alerted police to their suspicions that they are being used to launder proceeds of drug trafficking.
- Telegraph backs idea of automatic right of appeal by prosecution against inadequate sentences.
- Guardian publishes allegations that male officers stripped women prisoners at Risley Remand Centre last October; Home Office says there is no truth in them.
- Independent: Three people who believe they were vetted out of jobs by MI5 are taking their cases to the European Court of Human Rights.
- Times: Two-thirds of adults believe the minimum sentence for rape should be 10 years and a quarter think it should be 20 years, says a NOP survey
- Times: More than 100 MPs from all parties are backing a private members' bill to be debated this week which would give individuals a right to inspect files kept on them by public authorities, employers and professionals.

DEFENCE

- Independent: Shortages of Polaris rocket motors could cut the Navy's strategic nuclear arsenal by a quarter by the mid-1990s.
- Independent: General Sir Frank Kitson's book, due to be published next month, is set to highlight inconsistencies in the Government's attitude to secrecy.
- A damaging accusation by General Sir Frank Kitson that the army is staffed by too many old and mediocre senior officers, who would be incapable of taking command in a war, is threatening to embarrass the Government's position on conventional defence in the run-up to the election.

IRELAND

- Two women customers shot and wounded when police foil robbery at Steak house in Belfast.
- Six people, driving 5 lorries, held in Fishguard under anti-terrorist laws after tip off they were carrying explosives from Irish Republic.
- Telegraph thinks a coalition is on the cards in the Republic.
- Lady Ewart-Biggs withdraws from Oxford debate after Sinn Fein Gerry Adams is invited to speak.
- Geoffrey Smith, in Times, says Haughey would probably seek to extract the maximum advantage from the Anglo-Irish Agreement without either accepting Article 1 or actively trying to renegotiate it.

PEOPLE

- Lots of pictures of Mark and Diane Thatcher leaving Heathrow VIP suite (for which you pick up the bill.)
- Americans say our weather forecasts are best in the world.

RUSSIA

- Times: Leading Jewish activists were claiming an important victory last night after release of Josif Begun; but despite international condemnation, the KGB was in action on the streets of Moscow again yesterday, smashing up a demonstration.
- Today says your visit is to be extended to five days and that you will be offered a British place on a Soviet space craft, though you are likely to refuse; leader says we in the West should try not to push Gorbachev too hard, otherwise we risk creating a backlash against him.
- Mail says there is no doubt that Soviet Union is a tyranny in transition.
- FT leader says it would be foolish of the West to pretend nothing is happening in Russia and there could now be a calmer discussion of arms control.

SYRIA ETC

- Sun tells Foreign Secretary to forget trying to improve relations with Syria in the hope of releasing Terry Waite.
- Jumblatt pleads with pro-Iranian Hezbollah Militants to free Waite.

LEBANON

- The FCO admitted yesterday it had upgraded its diplomatic representation in Damascus, but denied it had anything to do with Terry Waite.

USA

- President Reagan has virtually disappeared from public view. Questions are being asked about his health. Nancy Reagan seems to have assumed full control (Times).

EEC

- The Commission yesterday drew up wide-ranging plans for an overhaul of EEC finances to avoid a budget crisis and agricultural overspending. The plans are reported to include a controversial proposal for basing Community revenue on the GDP of states instead of a national VAT. The wealthiest states would contribute the most.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Clarke addresses the Institute of Directors, London

DEM: Mr Lee at Advisory Council on Race Relations, Home Office, London

DOE: Mr Patten speaks at International Year of Shelter for Homeless, Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, London

DTI: Mr Butcher launches Production Engineering Research Association Com Centre, Barbican, London

DTP: Mr Mitchell hosts dinner for Bulgarian Minister of Transport, Lancaster House, London

MAFF: Mr Thompson visits National Farmers Union, Staffordshire

SO: Mr Ancram addresses Age Concern conference on Care and Repair, Glasgow

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTP: Mr Moore attends Transport Council Meeting, Brussels (to 17 February)

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe departs for Brussels, FAC

MAFF: Mr Jopling visits USSR (to 20 February)

MOD: Mr Younger visits USA (to 18 February)

DTI: Lord Lucas visits Portugal (to 18 February)

TV AND RADIO

DHSS Minister Mrs Currie interviewed on Day To Day programme, BBC Lime Grove Studios, London

"The Week in the Lords"; BBC 2 (08.55) (Repeat of Sunday's broadcast)

"Education Extra"; Channel 4 (18.30)

"World in Action"; ITV (20.30): About Steven Norris' Bill regarding access to personal files and the question of job vetting

"Panorama"; BBC 1 (21.30): "The Kinnock Alternative". Sir Robin Day interviews Mr Kinnock live about what a Labour Government would do to create jobs; how would they pay for planned improvements in hospitals and schools; what effect would tax changes have and the possibility of no party having overall control after the next election

"Their Lordships' House"; Channel 4 (23.50)
