

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister addresses CBI conference on Design

Trade figures published

Report of the court inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the sinking of the sailing vessel 'Marques' published

STATISTICS

Bank of England: London sterling certificates of deposit (Mar)

Bank of England: UK Banks' assets and liabilities and the Money Stock (Mar)

DTI: Engineering indices of production (Feb) and sales and orders (Jan)

PAY

British Nuclear Fuels: Non industrial; 6,750; 1 June

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS BILL
Companies Bill: 2nd Reading. (Sir Brandon Rhys Williams)
Companies (Audit Committees) Bill: 2nd Reading. (Sir Brandon Rhys Williams)
Human Rights Bill: 2nd Reading. (Sir Edward Gardner)

Adjournment Debate: Government policy towards District Council Finance in Basildon (Mr P Amers)

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- Harris poll gives you an 11% lead 42/31/Alliance 25 - 56% of Labour voters are convinced you will win. Marplan gives 6% lead - 39/33/Alliance 24 (a drop of 7%). This is described by some as a big boost for Labour (up 2); Conservatives are up 3. But Express says support for the SDP/Libs is plummeting.

- Telegraph says Tory MPs want you to end the uncertainty.
- More speculation of another cut in interest rates as £ rises.

- Man, 37, arrested in Northumberland in connection with abduction and murders of 3 girls between 1982 and 1986; breakthrough attributed to use of computers.
- Man expected to be charged today over assault on 4 year old girl at Hamilton, Scotland, last month.

- More trouble for Kinnock over black rebels - Nottingham East wants Sharon Atkin back and refuses to accept imposed candidate, and Linda Bellos throws down gauntlet repeating Atkin's views.
- Sun says black extremists have a secret manifesto.

- Dental health groups continue to show concern over Law Lords' decision that a 17 year old mental defective should be sterilised.

- Japanese trade: your meeting with Japanese trade Minister largely ignored by pops but a bit overwritten by Mail and some qualities.

- Joe Haines, in Mirror, on "The Secret Mountain of Lies" associated with the alleged MI5 plot.

- Benn claims that Airey Neave plotted to have him assassinated.

MAIN NEWS (Cont'd)

- Telegraph says that the Government is to announce today the abandonment of its search for a site for dumping nuclear waste.
- Storm aboard QE2 because of appalling conditions following £100m refit in West Germany.
- Civil Service unions preparing to intensify industrial action.
- Kaufman claims nearly 25m victims have been attacked, robbed or hit by vandalism since you came to office. Express says Labour's plan for putting police under control of Left wing councils exposed; Mail says they were spelt out.
- Swansea and Cardiff researchers come up, according to Express, with startling new evidence of the failure of comprehensive schools.
- BP says Forties field has twice as much oil left in it as previously calculated.
- Extel rejects £250m bid by Lord Stevens, Express Group.
- Britain's first all-night TV begins next month - Thames reaches "realistic" pay agreement.
- Another Belfast City Council advert against the Anglo-Irish Agreement and your attitude to Northern Ireland.
- Beirut magazine says Iranian Embassy employee has been kidnapped to exchange for Terry Waite.
- Waldheim considering suing USA for excluding him.
- Healey going to Moscow on May 10.

LABOUR PARTY

- Feature in Today describes Sharon Atkin as a sacrifice on the altar of Kinnock's ambitions. He eagerly watches the opinion polls while turning a blind eye to the mounting fury behind him in his party.
- Telegraph says the removal of Atkin will be greeted by Kinnock's admirers as proof positive of his opposition to extremism. But he has won no more than a minor skirmish. He has not outlawed extremism.
- Guardian says Labour has now thrown away any chance of winning Nottingham East; leader says Kinnock has demonstrated that when action is required he is more than capable of delivering, but watching his back distracts him from concentrating on the main event.
- Labour Party is unlikely to act against Linda Bellos for repeating Sharon Atkin's assertion that the party is racist. Hattersley said she was not a parliamentary candidate and "it was unwise to make martyrs out of willing martyrs".
- Times leader says Kinnock's problems with black left-wing militants no different from his problem with white left-wing militants.

POLITICS

- Mail leader has one worry as the election approaches - if the voters forget what you have done the gains could disappear overnight.
- Telegraph says the idea of coal privatisation will be discussed by Ministers today.
- Independent says one clear message of the polls is the electorate's volatility; Home Office Ministers accept that 11 June election would mean loss of Criminal Justice Bill.
- The charge of left-wing extremism for the first time overshadows the fight for control of the traditionally moderate city council in Nottingham; housing and services have been relegated to secondary status.
- Colin Brown writes a sympathetic profile of Dalyell's crusading attempts to disclose inconsistencies and deceit in this Government; references are made to Wright case, Westlands, Falklands and Zircon. (Independent).
- Robin Oakley in Times feature talks to Hattersley about his blueprint for Britain and discusses his new book "Economic Priorities for a Labour Government". Should Hattersley become Chancellor, no-one can complain that they were not warned.
- FT: Senior ministers have drawn up outlines of a Queen's Speech, including measures on education, rented housing, domestic rates reform, contracting out of local authority services, rights of trade union members and privatisation of water authorities, electricity and British Steel.

MI5

- Dead in Star, Sun, Mirror, Today.
- Daily News says you were jeered (at Question Time) over MI5; Labour considering a motion attacking your handling.
- Guardian says Shadow Cabinet has decided a fresh approach should be made to Callaghan asking him to call for a wide-ranging inquiry.
- Independent tries to cast doubt on extent of 1977 inquiry into Mi5 allegations and quotes Sir Leonard Hooper, Cabinet intelligence coordinator, 1973-78, as never being called upon to assist inquiry.
- Independent says that in Thames TV programme 'This Week' last night, Rees called for fresh inquiry into allegations.
- Hattersley said if Labour won an inquiry into Wright allegations would be made.
- Australian paper 'The Age' has published the Independent's account of Wright book. British Government's solicitors in Sydney rang 'The Age' asking if it had received approach from Heinemann for breach of copyright. It had not (Independent).
- FT: Feature by Malcolm Rutherford argues that if there were a fresh inquiry Lord Wilson would be among the first to get hurt. But secret service would now welcome chance to clear its name.
- Times: DPP considering whether to take action against Lord Rothschild under Section 2 of Official Secrets Act.

JAPANESE TRADE

- Little interest in pops with short pieces from:
- Sun: Maggie and Ron KO Japs on trade.
- Daily News: Thatcher gives Japan stern trade warning.
- Mail: Maggie reads riot act to Japanese.
- Independent says Reagan welcomed new Japanese proposals for averting a trade war but refused to lift import tariff on Japanese electronic goods. Nakasone said that he had ordered Bank of Japan to lower short-term interest rates.
- Independent: Channon warned Japan of European reprisals if Japan failed to liberalise its markets.
- Times US share prices soar as hopes grow that talks between President Reagan and Prime Minister Nakasone will settle trade dispute.

JAPANESE TRADE (Cont'd)

- Times: You and key Cabinet Ministers demand from Japan's Trade Minister "early and effective steps" by Tokyo to increase access of British goods to Japan.
- Times: West Germany and Italy could face mandatory trade sanctions from America under amendment to US trade bill.
- FT leader states that although the dollar firmed immediately on Japanese pledge to lower interest rates, underlying sentiment remains bearish especially in the European financial markets.
- FT: Northern Development Company is to sign industrial and trade co-operation agreements with Kuji Bank of Tokyo to develop trading and increase inward investment between Japan and north of England.

EDUCATION

- FT: Mr Baker is expected to stress next week that the proposed interim arrangements for fixing teachers' pay and conditions could be replaced by permanent machinery earlier than final statutory date of 1990.
- Times: Church of England to oppose any extension of Conservative policy that would eliminate role of local education authorities.

STERILISATION

- Star: Eminently sensible decision; making best of a very sad situation.
- Daily News: Decision leaves a deep sence of unease.
- Express: In the end most people will probably believe that the right decision has been taken.
- Guardian: A hint of expediency about the judgement.
- Independent says the ruling brought calls for an urgent review of the law on consent for mentally-disabled adults to receive medical treatment.

LAW AND ORDER

- Mirror makes child prostitution its front page lead.
- Independent: Five police officers have resigned from Hertfordshire force after hidden cameras recorded late night parties in the police bar with officers taking drinks without paying.
- Times leader discusses Home Office plans to use ferry for detaining asylum seekers. Unfortunate it became public at time of ferry disaster inquiry, but plan does have merits.

MEDIA

- Sun leader attacks the "Daily Whopper" - otherwise the "lying Guardian". All this over the Guardian's objections to the Sun's objections to a Rastafarian getting a fellowship at Cambridge.
- Telegraph says concern is growing among some Tory members that you and Mr Tebbit will dismember the BBC if re-elected.
- FT: BBC is prepared to increase the number of programmes it takes from independent producers in three years from 1991.

UNIONS

- The radical right-wing electricians union stood isolated from labour movement after TUC leader's attack denouncing the "beauty competition" union were forced to enter because of single strike-free agreements signed by the EETPU.

INDUSTRY

- Independent: Doubts were cast on scheme to produce multi-purpose vehicles at Caterpillar factory. Sir Monty Finniston, who resigned as Chairman on Wednesday, said orders for the vehicle were insufficient.
- Times: Midland Bank goes for 'yuppies' with interest-bearing current account.
- Times: Finance for Caterpillar rescue "secure".

ECONOMY

- Independent: Coopers and Lybrand report for Southampton City Council shows prejudice against the unemployed is a barrier to their finding work, and re-training opportunities for the older unemployed are not good enough.

NEW ZEALAND

- Times: Mr Lange accuses Foreign Secretary of trying to interfere in New Zealand's domestic politics.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES, ETC)

DES: Mr Baker visits Mansfield High Street and Colne College, Lancashire (to 2 May)

DTI: Mr Channon addresses CBI Design Conference, London; later meets with Oxfam, Southend

HMT: Mr Lawson attends Trial of the Pyx, London

SO: Mr Rifkind and Mr Lang attend Meeting with Scottish Economic Council, Edinburgh and with Scottish Prison Service, Trade Union side, Edinburgh

DEN: Mr Goodlad visits Weir Pumps, Glasgow

DES: Mr Walden attends opening of International Management Centre, Bucks

DTI: Mr Butcher addresses CBI Dentists Conference, London

DTI: Mr Lucas addresses Margate Luncheon Club, Southampton

DTP: Lord Brabazon visits RNLI, Poole, Dorset

DTP: Mr Bottomley attends launch of Childrens Safety Seats in Cars Campaign, Cambridge

HO: Lord Caithness visits Coldingley prison

MAFF: Mr Gummer addresses United Kingdom Fertilizers Breakfast Club, Newcastle

SO: Mr Ancram meets Farming Forestry and Wildlife Trust, Perth

WO: Mr Roberts meets Countryside Commission, Newtown

TV AND RADIO

Environment Secretary Mr Ridley appears on BBC Radio 4's Any Questions

Education Minister Mrs Rumbold appears on Education Programme BBC2 (19.30 to 20.00)

"What the Papers Say"; Channel 4 (20.00): Critical review of papers over the last week by a journalist

"A Week in Politics"; Channel 4 (20.15): Television's political "weekly" presented by Nick Ross

"Any Questions?"; BBC Radio 4 (20.20): This week with the Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP; the Rt Hon Shirley Williams; Brenda Dean and Gilbert Gray QC. Chaired by John Timpson

'Tomorrowland Conference Report'; ITV (22.30): Report of the proceedings of a group of the South East's top decision makers under Brian Walden's chairmanship trying to work out what needs to be done to secure the region's future
