

22 April 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

House of Commons returns

OPCS release electoral registers for parliamentary and local government constituencies

"Look After Your Heart" campaign launched

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STATISTICS

OPCS: Electoral Statistics 1987 - Parliamentary Constituencies and Local Authority Areas

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth; Trade and Industry; Environment

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Act (Amendment) (Mr Simon Hughes)

Finance Bill: 2nd Reading and Committal Motion

Adjournment Debate: The development of Maternity and other health services in the Blackburn District (Mr J Straw)

Select Committees: EMPLOYMENT  
Subject: The European Community Employment Initiatives  
Witness: Mr Michael Welsh, MEP

TRANSPORT

Subject: The decline in the UK-registered merchant fleet

Witnesses: Cunard Steam Ship Company (at 4.15 pm); P & O (at approx 4.45 pm); Sealink British Ferries (at approx 5.15 pm)

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- Ladbrokes no longer taking bets on June election; Conservatives 8-1 on to win.
- Guardian suggests Scottish Party conference is being reduced to a one-day election rally. Times says an economists' report shows Alliance surge is no threat to Government.
- Intransigence of two main teachers' unions, and Kenneth Baker's attack on their plans for a work to rule, get a lot of space. Mr Baker asks: What about the rights of children?
- Telegraph leads with Head Teachers' warning hard line members of teaching unions that work to rule will not succeed.
- More than 150 feared killed, 200 wounded, in bomb blast in crowded Colombo, Sri Lanka, bus station; outrage 'committed by Tamils.'
- Palace furious over breaking of another undertaking by foreign press at off-the-record occasion in Madrid: Prince Charles sees himself as a target for IRA.
- More trouble with Army for President Alfonsin in Argentina.
- Scottish TUC at Perth condemns Job Training Scheme as an attempt to fiddle unemployment figures and unions threaten to withhold cooperation.
- Rover gives £10m a year dashboard order to Japanese, at possible cost of 900 British jobs, because "it was feared Lucas Electrical would do a shoddy job" (Sun).
- British Rail confident of reaching agreement with EuroTunnel within two weeks.
- Eighth RUC policeman murdered this year - inspector shot in Newcastle.
- Large areas of uplands in England and Wales still registering relatively high radiation levels 12 months after Chernobyl.
- Greville Janner MP protests after student living in France applies for a postal vote and gets a Tory Party leaflet with official documents.

MAIN NEWS (Cont'd)

- Kinnock agrees to Sun interview.
  
- Britain may take more Vietnamese boat people.
  
- Manchester man arrested in Spain after drugs worth £4m seized in police road block.
  
- USA deports to Estonia man convicted in his absence of Nazi murders.

TEACHERS

- Sun features teachers' boycott of firms sponsoring City Technology Centres; leader attacks Leicester NUT teachers for wanting school notice boards to display details of homosexual counselling services.
  
- Express says the teachers - or their representatives - seem seized by a collective madness. The fact remains that the Government is trying to raise standards in our schools and all Mr Baker's efforts are sincerely directed to that end. The public will surely note that unions' efforts seem bent on sabotaging it.
  
- Guardian has a tortured leader which says the decision to abolish Burnham was clumsy and wrong and Mr Baker should announce he intends to restore negotiating rights in 1988. He has to find ways of working with teachers. But it then goes on to say that the highly political Left-wing teachers at the conference rostrums may not even speak for a majority of their own conference delegates.

• TEACHERS (Cont'd)

- Times: Kenneth Baker hints he may be prepared to restore teachers' rights to negotiate.
- Independent editorial says Mr Baker's political skill fails to meet classroom needs.

POLITICS

- Today says Norman Tebbit fears he is going to be sacked by you, with Lord Young poised to take over CCO after election.
- Mirror leader says there is only one thing Labour can do with "the rebel and destructive Parliamentary candidate Sharon Atkin - sack her".
- Telegraph says Neville Sandelson is threatened with expulsion from SDP for urging supporters to vote Tory.
- Telegraph leader on the economy says the principal priority after the election should be the control of Government spending, even though the Government has done well to keep the lid on it.
- Guardian says a complaint has been lodged with the Speaker against three Conservative MPs - James Couchman, Michael Colvin and Roger Gale - for delaying declaring their financial interests in the drinks industry until after a vote on the Licensing Bill.
- Times: Labour Party trying to defuse black sections dispute as activists accuse leadership of running disinformation campaign about black candidate in Nottingham.
- Times: Union leaders believe they will be able to raise £5m for Labour election campaign.
- Independent: Kinnock urged to get back to basics by General Secretary of the General and Municipal Workers.
- Independent feature by Roy Hattersley on why idle coalition talk may put democracy in danger. Peter Jenkins on the false lure of tactical voting.
- Times leader looks at the "Summer of Discontent" saying that teachers' dispute and Civil Service strikes will be bad for Labour's chances during election campaign. Unions have power either to ruin the Labour Party with the voters or be oblivious to the Party's need for votes.
- Independent: John Morrison on television as a crucial battleground for voters.

EC

- Mail leader says any British Government silly enough to impose VAT on food, books and newspapers would court electoral defeat. You must strangle Lord Cockfield's plan in its cradle, otherwise your opponents will feel free to scare the electorate.
- Sir Michael Butler in Telegraph suggests Kinnock has a lot to learn about the EC and Treaty of Rome.
- Independent: Britain maintains block on European research scheme.

INDUSTRY

- Today leader on 5 Scottish directors of textile firm earning £783,600 each, says the fact that they can earn that sort of money while women weave for a pittance and many others in Scottish lowlands struggle to survive, offends many people's sense of justice.
- Independent: Caterpillar talks break down.
- Times: Checks being made on all MPs and 2,500 businessmen about BA share applications.
- Times: Barclays Bank expect stiff opposition to plan to raise £210m of new capital in New York and Tokyo.
- Times: Better pay failing to attract and keep scientists and engineers, say electronic companies.
- Times: TV-AM beats own forecasts with pre-tax profits up 80% to £8.7m.
- John Redwood, in FT, says the next Parliament should see a further major privatisation programme with coal and electricity the centrepiece.

WELFARE

- Daily News alleges that a tourist boom will mean more families sleeping on the streets of London because of a shortage of short stay accommodation.

HEALTH

- Times: Government accused of wasting money on its new "Look After Your Heart" campaign by failing to tackle policy conflicts over food subsidies and food labelling.
- Times: 12-bed hospital unit costing £250,000 to be opened at Brixton Prison, partly to protect AIDS carriers from other inmates.
- Times: Government likely to help Quest for a Test for Cancer for first time.
- Independent: NHS surgeons use private hospital to cut waiting list. Surgeons at St Barts cut waiting list for tonsil operations by a third in a weekend.

DRUGS

- Star says you agreed a secret deal with Gorbachev to fight terrorism, drugs and AIDS. Leader says this bears testimony to the success of your Moscow mission.

LAW AND ORDER

- Sun tentatively backs Sir Kenneth Newman's idea of a national detective force to fight big crime.
- Professor Alice Goodman, in Mail, rejecting idea that unemployment is the stimulus to crime, focuses on housing estates and says providing individual front and back gardens has a revolutionary effect (according to residents) in making children more friendly and polite.
- Jury returns unlawful killing verdict against Coroner's advice at inquest on man crushed to death by vehicle in Wapping dispute; driver may now face charges.
- Times: Drink-drive likely to be extended to summer when convictions are at highest.
- Times: Survey says Government efforts to improve awareness of home security are failing.

DEFENCE

- Mail news story says secret Anglo French talks are taking place on a new cruise missile.
- Mail leader says that if Kremlin and White House can begin to see eye to eye on arms control we may surprise ourselves on both sides of the Channel at how much the two nuclear powers of Europe find we have in common.
- Times: Mr Gorbachev says tactical nuclear weapons in Europe should be discussed at new set of talks which would negotiate at the same time over size of conventional armed forces.
- Times: Kevin McNamara says Anglo/French talks about possible joint cruise missile programme could lead to big upgrading in theatre nuclear weapons in Europe.

DEFENCE (Cont'd)

- Times: President Reagan "optimistic but realistic" about success of nuclear talks.
- Congress budget cuts delay SDI research up to two years.
- Independent: Younger's Cruise talks with French confirmed.
- Independent: Russians urge early missile agreement. Reagan echoes NATO caution on arms elimination.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

- Independent: Howe hangs designer tag on Kremlin's diplomacy. Feature urges Britain to vie for influence in South Pacific in light of increasing Soviet activity.

JAPAN

- Times: Japanese appeal to President Reagan to lift tariff sanctions against imports. US Secretary of Agriculture warns that US was perhaps on verge of "some very harsh mandatory retaliation laws".

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Lord Young attends CBI Conference on Industrial Relations, London
- DHSS: Mr Fowler attends launch of Look After Your Heart campaign, Lancaster House, London
- MAFF: Mr Jopling meets Mr Neville Harper, Queensland Minister for Primary Industry, London
- DEM: Mr Trippier chairs Tourism Co-Ordination Committee, Caxton House, London
- DTP: Mr Bottomley visits Dorking Regional Office
- DTP: Mr Spicer attends launch of British Car Auctions' hot air balloon, Blackbushe Airport
- HO: Mr Mellor addresses Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House
- MAFF: Mr Gummer hosts lunch for Dr Du Runsheng, Chinese Agriculture Minister, London
- SO: Mr Lang addresses Annual conference of Scottish Police Federation, Peebles Hydro, Peebles
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TV AND RADIO

Education Secretary Mr Baker interviewed by John Lander, Central TV, Birmingham for their Central Lobby Programme

A Party Political Broadcast by the Conservative Party: BBC Radio 4 (13.35); BBC 1 (21.00); ITV (22.00); BBC 2 (22.50)

"Victorian Values" (19.00): Second of Bamer Gascoigne's look at Victorian social reform focuses on health

"In Business"; BBC Radio 4 (19.20): (Repeat of programme broadcast yesterday at 16.05)

"Comment"; Channel 4 (19.50): This week taken by a Conservative politician

"Secret Society"; BBC 2 (22.20): First of series presented by Duncan Campbell dealing with the computerisation of central records held by Government departments, police and commercial firms. Duncan Campbell is said to show how easy it is for information to leak from these data banks and invites members of the public to have a direct look at the kind of information that is held about them.

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