

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister lunches with The Economist

HMT: Public Expenditure White Paper publication and press conference

Launch of HMS Chatham, Type 22 Frigate

STATISTICS

Bank of England: Provisional estimates of monetary aggregates (Dec)

Welsh Office: Index of production and construction for Wales (3rd Qtr)

PUBLICATIONS

DES: Policy statement on modern languages

HMT: Public Expenditure White Paper

LCD: Legal Aid Annual Report 1986-87

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Environment; Scotland; Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Overseas Aid (Assistance to the Poorest)
(Mr Brian Wilson)

Debate on a Motion to take note of the White Paper on the Annual Report on Hong Kong 1987.

Motion on the Food Protection (Emergency Prohibition) Order.

OPPOSED PRIVATE BUSINESS

The British Railways (London) Bill
London Regional Transport Bill.

Adjournment Debate: Exhaust emission control and environmental protection
(Mr G Bright).

Select Committees: TRADE AND INDUSTRY
Subject: The Post Office Inquiry
Witnesses: Union of Communication Workers;
National Federation of Sub-Postmasters

PARLIAMENTSelect Committees: (cont'd)

ENERGY

Subject: The Work of the Office of Gas Supply
 Witnesses: The Director General and officials, Office of Gas Supply

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: The Work of the Health and Safety Commission and the Health and Safety Executive
 Witnesses: Dr E J Cullen, Chairman, Health and Safety Commission, and Mr J D Rimington, CB, Director General, Health and Safety Executive

HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Broadcasting
 Witnesses: Home Office officials

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Fisheries Support
 Witnesses: L D H Andrews, CB, CBE, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; L P Hamilton, CB, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries for Scotland

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS

Subject: Workload of the Department of Education
 Witnesses: Sir David Hanock, Permanent Secretary, Department of Education and Science, and officials from the Department

ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Air Pollution
 Witnesses: Department of Environment officials

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Resourcing the NHS
 Witnesses: Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, KBE, President, Royal College of Physicians, Mr George Pinker, CVC, President, The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, and Mr Ian Todd, President, Royal College of Surgeons of England

JOINT COMMITTEE

PRIVATE BILL PROCEDURE

Witness: Convention of Scottish Local Authorities; Society of Parliamentary Agents

Lords: Starred Questions

Short debate to call attention to the case for Her Majesty's Government to increase the available resources for cultural diplomacy in line with the importance which it has as a central element of Britain's diplomatic effort

Short debate to call attention to the increasing number of homeless people

UQ to ask HMG what progress has been made in implementing the provisions of the Salmon Act 1986, whether they are satisfied that the various threats to salmon stocks in the United Kingdom are being contained and whether they consider that the United Kingdom is playing its proper part in international efforts to conserve Atlantic Salmon.

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

Mixed reviews for John Moore's performance in NHS debate.

Scottish TUC calls for 24 hour strike against hospital services privatisation.

600 nurses at 4 London hospitals voting on 24 hour pay strike; 200 technical staff at Manchester Royal Infirmary walk out over redundancy.

Pensioner faces bill for £30,000 for private heart surgery after being told, she claims, that she would have to wait up to 18 months under NHS.

Mirror features on its front page moonlighting nurse who claims she was paid by Norman Tebbit to look after his wife - last week Mr Tebbit criticised moonlighting among nurses.

More trouble for MacLennan who is accused by John Grant, SDP, of "outrageous abuse of personal friendship" for trying to get Owen to back Liberal merger deal; MacLennan admits he was reduced to tears during negotiations.

John Prescott expected to announce withdrawal of threat to force an election for deputy leader of Labour Party.

Good PSBR figures fuel more expectations of tax cut to 25p.

Building Societies continue to profit from a lack of public confidence in Stock Market - net savings last month of £1bn.

Job prospects for this Summer's graduates booming.

Crown Court Recorder, Martin Bowley QC, resigns after losing court attempt to stop Sun revealing "his gay spanking romps".

Dublin Court turns down appeal by Maze escaper against extradition for murder; claim that offences were political not upheld; at last, Today says, reflecting a wider press view, Dublin courts have seen the truth about the IRA.

Vauxhall workers likely to accept 4.5% after Luton workers reject industrial action.

Ford workers expected to back union leaders call for a strike today.

House price rise expected to moderate a little in 1988.

Master of the Rolls suggests media should be bound by a new statutory obligation to prevent it from publishing information about the security services without clearance by Government.

IBA doesn't like Government's reorganisation and liberalisation of commercial local radio, but press gives it a general welcome; Mirror - free for all radio gets go-ahead to take on BBC.

Record number of people complained to Press Council last year - 133 more than in 1986 (up 12%); Sun has worst record says Press Council.

£36m programme announced to make more roads skid proof.

Mail reports that Saturday schooling is being started for bright children in deprived Handsworth - free and oversubscribed but Labour chairman of LEA advises people to have nothing to do with it.

Sun says brainiest girls live in your constituency - 42% of girl school leavers in Barnet get 5 or more O-levels. Barking is bottom with 9.4%; national average 24.7%.

Archbishop of Canterbury leads vigil today on first anniversary of Terry Waite's capture.

Robert Maxwell pulls out of purchase of Watford AFC.

Fan stabbed and policeman injured in crowd trouble at Luton on first occasion Luton allows a large number of visitors into ground.

Israelis ban food shipments to Palestinian camps.

Shevardnadze, in Bonn, hints at world wide ban on chemical weapons.

West Germany agrees to meet cost of keeping US F-16 fighters in Europe when they leave Spain.

Guardian says you will reject concept of a nuclear free world at NATO summit.

Mail reports remarkable case of French town of Orly where juvenile crime has fallen 70% since 1983, with neatness everywhere and little graffiti - all done by planning and method.

NHS

Star: Not a penny Moore - refuses to give in to pleas for more cash.

Sun: Furious Tebbit hits at hospital pen pushers. Tory MPs disappointed; question mark over Mr Moore's future remains.

Mirror: Tories lash out at John Moore - ends up on ropes after "pitiful performance".

Today: Moore cracks up in health clash - croaks weakly through his defence of NHS.

Express P1 lead: Moore survives NHS test. No easy cure to problems. Came through his toughest test and leads Government to majority of 105. But some Tories unhappy; Jon Akass sketch records health bulletin on John Moore - fairly comfortable.

Mail P1 lead: Lack-lustre Moore fails to cure worries. Question mark still hangs over his head. Colin Welch says it was impossible not to feel sorry for John Moore.

Telegraph leader says John Moore's speech was a credible holding operation. But Government must signal soon its intention to tackle causes and not merely symptoms of NHS's problems. Godfrey Barker says Mr Moore gave probably his best Commons speech but that has not made his problems go away.

Guardian: Moore leaves Tories unsettled over NHS. Backbenchers set to pile on pressure for more investment after lack-lustre speech; leader says that if playing down a line determined by the Prime Minister was the sole test of a Minister's performance, John Moore would have earned high marks. But his performance will do nothing to shore up his reputation or the Government's.

Independent: No more for NHS from taxes says Moore, who wins support of Tory MPs. No fundamental review of the Service planned but a far-reaching enquiry to seek greater cooperation with the private sector; Peter Jenkins says that "Golden Boy" John Moore was on a hiding to nothing yesterday. It was impossible for him to triumph, given his brief. He lives to fight another day but unless he can carry the fight into Cabinet and change the policy, he is unlikely to survive for long.

Independent: Tony Newton warns health authorities to plan for underfunding of NHS pay awards. Savings will have to come from clinical services.

Times: John Moore survives Commons debate with barrage of statistics but he is still on trial within his own party; leader discusses the difficult problems facing health Ministers but is critical of Mr Moore's performance saying he sounded ill-prepared and unconvinced by much of what he said. It adds that it is now up to you to decide where the Government goes with the NHS saying that you will never have a better opportunity to win support for fundamental change.

Times sets out timetable going back to 4 June showing when demand for more money for NHS began; in the second in the NHS crisis series in the Times, Jill Sharman examines the funding options being pressed on John Moore.

FT: John Moore refuses to promise extra funds. He failed to defuse the growing row over NHS funding. But he mounted a holding operation during an impassioned Commons debate, robustly defending the Government's record.

FT: National radioactivity, radon, is causing 1,500 deaths a year from lung cancer, according to NRPB - twice its estimate of a year ago.

FT: Action on Alcohol Abuse welcomes Government proposals to curb misuse of alcohol.

Times: Staffordshire man dies after being given wrong blood during routine operation.

BUDGET

Star: Lawson's got millions to give away - Mr Moneybags.

Mail: Lawson on course for big tax cuts - based on latest PSBR.

Telegraph: Lawson on way to 25p basic tax - will have at least £5bn to dispense.

Guardian says Chancellor is on course for £3bn tax cuts and Budget surplus.

Times: Government accounts for first 9 months confirm Chancellor is on course for sizeable tax cuts in Budget.

FT: PSBR figures confirm scope for sizeable Budget tax cuts.

LIBERALS/SDP

Today: Never can a political negotiation have been so badly bungled. The Social and Liberal Democrats, if they ever get off the ground, will be an empty shell - no policies, no leaders, no support.

Express: Angry Owen slams door on Old Gang - and tells them not to come running back to him if proposed union with Liberals is rejected; leader headed "A liberal dose of laughter" says millions of Liberal and SDP supporters must be feeling disappointed and frustrated at the merger muddle. At least they deserve some credit for reminding us that politics is not all seriousness.

Mail says knives are being sharpened by "Blubbering Bob" the leader who confesses to bursting into tears. Gordon Grieg says MacLennan will go down in history as a political wimp who fell flat on his own ambitions.

Guardian says Steel has all to play for at Liberals conference on merger terms this weekend. There can be no accurate predictions of the outcome; leader says MacLennan's capacity for pushing his luck too far is getting to be a real liability. It was naive of him to beard Owen in his den.

Times: David Steel under pressure to tell Liberals on Saturday his leadership intentions; Robin Oakley assesses the claims of the seven men most likely to succeed as merged party leader.

POLITICS

Chancellor says you are winning the hearts and minds of a new Britain, capturing moral initiative in same way as Attlee Government did.

Bill Deedes, in a perceptive piece about the press's loss of public support, says the Government is beginning to suffer from a press which nobody takes seriously.

Times: Moderate Labour councillors in Haringey to cut spending by £45m.

RADIO

Today leader says Home Secretary's announcement is highly welcome and long overdue. It is ridiculous BBC should have exercised

total control over national radio since it began. All broadcasting has suffered too long from an excess of regulation. Let the Home Secretary now dish out some bracing medicine for TV.

Express leader says the Government's commercial radio plans are exciting and well overdue. They will promote choice and competition. But what will then be the justification for BBC local radio? It is a great pity that the Government's reluctance to cut BBC down to size has taken radical edge off its decision.

Telegraph: A welcome break with the past insistence of Governments that nanny knows best.

LAW AND ORDER

Teresa Gorman MP explains in Mail why she thinks David Alton's Bill must be stopped.

Times: Psychiatrists oppose Alton's Abortion Bill; also comes under fire from Jo Richardson and Ann Clwyd.

Times: Guild of Newspaper Editors want change to Criminal Justice Bill so that they have right to challenge orders restricting reporting of cases involving children.

TERRY WAITE

Independent leader says you are right not to give in to kidnapers' demands but calculated inaction cannot continue indefinitely. The Government must now think seriously about the forcible rescue of British hostages, ideally conducted by surrogates rather than Western commandoes.

COMMUNITY CHARGE

Independent: Senior MOD and other security sensitive staff to be specially exempted from paying poll tax individually on grounds of national security.

EDUCATION

Times: Vice-Chancellors accuse Government of seeking sweeping powers over universities for the sake of administrative convenience.

INDUSTRY

Independent: Computer fault may delay launch of new Heysham II nuclear power station later this year.

Times: As you urge Japan to cut its trade surplus with Britain, high-ranking Japanese Embassy officials decide to visit Wales to study claims that "Samurai management" is threatening to destroy the image of their companies here.

FT: Takeshita to visit Britain before Summit. You told Mr Tamura that Japan still has a long way to go in improving its balance of trade with the UK.

Times: Union ballots cut total of official strikes.

Times: Michelin cuts working week by six hours.

Times: MSC officers strike rather than work with a YTS trainee.

Times: BP chairman attacks City for missing chance to buy into the company cheaply after October's stock market collapse.

Times: CBI urge Government to stimulate expenditure in research and development by cutting industry's tax burden.

DEFENCE

FT: Government is ready to give conditional go-ahead for British participation in appraisal stage of joint NATO frigate for the 1990s. A proposal has now apparently been circulated ahead of a meeting tomorrow of the overseas and defence committee of Cabinet.

EAST/WEST

Independent: Shevardnadze warns NATO not to strengthen its nuclear defence during a possible pause in arms control negotiations. NATO sees his call for the "triple zero" as an attempt to drive a wedge between Germany and its allies and confirms its commitment to modernising short-range nuclear weapons.

Independent: French foreign ministry officials say NATO summit set for 2 and 3 March in Brussels.

Times: National Audit Office says cost of keeping forces in Germany could be cut by millions of pounds through efficiency savings and policy changes.

EC

Independent: Agriculture Council makes some progress on "set-aside" scheme but no weakening in Bonn's opposition to price cuts.

HONG KONG

Independent: Sir Geoffrey Howe rejects Hong Kong allegations of British bad faith over direct elections in the colony and tells Legislative Councillor Martin Lee that Britain is firmly committed to the progressive evolution of representative government there.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MAFF: Mr Macgregor addresses the meeting of the Westminster Industrial Brief and later addresses Agricultural Forum, London
- DEM: Mr Nicholls chairs Advisory Committee on Women's Employment, London
- DES: Mrs Rumbold opens the 4th British Education and Training Technology exhibition, Barbican
- DHSS: Mrs Currie addresses Royal College of Nursing annual dinner, Cavendish Square, London
- DTp: Mr Bottomley attends Annual Conference of the Chartered Institute of Transport, University of Aston, Birmingham
- DTP: Lord Brabazon visits Air Atlantique, Coventry
- HO: Mr Hogg visits Community Education into Drug Abuse: A Response (CEDAR) project, Isleworth
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington visits Mushroom Growers Association, Mushroom Plant
- ODA: Mr Patten meets Foreign Affairs Committee members, London
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTI: Mr Maude visits Holland and Italy
- FCO: Mrs Chalker departs for Cologne and Dusseldorf (to 22 January)

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- OAL: Mr Luce interviewed on BBC Radio 3's Third Ear Programme
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TV AND RADIO

- "Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)
- "Kilroy": BBC 1 (9.20)
- "Schools: Teaching CDT": Channel 4 (11.40) - series made at invitation of DES
- "Business Daily": Channel 4 (12.00)
- "The Parliament Programme": Channel 4 (14.00)
- "You and Yours": BBC Radio 4 (12.00)
- "Votes for Women": ITV (14.30) - series on current issues
- "Before the Law": Channel 4 (18.30) - second of four part series examines police powers and training
- "Antenna": BBC 2 (20.10) looks at psychiatric treatment of three sailors at RNH Haslar
- "Q.E.D.": BBC 1 (21.30) examines children's diet and effect on behaviour and academic performance
- "Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.50)
- "The World Tonight": BBC Radio 4 (22.30) followed by "The Financial World Tonight" then "Today in Parliament"