

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister interviewed by The Star

TUC

Labour Party NEC - nurses' strike motion, Bermondsey constituency expulsion

EC: Economic and Social Committee, Brussels (to 28 January)

STATISTICS

DOE: Construction - new orders (Nov)

DOE: Bricks and cement production and deliveries (4th qtr prov)

PUBLICATIONS

DES: Report by HM Inspectors on the TVEI Initiative in Staffordshire - survey of the shared business experience element

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Scotland; Foreign and Commonwealth; Trade and Industry

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Telephone Talkabout (Abolition)
Opposition Day (8th allotted day). There will be a debate on Opposition Motion entitled "The Government or Scotland"
Opposition Prayer on the Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules
Income and Corporation Taxes Bill (Lords): Remaining Stage
(CONSOLIDATION MEASURE)

Adjournment Debate: The proposed take-over by Barker and Dobson plc of the L Corporation (Mr G Lofthouse)

Select Committees: TRADE AND INDUSTRY
Subject: The Post Office Inquiry
Witness: The Post Office

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Resourcing the NHS
Witnesses: The National Association of Health Authorities of England and Wales

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS

Subject: The Arts
Witnesses: Rt Hon Richard Luce MP, Minister for the Arts and officials from the Office of Arts and Libraries

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: The Work of the Department of Employment Group
Witnesses: Rt Hon Norman Fowler MP, Secretary of State for Employment and Mr John Cope MP, Minister of State for Employment

HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Broadcasting

Witness: British Broadcasting Corporation

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Computer Security in Government Departments

Witness: Mr John Anson, Second Permanent Secretary (with responsibility for public expenditure), HM Treasury

ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Air Pollution

Witness: Central Electricity Generating Board

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Subject: Gulf Issues and General Political Aspects of Arms Control Progress

Witness: Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP, Secretary of State Foreign and Commonwealth Office

TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE

Subject: The Government's Expenditure Plans 1988-89 to 1990-91

Witnesses: HM Treasury officials

JOINT COMMITTEE

PRIVATE BILL PROCEDURE

Witnesses: Sir Eldon Griffiths MP and Mr Andrew F Bennett MP

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS

UNOPPOSED BILLS

1. University College, London
2. Keble College, Oxford
3. Selwyn College, Cambridge

Lords Starred Questions

Debate to call attention to land use and sea use in and around Scotland (E Perth)

Debate to call attention to the report of Sir Philip Woodfield and his team on the supervision of charities

UQ to ask HMG whether they propose to give financial assistance to British Rail to enable it and the Regions of the United Kingdom to realise to the full any benefits of the opening of the Channel Tunnel

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

Government unveils plan to stop bullying in the Army - Star claims victory for its campaign. Mail: Agony Aunts for the Army - members of WRVS to be recruited as shoulders to cry on.

New anti-tank brigade to be formed to block Soviet penetration.

You are seen to be getting to grips with the NHS, with anything and everything up for consideration.

Nalگو members expected to walk out on February 3, too. Kinnock defied by two front benchers, one a health whip, who support projected strike.

Today quotes RCN spokesman as saying it is difficult to see how Government will keep review body if they give up no-strike pledge.

Conservative Backbench Finance Committee urges Chancellor to stick to tax cuts in Budget.

Sun describes it as jackpot time for GB Ltd with fattest order book for a decade - CBI.

Ford workers threaten all-out strike on Monday unless company improves pay deal.

More sackings in City as a result of Stock Market crash.

Princess Anne under fire from homosexuals - "enraged poofers" as Star describes them - for describing AIDS as "a classic own goal scored by the human race itself".

Doctor warns international AIDS conference in London that disease is set to overtake heart disease as main killer and that there will be 1m cases by 1991. Today wants renewed publicity campaign.

Independent journalist fined £20,000 for contempt of court for refusing to disclose sources; his newspaper to pay fine and costs. Indignation in some sections of the press about the allegedly curtailed freedom of the press.

Row over B/Airways' decision to do away with B/Cal stewardesses' tartans.

Guillotine to be imposed on Education Bill.

Guardian says UDM may win representation at new Asfordby mine; meanwhile future of new S. Wales pit in doubt because of objections to 6-day working.

Tom King agrees to early meeting of Anglo Irish Conference after outcome of Stalker affair.

Irish police cancel meeting today with RUC Chief Constable.

Guardian says Dublin outrage poses new threat to security cooperation.

Sun pronounces on Stalker affair - when IRA bomb to kill they are freedom fighters; when Ulster policemen shoot to kill they are state terrorists - the twisted logic behind Labour's disgraceful attack on Attorney General.

Livingstone to be carpeted by Labour Whips over outburst; Kinnock furious with him.

King's Cross tube fire will cost £10m to repair.

Mirror features knife used by one schoolboy to maim another which is unlikely to be banned under new Government laws even though police want its sale stopped.

Judge, jailing 11 Mersey Tunnel staff for £1m toll fiddle, says it "beggars belief" that it could go undetected for 2 years.

Lester Piggott's collapse in prison due to beating for refusing to give in to extortion raked, according to some papers. Others say it was caused by stress.

You get a surprise present at celebration dinner - watercolour of No 10 by Nicholas Ridley. Pictures in Guardian, Times.

Mail reports Kohl's Chief of Staff saying West German Government had bowed to blackmail and done a deal with Beirut kidnappers.

Eight French businessmen held on charges of supply of hi-tech military and other equipment to Soviet bloc.

Group of eminent Americans form Denis Thatcher Society.

Independent reports that John Butcher has a secret ambition to get his name alongside shows by Andrew Lloyd Webber. He has been working on a rock opera for over a year.

NHS

Star: Thatcher gets to grips with NHS - showing new found confidence in House.

Sun: You launch a 6-month campaign to revolutionise NHS - penalties for inefficient hospitals.

Mirror: Thatcher "scared" [according to Kinnock] "to meet nurses".

Today says any change in the no-strike rule of the RCN will cause the Government to think and would be seen as a breach of faith and trust. RCN spokesman says "it is difficult to see how the Government will keep the review body if we give up no-strike pledge". In another story Today says you are determined to push ahead with a complete overhaul, with ideas such as hotel charges, compulsory private insurance and tax changes on the agenda.

Express: Maggie mission on NHS. You want ideas from all Cabinet. Government will now consider anything and everything. In another story, RCN is preparing to gamble (over no-strike stance) that its members put patients first.

Mail: Maggie demands private aid for Health Service - you have given senior Ministers six months to plan how to give service a cash boost through private enterprise; leader headed "The Prime Minister takes charge" says until this week you took a soothing line. Now, and not before time, you have changed your diagnosis. Let us hope options to be considered include hospital charges as well as tax incentives. It is also vital Government find out precisely how and where £22bn is going. But in booming Britain no Government will begin to get a grip on NHS without some short term loosening of Treasury strings.

Trevor Clay, RCN, in Mail, says there is a lot of manipulation of its members by other unions and extreme Left wingers within COHSE and UPE. Strike vote meetings are being held with no constitutional standing. It is all part of the great deception being played on both public and nurses. But no one should underestimate anger among nurses.

Telegraph P1: Review of NHS starts at once. Bill Deedes, in feature, counsels caution against radical change while tempers are high.

Guardian: Thatcher sets (furious) pace for NHS changes; leader says few who witnessed your robust and cocksure performance on Panorama would wager anything much on your early retirement.

Independent: Government last night won overwhelming backbench support for its hardline stand on NHS funding. At Backbench Committee meeting 21 out of 23 told Lawson that there should be no more funds for the NHS; confusion was caused last night when Downing Street confirmed that no options were being ruled out of NHS review, including board and lodging charges. Edwina Currie had earlier said that such charges would not be introduced in this Parliament.

Independent: Former head of Policy Unit, John Redwood, is pressing for the Government to introduce a voucher system for NHS patients. He will propose that NHS patients should be given a voucher to cover the cost of private treatment if they fail to get their operations on the NHS within a reasonable time.

Times: You are to lead radical reform of NHS funds and all past pledges on health policy will be reassessed as everything is on the table; Tory backbench finance committee urge Chancellor not to pour more money into NHS until it has been reformed.

Times: COHSE's London branch calls for ballot of members to step up industrial action.

FT: Tory Whips report favourable reaction by Tory MPs to your initiative, which they see as the start of a belated counter-attack. Peter Riddell says policies of your Government have developed more haphazardly in response to public complaints and demands for radical change than from neat ideological blueprints. The NHS episode has shown both the strengths and weaknesses of your style of Government - the initial dithering and uncertainty in response to crisis, departments waiting for a lead from you and then a decisive initiative leading to radical change. To current observers, your latest move looks like a rushed attempt to regain the political initiative.

ULSTER

Express says Attorney General looked anything but happy announcing no prosecutions. The decision will have provoked widespread misgivings. Clearly there has been a cover up and it leaves a very bad taste.

Telegraph says Government's declaration that it is against the public interest to undertake prosecutions leaves a bad taste. Emphasis must now be on ensuring RUC does not expose itself to damaging controversy again.

Independent: Irish Government warned that the outcome of the Stalker affair could have serious political and security

implications in Ireland. Tom King has agreed to an Irish request for an urgent special meeting of the Anglo-Irish ministerial conference to discuss the decision.

Conor Cruise O'Brien, in Times, says the decision over the "shoot to kill" affair is unlikely to destroy the Anglo Irish Agreement in the short run, but it is impossible to estimate how long it may survive the consequences. He adds that security cooperation will get more difficult for a while but it will survive as it existed long before the agreement was thought of.

INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST

Today says he was right not to reveal his sources but that does not mean High Court was wrong to fine him. There is no reason why journalists should be exempt from City inquiries.

Guardian worries what is meant by a free press after the "scandal" of fining the journalist and suggests the fine was completely out of kilter in relation to £25,000 fine imposed on insider dealer. The country has got to make up its mind what, if anything, it means by the freedom of the press.

Independent P1 lead: MPs and journalists condemn the judgement as a serious threat to investigative journalism. Case has been seen as a test of the Court's powers to investigate insider dealing resulting from leaks.

Independent leader says no country can be considered free in which the Government is above the law. The greatest threat to freedom in Britain today is posed by the development of an over-mighty executive, able to draw on enormous administrative resources. A Government which enjoys a comfortable majority can, besides destroying any independent initiative on the part of the backbenchers which it dislikes, pass large amounts of legislation which the House does not really approve and take many actions without informing the House at all.

ARMY BULLYING

Star says the Government's move is all thanks to the public who brought pressure to bear on MPs through Star.

LAW AND ORDER

Independent: Authorities are considering introducing an element of compulsion into the use of genetic fingerprinting in Northern Ireland terrorist cases.

Independent: The IRA's improvised impact grenade claimed its first fatal casualty on Monday night with death of an RUC Officer.

Independent: Government is expected to start returning Tamils to Sri Lanka when their asylum claims are rejected.

Times leader describes some of the opposition to Clause 28 of the Local Government Bill as silly and some as hysterical but this does not mean they are wrong because it is clumsily drafted. It calls for a change because somewhere a Tory local authority might just be fool enough to ban a masterpiece being put on at a municipal theatre.

POLITICS

Times: Labour orders inquiry into allegations that Derek Hatton has been secretly attending party meetings and that Merseyside constituency set up fighting fund for him.

INDUSTRY/ECONOMY

Independent: CBI produced a reassuring business survey calming fears that the economy was overheating and pointing to continuing output growth.

Independent: Lord Young is considering the interim report of inspectors appointed to investigate suspected insider dealing involving civil servants. The inspectors believe that they have identified the civil servant who was the source of the leaks.

Times: Scientists in US and Japan discover cheap and common source of superconductivity.

Times: Government gives first clear indication that electricity employees and customers will be given an opportunity to buy shares when it is privatised.

Times: CBI warn that proposed electricity price increases would cost industry £1bn a year more, equivalent to four-point rise in interest rates.

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Times: Lord Havers to chair a Robert Maxwell Company - Solicitors' Law Stationers Society.

Times: Government warns Scargill not to encourage members to use industrial muscle to price themselves out of jobs.

Times: National Audit Office report says millions of pounds of public money may have been lost through Government's handling Rolls-Royce privatisation.

Times: Survey says many office workers can blame sickness on building they work in.

FT: Manufacturing industry appears confident it can shrug off most of impact of recent turmoil in financial markets but expects output growth to slow. Lex says CBI's first quarterly survey since the crash is not all good news but presents a brighter picture than last week's official data.

FT: ECGD accounts qualified on Third World exposure.

FT: Feature points out that in the 100 days since the share crash of October 19, world share prices have dropped by almost as much again.

FT: Murdoch seeks joint venture to launch separate American edition of FT to take on the Wall Street Journal.

EDUCATION

Independent: Kenneth Baker is expected to come under pressure in Cabinet to change tack and support outright abolition of the ILEA.

Times leader discusses the "squabble" between Government and universities over Education Bill, saying that the vice-chancellors' demands are reasonable and that the Government should not take powers it has no intention of using.

WELFARE

Times: DHSS and DoE set to clash over role of local authorities in administering welfare for poor, elderly and handicapped.

DEFENCE

Times: MPs set to re-examine £1bn development programme at Aldermaston because of delays and staffing problems associated with Trident warheads.

Independent: Cooperation between Britain and the US on future generations of nuclear weapons will suffer if further cuts are made to the research capabilities of the Atomic Weapons Establishment - according to Independent sources.

EAST/WEST

Times: Shevardnadze accuses you of seeking an arms build-up to offset the US-Soviet decision to abolish medium-range missiles in references to your Panorama interview on Monday.

EC

Independent: Peter Jenksins on the European triangle says that you stand in Britain's traditional place, at the furthest point of the eternal European triangle. From there, it is impossible to play the role of leadership only to act as defender of a status quo which many think is no longer sustainable. But that is the task upon which you are determined.

MIDDLE EAST

Telegraph: Thatcher agrees on Israel peace talks.

FT: Mr Mubarak received a sympathetic general endorsement of his Middle East peace initiative in what were described as "supportive noises" from Downing Street.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DTI: Lord Young addresses CBI, London

DTP: Mr Channon attends topping-out ceremony, Stanstead Airport

MAFF: Mr MacGregor opens new joint office of Cheshire and Lancashire County Branches of NFU, Skelmersdale

WO: Mr Walker addresses Swansea Trade and Commerce Relocation Seminar, World Trade Centre, London

DEM: Mr Lee addresses inaugural lunch at Hotel Olympia

DES: Mrs Rumbold visits Essex LEA and Tabor High School, Essex about records of achievement; later attends reception for National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations, with Mr Dunn, at the House of Lords

DOE: Mr Waldegrave visits Middlesborough (Housing)

DOE: Lord Caithness addresses All Party Conservation Group of both Houses, on Acid Rain

FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

MAFF: Baroness Trumpington visits NEC, Birmingham for British Growers, Look Ahead

SO: Mr Forsyth attends Health Ministers Summit, London

WO: Mr Roberts opens Chepstow Inner Relief Road; later meets overseas press to discuss visits to Cardiff Bay, National Garden Festival Site and the South Wales Valleys, Cardiff

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

MOD: Mr Younger visits Italy (to 28 January)

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DTI: Mr Clarke appears on A Week in Politics on inner cities, (prov)

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) - third of four part series examines operation of the Bail Act

"A Week in Politics": Channel 4 (20.30)

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.30)

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