

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister interviewed by 'Today' newspaper

The Queen holds an Investiture at Buckingham Palace

EC: Foreign Affairs Committee visits Ethiopia and the Sudan
(to 1 March)

EC: Budget Council, Brussels (to 24 February)

European Court's judgement on the liability to VAT of goods
supplied with medical care

Hospital Alert pressure group lobby Parliament

STATISTICS

CSO: Gross domestic product (output-based) (4th qtr)

OPCS: Key population and vital statistics 1986: Local and Health
Authority local areas

PUBLICATIONS

HMT: Supplementary Estimates, late Spring

HO: Stress in the Police Service - post shooting experiences
in Firearms Officers

OAL: Green Paper on future of public libraries (also press
conference)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Defence; Employment; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Sufferers
(Mr James Hood)
British Steel Bill: 2nd Reading, Money and Ways and Means
Resolution
Motion to take note of EC Documents on the Steel Industry
Details of the EC Documents concerned will be given in the
Official Report

Adjournment Debate: Maternity Benefit; the case of Mrs Rosemary Jane
Watson (Mr R Holt)

Select Committees: TRANSPORT
Subject: Decline in the UK-registered Merchant Fleet
Witnesses: Lord Brabazon of Tara, Parliamentary
Under-Secretary of State for Transport and officials
from the Department of Transport

Lords: Starred Questions
Copyright, Designs and Patents Bill (HL): Report (1st Day)

Land Registration Bill (HL): Third Reading
Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency Bill: Second Reading

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

Irish Government orders inquiry into killing of man North of the Border; Unionists up in arms. Man killed by ricochet.

Times: Attorney General accuses Stalker of breach of confidence for including details of alleged MI5 and RUC surveillance operations in memoirs.

Guardian claims an exclusive with a report of alarming EC evidence of serious violations of safety procedures in handling nuclear waste by Continental reprocessing plants.

London Nuclear Information Unit says spent nuclear fuel flasks which pass through London could explode in a severe fire.

Paul Channon under attack for refusing to order an inquiry into another "near miss" - though at 20 seconds apart he says it was "not a risk bearing miss".

Disruption faces holiday flights this summer because of new restrictions.

Sun claims there was another near miss yesterday when a Phantom fighter went under a helicopter near Aberdeen.

Mirror says military air space may be opened up to lessen danger of collisions.

Mail says it is impossible to form a view over whether the skies are becoming dangerously congested in view of dog fight between air traffic controllers and their boss. But Paul Channon is not reassuring. We need an inquiry.

Independent says that as air misses go it was unspectacular and avoiding action was ordered and executed without any serious risks.

Japanese car makers seeking to cash in on Land Rover strike.

Today says Suzuki set to take over as best selling 4-wheel drive vehicle in Britain.

Tony Gilroy, Land Rover, says they will not increase pay offer.

British/Japanese Bedford plant at Luton recruits 500 more workers for double shift production after 70% increase in output with new style working practices.

Two of County Natwest's top men quit in advance of news of big slip in profits.

Equal Opportunities Commission report shows women are still second class citizens at work, stuck in the most menial jobs with little or no chance of promotion.

Woodrow Wyatt claims in Lords that Scargill re-election poll was rigged. NUM says allegations without foundation.

Sacked ACTT strikers are to claim £5m from TV-AM through their union.

Employees of National Freight Corporation who did not buy shares angry over TGWU's evidence to them not to do so; Today - no wonder TGWU members are quitting in droves.

Boy, 12, helping police with inquiries after body of 2 year old girl found after she vanished from community centre in Herts.

B/Telecom abolishes controversial Talkabout service.

British Coal starts legal action to try to prevent SSEB from importing coal.

NUT secretly accepts Government moves to abandon national pay negotiations and is prepared for local and even school by school negotiations (Telegraph).

Guardian says D/Employment staff are being urged to take tougher measures with long term unemployed to reduce jobless figures.

Tory dominated Treasury Select Committee calls on you to fully fund that part of nurses' pay settlement you agree to pay for.

Ministers considering idea of allowing doctors to opt out of NHS, taking patients with them - subsidised up to a certain level of expenditure.

Relatives of dead hole in heart boy, Matthew Collier, to have new funeral service because they felt minister used first service as a political platform; more about NHS than dead boy.

Social Democrat dissidents led by Owen preparing to fight Alliance for every seat in Parliament and on councils except where pacts exist (Mail).

Edinburgh best place to live in Britain and Birmingham worst, according to Glasgow University's Geography Department.

Mail tracks down Captain Bluett in South Africa; he says that one of his Nazi torturers was a tall, slender officer with a striking resemblance to Waldheim.

Austrian Socialists call on their coalition party to disown Waldheim.

EC agrees Budget settlement.

Russia to start dismantling INF next week - months ahead of schedule (Mirror).

US Navy Secretary quits over Frank Carlucci's defence cuts.

George Galloway MP suffers vote of no confidence from his Hillhead constituency party.

2 British believed dead and 8 injured in Bulgarian ski resort fire.

Marquis of Tavistock seriously ill after stroke.

AIR SAFETY

Star: Paul Channon is living in Cloud Cuckoo Land.

Sun asks if we can be so near to catastrophe on a quiet Sunday morning in February what will happen in June and July? Mr Channon must order a swift inquiry; our lives depend on it.

Mirror prays that Paul Channon's words, telling the public not to panic, will not return to haunt him. He should order a public inquiry into every aspect of air safety. CAA's attitude arrogant, high handed and secretive.

Today: Paul Channon showed himself insufferably complacent yesterday. He completely fails to understand the depth of public anxiety. We must have a full and urgent public inquiry into state of safety of our air space.

Independent: Leader says calls for more runways and better equipment would take years to achieve and then only tackle the symptoms, not the disease. Administering an air traffic control system is a highly complex and technical task. It is a task for a small, professional team. Removing it from the CAA would leave such a group free to implement the radical solutions necessary.

LAND ROVER

Express leader headed "Hara-Kiri at Land Rover" says if you listen carefully you might be able to hear the sound of Japanese laughter.

FT leader says that the Government is right not to bail out the Land Rover management from pay demands it cannot finance. It should now go further and end the voluntary restraint agreement against the import of more Japanese cars.

Guardian says briefings against Government intervention mean if Land Rover settles over the odds it won't get a penny of taxpayers' money to help it. They should be looking for productivity as the way out.

INDUSTRY

Times: General Secretary of T&GWU halts count in general executive council elections after allegations of ballot irregularities in London and South East.

Times: TUC calls electricians' union leaders before them to face possible suspension over recruitment of members during Wapping dispute.

FT: Electricity Council says proposed 9% electricity price rise is fair.

Times: BA's takeover of B.Cal comes under fire from Scandanavian Governments, the US senate and EC Commission.

Times: UK steel output jumps by 32%.

MEDIA

Times: Jonathan Aitken facing growing pressure to resign as TV-AM director over his alleged role in arranging Saudi shareholding in station.

Times: All-party group of MPs nominate BBC External Services for 1988 Nobel peace prize for their contribution to global understanding.

France blocks plans by Pearson (FT Group) to buy Les Echos because of Murdoch's 20.5% stake in Pearson.

Independent: A merger of the New Statesman and New Society to create a single financially viable weekly of the centre and broad left was agreed in principle last night.

Independent: Jonathan Aitken MP, director of TV-AM is expected to resign. The view of other board members is that he acted with a lack of candour by failing to spell out the scale of the Saudi controlling influence.

NHS

Times leads with Government to publish White Paper in October, or as early as July, setting out plans which could include GPs leaving the health service and taking their patients with them into private health companies. The Government would pay a fee per patient to finance basic health care, but extras would be the individual's responsibility.

Times: Nurse managers in Manchester say they may not be able to send staff on children's intensive care courses because they will get no money for replacement nurses; warning comes as Dallas Hospital starts recruitment drive for nurses in Birmingham where there is a critical shortage of trained staff.

Times: Political sniping mars call for more health funds as MPs split on "unanimous" select committee report on NHS spending. Report says extra £1bn to £2bn spending on service could take place without breaching the Government's commitment to reduce spending as a proportion of GDP.

Times: NHS could save millions on its £2bn annual drugs bill through a change in the law being considered by DTI to reduce the 20 year monopoly by brand name drugs to 10 years.

Times: DHSS agrees that BMA should draw up proposals for pilot compensation scheme under which victims of medical accidents would in certain cases automatically receive damages.

EDUCATION

Under the heading "The Examination that Doesn't" a Times leader is critical of the way the GCSE has been introduced saying that the examination, as it stands, has always been misconceived. Its egalitarian ethos is a mistake, adding that it is an examination which abolishes examinations.

COMMUNITY CHARGE

FT: John Biffen warns of electoral disaster over community charge.

POLITICS

Geoffrey Smith, in Times, says the Tories refuse to admit defeat in Scotland with Ministers setting out to seize the political initiative north of the border. He adds that Scotland has not been doing at all badly economically, but the Scots have lacked self confidence and look to the Government of the day for economic salvation.

Discussing local government in Times, under the heading "Honouring Town Hall Humbug", T E Utley says that almost everything your Cabinet is currently engaged in doing seems on the face of it to be designed to reduce local government to minimum proportions.

NEXT STEPS

Writing in Times, Michael Heseltine discusses the reform urgently needed in Whitehall, saying he strongly supports steps to enhance efficiency in Government. The Ibbs Report should provide the starting point for far more sweeping changes to clear away the job-for-life, salary-by-seniority regime.

LAW AND ORDER

Times leader discusses the Association of British Editors' claim that numerous VIPs are evading publicity when appearing in court, saying that the handling of Mrs Lawson's drink-drive case strengthened suspicions. Courts have discretion about giving details leading to inconsistency across the country. If it takes a pronouncement by the Lord Chancellor to restore confidence in the lower courts, that should be forthcoming.

Times: Home Office report says that the police should have more support to help them over shock after being involved in shooting incidents.

IRELAND

Times: Dublin Government launches own police inquiry into border shooting; Ken Livingstone accuses Attorney General and Cabinet of being "accessories to murder" saying there is no possibility of any Irish Republican achieving a fair trial in a British court.

Independent says the Irish Government's move will be seen as signifying a lack of confidence in the RUC and the British authorities generally.

EC

FT: Committee for European Monetary Union calls on all EC governments to start negotiations on creating a European Central Bank and transforming ecu into a free European currency. Joint chairman, Giscard D'Estaing says UK currently acting as if sterling were a de facto member of the ERM and is confident the Chancellor would take part in inter-governmental negotiations.

MIDDLE EAST

FT: Shamir warns of early general election if Israeli coalition partners cannot agree on common approach to Middle East peace process. Leader says Shultz's latest peace initiative looks too ambitious and is determined in part by forthcoming elections in both the US and Israel. However if he sticks to his guns and exposes Shamir as the principal obstacle to a negotiation, it may offer Israel a way out from the present cycle of violence.

EAST/WEST

FT: Shultz says in Moscow that strategic arms deal is nearer. Progress reported on verification of the treaty and SDI. On Afghanistan, Shultz says he has every reason to expect Moscow to adhere to its withdrawal timetable. Further meeting scheduled for March 22 in Washington.

Telegraph says the only surprising thing about your warnings concerning Gorbachev trickling out of Brussels are that they were given in private. Your frankness is likely to reinforce your standing in Moscow. We have seen no sign of any Soviet shyness in stating their views of British security needs. Your remarks will tip the NATO balance back in the direction of prudence.

Independent: Gorbachev yesterday flatly denied that Moscow intended maintaining Afghanistan as a secret "bridgehead" and repeated his desire that after the withdrawal of Soviet troops it should be an independent and neutral state.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Fowler attends Association of British Chamber of Commerce dinner

MAFF: Mr MacGregor addresses Seminar on Cabinet Government and National Policy Progress, London School of Economics

WO: Mr Walker visits Clwyd and opens Stadex Industries, New Factory; also visits Brother Industries and Sharp Manufacturing, Wrexham

DEM: Mr Lee visits Centreparcs as part of regional visit to Nottingham

DEM: Mr Cope attends Industrial Society conference, new training scheme, Regents College, London

DEN: Mr Spicer announces Passive Solar Contracts

DOE: Mrs Roe opens Tesco/Marks and Spencer Superstore, Cheshunt

DTP: Mr Bottomley chairs Northern Regional Annual Consultative Committee meeting, Newcastle

HO: Lord Ferrers visits West Yorkshire Police

MAFF: Mr Gummer attends meeting with Ralph Howell and delegation from North Norfolk District Council concerning cost protection work; later has lunch with Ambassador Dr Luis Alberto Sole-Romeo, Uruguayan Embassy

MAFF: Mr Thompson lunches with the Newspaper Society

SO: Lord Sanderson addresses Scottish Fish Farming conference, Inverness

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Lord Glenarthur departs for Korea, Hong Kong and Nepal (to 4 March)

FCO: Mr Mellor departs for Bahrain, Iraq and Jordan (to 1 March)

MOD: Mr Sainsbury visits amphibious exercise, Norway (to 25 February)

SO: Lord Sanderson attends EC Fisheries Council, Brussels

TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Daytime on Two": BBC 2 (9.20). "Inset TVEI" - series discusses the implementation of TVEI

"Business Daily": Channel 4 (12.00)

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

"The Parliament Programme"; Channel 4 (14.00) covering both Houses of Parliament

"Reporting London": ITV (19.30): looks at Merseysiders travelling to Crawley to find work

"Shutdown": ITV (22.35) - documentary about the closure of Smith's Dock on the Tees

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.40)

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

"Network": BBC 1 (23.00): looks at whether television has increased our awareness of AIDS

"Running Late": Channel 4 (00.20). Donald Treford chairs discussion on issues in sport
