

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh open the new extension to the headquarters of the Royal Jubilee Trusts, London

Princess of Wales visits Kentish Town Health Centre

Prime Minister attends National Pensioners' Convention (House of Commons)

TUC: National Pensioners' Convention

NAS/UWT ballot on strike action closes

STATISTICS

CSO: UK balance of payments (4th Qtr)

DEM: Detailed analysis of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators

HMT: Revised estimates for invisible earnings, (4th Qtr, 1986)

PUBLICATIONS

DEM: Employment Gazette

PAY

Electricity Supply Industry; Manual; 77,658; 1 April.

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Home Office; Northern Ireland; Prime Minister

Business: Completion of remaining stages of the abolition of domestic rates etc (Scotland) Bill (2nd Allotted day)

Adjournment Debate

Her Majesty's Government's policy towards Afghanistan (Mr D Atkinson)

Select Committees: NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK BROADS BILL

Lords: Local Government Finance Bill: Report
Pilotage Bill (HL): Third Reading
ROYAL ASSENT

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- Reagan's statement on "Irangate" and Tower report; accepts full responsibility for mistakes.
- Americans present Russians with draft arms reduction Treaty; Tory motion critical of Reagan for apparently selling pass on arms control.
- Kinnock sounds rallying call after Greenwich disaster; Express leads with him warning Left that you are winning.
- And you give an upbeat message about the country's economic prospects to Neddy. FT 100 index goes through 2000 and £ at 4 year high.
- Working days lost through disputes in 1986 lowest for 23 years.
- Foreigners spent record £5.457m in Britain last year.- even better return expected this year.
- House prices rose 14.9% in year to February according to the Halifax.
- Asian charged with Preston murders of 3 students in their bedsitters.
- Probe into alleged police corruption - encouraging people to admit crimes they did not commit - reopened in Kent Police Force after new evidence. Police files vanish.
- Doctors before Select Committee accuse Government of/needless panic about AIDS among heterosexuals. causing
- Government gives go-ahead for marketing of AZT AIDS treatment drug in Britain.
- New Highway Code warns against driving and using hand held mobile 'phones at same time.
- Trouble last night at Derby v. Portsmouth soccer match from minority of Portsmouth hooligans.
- Britain now has a third world boxing champion - Essex fireman wins light welterweight title.
- David Penhaligon was not wearing seat belt in fatal crash.
- Gerry Adams, in London, defends murder of our former Ambassador in Dublin; Oxford Union had invited him to debate with Lady Ewart-Biggs.
- Claims that Terry Waite is held by Syrian troops.
- Viscount Morpeth leaves the Army in protest over cuts in equipment.
- Harvey Proctor MP denies fresh allegations that he hid a naked Arab youth in his holiday bedroom in Morocco and gave staff money to shut them up (Sun and Mirror lead with story).
- Prince Philip launches film campaign to save pandas from extinction.

EAST-WEST

- Express says US insistence on right to an equal number of battlefield nuclear weapons threatens a Euro-missile treaty.
- Article by D R Lewis in Independent, a nuclear physicist campaigning for disarmament, says hopes being raised at Geneva must not founder on the rock of verification - 100% verification is impossible and unnecessary.
- Times: President Reagan tells US arms negotiators to press ahead to final treaty in Geneva. Attacks "despicable fiction" of his wife helping him to run White House.
- FT: David Owen says it was fanciful to believe you could act as "honest broker" between Russia and US in arms talks.

LABOUR

- Star: Kinnock has inquest on poll defeat.
- Sun: Kinnock's panic message to MPs: Don't buckle!. Flabbergasts MPs by throwing his weight behind Deirdre Wood.
- Mirror: Listen to voters, Neil warns.
- Today: Kinnock lays down law to Left wingers.
- Express leader says Kinnock, in claiming that those at the fringe of the party have not and would not influence policy, must have a short memory. Not so long ago only a few extremists were pushing for unilateralism.
- Mail: In-fighting must end, says Kinnock; leader says Kinnock is lumbered with the Left. Having failed to disown them in the past he can't now. If extremists don't represent the party, they do dominate it.
- London Daily News: Kinnock knocks hard Left 'fringe' in new unity call.
- Telegraph: Kinnock moves to curb in-fighting. Leader says Left is in no mood for compromise and cannot be de-selected. Kinnock and Left holding the babies which is bad luck.
- Independent: Kinnock accuses hard Left of sabotaging efforts to win power.
- Guardian: Kinnock calls for end to heart searching.
- Times P1 lead reports Mr Kinnock's speech to lift morale of Labour MPs. Described as one of his strongest leadership performances; leader says he won praise among his peers for standing no nonsense. The Labour Party, however, is no less in peril for that.
- Hugo Young, in Guardian, who had an excruciating interview with Kinnock on radio last night, says there is little evidence that Labour in 1987 would be seen as an economic saviour. Socialist vote has shrunk hugely in 10 years.
- FT: Kinnock vetoes Greenwich inquest.

CONSERVATIVES

- Row breaks out of "despicable" cartoon in Tory Party newspaper depicting blind David Blunkett as optician showing Kinnock a sign which he is unable to read correctly.
- Nicholas Ridley causes a storm when he advises homeless to get out of London and go where there are homes.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Times: Councils could have rate calculations upset after Government decides not to appeal against High Court ruling.
- Times: 50,000 Birmingham City employees asked to share jobs and pay to cut unemployment.
- Times: Former chief property officer of defunct GLC refuses to leave council house he wants to buy for £½m less than its market value.

POLITICS

- Today leader attacks Kinnock for complaining about Robin Day's "tactful in the extreme" remark about Kinnock's volubility; Norman Tebbit for telling businessmen to ring up BBC 'Today' programme to counter anti Government propaganda; and Lord Hailsham for criticising Today's poster advertisement showing party leaders with heads in nooses. Our politicians, Today says, are "a pompous, self satisfied, humbug ridden, two faced, double talking bunch of wimpos". So there.
- Independent: Dr Owen accuses the Independent of misquoting both you and him on defence policy in the House.
- Guardian says SDP/Libs is being forced to compromise over the centrepiece of its social policy programme - the tax benefit scheme which has been bedevilled with flaws.
- Express leader on breathtaking irresponsibility of Manchester's Labour controlled council by giving £10,000 job to Sri Lankan who has defied deportation for 11 years.
- Labour MPs in fight to stop Tory move to replace May Day holiday with Sir Winston Churchill National Day on May 10.

NEDDY

- Star, Sun, Mirror ignore meeting. Short piece in Today headed "Thatcher snubs TUC and bosses over wages" - ie over alleged link between big pay rises and unemployment.
- Express: CBI's present for party girl premier. You heard the good news and optimistic outlook.
- Mail: Lord Young tells Neddy that about 400,000 people can't read proper and can do only the simplest arithmetic and have problems in finding work. In another story it says bosses warned you not to meddle with traditional pay bargaining methods.
- Telegraph: "Dramatic change in the economy" - and competitiveness. Neddy told optimistic outlook helped to paper over differences.
- Independent: You duck row over pay at NEDC talks.
- Guardian: PM avoids confrontation on pay and jobs issues; suggests Neddy might be disbanded after election.
- FT: Government avoid pressing case against national pay bargaining at NEDC. You say discussions had been "constructive and realistic". Separate story says few believe pace of wage settlements will fall quick enough to produce early fall in unemployment.

ECONOMY

- Mirror claims Department of Employment Gazette says unemployed should no longer be encouraged to move for work because so few vacancies are left anywhere which cannot be filled from within the local area.
- Express reports new 'Which?' survey contrasting Britain now with 1957 shows how much better off we are; so does Mail, Telegraph
- Guardian claims Government is considering dropping monthly unemployment figures if it wins the next election for quarterly labour force survey.
- FT: Sam Brittan argues that the ultimate goal must be a guaranteed income (not minimum wage) for all which he says is the same as negative income tax.

ECONOMY (Cont'd)

- FT: Midland profits rise by 24%.
- Times: Cheaper overdrafts and home loans look more certain after money market interest rates fall for fourth day.

BUDGET

- Sun says homeowners are set for a £500-a-year give away Budget because taxes and mortgages will fall as a result of the booming economy.

INDUSTRY

- Today says you have shot down idea of Britain becoming a major space nation; you are vetoing a big increase in funds. Telegraph: Thatcher cool on request for £300m space aid.
- Express leader on "The Treasury scores an own goal on pay" says what with the IPCS offer, Treasury could not have blown a more comprehensive raspberry at Kenneth Clarke's efforts to break down national pay bargaining.
- Government faces new barrage of questions over links with KMS Ltd security company.
- General Council of British Shipping in annual report on merchant fleet records "dramatic decline".
- Inland Revenue launches investigations into company pension funds which it suspects of avoiding tax by buying and selling shares for a quick profit.
- £40m radioactive waste store to be built at Sellafield.
- Times: PAC says consumers not being adequately protected by M&MC against high prices, waste, inefficiency and over-manning in Nationalised industries.
- Times: Lord Bethell drops action against BA about illegal pooling arrangements with KLM
- Times: Mr Kinnock joins CBI and others against increased "light" charges for shipowners
- FT: Treasury trying to stop electricity industry ordering batch of new nuclear and coal fired power stations after work begins on Sizewell B.
- FT: UK in third place in arms exports with record £5bn sales.
- FT: Stock Exchange charges likely to rise about 50% over next year.
- FT: Caterpillar offers to see sit-in staff at Glasgow.
- FT leader says problem of controlling nationalised industries been reduced but not eliminated by privatisation.
- FT: Britain seeks fairer deal overseas for Mercury Communications.

UNIONS

- COHSE claims that contract cleaning has "dangerously lowered standards of hygiene and exploitation of low paid workers" in hospitals.
- Mail says John Macreadie, Militant, is launching a new bid for power as assistant general secretary of CPSA.
- FT: NUPE press TUC for more accurate union membership figures.

EDUCATION

- Express says George Walden has hinted that the total replacement of student grants with loans has been ruled out.
- Independent: Village schools that are starved of pupils face cutbacks and closure.
- Independent: Article states both sides of the argument for the maintenance of A-levels.

NHS

- Mail leader on prescription charges says working up outrage at £2.40 charge is like pumping air into a punctured tyre. The hiss of escaping credibility is audible with 3 out of 4 prescriptions free.
- Independent: Prescription charges often more than the cost of the drug.

MEDIA

- Today says 4 principal officials are leaving Channel 4 in next 8 months including Edmund Dell and Jeremy Isaacs.
- Independent: Douglas Hurd tells NUJ meeting that showing of Zircon film is a matter for the BBC.

LAW AND ORDER

- Mail continues its campaign against attacks on elderly says sex assaults on old ladies are stunning the police.
- Mirror leader, referring to 6 allegations of sex offences against a waiter at Jordanian Embassy, says it is time the Government told all foreign embassies in Britain their staffs will no longer be protected from diplomatic immunity.
- Today claims the Jordanian is believed to be a secret agent.
- Conservative MPs meeting today to coordinate effort to get another Commons vote on hanging, but Telegraph says it seems doomed to fail.
- Telegraph leader on Guinness affair says DTI and DPP will have every cause to be acutely embarrassed if they prove unable to bring to trial those responsible for Guinness excess.
- Independent: Jordanians agree to waive immunity for a "waiter" questioned by police on 15 sex offences.
- Guardian leader on defence of diplomatic immunity.
- Times: Bangladesh airline could face £348,000 bill for bringing in Tamil
- Independent editorial argues that refugees need a right of appeal.

EC

- Independent: Agricultural ministers decision may signal end of butter mountain.
- FT: Britain stands to gain most from EEC budget reform plans.
- FT: Japan threatens investment cut if EEC widens dumping duties.

USSR

- Independent: Article by Martin Gilbert highlights the plight of Ida Nudel and other refuseniks.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- HO: Mr Hurd addresses Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce's 1987 annual banquet
- DEM: Mr Lee visits Preston
- DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith opens World Energy Business annual member day meeting (venue to be confirmed)
- DEN: Mr Hunt visits the Geothermal Hot Dry Rocks Project, Cornwall
- DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses education/industry seminar on teacher supply in shortage subjects, Sunderland
- DHSS: Mr Newton speaks at Apothecaries livery meeting and dinner, Apothecaries Hall, London
- DHSS: Mr Major speaks at National Association of Funeral Directors meeting, Bonnington Hotel, London
- DHSS: Baroness Trumpington visits Help the Aged, London
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave addresses Association of District Councils Conference, London; later addresses Royal Cruising Club's Annual Dinner, Naval and Military Club, London
- DTI: Mr Butcher addresses Computing Services Association conference, Brighton
- DTI: Mr Pattie visits Watford and Hemel Hempstead
- DTI: Mr Clark addresses seminar to overseas students, London
- DTP: Mr Mitchell visits Derby
- FCO: Mr Renton addresses Industry and Parliament Trust, London
- MAFF: Mr Gummer visits South West Region
- MAFF: Mr Thompson addresses Animal Health Distributors Association Dinner, Birmingham
- SO: Lord Glenarthur addresses Scottish Council of Tourism Conference, Inverness
- WO: Mr Robinson presents medal of honours awards on behalf of Sports Council for Wales, Cardiff
- WO: Mr Roberts speaks at launch of Welsh Wildlife Appeal, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff
-

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DEM: Lord Young visits USA (to 11 March)
-

TV AND RADIO

"Question Time"; BBC 1 (21.55): Among guests with Sir Robin Day are the Rt Hon Norman Fowler MP and Alex Carlisle

"40 Minutes"; BBC 2 (21.30): Feature on Hull fire brigade

"Newsnight"; BBC 2 (22.35)

"This Week"; ITV (20.00)

"Union World"; Channel 4 (18.30): Trade Unionists under the spotlight

"Thier Lordships' House"; Channel 4 (12.20)
