

MAIN EVENTS

7 MARCH 1988

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh attend a special preview of the Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition, Earls Court

Inner Cities White Paper news conference, London

EC: European Parliament Plenary, Strasbourg (to 11 March)

EC: ECOFIN Council, Brussels

EC: Agriculture Council, Brussels (to 8 March)

EC: European Consumers lunchtime meeting, London

Falklands reinforcement Exercise Fire Focus begins

STATISTICS

DTI: Retail sales (Jan: final)

DTI: Credit business (Jan)

PUBLICATIONS

DHSS: BMA survey on acute sector funding

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Energy; Transport; Wales

Business: Debate on a Government Motion on the Privatisation of the Electricity Supply Industry.
Motion on the Wages (Northern Ireland) Order.
Motion on the Customs Duties (ECSC) (Quota and other reliefs)

Adjournment Debate: By-passes in Ayrshire (Mr G. Foulkes)

Select Committees: PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Subject: The Northern Ireland Comptroller and Auditor General's Report on the Northern Ireland Appropriation Accounts 1986-87: Paragraphs 174-202, 203-217, 154-173
Witnesses: Mr Alan Elliot, Permanent Secretary, Department of Health and Social Service for Northern Ireland, Mr J H Parkes, CB, Permanent Secretary, Department of Education for Northern Ireland

Lords: Starred Questions
Employment Bill: Committee (1st Day)
Betting, Gaming and Lotteries (Amendment) Bill (HL): Committee

PRESS DIGEST

MAIN NEWS

Three IRA terrorists, one a woman, shot dead in Gibraltar after planting car bomb outside Governor's residence.

Sun says SAS were responsible.

Tom King challenges Sinn Fein to ask themselves where support for IRA is leading them.

NUM vote 58-42% to end overtime ban; Scargill says he won't talk about six-day working. Scargill crushed - Mail which bemoans the painfully slow education of the NUM.

Ford plan to open Dundee factory threatened by TGWU hostility to single union deal with AEU. Norman Willis (TUC) flying to USA to try to save project.

Inner Cities initiatives trailed; Hattersley condemns it in advance as a public relations exercise.

Much hostility to reported D/Transport plan not to prosecute drivers found under the influence as part of survey in Sussex and Warwickshire.

Moves to extend competition among the professions foreshadowed in Green Paper to be published tomorrow.

Lord Young says Government will insist on hard cash for Rover.

Budget Speculation: 10p on cigarettes (Sun); 14p says Mirror; 15p says Today and Mail.

Guardian claims plans for fighting AIDS among drug abusers has been lying around for 2 months awaiting Ministerial decisions.

Plan to sell off hundreds of stately homes which have fallen into disrepair - but D/Environment deny it is to privatise any of country's 450 castles.

David Steel to think it over during Easter whether to stand as leader of SLD.

Linda Bellos removed from executive of London Labour Party and Jeremy Corbyn MP fails to win chairmanship; Kinnock supporters seize control.

Soccer hooligans slash motorist's face after Coventry V. Chelsea game; 80 stitches required.

Much coverage of anniversary of Zeebrugge and remembrance services.

European Fighter Aircraft expected to get go-ahead in mid-May (FT).

Bush wins convincing victory in South Carolina primary - in lead for Super Tuesday's votes in 20 southern states.

Caputo, Argentine Foreign Minister, claims to have forced UK to reduce and delay military manoeuvres in South Atlantic; Independent says exercise is sensible and legitimate; Argentine reaction no surprise.

Waldheim admits on TV he knew about wartime execution of British Commandoes and did nothing about it. Robert Rhodes-James MP accuses him of further lies and deceit.

Violent demonstrations in Tibet and Britain protests about arrest and beating of dissidents invited to a British diplomatic party in Czechoslovakia.

West German submarine crashes into Norwegian oil rig from which 320 are evacuated.

David Blunkett MP separates from wife.

Mark Thatcher in row over car parking at Polo Club reception for Duke and Duchess of York after confusion over who was chauffeur.

Today praises you for tearing up your credit card after being told your credit limit had been raised.

INNER CITIES

Sun: Mrs T's big land sell off - you will today start £100bn (sic) sale of public land.

Today: Inner Cities drive begins. You will launch your crusade to find private go-getters who can breathe new life into inner cities.

Express: Maggie launches aid for the cities - giving your own personal stamp of approval for the crusade to regenerate inner cities.

Telegraph: A crackdown on slum landlords, with powers for councils to confiscate rents and spend them on improving properties, to be announced today.

Guardian: Inner City aid to centre on private enterprise; feature says Action for Cities is no more than a glossy repackaging of existing policy.

Independent: "Thatcher launches high profile line on inner cities policy". You will this morning hold your first official press conference on a domestic issue in an attempt to bolster Government policy on inner cities.

Times: You will unveil your proposals for revitalising the inner cities with Hattersley describing them as a "ragbag of worn out ideas".

Times: Left wing Camden Council to use property boom to avert financial crisis by signing deal with property developer guaranteeing council a share of the profit.

FT: You are to unveil wide-ranging Government plans for rejuvenating Britain's inner cities. A glossy brochure will mainly highlight latest developments in existing programmes together with a few new items.

FT P1: North East England has run out of factory space for inward investors on existing businesses that want to expand. Companies are being turned away in spite of unemployment rates ranging from 12-20 per cent.

IRELAND/IRA

Sun says events in Gibraltar made it a good day for law and order.

Express calls the BBC's decision to stop broadcasting an RUC 'phone number for people to supply information about terrorists as appalling. It says it compromises their non-sectarian stance and makes them appear too close to Government. A scandalous decision.

Times says Tory MPs appalled by IRA taking campaign outside mainland Britain; Irish MPs demand immediate release of six people detained in London under Prevention of Terrorism Act.

BUDGET

Sun: Britain has never had a Prime Minister quite like you. You declare governments are judged by how much money they leave for the taxpayer to spend himself. You are preparing for the most exciting Budget in modern times.

Today says Chancellor must be relishing his task. But he should think in terms of 30p on a packet of cigarettes.

Telegraph says you paved the way for a tax cutting Budget in your speech to the Party's local government conference.

Guardian: Thatcher still unswerving on tax cuts - supporters confident of cut in top rate and 2p cut in standard rate.

Times: Pressure increasing on Chancellor to restore economic confidence in Britain with his Budget, as latest opinion poll shows voters are increasingly pessimistic about the economy; Chancellor will announce measures to boost savings alongside income tax cuts in Budget.

POLITICS

Sun feature likens Kinnock to Eddie the Eagle - everybody's favourite personality who desperately wants to succeed but will always come last. His performance over NATO summit clumsy and self destructive. And, according to David Owen, voters have made up their mind Kinnock is not the stuff of what Prime Ministers are made. Once that happens it is virtually impossible to row back.

Express leader asks if the SLD could have received a worse piece of news than that Steel is the favourite with the voters to lead it. Perhaps the only comfort for the SLD is that the survey was of all voters; they would naturally want Steel as the surest guarantee that SLD will be no threat to your fourth term.

Express feature on the remarkable revival that is breathing new vigour into the nation's inner city wastelands.

Independent: Owen is prepared to put up "wrecking" candidates against the new SLD at the next election if they refuse to agree an electoral pact on the number of seats each party fights.

Independent: A change in the law to give workers the right and the power to set up collective share ownership schemes in all limited liability companies is being considered by Labour leaders.

FT: Cost of Lord Young's promotions at DTI expected to be £13.3m in the current financial year - as much as in the previous five years combined. There has been a fourfold increase in overall Government spending on promotion in three years to about £100m. Labour MPs suspect party political purposes.

DRINK/DRIVE

Today says nothing can justify the D/Transport's latest bright idea for studying the habits of drunk drivers. Why do we need a survey: Instead, Peter Bottomley should crack down hard at once.

Express: A dangerous decision. Prospect is breathtaking. The Department should call the whole thing off.

Mail: Seldom have we heard of such a legally dubious scheme promoted by a Government Department. The whole prospect is fraught with embarrassment and equivocation. The Government should scrap it.

Times: Chief Constables deny Department of Transport survey is amnesty for drunken drivers; Roland Boyes MP's Bill to reduce alcohol level at which drinking and driving becomes an offence to come before Commons later this month.

LAW AND ORDER

Times: Home Office Ministers planning radical changes of punishment with young offenders doing more community work.

Times: Horseferry Road Magistrates' Chief Clerk says he was surprised at speed Mrs Lawson's drink-driving case was processed and denies his staff were involved in attempted cover-up.

John Patten, writing in Times, urges a cool assessment of electronic tagging and other ideas for penal reform now being considered by Government.

NHS

Today says you have declared war on surgeons who shirk NHS duties to make fortunes out of private patients.

Independent starts a five-part series by Nicholas Timmins on health care services in other countries.

EDUCATION

Independent: The welfare of the nation's children is being sacrificed on the altar of the Government's inflexible ideological beliefs, Lord Callaghan warned. He will oppose opting out in Lords.

Independent: Rhodes Boyson highly critical of new GCSE, while the Conservative Education Association attacks "ignorant Colonel Blimps" who denigrated the exam without understanding it.

INDUSTRY

Independent: Ministers will face intense pressure in the Commons tonight to intervene in the bitter row between the South of Scotland Electricity Board and British Coal over the Board's decision to import coal.

Times: British Coal says NUM rejection of overtime ban indicates that miners do not want confrontation; Scargill says result was no surprise; leader welcomes miners' realism but says it provides no more than short-term relief for British Coal. It calls for active cooperation by all sides to save the industry from a slow death.

Independent: Peter Hennessy looks at Lord Young's strategy: Minister with a mission.

FT: UK car and commercial vehicle exports increased by just under 50% last year; and car production rose by over 12%, according to SMMT statistics.

FT: DTI Green Paper on competition policy, due for publication tomorrow, will propose wide-ranging powers for OFT to investigate suspected price-fixing and other restrictive business cartels.

SOVIET UNION

Times: Ethnic crisis facing Kremlin highlighted in Moscow by one of the most serious gang fights in recent years.

Times: Soviet-Iran relations suffer serious blow by Soviet Foreign Minister issuing strongly worded protest over attack on Soviet Embassy in Tehran.

EC

Times: EC foreign ministers study possible reprisals against Botha.

BERNARD INGHAM

DEM: Mr Fowler attends Inner Cities function, QEll Conference Centre, London; later launches Action for Jobs Midlands, as part of Inner Cities visit to Birmingham

MOD: Mr Younger addresses WEU Symposium, QE II Conference Centre, London

SO: Mr Rifkin holds Inward Investment news conference, New St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

WO: Mr Walker tours Merthyr Tydfil and opens new factory extension, TSB Ltd; later launches Brightside Environmental Initiative for Christopher Chataway's Groundwork Foundation, Merthyr Tydfil

DES: Mrs Rumbold visits Nene College, Northampton

DES: Lady Hooper attends the Further Education Unit's Annual Board Seminar, Ascot; later launches a national scheme to update vets, London

DES: Mr Jackson visits Sheffield University and opens Transporter Centre, later attends dinner at Irish Embassy in honour of the British Association of Irish Studies

DOE: Mr Waldegrave addresses the National Association of Estate Agents, House of Commons

DOE: Mr Trippier visits Barnsley (inner cities)

DOE: Mr Moynihan addresses City of London School, on sport and international politics

MAFF: Mr Thompson visits Rea Valley Meats, Shrewsbury

ODA: Mr Patten launches British Aid Video, British Academy of Film and Television Arts, (BAFTA), London

SO: Mr Lang addresses Industrial Society, Glasgow; later launches Business Guide for Royal Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh

WO: Mr Roberts attends Executive Staff Luncheon, Barclays Bank Plc, Cardiff

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

MAFF: Mr MacGregor attends Agriculture Council, Brussels (to 9 March)

DTP: Mr Mitchell attends Urban Mass Transit Conference, Marriott Hotel, New Orleans (to 11 March)

MAFF: Mr Gummer visits Alimentaria Food Exhibition, Barcelona

DTI: Lord Young interviewed for the Money Programme, BBC TV
WO: Mr Walker interviewed by Miss Takashina, BBC External Services
on Changing Britain
HO: Mr Renton visits Ocean Sound Radio, Portsmouth

TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)
"Money Box": BBC Radio 4 (10.00) looks at latest developments in insurance, investment, and social security questions
"You and Yours": BBC Radio 4 (12.00)
"Business Daily": Channel 4 (12.00)
"The World at One": BBC Radio 4 (13.00)
"Advice Shop": BBC 2 (16.00): looks at fresh starts for women in the workplace
"PM": BBC Radio 4 (17.00)
"Promises and Piecrust": Channel 4 (18.30): 'The Great Majority' fourth of 7 programmes, looks at how school leavers' attitudes to work have changed.
"Horizon": BBC 2 (20.10) 'Purple Warrior: rules of engagement' follows a Navy exercise in the South Atlantic (first of two programmes, repeated Sunday)
"World in Action": ITV (20.30). Alcohol abuse
"Panorama": BBC 1 (21.30) on the battle for the US Republican Presidential nomination
"The World Tonight": BBC Radio 4 (22.30) followed by "The Financial World Tonight" then "Today in Parliament"
"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.50)
"Business Matters": BBC 1 (23.00). 'A tale of two mills' on attempts to revive a textile mill in Bradford
