

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister lunches with Sunday Telegraph; meets Prime Minister Peterson of Ontario State; meets Greek Opposition leader Mitsotakis; and attends Peel Bicentenary reception

The Prince and Princess of Wales visit Thailand (to 5 February)

The Duchess of York attends Alpine International Skiing Meeting, Meribel

Threatened nurses strike

US Congress debate aid to the Contras

DTI/DES launch first "LINK" research projects

PUBLICATIONS

HMT: Treasury minute in reply to PAC's 1st to 6th Reports 1987-88

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth; Trade and Industry; Environment

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Transplant Notification

Licensing Bill: Remaining Stages

Welsh Development Agency Agency Bill: Remaining Stages
(Eighth Replenishment Motion on the International Development Association)

Adjournment Debate: The use of Dartmoor National Park by HM Forces
(Mr A Steen)

Select Committees: FOREIGN AFFIARS
Subject: UK Emergency Relief for the Famine in the Horn of Africa
Witnesses: Officials of the Overseas Development Administration

ENERGY

Subject: Report and Accounts of the British Coal Corporation
Witnesses: Sir Robert Haslam, Chairman, Sir Kenneth Couzens, Deputy Chairman, and other members of the Executive Committee, British Coal Corporation

DEFENCE

Subject: The Royal Navy's Surface Fleet: Commitments
Witness: Ministry of Defence

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: The Work of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service

Witnesses: Mr D B Smith, CB, Chairman, and Mr E Norcross, Director of Administration, ACAS

HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Broadcasting

Witness: Independent Broadcasting Authority

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Resourcing the NHS

Witness: Mr Ken Judge, Director, and Mr Ray Robinson, The King's Fund Institute; Mr Joe Leigh, former General Manager, Fife Health Board

TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE

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

Witness: Rt Hon John Major, MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Lords: Starred Questions

Debate to call attention to the World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programmes for AIDS Prevention and to the current situation, both as to prevention and treatment in the United Kingdom of the disease.

Debate to call attention to the case for more rapid progress towards the completion of the internal market of the EEC by 1992.

UQ to ask HMG whether they intend to promote further afforestation in Northern Ireland.

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

Nurses' day of action started yesterday - and joined on picket lines by Labour MPs. Mail leads with 490,000 nurses WILL be at work today despite concerted Left wing drive.

Political row over contentious presentation of Government's evidence to nurses' review body on eve of "strikes"; Tony Newton denies Government wants 3%.

Telegraph Gallup poll shows 92%, including 90% Conservatives, think nurses should receive substantial pay rise.

Seamen's union leaders say they are prepared to go to jail rather than call off ferry strike being held in defiance of court injunction. P&O seeks sequestration of union's assets.

College lecturers accept 16.9% phased over 2 years.

American banks cut prime rate to 8.5% (down 0.25%).

Irish Government want fresh talks with Tom King after failing to win concessions over Stalker affair - Express. (NB: Most of pops ignore the issue.) Guardian says Government agreed to discuss at Cabinet level demands for review of Stalker affair.

Some progress on EC budget issue in your talks with Kohl; new fears of lamb war with French after Euro Court ruling banning duty on British exports.

NUM Council rejects executive's plans for talks with UDM but does agree to ballot on continuation of overtime ban.

Fears that Left is going to capture TGWU Executive - serious implications for Labour Party (Independent).

And concern that Ford workers are set to reject new deal recommended by unions.

Consumers' Association claims fewer than 20% of garages give proper service to cars.

Crown Suppliers to be sold off.

Importers take page adverts to warn customers off peperami which is believed to have caused 80 salmonella cases; Mirror alleges massive loopholes in our safe food laws.

Inquiry into engine failure in Gatwick jet on take-off with 400 on board.

Jaguar soars to record January sales in USA.

All executive and non-executive directors of B/Cal resign at request of B/Airways.

CEGB seeks approval for two coal fired power stations at West Burton and Fawley.

Lesbians stage SAS-style assault from gallery on floor of Lords debating Section 28 of Local Government Act on promotion of homosexuality in schools. Express says the Government is right to act to help parents; Times says there is to be a row after revelation that Labour peer signed passes for gay rights protestors.

Express claims a major slump in London's crime rate against a rising trend nationally - a boost for your war on criminals.

Star launches campaign for hanging for vile murders, and especially of children; 5 have already been murdered this year. You are ranged among those in favour of capital punishment. It says you have thrown your weight behind their campaign on strength of remarks in your interview last week.

Terry Dicks MP says foreigners should be banned from demonstrating in Britain against policies in their homeland.

Fears that a tube arsonist is on the loose - King's Cross inquiry report.

Tory MPs want higher bands of tax reduced in budget to ease brain drain.

Michael Colvin MP launches his attempt to try to amend Licensing Bill to allow pubs to open all day Sunday.

Mail says Birmingham City Council plans to anticipate legislation and hive off 123,000 council houses to housing associations.

ITN wins contract to supply news service to one of four new national satellite channels.

Mirror says British taxpayer has subsidised export of carbon carbon by Scottish firm to Russia; it could help Soviets make better nuclear weapons.

Mirror congratulates Weinburger on his "well deserved" honour recognising his "support for Britain over many years".

Lord Carrington becomes chairman of Christie's.

Gunmen shoot French "spy" in Beirut.

NHS

Star says many unions, BMA and other health unions are unrepresentative. Blinded by out of date doctrine union leaders are exploiting nurses' image at expense of patients. They are also trying to block flow of private money. You should appeal to doctors, nurses and other NHS workers over heads of unions.

Sun: Nurses angry over "modest pay rise" leak; leader says this must be one of the saddest days of their lives and from all over the country come stories of intimidation, blackmail and sheer abuse. It begs the nurses to stay at their posts. The Socialists have been beaten in 3 elections in a row and are trying to play politics by other means.

Mirror: New fury over Tory snub to nurses.

Today leads with you lashing out at nurses who desert their patients and on Kinnock for refusing to condemn intimidation.

Express: 3% for nurses is all lies, say angry Tories. Kinnock ducks challenge from you to condemn today's strikes; leader says it is bad enough that nurses are led to betray their calling and neglect patients, but by attempting to hoodwink the public as well, they are adding insult to injury.

Mail leader understands why nurses are tempted to strike but it urges them not to do so. They deserve a better deal but strikes are not justifiable and will not further the nurses' case. It is conduct unbecoming.

Telegraph leads with anger over leak of regional pay plan for nurses; leader says COHSE and NUPE, not renowned for their interest in welfare of either hospital patients or nursing profession, are pursuing two objectives little connected with pay: to poach members from RCN and win global increase in health spending which would benefit ancillaries.

Guardian P1 lead: Ministers to veto big rise for nurses - RCN says 3% cost of living offer shows no sympathy over crisis in hospitals. Inside - TUC frustrated as Moore takes tough stand.

Guardian leader says the RCN joins the heads of the Royal Colleges in the ranks of those who thought they had got what they wanted from Mr Moore only to find they hadn't. Odd that a master communicator should twice have had such trouble in getting his message across.

Independent: Government accused last night of "stabbing nurses in the back" by suggesting that the basic minimum pay rises for nursing staff this year need be no more than 3%; RCN says proposals are "negative and crass and show no sympathy for the present nursing crisis"; the nurses' rolling programme of strikes and protests which started yesterday in London will spread across the country during the next month.

Independent leader says that the mood of nurses is understandable but professional nurses should realise that the market and their own respected position in society are greater assets than the busted flush of traditional public sector militancy.

Times leads with Government firmly against big across-the-board increases and DHSS calling for flexible pay system with regional weighting. Tony Newton denies Nursing Times leak that Government has recommended 3% rise. Despite your refusal to commit the Government to full funding of any pay award, many Conservative MPs hope and believe you will.

Times leader discusses what is meant by public spending, saying the health debate has focused attention again on the question of what a given sum of public spending really means. It supports Government for its policies and is critical of the last Labour Government's record. It adds that it would be height of folly for Government now to abandon cash planning of public spending for a return to the will-'o-the-wisp of "resources" for spending.

FT: Nursing Times discloses confidential Government evidence to review body proposing system of regional pay variation and discretionary special payments for nurse. In inner London, it could lead to rises of up to 12% but "just under 3%" has been allowed for inflation elsewhere.

UNIONS

Today leader on Bryan Gould's call to bring unions back into machinery for making economic policy says there is one small flaw in the argument: it has been tried and the result was appalling. The unions' only response to a decent hearing has been yet another demand. This Government has succeeded where others failed in putting unions in their proper place. Bringing unions back into No 10 for beer and sandwiches will only bring back strikes, inflation and zero growth.

ANGLO-GERMAN BILATERAL/EC

Star, Sun, Mirror and Today ignore event. Express: Talks fail to break deadlock on EC cash crisis, though some progress made.

Mail: Kohl stays cool on farmers' cash.

Telegraph: Thatcher and Kohl make progress in Downing Street talks but still some way to go.

Guardian: Thatcher and Kohl wary of EC Summit deal; press conference an exercise in damage limitation. Optimism that Brussels will bring a settlement.

Independent: A theatrically friendly meeting between you and Chancellor Kohl and the first signs of compromise raised hopes that the EC budget talks may be breaking through at last.

Independent: Kinnock is today expected to lay to rest a decade of official Labour hostility to British membership of the EC.

Times: Britain and West Germany deadlocked on central issues blocking agreement on EC budget, although there were signs of intensive efforts to achieve a breakthrough both in London and Brussels.

FT: You and Chancellor Kohl promise to do your utmost to reach agreement on farm policy reforms at Brussels, though conceding that yesterday's talks brought no solution to substantial disagreements.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Independent: Three high-ranking Northern Ireland police officers were named last night by an MP as the men who had allegedly been exempted from prosecution in the wake of the Stalker-Sampson investigation; Irish Ministers held a tough meeting on the implications of the Stalker affair and left Tom King in no doubt about the great strength of feeling on the issue.

Independent: Merlyn Rees said that John Stalker's book was a clear breach of the Official Secrets Act and he wondered why no legal action was being taken.

Times: Government to give urgent consideration to Irish Government proposals for police and security reforms in Northern Ireland. Irish Government also hopes to persuade you to grant clemency to Birmingham pub bombers.

POLITICS

Times: Dick Douglas MP resigns as convenor of Labour Party's group of 50 Scottish MPs after differences with Kinnock.

Times: Kinnock to visit Gaza Strip and West Bank later this month and will support attempts to establish international peace conference.

Conor Cruise O'Brien, writing in Times under the heading "Ruled by the Roundheads" with a cartoon "Oliver Thatcher 1988", says the old domain of the Puritan revolutionaries is now the domain of Mrs Thatcher. The old Royalist areas are now held by Kinnock's socialists. He adds that you like to be compared with Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria, but his view is that the Iron Lady is closer in spirit to old Ironsides.

EDUCATION

Times: Cabinet expected to agree to abolish the ILEA tomorrow; head teachers' union says plans for break up will bring chaos to schools.

Times: District Auditor asked to investigate how Brent managed to overspend by £2m in last two years in advertising for teachers.

Sir Richard Southwood, acting vice-chancellor of Oxford, writing in Times, explains the universities' fear of new controls in the Education Bill, saying it is a matter of deep concern that the Government appears reluctant to recognise the sincerity or the strength of feeling aroused by the proposed changes.

LAW AND ORDER

Independent: A Coroner hits at "barbaric" state of remand cells.

Times: David Alton angry at filibuster tactics to kill his abortion Bill.

Times: Magistrates being urged by Home Office to ensure they are not seen to discriminate against black defendants and Bar wants change to Race Relations Act making it illegal for lawyer to discriminate against a barrister on racial grounds.

INDUSTRY

Independent: The prospect of further disruption to postal services could be looming after members of the Union of Communication Workers deliver their verdict on the deal which averted the threat of a Christmas mail strike.

Independent: An experiment at a nuclear power station in North Wales next week may be postponed or cancelled because of the public outcry against it.

Times: Grand Met in £150m sale of its 700 tenanted public houses.

Times: National Freight Consortium could be coming to the Stock Market this November valued at about £500m.

Times: Stock Market crash fails to stop office rents rising 42.7% last year and are still going up.

FT: DTI announce that insider dealing inquiry of property developers Shield Group has been going on since November 5.

FT: Leader argues that it would be better not to privatise electricity industry than to do it badly. The preferred approach must be to split CEGB into several separate companies.

MEDIA

Times: ITV companies look likely to lose right to show all-night programmes because of Government determination to open up TV to other broadcasters.

USA

Independent: President Reagan facing the likelihood of defeat in Congress for his plans to give more Contra aid was yesterday denied live access to the air waves by all but one of America's four main television networks.

EAST/WEST

Times: Frank Carlucci to hold talks with Soviet Defence Minister Yazov before end of March - first top-level discussion of superpower defence ministers since Vienna Summit in 1979.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Mr Baker addresses Institute of Directors Business Education partnership seminar, London; also joint chairman at Conference on Link Programme at DTI with Lord Young
- DHSS: Mr Moore addresses National Association of Health Authorities conference, London, on primary health care
- DTI: Lord Young, joint chairman at Conference on Link Programme, at DTI with Mr Baker
- DEM: Mr Cope addresses Kensington and Chelsea Chamber of Trade and Commerce, London
- DEM: Mr Lee lunches with London Regional Transport
- DEM: Mr Nicholls visits the Road Transport Industry Training Board, High Ercall and the Plastics Processing Industry Training Board, Telford
- DES: Mr Jackson presents Institute of Electrical Engineering Awards, Design Council, London
- DES: Mr Dunn meets Councillor Freeman, leader of Kensington/Chelsea, about opting out
- DHSS: Lord Skelmersdale visits Great Ormond Street Hospital, London
- DOE: Mrs Roe addresses District Planning Officers Society, London
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave opens Fairbridge Halfway Housing Project, London
- DOE: Mr Chope addresses the British Landscape Industries, London
- DTI: Mr Butcher addresses British Standards Institute, consumer reception, London
- DTp: Mr Bottomley launches motorcycle training and testing package, Guildhall, London
- DTp: Lord Brabazon visits Blackpool Airport and opens runway
- DTp: Mr Mitchell opens new British Steel plant, Cumbria
- FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses all party Parliamentary group, London

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DES: Mrs Rumbold interviewed by the BBC Education Programme and later the Portsmouth News, about GCSE
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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) - last part in series examines alternative punishments to imprisonment

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

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.50)

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