

Wednesday 11 March 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh attend a service in St Paul's Cathedral and unveil the Korean War Memorial, Defence Secretary Mr Younger attends

Prince of Wales visits Belgium (to 12 March)

Princess of Wales visits Tynemouth Village Day Centre, Holy Saviour Church Hall, Tynemouth; later attends charity luncheon at Gosforth Park Hotel, Newcastle

Duchess of York attends Gala performance of The Count of Luxembourg, Sadler's Wells Theatre London

Prime Minister meets the Chief Rabbi (photocall).

Secretary of State for Defence speaks at Chatham House.

National No Smoking Day

West German Cabinet formed

TUC Women's Conference, Blackpool (to 13 March)

Teachers' half-day strikes begin (to 19 March)

PUBLICATIONS

HO: Civil Justice Review consultation paper on General Issues

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Scotland; Foreign and Commonwealth Office; Trade and Industry

Business: Until 19.00 estimates day (1st allotted day, 1st part). There will be a debate on estimates relating to assistance to the coal industry. Details will be given in the official report.

Afterwards there will be a debate on a motion relating to the motor vehicle industry and on the Industry Act 1980 (increase of limit) order.

Consideration of lords amendments that may be received to the Local Government Finance Bill.

Adjournment Debate: Consumer protection policy in relation to investment advisers (Sir J Page)

Select Committees:

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Subject: Cultural Diplomacy

Witness: Mr Tim Eggar, MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK BROADS BILL

WELSH AFFAIRS

Subject: The condition and repair of privately-owned housing

Witnesses: Housing Centre Trust; All Wales Panel of Chief Environmental Health Officers

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: Motor Components Industry

Witnesses: B T R and Turner and Newall

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Information and Technology in the Inland Revenue Department

Witness: Mr A M W Battishill, Board of Inland Revenue

TRANSPORT

Subject: Decline of the UK registered fleet

Witnesses: British Motor Ship Owners Association (at 4.15 pm); British Maritime League (at approx 5.00 pm)

ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Pollution of Rivers and Estuaries

Witnesses: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food officials; Nature Conservancy Council (at approx 5.15 pm)

JOINT COMMITTEE PRIVATE BILL PROCEDURE

Witnesses: British Railways Board; West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive; South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive.

Lords: Debate to call attention to the importance of manufacturing industry to Britain's economic prosperity.

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- No Smoking Day - Star reports telephone calls in response to question: should smoking be banned at work? voting 2-1 in favour.

- Work begins on righting and floating vessel.
- Townsend Thoresen makes immediate payments of £2,000 to dependants of known dead and missing.
- Nicholas Ridley apologises for his "insensitive" remark.
- Duchess of York sends 8 year old boy orphaned by tragedy a toy.
- Captain of stricken vessel flies home on a stretcher.

- Labour in turmoil again over unilateralism - the Callaghan/ Prescott flare up in tearoom extensively reported. Healey, 60, calls Callaghan, 74, an old man and Dr John Gilbert says one-sided disarmament is an albatross round Labour's neck.
- This is felt to increase likelihood of an early election.
- Kinnock reveals his employment policy today.
- SDP/Lib Alliance calls on Chancellor to use money for tax cuts to create jobs; Express notes they carefully avoided spelling out tax policies.
- 80,000 teachers expected to strike today.
- Farm workers get £4.50 pay rise; they had asked for £45.

- DTI Select Committee, reporting on Westland, calls for new legislation on nominee share dealing.
- ICI announces plans for a technology park at Billingham, with possibility of creating 5,000 jobs.

- Liverpool teacher in hospital after hammer attack by two pupils at comprehensive.
- Third teenager cleared of murdering PC Blakelock in Tottenham riot.

- Haughey elected Prime Minister on Speaker's casting vote.
- Paisley throws a tantrum in Commons on public order order.
- Attorney-General back at work.
- Ban on European football against England for another year confirmed by UEFA.
- Only qualities cover - low key - launch of rural economy package.

FERRY DISASTER

- Star: leader says there is no great merit in being wise after the event but it does look like a catalogue of complacency and incompetence involving both the Government's safety experts and ship owners. What have the experts been doing all these years?
- Express: the introduction of passenger lists on ferries would increase bureaucracy but that is perhaps a price we would be willing to pay to eliminate the anguish of waiting.
- Mail: leader says that Nicholas Ridley's career will not bloom after his "crass jibe".
- FT: Assessors exploiting ferry victims by offering immediate cash payments in return for 50% of compensation.
- Times: says you found yourself caught up in a storm over tasteless remark by Nicholas Ridley. Your letter to Belgian Prime Minister reported. Solicitors act to curb victims being exploited.

POLITICS

- Times: Alliance government would maintain incomes policy for 3 or 4 years and perhaps indefinitely.
- FT: Alliance unveils plan to cut jobless by 1 million in three years; Mr Tebbit challenges Mr Steel to a public debate.
- Independent: editorial on the Alliance's alternative budget says it is like taking sherry in a vicarage - genteel, civilised, reasonable, conventional and slightly dull. It is a pity the Alliance does not have more to say about improving our arthritic and job strangling labour market.
- Conservatives lead 5 points in NOP poll - 39/Lab 34/SDP-Lib 15; Kinnock's popularity at rock bottom.
- Express leader on SDP/Liberal coyness over tax plans, says we do know it will be higher, though voters may have to go to the polls not knowing whether they would be paying more or less.

LABOUR PARTY

- Guardian: Callaghan attack sparks Party turmoil - post Greenwich troubles intensify, leader headed "Jim unfixes it again" says his intervention puts him rather to the right of the SDP/Libs and he can be criticised for disloyalty. He is getting demob happy but he can't be charged with inconsistency. And Labour's policy in the light of Gorbachev's latest move looks anachronistic.
- Times: P1 lead says Labour in new disarray over defence.
- Times: discusses sacking of Richard Heller. His article was vigorous and eloquent version of argument which can be heard throughout Labour party. Consequence is nervous paralysis at top of Party which is desperate to keep any rethinking of defence policy out of sight.
- FT: Callaghan sparks Labour in-fighting.
- Independent: Healey and Prescott fall out with Callaghan and Kaufman sacks his parliamentary adviser Richard Heller over defence.
- Telegraph: leads with tea room row as defence splits Labour whose crisis deepens.
- The big tea room row overshadows sacking by Kaufman of his political adviser for writing to Times criticising defence policy.
- Star: Labour fury at Big Jim - sabotage storm in MPs' tea room.
- Sun: You've lost us the election! Jim in tea room bust up; leader says Callaghan believes a Kinnock government would be disastrous for Britain and he will bring himself everlasting disgrace if he does not open his mouth on the defence issue during the election.
- Mirror: Jim, you've snookered us again! Prescott gives a nuclear rocket. Labour's defence policy in turmoil again.
- Today: leads with "Labour cracks up" - stand up row in tea room stirs Tories, leader says the Emperor Kinnock wishes to enter the nuclear conference chamber with no clothes. Callaghan did the nation a service by pointing to Labour's nakedness. Will Healey and his colleagues make one last effort before it is too late?
- Express: leads with 'Labour turn on 'loser' Jim' - Labour seems hell bend on self-destruction as Party heavyweights flew at each other's throats; feature says Callaghan has always had a problem with timing - he rarely gets it right - and the feeling at Westminster is that he has done it again.
- Mail: leads with "It's all coming apart at the seams! Civil war breaks out on defence and Kinnock's authority dramatically on the line amid bitter recrimination. Leader attacks Healey as an old rogue who has long since forgotten how to put principle before expediency.
- Mail: also has a long interview with Dr John Gilbert in which it says six of Kinnock's most senior member of Shadow Cabinet privately share Callaghan's view.

YOUR VISIT TO MOSCOW

- John Vincent in Sun, says much turns on your visit. The qualities needed in talking to the Russians are experience, firmness and grasp of detail, that's what you have more than any other leader. It is just as well Britain is not represented by an inexperienced Welshman with a tendency to fly off the handle.
- Independent: You soften your line on super power nuclear deal.
- Independent: feature article on Russia's second revolution. Two years on Gorbachev has made great strides but the reform battle is far from won.
- Independent: Plans to scrap medium-range missiles would prove very costly for a Europe used to security on the cheap.
- Guardian: says Soviets offered gentle encouragement yesterday to your hopes of becoming honest broker between superpowers. Gerasimov says visit would give practical impetus for progress.
- Times: Kremlin publicly confirms high importance it attaches to your visit.
- Times: says you made plain yesterday that agreement to remove Cruise or Pershing missiles not conditional on Soviets accepting reduction in shorter-range weapons and conventional forces.
- Times: Geoffrey Howe embarks on ambitious effort to convince Eastern Europe that our economic policies would work for communist countries.
- Richard Owen in Times assesses reform prospects as Mr Gorbachev enters third year with heading "How Thatcher could help glasnost along".

UNIONS

- EETPU preparing to go to court to evict 16 Fleet Street electricians staging sit in at union's HQ.
- Man who was called "Silver Birch" during miners' strike accepts £12,000 redundancy.

BUDGET/ECONOMY

- Express: feature on "the biggest give away Budget next Tuesday in living memory."
- Hopes of a further cut in interest rates boosts gilts and equities but sterling fell back slightly.
- "Charter for Jobs" pressure group criticises Budget priorities.
- National Audit Commission report concludes there is no evidence that Parliament was misled by the Government about the ownership of TSB.

INDUSTRY

- Independent: President of US based Institute for Scientific Information says science spending in Britain is shameful.
- Governments hesitate over Airbus backing.
- FT: Select Committee report on Westland calls for greater disclosure of the identity of shareholders and criticises the Government's handling of the issue.
- Lonrho to sue House of Fraser over the takeover battle of two years ago.
- Nigerian borrower faces first serious charges arising from the police investigation of JMB.
- DTI inspectors probing possible insider dealings by civil servants, study at least three takeovers.
- Times: Government's plans to privatise world famous plant research laboratory at Cambridge leads to resignation of director and 60 employees.

HEALTH

- Jogging kills more people than rugby, motor racing or hang gliding, according to latest statistics.
- Doctors call for quicker compensation for victims of medical mistakes.

WELFARE

- Mail: digs up a family of Irish tinkers living in a £848 a week house in Camden paid for in the rates and complaining DHSS has not yet given them any money.

AIDS

- IBA to lift ban on advertising contraceptives.
- Norman Fowler tells MPs campaign is to be stepped up and aimed directly at homosexuals and drug users.

EDUCATION

- Mirror does a "blockbuster" on education complaining about school closures and the "shameful" state of primary schools - "a memorial to this Government's towering disdain for ordinary people".
- Prince Philip accuses teachers who oppose competitive games of ignoring possible link between decline in games and rise in juvenile crime; Express says his tart intervention in the debate is most welcome and backs his idea of a national physical education service.
- Telegraph: says the campaign to stop the decline in competitive sport in schools deserves the strongest possible support.
- FT: leader criticises the way the University Grants Committee allocates funds and says that it should come clean about its reasoning and restore cuts.
- Independent: fewer students take physics at A-level.

LAW AND ORDER

- Times: less than 1% of crimes are serious cases of violence. Number of violent crimes risen less steeply under Conservatives.
- Guardian: leads with a Home Office plan to use a ferry boat as an immigrant detention centre - Welfare of Immigrants Council describes idea as "absolutely outrageous and inhumane".

MEDIA

- John Vincent, Sun columnist, signs off after 4 years.
- Independent: BBC may merge its radio and TV news services under one roof in the interests of efficiency and cost effectiveness.
- Guardian: attacks Checkland's decision to defer screening of the "Secret Society"; he starts his reign with suppression and delay, it says.

SPORT

- Sun suggests Dooley, England RFU player, should be banned for 5 years for breaking Welsh player's cheekbone on Saturday.

PEOPLE

- Mail: sympathises with Richard Branson's idea that everyone should be responsible for clearing up litter outside their property, but says he should clear up his own back yard first.
- Harvey Proctor MP criticises Prince Charles for becoming enmeshed in race relations in commenting on absence of black faces at Trooping of the Colour.
- Independent: Peter Wright rushed to hospital; he will miss Justice Powell's judgement which runs to 300 pages on Friday.

ITALY

- Italians accuse Abu Nidal of airport massacre at Rome airport in 1985 (Independent).

CONTRAS

- Independent: George Foulkes says suspicion of arms deals would rest on you until you denied newspaper stories about your meetings with ex-SAS man.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DTI: Mr Channon addresses Jiji (Japanese) Press Seminar, London

DTP: Mr Moore addresses Seminar of Westminster Industrial Brief, Imperial House, London

DEM: Mr Lee meets Turkish officials to discuss employment measures

DEM: Mr Tripper addresses Hyndburn Enterprise Trust conference

DEN: Mr Goodlad attends the Energy Committee reception, hosted by Sir Ian Lloyd MP, London

DES: Mr Walden attends Professional, Industrial and Commercial (PICKUP) updating courses, South Bank Polytechnic, London

DHSS: Mr Newton visits Eastern Region Pharmaceutical Group, Smith, Klein and French laboratories, Welwyn Garden City

DOE: Mr Patten visits West Midlands

DOE: Mr Tracey visits Calne, Wiltshire

DTI: Mr Shaw visits the North East

DTP: Mr Mitchell addresses the Association of County Councils' Transportation Conference dinner, City Conference Centre, London

HO: Mr Mellor visits Release, re drugs

WO: Mr Robinson visits Clwyd Social Services

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

MAFF: Mr Jopling visits Paris Salon, Paris

SO: Lord Glenarthur attends International Tourist Fair, Berlin

TV AND RADIO

Education Minister, Mr Walden appears on BBC Radio 3 'Science on 3': (19.30-20.15 pm)

"Legacy of Empire"; BBC Radio 4 (19.20): On the things Britain left behind from cricket, language and law to the civil service.

"Analysis"; BBC Radio 4 (20.15): On European Agricultural Policy. Postponed from 4 March.

"Diverse Reports"; Channel 4; (20.30): Budget speculation?
