

25 January 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Prince and Princess of Wales visit Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory (to 3 February)

EC: General Affairs Council, Brussels (to 26 January)

Hand over of schooner "Young Endeavour", Britain's Bicentennial gift to Australia

PUBLICATIONS

MAFF: Annual review of Agriculture 1988

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Energy; Transport; Wales

Business: Regional Development Grants (Termination) Bill: 2nd Reading
Motion on the London Regional Transport (Levy) Order

Adjournment Debate: Deep coal mining in East Fife (Dr L Moonie)

Select Committees: PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Subject: Objectives and Management of Ordnance Survey
Witness: Mr Peter McMaster, Director General, Ordnance Survey

Lords: Starred Questions
Social Security Bill: Second Reading.
UQ to ask HMG on the occasion of the Australian Bicentenary whether they will use their influence to secure the renaming of one of London's major streets in honour of Australia

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

Scargill wins NUM presidency with a much reduced majority - 53/47%. Becomes effectively president for life. He describes it as a "stunning win for the fundamentals of trade unionism". Walsh says he won a moral victory.

Telegraph leads with point that fewer than half NUM membership voted for Scargill.

Even Mirror welcomes John Moore's idea of making profit out of private facilities built on to NHS hospitals; Telegraph says Mr Moore is to hammer out a far reaching plan with you this week.

Conflicting claims from RCN and NUPE/COHSE on who is winning recruitment battle during NHS troubles.

Mail leads with RCN receiving 1000 applications last week and only 4 resignations; another 1000 requests in Scotland.

Shortage of nurses closes ward for children at Barts - temporarily.

Threats of new teachers' strike growing over redundancies in Left wing boroughs trying to cut back on excessive spending.

Owen apparently confident majority of SDP will oppose merger with Liberals.

Steel rules out any deal between Libs/SDP merged party and Owen after his 6-1 merger majority at Libs conference.

Ashdown and Bruce being canvassed most strongly to succeed Steel.

Benn and Audrey Wise considering running in harness against Kinnock and Hattersley.

Mail claims Heseltine/Tebbit alliance over abolition of ILEA could become rallying point for Tory Backbenchers.

John Hume wins SDLP backing for more talks with Sinn Fein.

Britoil trying to find a saviour to keep them from being taken over by BP.

Claims that radioactive gas escaped from Dungeness Power Station - CEGB says there is no danger.

Today claims that there has been a rush on vitamin pills in chemists after report that they boost children's intelligence.

Revolutionary new treatment claimed for meningitis victims.

Parents drown in Cambs trying to save son, who escapes, from fast flowing dyke.

Gallup, in Telegraph, shows that when it comes to doing something about inner cities the Conservatives are well in the lead, although more think Labour cares.

Feature asks if you are asking for the impossible in calling for a tidier Britain.

Camden Council's bill for accommodating an Irish family of 11 who turned up homeless runs to £40,000 after 10 months; living in desirable residence near Hyde Park.

Leaders of Left wing Derbyshire CC accused of fixing a £45,000 job as director to ex-MP Reg Race.

Mail says emotive picture of allegedly aborted foetus of 18 weeks is in fact 20 year old Swedish picture of miscarried child.

80% support proposed legislation banning schools from promoting homosexuality, according to LWT poll; Ian McKellen, actor, attacks proposed law at theatrical awards ceremony.

Dartmoor to get first women warders.

Police mount inquiry into how "sick" Chingford constable had custody of police station's armoury.

Row over leniency of sentences against 4 men who set alight a gunsmith after pouring petrol over him - longest 14 years; all will be out within 10 years.

Prostitute sells her story involving ex-MP John Golding, now telecommunications union boss, to News of the World.

Richard Shepherd MP calls for you to hold all-party talks on reform of Official Secrets Act.

Australia's Nobel Prizewinner for literature describes Royal Family as "goons" on TV.

Britain, backed by Holland, blocks West German proposals which water down Copenhagen agricultural production controls; poor outlook for special Euro Council next month.

Express features Russian TV's programme on your 20th century record - Comrade Maggie is star of Russian TV; a remarkable tribute to you.

Elsewhere Express says pressure is growing from Russia for UK to scrap Trident.

UN envoy claims end to Afghan war is in sight.

Senior party official in Estonia sacked for letting glasnost in media go too far.

FT: Russia's grain harvest of 211.3m tonnes in 1987 was largest since 1978, and fourth biggest in its history.

Yugoslav historian claims Waldheim was directly involved in Nazi mass slaughter of Yugoslavs.

Friendly interview with Lord Whitelaw in Mail.

Falklands, enjoying big boom from fishing licences, gives 18-25% pay increases.

SCARGILL

Star says it is a breathtaking and chilling thought that Scargill has won a job for life. It hopes the minority who saw the light will put a brake on his power-crazy ranting.

Mirror says Scargill has proved himself to be everything a union leader should not be. A foghorn voice issuing from an empty head calling brothers to arms in class war most people have long since abandoned. The consequence of the vote will now fall where it hurts most - on their own heads.

Express industrial correspondent says it is incredible that Scargill's battered and beaten army voted to give him at least another 5 years; leader headed "A body blow for Scargill" says that, if you count in UDM, Scargill has support of only a minority of miners. He is nonetheless out to frustrate British Coal's attempt to create a viable and profitable industry. Ministers must support B/Coal's efforts to make sure Scargill's hollow victory does not mean defeat for the rest of us.

Telegraph says Scargill's already tarnished crown has slipped further. If Notts had been inside rather than outside NUM he would have been out. NUM is hopelessly split and Scargill will provide further divisions. British Coal should not waste time in

pushing ahead with 6-day working. Scargill remains a Thatcher asset and a Kinnock liability.

Independent P1 lead: This heavily slashed majority will leave Mr Scargill with a diminished authority which his critics will be keen to exploit. Mr Scargill, who picked the time to stand for re-election, pre-empting both government legislation and an NUM rule change, has failed to get the convincing rank and file mandate he sought.

NHS

Mirror leader says if John Moore, in advocating private wings in NHS hospitals, is saying NHS should profit out of private medicine, it is a long overdue change. But there needs to be a Royal Commission on how all the money the NHS needs can be found.

Express calls on Ministers to support his efforts to encourage new links between NHS and private sector. Not all Mr Moore's ideas may turn out to be practicable or desirable but at least he is trying to bring fresh thinking to bear.

Mail says Bickerstaffe last night launched a string of venomous personal attacks on Ministers - Moor is a jerk"; Fowler "failed"; and Tebbit "tired and malicious old man". Claims you have organised Ministers in a campaign of vilification of trade unions representing nurses. Leader says Ministers would be foolish to exploit responsibility of most nurses. They should make it abundantly clear they will be rewarded and now is the time to say the forthcoming award will be met in full.

Article in Guardian on problems for German Health Service and Director of IEA's health unit says Left, with a pro-consumer bias, is ideally suited to work out the framework for a competitive health insurance market, but Labour is trapped by its historic hostility to price and competition.

Times: You are being urged by some senior colleagues to appoint second health minister of Cabinet rank to share burden with John Moore. It adds you are opposed to splitting up Department.

Times: London RCN officials concerned that left-wing activists were influencing the attitudes of members to next month's nurses' strike.

Norman Tebbit, in Times, sets an agenda for discussion of NHS funding concluding that if the Government gave more money without tackling the real problems, it would be a recipe for disaster in the hospital and polling booths.

Independent: Ministers are considering using the Budget tax cut to promote the idea that people should take out private health insurance to ease the burden on the NHS. Ministers are assessing whether making a direct link between tax cuts and the acquisition of private health insurance would be a politically wise move; leader says Government has resisted pressures for a Royal Commission or inquiry on health care. It is hard to avoid the conclusion that the resistance is a function of your unwillingness to have the options aired in public by people who do not share your radical values. This is an error of judgement. Long-term reforms must rest on some degree of national consensus because they should be designed to outlive this Government.

Times: Man who claims his health has been ruined by smoking to sue tobacco company for damages in what could become a British test case.

LIBS/SDP

Today says Steel has cleared the way for "wrecking" candidates to be put up against Owen, Cartwright and Rosie Barnes.

Mail leader says Liberals are as far as ever from sinking their teeth into red meat of power but they know a tasty nut cutlet - SDP - when they see one. Steel has won the game but lost his political soul.

Telegraph says a little lustre has been restored to Steel's reputation. But this should not encourage him to stand for leadership of new party. During the negotiations he displayed terminal failure of judgement and he should quit while he is, surprisingly, ahead.

Guardian says Steel is trying to persuade MacLennan to step down with him to make way for election of a single leader. Leader says conference authoritatively demonstrated the unity of Liberal Party behind merger. Provided SDP say snap in Sheffield, there is the prospect of a politically viable third force at next election.

Independent: Liberals line up for top job in new party. Front runners are Alan Beith, Paddy Ashdown and Malcolm Bruce.

Times: Alliance now faces new battle over leadership with Liberal dissidents claiming Saturday's conference was a Tory conference by another name and pledge to keep liberalism alive.

POLITICS

Independent: Derek Hatton is likely to be expelled from Militant movement because of his exuberant lifestyle.

Times says support for Conservative party has remained at or above 43% since General Election but latest poll shows the Government is losing the argument on almost every important item in its programme.

INDUSTRY

Independent: The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate is expected to approve controversial plans within the next 10 days for a test at the Central Electricity Generating Board's Trawsfynydd nuclear power station in North Wales. It will be accompanied by a publicity drive aimed at convincing the public it is both safe and necessary.

Independent: The Observer has joined the great Fleet Street "diaspora" and moves to Battersea today.

Times: Study shows that although there has been a marked increase in number of women employed their average earnings remain only two thirds of men's.

Times: TV-AM chief accepts blame for allowing TV technicians to be paid up to £72,000 a year.

FT: Partners in Airbus Industrie meet in Toulouse today to discuss transforming it into a public company.

FT: ESA sets February 10 deadline for participation in Columbus and Ariane 5 space projects.

FT: Value of management buy-outs has risen to £3bn - three times that of 1986 - according to Nottingham University study.

FT: Construction work under way or proposed in Birmingham enjoys revival worth £1bn.

FT: Company liquidations last year dropped by 22%, according to DTI.

ECONOMY

Times leader discusses world trade and the protectionism of the US, adding that Britain should see the GATT talks as a lever for the reform of CAP and exert maximum influence behind the scenes to shift the EC position in negotiation.

LAW AND ORDER

Times: Crown Prosecution Service has secured cash for 1,000 extra staff over next three years to ease acute staffing shortage.

Times: Police housing allowances which cost £300m a year could be scrapped as part of 1988 police pay negotiations.

SECURITY

Independent: Government is giving fresh consideration to setting up a special body to oversee the working of the Security Services. One model is a commission of Privy Counsellors and senior civil servants who would be responsible for ensuring that the Security Services were operating in line with the national interest. The idea has gained ground as a means of increasing public confidence in the Security Services and restoring a degree of trust between Government and the press. In a separate move the Government, in a letter endorsed by you, has assured media representatives on the D-Notice Committee that it has full confidence in the system.

Independent: Government has been challenged to answer claims that British Intelligence was involved in a plot to remove Gough Whitlam, Australian Labour Prime Minister, from power. The allegations will also be put in full in a Central Television documentary tomorrow, one of a commercial series to commemorate the Australian Bicentennial.

DEFENCE

FT: A Soviet nuclear submarine, withdrawn from service six or seven years ago in accordance with SALT, has re-appeared in service armed with cruise missiles.

MIDDLE EAST

Times: You are likely to express your appreciation to President Mubarak when you meet him tomorrow for his steady line in face of pressure to break relations with Israel.

NIGERIA

Independent: Nigeria's national Electoral Commission is expected to announce shortly that the December local elections which were declared invalid will be re-run in February.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DES: Mr Baker receives delegation led by Derek Foster MP from the School Music Association about opting out and charging; later meets Chairman of the Audit Commission about the cost of opting out

DTP: Mr Channon visits the AA, Basingstoke

WO: Mr Walker opens Cardiff and Vale Enterprise Centre and visits Chemical Bank Centre, Cardiff

DEM: Mr Lee digs the first foundations of the Water Park, Dartford; later attends Japan Airlines reception, London

DES: Mrs Rumbold visits Mulbery School, London; later meets with the Association of Polytechnics Teachers about Teachers Superannuation

DES: Mr Dunn attends Ministerial group on misuse of drugs; later meets Humberside LEA about capital allocation

DOE: Mr Trippier visits Reacar (Inner Cities)

DTP: Mr Bottomley visits the Skills Training Agency, Deptford

MAFF: Mr Thompson attends Cambridgeshire County Branch NFU AGM

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe departs for FAC, Brussels (to 26 January)

DTI: Mr Atkins visits Poland (to 26 January)

DTI: Mr Butcher visits Spain (to 26 January)

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DTI: Mr Clarke interviewed by John Lloyd, Financial Times

TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Kilroy": BBC 1 (9.20) daily discussion programme

"Are Mothers Really Necessary?": ITV (11.30) Considers child care option for working mothers and effect on children

"You and Yours": BBC Radio 4 (12.00)

"Business Daily": Channel 4 (12.00)

"Advice Shop": BBC 2 (16.00) looks at local services helping elderly stay in their own homes

"Panorama": BBC 1 (21.30) David Dimbleby interviews Mrs Thatcher live

"Information Technology": Channel 4 (18.00) on opto-electronics

"World in Action": ITV (20.30)

"The World Tonight": BBC Radio 4 (22.30) followed by "The Financial world Tonight" then "Today in Parliament"

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.45)
