

25 February 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister attends Sir Phillip Holland's book launch and later dines with the Marketing Group of Great Britain

The Queen gives a reception at Buckingham Palace for the winners of the Queen's Awards for Export and Technology

EC: Education Ministers informal meeting, Munster (to 26 February)

The Prince and Princess of Wales attend the premiere of the film "The Last Emperor", London

Statement on Electricity Privatisation (?)

Hospital Alert lobby Parliament

STATISTICS

DEN: Energy Trends (Dec)

DTP: New motor vehicle registrations (December 1987)

PUBLICATIONS

DHSS: Public Accounts Committee: Incorrect Payments of Social Security Benefits

PAY

Water Service Manuals; 21,500: 1 April

PARLIAMENT

Commons

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

Business: Motion on the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Order
Motion on the Criminal Injuries (Compensation) (Northern Ireland) Order

OPPOSED PRIVATE BUSINESS
Hampshire (Lyndhurst By-Pass) Bill

Adjournment Debate: The proposed Government Data Network (Mr A Haselhurst)

Lords: Starred Questions
Copyright, Designs and Patents Bill (HL): Report (2nd Day)
Matrimonial Proceedings (Transfers) Bill (HL): Second Reading
Statistics of Trade and Employment (Northern Ireland) Order
1988: Motion for Approval

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

Foreign Secretary attacks South Africa's clampdown on black activists - 16 groups banned from public activity and SATUC told to keep out of politics. Independent: Crackdown provokes wave of international revulsion.

2 members of UDR killed, and two injured, in terrorist bomb blast in Belfast.

New row, after Anglo-Irish Inter-Governmental Conference, on whether police chiefs will meet at next one or not.

Soldier charged with manslaughter of McAnespie in border incident.

Derek Conway MP Shrewsbury, reveals he played a leading role in parole of Private Thain from life sentence and reinstatement in his old regiment.

Much interest focused today on billionaires and millionaires - we have 200 super rich; meanwhile poor get poorer, says Mirror.

Nurses are selling skin at £40 a time for grafts to supplement low pay.

Privatisation of electricity industry to be announced today. FT says Walter Marshall has told Ministers he won't resign.

CBI want urgent meeting with Cecil Parkinson to discuss power price rise which they claim is unsound in business terms. Say jobs will be lost.

Government widely believed to have dropped a hint yesterday that it will fully fund the nurses' pay rise.

Hospital Alert to lobby Parliament today for £2.5bn extra.

40,000 Scottish NHS staff walk out in protest against contracting out.

Mirror says a mass protest has won reprieve for cancer unit at Southend Hospital.

Renault truck workers at Dunstable due to strike today.

Today says Land Rover has lost an £85m export order from Switzerland.

Engineer who left Vauxhall eight years ago to start his own business is buying out firm's car design centre and 530 workforce.

You stand firm over zero VAT rates on food, domestic fuel and children's clothes and shoes.

Hard Left wins control of TGWU - result to be announced on Saturday; but lots of rows over irregularities. Kinnock watching events closely (Times).

Chartered Institute of Public Finance says poor will suffer most from community charge and administration cost could treble that of rates. Northern cities will lose millions to South under unified business rate according to Manchester conference.

Today describes report into Met Office's forecasting failures over hurricane "utter whitewash".

Express says it is funny how it is always the same answer when bureaucrats conduct a post mortem - don't blame us, we're only the men in charge.

Stuart Sexton describes control on subjects in national curriculum under Education Bill as "frightening" and giving enormous power over what children are to be taught ultimately to one man.

Star finds an air traffic controller who moonlights after a 36-hour week as a mini cab driver to pay his ex-wife's maintenance.

Guardian says universities and polys are to be told to monitor numbers of black students after CRE report found St George's medical school discriminating against blacks.

Home Secretary looking closely at calls to tighten up on bail after rape and killings by criminals awaiting trial.

Police in pursuit of West Indian "Yardies" - a black mafia - because of spate of murders, shootings and stabbings in London's drugs and vice scene.

PAC says Charity Commissioners complacent in their policing of charities; widespread failure to obtain and analyse annual accounts. Express says procedures must be improved rapidly.

Today continuing with your interview, says you blamed well off youngsters with time on their hands for crime boom - no earthly good having a highly prosperous society if you are afraid to walk the streets at night; inside Today devotes two pages to interview

on role of women, family life and your vision of 2000 AD. In your answers you revealed much about your values - enterprise, innovation, risk-taking but family duties matter even more.

8 soccer fans stabbed and slashed before QPR cut tie at Luton last night; Luton's ban on away fans lifted for occasion; eight arrests.

LWT's Weekend World to expose restrictive practices strangling TV companies - threat by ACTT to black programme.
ITN takes four major Royal Television Society awards.

Keele University votes to strip Waldheim of honorary degree for his contribution to international relations.

Telegraph reports nationalist unrest in Estonia and Armenia in USSR.

EC VAT

Sun says freedom won in two world wars has been snatched away by bureaucrats of Europe we fought to save. For the first time in 1000 years foreigners can overrule Parliament and tax British people. You should tell Europe to take a running jump.

Edward Pearce, in Express, says Euro liberties are being taken with our freedom. Watch out for the next bitter step of VAT imposition on fuel, industrial clothing and building materials.

Mail says Government last night repeated its determination to fight EC attempts to reshape Britain's tax laws; leader says the additional impost on spectacles will be piddling but the principle is not. If they can tell us to put VAT on specs, how much more will they be emboldened to try to make us come into line on food, children's clothing and domestic fuel?

FT: Italy refuses to accept Commission plan for its 1988 budget in dispute over how to interpret the recent summit agreement - given until next Monday to fall into line.

Telegraph says the Euro Court judgement is in itself trifling, but far heavier impositions lie ahead. Ministers must stir themselves to explain why this closing of the gap between Europe and ourselves is the right road to take. If they fail the sacrifice of our sovereignty and resulting public aggravation might suddenly turn politics upside down.

POLITICS

Kinnock facing a demand from black militants for all-black schools and anti-racist studies throughout the system.

Times: Labour calls in independent auditors to attempt to trim its huge overdraft running at between £1m and £2m.

Telegraph reports Tory anger over resignation of controversial black director of social services in Camden with promise of a £20,000 council grant to set up a centre for training council employees on needs of black and ethnic minorities.

Kinnock's "purge of hardline activists" (Telegraph) continues with 3 more listed for expulsion including rotund, topless stripogram girl, one Miss Mandy Mudd, secretary of Tottenham Labour Party.

Independent: Stuart Hall, in feature, argues that Thatcherism has succeeded because it has harnessed underlying social change for its own political ends. To renew itself Labour must do likewise.

ELECTRICITY

Under heading "Triumph for Parkinson in CEGB battle", Times leads with the Government will announce today the break-up of the electricity industry in a plan that is far more radical than expected. It details the break-up, saying the major surprise is that each of the 12 distribution companies being set up will be allowed to generate electricity. Lord Marshall declines to comment.

FT P1: Plans for break-up and sale of CEGB to be unveiled today in a White Paper. The announcement, which is earlier than expected, will be studiously vague on the details of how the new industry will be regulated. Walter Marshall has told Ministers he will not resign.

INDUSTRY

Times: Royal Society calls for extra £100m from Government for scientific research and warns MPs that Britain's future prosperity is at stake.

FT: Cabinet Office report to be published next month will show that women are making no progress in the most senior Civil Service grades, although they are making steady inroads into middle management grades.

CITY

FT: Barclays' profits drop to £339m, bringing the level of doubtful loans set aside by British banks to problem countries to more than £2.6bn. This is likely to exceed £3.7bn when Lloyds Bank reports its results tomorrow.

FT: Sir Nicholas Goodison calls on the Government to review the 1986 Financial Services Act in order to reduce its complexity and the costs it generates.

FT leader looks at growing City complaints against the investor protection framework and particularly the SIB. It says that with more ordinary investors looking at insurance, unit trusts and shares, a more comprehensive form of regulation was inevitable. Sir Kenneth Berrill's reappointment is under threat and should be confirmed as soon as possible to end the harmful period of uncertainty.

ECONOMY

FT: Latest NIESR review says UK growth will slow to just under 3% in 1988 and average only 1.5-2% over the next two years. Unemployment is forecast to average only 2.2m in 1989.

MEDIA

Times: TV companies may soon have to give greater prominence to upheld complaints about programmes which treat people unfairly or invade their privacy unnecessarily.

NHS

Times: Government to speed up decisions on public sector pay and warns health authorities that there would be no justification in coming financial years for cuts in services.

Times: Nurses at Broadmoor vote to take industrial action over pay.

Independent: Government came under fire from own backbenchers to ensure NHS shares in any Budget Day largesse and that extra money is provided to fund the forthcoming nurses' pay award.

EDUCATION

Times Lord Joseph, who presided over preparation of GCSE, expected to criticise syllabus during Lords' second reading of the Bill.

Michael Horsnell, in Times, tries to unravel the academic saga of Bristol University student who has so far spent £30,000 trying to prove he did not cheat in examinations. He won first-class honours for all 13 papers he sat, but university says he is a cheat as he gained advance access to papers.

Independent leader says on Education Reform Bill that there are already dangerous and perhaps unavoidable inhibitions on academic freedom, but Mr Baker's refusal to amend his Bill shows either an unpleasant streak of authoritarianism or a failure to grasp reality.

IRELAND

Times: Confusion after Anglo-Irish Conference in Dublin over whether Irish Government has lifted its ban on meetings between the two chief constables. Tom King reported as saying that they would be at next Conference, but Dublin claims agenda has not yet been fixed.

Geoffrey Smith, in Times, discusses the Irish situation, saying he believes the Ulster Unionists would be prepared for some kind of discussion or process of communication with Dublin provided that this did not give the impression of de facto acceptance of Anglo-Irish Agreement.

LAW AND ORDER

Times: Home Secretary to respond to deepening alarms among Conservative MPs about growth of muggings - they have doubled in first six weeks of this year - on the Underground.

Times: Home Office proposes that criminal records of those who apply for work with voluntary organisations concerned with children should be passed by police to anew national monitoring unit.

Times: Greater powers sought to pursue criminals across international borders.

Times: Lord Chancellor's Department rejects plea from Neil Taylor, Plaid Cymru's legal affairs spokesman, that judges should not make personal observations about rape victims.

Times: Lord Chancellor tables amendments to Legal Aid Bill which could help groups of claimants, such as in the Opren case.

SOUTH AFRICA

Times: South Africa's new curbs on opposition bring widespread condemnation at home and abroad; leader says Botha's decision has done more to damage South Africa's long term security than the 17 organisations concerned were ever likely to do by themselves; he has breathed fresh life into black protest. Reporter says crackdown may be because of by-elections in rural areas where Botha is trying to regain seats taken by the extreme right-wing Conservative Party.

Independent leader says the bans and proscriptions can more easily be seen as a sign of confidence - and a considered gesture of defiance to decent opinion abroad - than as an act of desperation. South Africa has suppressed townships, riots and survived the impact of partial sanctions. International interest has moved on as it always does.

MIDDLE EAST

Times: Shultz flies into Israel with an American solution to end violent unrest in occupied territories, but mission divides Cabinet.

Independent: Israeli troops came under fire in the occupied territories yesterday for the first time since unrest began.

FALKLANDS

FT: Brazil makes it known that proposed visit next month by Tim Eggar would be unwelcome because of Britain's proposed Falklands reinforcement exercise.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DHSS: Mr Moore addresses Manchester Business School, Manchester

DOE: Mr Ridley and Lord Caithness attend Nature Conservatory Council conference, London

WO: Mr Walker and Mr Roberts attend St David's Day Reception, House of Lords

DEM: Mr Cope addresses Colchester Business Enterprise Agency AGM

DEM: Mr Nicholls visits Equal Opportunities Commission, Manchester

DEN: Mr Morrison visits the National Hyperbaric Centre and the Wood Group, Aberdeen

DHSS: Lord Skelmersdale attends meeting of Linnean Society, Burlington House, London

DTP: Mr Bottomley addresses the International Bridge Symposium, Institution of Civil Engineers, London

FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses lunch given by the Russell Partnership, London

HMT: Mr Brooke addresses the Federation of Recruitment Employment Services

HO: Lord Ferrers visits West Midlands Police

HO: Mr Renton addresses Radio Academy on Broadcasting

MAFF: Baroness Trumpington addresses British Frankophone Business Group conference

MOD: Lord Trefgarne addresses "The Defence Market you are Missing" Conference, CBI, Centre Point

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DEM: Mr Fowler visits USA (to 2 March)

DEM: Mr Cope addresses Colchester Business Enterprise Agency AGM

DEN: Mr Morrison visits the National Hyperbaric Centre, Aberdeen

DES: Lady Hooper attends the European Community Council meeting (to 27 February)

DTI: Mr Maude visits Bonn

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DHSS: Mr Portillo appears on Question Time

OAL: Mr Luce appears on two part Granada TV programme on the arts in the North West (second part 3 March)

TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Who Owns Britain?": BBC Radio 4 (9.30). Series, examining who owns what, looks at second home ownership. (Repeated next Wednesday.)

"Business Daily": Channel 4 (12.00)

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

"The Parliament Programme": Channel 4 (14.00)

"Women: The Way Ahead": Channel 4 (13.00). Second of 5 programmes looking at women returning to work after having families

"The Sharp End": Channel 4 (18.30). Series about work

"The Education Programme": BBC 2 (19.30) looks at what it's like as a new teacher

"Out of Court": BBC 2 (20.00) meets a student who claims he's failed his exams because his results were too good to be true

"Analysis": BBC Radio 4 (20.15). "The Third Age" wonders how Britain will cope with an ageing population (repeated Friday)

"Nature": BBC 2 (20.30). New series on environment, looks at the effects of industry on the Highlands

"This Week": ITV (20.30) studies the case of a woman who killed herself after problems with benefit claims

"40 Minutes": BBC 2 (21.30) follows a nurse who leaves the NHS for a job in the US

"Question Time": BBC 1 (22.00) with Shirley Goodwin, the General Secretary of the Health Visitors Association and MPs Michael Meacher, Michael Portillo and Sir Russell Johnston

"The City Programme": ITV (22.35)

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

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.40)
