

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Cabinet photograph

Start of National Union of Teachers campaign against the Education Bill, with a lobby of Parliament

Governor of Bank of England's appointment announced

Appeal decision on the Birmingham six bombers

---

STATISTICS

CLSB: Quarterly house purchase finance statistics (4th qtr)

DEN: Energy Trends (Nov)

DTI/CSO: Balance of Payments current account and overseas trade figures (Dec)

DTP: New vehicle registrations (Dec)

---

PUBLICATIONS

PCA: Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, Third Report Session 1987-88, selected cases, volume one

---

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Northern Ireland; Agriculture Fisheries and Food; Prime Minister

Business: Merchant Shipping Bill (Lords): 2nd Reading, Money and Ways and Means Resolution  
Welsh Development Agency Bill: 2nd Reading and Money Resolution

Adjournment Debate: Methods of improving efficiency and cost effectiveness in the NHS (Mr R Jones)

Select Committees: STANDING ORDERS  
Subject: Brighton and Preston Cemetery (Petition for Bill)

Lords Starred Questions  
Local Government Bill: Committee (2nd Day)  
Arms Control and Disarmament (Immunities and Privileges) Bill: Committee

---

MINISTERS - See Annex

---



PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

Royal College of Nursing turns down your invitation to talks if they want them after seeing John Moore because you won't see other unions; they accuse you of trying to drive a wedge between them.

Scargill calls for a general strike on February in support of nurses.

Kinnock faces mounting revolt, according to Express, over his efforts to stop nurses' strike. Labour NEC gives full backing to strike but rejects wider action.

National Association of Health Authorities tell Select Committee NHS needs an extra £1.1bn next year to fund all pay awards and end overall crisis.

Guardian leads with a so-called secret Tory agenda for NHS, including disbandment of old fashioned unions - turns out to arise from meeting at Carlton Club.

US economy ended 1987 on surprisingly strong annual rate of 4.2% growth in final quarter (Times).

Governor of Bank of England to be reappointed today.

Douglas Hurd gives more details of Government's approach to reform of Official Secrets Act in BBC's "Analysis" programme tonight.

Judgement expected today in Birmingham pub bombing case.

You step in to save Scottish school; Labour MPs protest.

Left moving towards contesting Labour's leadership in October with Benn and Wise.

Meanwhile, Labour's NEC suspends Bermondsey Labour Party because of allegations of Militant infiltration; Mail: Kinnock pledges to wipe out Militants.

Haughey to make statement in Dail today on outcome of alleged shoot to kill inquiry.

Express reports behind-the-scenes efforts to defuse Stalker affair row to save Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Times: Northern Ireland Office deny claim by two former Irish Ministers that they had been told that RUC officers would face



serious charges in "shoot to kill" affair.

Ian Paisley MP goes to jail for non-payment of fine as part of protest against Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Guardian publishes diary of Editor of Manchester Evening News about his relations with Stalker.

Irish security forces discover 2 arms and explosives caches on Donegal beach.

Kenneth Baker poaches ILEA chief for Government job - chief executive of Polys and Colleges Funding Committee.

Deadly foam to be banned from bedding and mattresses as well as from furniture.

Post Office considering bringing back a Sunday service.

Mirror calls on DTI to tell B/Telecom to end its Talkabout 'phone service which links up 10 strangers in one conversation - some families are being crippled by bills and system is being used by perverts seeking young victims.

Idea of cash vouchers as compensation for poor electricity service being canvassed as part of privatisation package; OFTEL raises similar idea in respect of B/Telecom and Telegraph says money back guarantees for late letter deliveries are also being considered by Post Office.

1000 jobs a week being created by tourist boom.

TV-AM strike has boosted its ratings - and its finances (Today).

Sun devotes a page to a leader trying to justify itself for publishing blackmail letters which caused a judge to resign and claims it did not abet blackmail.

Both doctors at centre of Teesside child abuse case to be given new jobs; MPs say this will cause alarm; parents want them to be sacked.

British Association of Social Workers furious over £88,000 fee being paid to Louis Blom-Cooper QC for his work on 2 month inquiry into Kimberly Carlile child abuse inquiry.

Lecturer in science policy at Sussex University claims British food industry is hushing up perils of food additives.

Clay model made of unidentified victim of King's Cross taken in



effort to establish who he was.

40 men arrested in child pornography raids in UK.

Mail says muggers are now using an electric stun gun designed for women to carry as defence against rapists.

Paul Foot, in Mirror, says he has evidence to suggest log of HMS Conqueror, submarine which sank the Belgrano, was shredded and burnt on MoD instructions even though MoD have always said it was lost.

Westminster Council to recruit ex-policemen and ex-Servicemen as litter wardens to impose on-the-spot fines.

Reagan planning to stop in Britain either on his way to or coming back from Moscow.

Report that Commission investigating Waldheim has found no evidence he was a war criminal.

Iran hints at a deal over British hostages in Lebanon if Archbishop of Canterbury will help free Iranians held there by Christian Falangi. German hostage seized in Beirut, and Express notes connection in time between this and West German Government's admission it gave in to terrorist threats to kill hostages in Beirut. There could hardly be a more clear example of the dangers of bowing to terrorists' demands.

Mail: When will our European partners learn that hostage deals only encourage Middle East bandit Governments?

Pictures of Denis Thatcher among the girls, testing the temperature of the Serpentine at sports fund raising event.

#### NHS

Star: Maggie to shake up training for nurses.

Sun: Nurses in talks snub to Maggie.

Mirror: Maggie to see nurses in climbdown.

Today leads with "Nurses snub Maggie" - severe blow to your hopes of settling one-day strike; leader says you show signs of getting your old touch back in the way you are at last shaping up to Health Service crisis. And your invitation to the RCN, but not striking unions, should send clear message to all NHS employees that striking won't impress you. Now that you have taken up the



challenge of solving the NHS crisis you can't afford to fail.

Express: Willie sparks Tory action on NHS - he intervened behind the scenes.

Mail says a stream of new ideas to blast the NHS into the 21st Century is bubbling out of Whitehall - put vast bureaucracy on business footing with free market ideas.

Times: Confidential report following November seminar at Carlton Club outlines radical proposals for health service to be sent to Ministers.

Geoffrey Smith, in Times, says there are three distinct problems - how to prevent the present waves of protest; how to secure more efficient use of resources; how to attract more money into health care. He adds that the political challenge for Government is to maintain public confidence while it works out the best long term strategy.

Telegraph P1 lead: Ministers reject Budget boost for NHS. Studies of radical options set in train at yesterday's meeting.

FT: RCN rejects Thatcher meeting. In a statement last night it said that it had not itself asked for a meeting with you. It had no plans to meet you without the other unions.

Independent: Leaders of the RCN last night refused the offer of a meeting with you. The request for you to meet the General Secretaries of the five nursing unions still stands.

Guardian leader headed "New matron orders a prescription" says the tune has suddenly changed. Overnight the service's sufferings have become so acute that radical action is needed and can't wait for an inquiry.

#### AIDS

Express leader backs Princess Anne in row with homosexuals for saying disease is "classic own goal scored by human race against itself". To suggest, as Terence Higgins Trust does, that AIDS is no one's fault is absurd.

Mail: "Princess Anne's commonsense". She was quite right not to fudge the distinction between haemophiliacs and children born with the disease and homosexual and drug taking victims. As a society we must do all we can to help all victims. But that does not mean those whose present behaviour invites infection should take no steps to help themselves.



Times leader says Princess Royal was right to insist that there is a moral dimension to disease. By far the largest factor in its spread arises from patterns of voluntary sexual behaviour.

#### HEALTH

Mail carries a big feature on lives damaged by Opren and "the compensation that shames us all".

Times: American study shows aspirin can almost half risk of a heart attack.

#### FORD STRIKE

Star says a strike would be a calamity and the 6.5% inflation-linked 3 year package can't be bad.

#### INDUSTRY

Times: Richard Branson returns from Soviet Union after signing or setting in train deals ranging from £2m takeover of a Crimean holiday hotel to supplying them with condoms.

Times: Ferranti win £12m star wars contract - biggest ever awarded to British company.

Times: Miners making extra £500 a weekend by carrying out contract work in pits.

Times: CEEB buying extra coal from British Coal - 79,9000,000 tonnes a year until 1991.

Times: Independent research group says Civil Service is under increasing pressure to reduce costs and increase productivity.

Times: ITV companies face ban on programme property rights or higher levy on profits under proposals put to Cabinet sub-committee on broadcasting.

Times: Britain's airlines could be banned from flying to US within 5 years unless they fit new anti-collision devices.

FT: Marks and Spencer plans to offer personal loans and other services to its 2 million charge card holders.

FT: Granada is to cut its staffing levels by 19% with loss of 270 employees.



**FT:** Kuwait's stake in BP is likely to be the main topic at a meeting today between the Chancellor and Sheikh Ali Khalifa al Sabah, Kuwait's oil minister.

**FT:** West Midlands is reviving strongly, according to survey published by Wolverhampton Business School.

**Independent:** Dr Bob Whelan appointed as Chief Executive for the new centre for the Exploitation of Science and Technology.

**Independent:** The Argyll Group is poised to sue Guinness for up to £3bn in connection with the hotly contested battle with Guinness for control of Distillers.

**Independent:** Britain and other European countries appeared to be heading into conflict over the US's controversial campaign against companies which break export controls to the Eastern bloc. FCO spokesman said that it was very unlikely national governments would accept US calls for European countries to extradite businessmen found guilty of breaking the controls.

#### LAW AND ORDER

**Times:** Lord Chancellor against granting advocacy rights to solicitors in higher courts.

**Independent:** The Government will maintain its opposition to the creation of an independent monitor for Security Service said Douglas Hurd in "Analysis" BBC Radio 4 programme to be broadcast tonight.

**Telegraph** leader on S28 of Local Government Bill, says the Government would be wise to take the unease seriously. A Government which has done so much for individual liberty, socially and economically, must be above suspicion of wishing to curb it artistically or morally.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Times:** Conservative MP alarmed at growing opposition to community charge to make further effort to amend Government's proposals; John Banham, in **Times**, calls for fairer rates for business saying that the new proposals should be debated as widely as the plans for the private individual.

**Independent:** The Nature Conservancy Council has been told by Mr Ridley not to try to control threats to wildlife by leasing shooting rights on marshland in Solway Firth and elsewhere. The



order is revealed in council minutes in possession of the Independent.

#### EDUCATION

FT: Government will this afternoon announce a guillotine to limit length of further discussion on Education Bill.

FT: Labour MPs protest at head of Paisley Grammar School being told about change in policy before they were.

Independent: Hysterical parents, inefficient local authorities, ignorant governors, lazy teachers and mounting paperwork have plunged the national head teachers in to despair, new study says.

#### DEFENCE

Independent: Leader says MoD admitted that construction of a plant to build warhead components for Trident missiles had fallen years behind schedule. About £1bn of public money is being spent building new facilities, yet there is no way for Members of Parliament to find out what is going wrong unless the Government or, more likely a newspaper, tells them.

#### IRELAND

Independent leader says on decision not to prosecute members of the RUC suspected of conspiracy that the decision is disturbing because it further entrenches the conviction that standards of justice and of police discipline which are tolerated in Northern Ireland would not be acceptable on the mainland.

Independent: A senior British police officer is expected shortly to be asked to report on possible disciplinary action against the members of the RUC involved in the Stalker affair.

#### AFRICA

FT: Thatcher ponders African visit. You are understood provisionally to have set aside time during the next parliamentary recess - possibly in January next year, for visits to Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Botswana.



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEN: Mr Parkinson addresses the French Chamber of Commerce, Annual Gala

DES: Mr Baker visits St Helens School, Colchester, Essex

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses British/Japanese Parliamentary Group, London

DEM: Mr Lee visits Yorkshire and attends British Holiday and Home Parks Association national convention, Harrogate

DEN: Mr Spicer visits British Coal Research Establishment, Cheltenham

DES: Mr Dunn meets Local Education Authority Drug Co-ordinators, for progress report

DOE: Mr Moynihan addresses International Luncheon Club, London

DTP: Mr Bottomley attends Accident Investigation and Prevention Seminar, Bedford

HMT: Mr Lamont presents the Publishing Holdings Plc awards, unit trusts, London

---

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Mr Mellor departs for New York and Washington, USA (to 3 February)

ODA: Mr Patten attends Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) Annual Conference, Arusha, Tanzania (to 29 January)

---

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DTI: Mr Clarke appears on BBC TV Question Time

HO: Mr Hurd takes part in BBC Radio 4 Analysis programme 'Need to Know'

---



TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Who Owns Britain?": BBC Radio 4 (9.30) Series, examining who owns what, looks at owners of great estates

"Kilroy": BBC 1 (9.20)

"Business Daily": Channel 4 (12.00)

"The Parliament Programme": Channel 4 (14.00)

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

"The Education Programme": BBC 2 (19.40) reviews the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative

"The New Enlightenment": Channel 4 (20.00) - series tonight looks at entrepreneurs and effect of high taxes and close government regulations on enterprise

"This Week": ITV (20.30) 'Right Wing Medicine' reports on alternatives in health care and asks whether free market philosophy can provide a fair and efficient service

"Question Time": BBC 1 (22.00) with Kenneth Clarke MP, Robert MacLennan MP, Janice Lennon and Roy Hattersley MP

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.50)

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

---