

8 March 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen holds an Investiture at Buckingham Palace; in the evening attends, with the Duke of Edinburgh, a Reception to mark the 175th Anniversary of the first concert given by the Royal Philharmonic Society, Royal Institution, London

EC: Industry Council, Brussels

International meeting on the Global Impact of AIDS, London (to 10 March)

ILEA demonstrations against abolition

MOD: News conference for Exercise Fire Focus, Falkland Islands

Super-Tuesday primaries and caucuses, USA

STATISTICS

OPCS: Mid 1985-based population projections for health authority areas

OPCS: Legal Abortions: Sept Qtr 1987

OPCS: Electoral Statistics 1987

PUBLICATIONS

DES: HMI Interim Report on GCSE

DTI: Restrictive Trade Practices Green Paper

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Social Services; Education and Science; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Scottish Constitution (Referendum)
Estimates Day (1st allotted day): Debate on Estimates relating to the Storm Damage Recovery Scheme 1987 and to Assistance to the Coal Industry. Details will be given in the Official Report.
Motion on the General Assistance Grants (Abolition) (Northern Ireland) Order.
At 10.00 pm the Question will be put on all Outstanding Supplementary Estimates and Votes.

Adjournment Debate: Government monitoring of Derbyshire County Council spending levels (Mr P McLoughlin)

Select Committees: PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION
Subject: Reports of the Health Service Commissioner
Witnesses: DHSS officials

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL
London Docklands Railway (Beckton)

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Lords: Starred Questions
Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency Bill: Committee (? to
be discharged)
Employment Bill: Committee (2nd Day)
Unemployment Benefit (Disqualification Period) Order 1988:
Motion for Approval

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

Search goes on in Spain and Gibraltar for car with bomb in it and fourth IRA person widely reported to be Evelyn Glenholmes.

Violence erupts in Roman Catholic areas of West Belfast and UDA leader, Andy Tyrrie, escapes death after spotting booby trap bomb under car.

Guardian says IRA morale sinks to lowest point after losing 18 in 12 months.

Today says you have abandoned a visit to Belfast today to launch an inner city drive.

Row over BBC's decision to close down hotline used for listeners to help RUC with tip-offs.

Good coverage for innercities initiative and wide welcome for approach, though Mirror, Guardian, Independent and FT critical.

Labour dismisses exercise as "presentation devoid of any real substance".

Government allows £ to rise - queries over whether policy has changed.

Bush heads for Super Tuesday triumph in Southern states.

Telegraph says Nicholas Ridley has lost his fight with Treasury to win extra cash to ease impact of unified business rate.

Sir Robert Haslam tells NUM that unless they drop confrontation policy 20,000 jobs will go. No longer a social service. Militants cost £100m in coal profits.

NUM to get 4.28% pay rise with no backdating.

Threat of a strike at Vauxhall's seven plants later this will over pensions.

Rail dispute over safety of brakes settled.

Labour moderates fear hard Left could win control of Inland Revenue Staff Federation.

Nicholas Goodison to become chairman of TSB; Sun says he resigned from Stock Exchange because of its campaign to get rid of him for

ignoring growing complaints against computerised share dealing system. He says its time to do something new.

Election in autumn for Goodison's successor at Stock Exchange.

Six Panama Embassy officials use Land Rover to smash their way into their own consulate in London in support of Noriega and against supporters of ousted President.

Seven prisoners, two accused of murder, on run after breaking out of cells in Battersea police station. Home Secretary orders inquiry.

Number of prisoners in police cells reached record levels at weekend.

Man killed and three seriously injured in two shootings by maniac with shotgun in Hackney and Bishop's Stortford.

BMS says NHS needs a £300m transfusion just to keep ticking over.

Case of the Jobcentre in Edmonton, North London, which had to close yesterday because there was no one to man it - shortage of staff notices go up; two on leave; two sick and two taking industrial action. One couldn't cope.

Government's pay inspectors say food shops, hotels, restaurants, pubs and hairdressers are worst for paying staff too little; 4,443 inspections of workplaces last year but only 8 prosecutions (Mirror).

Australian Appeal Court to hear Wright case today.

Francis Maude's mother accuses D/Transport of gross injustice in the way it treats householders in way of road improvements.

Speaker says David Alton guilty of 'unacceptable conduct' with tactics used in anti-abortion campaign.

John Home Robertson MP, Labour's law and order spokesman, alleged to have thrown a punch at Malcolm Rifkind at end of electricity privatisation debate (Sun) but Home Robertson denies it.

Fiona Fullerton claims to have had an affair with an unnamed Tory MP; Mail finds it a strange coincidence that she has just started filming a TV drama in which she plays wife of Cabinet Minister.

Britain resisting EC plan to harmonise car registration plates.

Argentine goes on defensive alert as Falklands reinforcement

exercise begins.

3 Arab gunmen who hijacked a bus shot dead by Israelis; claims that they first murdered 3 passengers.

Express feature describes Waldheim as "a cog in the genocide machine".

GIBRALTAR/IRA

Star: There will be howls of protest from Irish Republicans over killing of the three terrorists because they were unarmed and car did not contain explosives. The evil monsters got what they deserved.

Sun: Who can blame troops for shooting them? It does not matter that they were unarmed or that there was no bomb in the suspect car. The moral for the IRA is a simple one: if they don't want to be killed they should not try to kill others.

Express: A tremendous boost to morale of security services. This episode has proved that the fight against international terrorism can succeed.

Times leader supports action taken in Gibraltar, saying sufficient members of security forces have been killed and injured in such interceptions for their surviving colleagues to know that, if their initial challenge is ignored, their lives are under threat.

Mail: All credit to SAS and praise for Spanish security services. Terror knows no frontier. That is why war against it must be international and why this week's deadly blow against IRA is so encouraging.

Independent P1 lead: IRA describes mission of trio killed in Gibraltar. In planning the Gibraltar attack, the IRA had clearly hoped to take the authorities off-balance. The security forces are bracing themselves for a new campaign in Northern Ireland using heavy weaponry imported from Libya; leader says the circumstances surrounding the shooting remain unacceptably obscure, and the statement by the Foreign Secretary did little to clarify the situation. Such behaviour makes it all too easy for the IRA to make capital even from defeat. It will reopen worries about the existence of a shoot to kill policy. An inquiry will be needed to test Foreign Secretary's claim that plain-clothes service personnel had no alternative but to shoot.

Telegraph leader says an explanation is needed. Government must tell why it gave a succession of contradictory accounts and why it was necessary to shoot dead the three terrorists. In recent months there has been at the very least a serious failure of presentation on Irish affairs.

INNER CITIES

Sun: P2: Maggie's job boost to save inner cities. No new cash.

Star P6: Maggie's £3bn cash lift for cities.

Mirror P2: Maggie blunders on cities crusade. You torpedo launch by admitting there are no new policies or new money. Leader headed: "Ghetto bluster" says you announced a new campaign but it adds up to next to nothing. The great revival is a cheat, a con, a cosmetic to hide the ugly face and lack of soul of Thatcherism.

Today's leader page contains a new feature £10bn blueprint for an inner city dream.

Express P1: Maggie crusade to boost cities. P9 devoted to explaining measures. Leader headed "A great chance for inner cities" says the Labour Party has predictably jeered at Action for Cities. Its great virtue is that it puts the emphasis where it belongs - on local people who will be given opportunities.

Times P1: You announce a dozen new initiatives in drive to end inner city urban blight. Paper devotes half a page setting out the £3bn programme; leader describes it as a workmanlike package of policies but says it would be an advantage to the Government if it could avoid excluding elected councillors and instead win them over to its side.

FT P1: Government unveils plans for regeneration of inner cities, revealing them to be a more coordinated version of existing policies. Good coverage on inside page describing individual measures. Leader, under the heading "Flawed plan for inner cities," says the announcement is strong on presentation but weak on new ideas or new money. As a whole, the package is shallow. This is principally for ideological reasons: the Government has a profound distaste for local authorities. A better solution would be to reform local government, which has not been done. Other government policies, such as community charge, housing and the new social security regime, are likely to do more damage to the immediate interests of many of the worst-off inhabitants of the inner cities than yesterday's measures are to do good.

Mail P2: Maggie swings into action on inner cities. P15 devoted to measures. Leader says you scorn grandiose planners of yesteryear. You are systematically undermining what you see as the last citadels of Socialism. Private enterprise is your answer to demoralisation and dereliction of inner cities. Beneath the promotional gloss there was discernible more than a little Thatcherite grit. Our inner cities certainly have need of it.

Independent P1: You fail to offer new money; set a 10-year timetable for the renewal of the inner cities with a glossily-packaged programme which included a dozen minor announcements but no new policies and no new money.

Telegraph P1: £3bn boost for inner cities. Devotes whole of P6 to measures. Leader headed "timely action" says while easy to dismiss as triumph of style over substance, the initiative is of considerable importance. Overall the package appears well tailored to capitalise on climate of recovery.

Guardian P1: Prime Minister's inner city crusade banks on private sector. P7 devoted to measures. Leader headed "When a package isn't a strategy" says there was no major initiative on inner cities yesterday; no White Paper; no new strategy. Instead some useful but modest extension to the present piecemeal programme.

Hugo Young's article, in Guardian, headed "The shameless hype of inner cities policy is a way of saying thanks to the developers".

NUM

Sun leader says Scargill has done as much harm to miners as generals in 194-18 war did to their troops. There is only one course for sensible miners - leave NUM and join UDM.

INDUSTRY

Times: T&GWU elect Dan Duffy, regarded as hard-Left, as chairman.

Times: Institute of Manpower Studies report shows companies are looking for "macho" image in their best managers.

Times: Merchant banker, Christopher Heath, keeps position of Britain's highest paid director with a £2.5m salary.

Times: EC may block BAe takeover of Rover because of Government's plans to write off debts.

FT: British aerospace industry achieves record trade surplus of £2.4bn in 1987 - an increase of £500m over the previous year.

FT: Enterprise Oil finds new oil field in the North Sea off Aberdeen. The Nelson field is one of the largest oil finds by a British independent exploration and production company, though small in comparison to the large finds of a decade ago.

Times: EC calls for penalty tax on Japanese electronic typewriters made in Britain and France after finding that local content is too low.

Independent: Employers have drawn up a secret contingency plan to treat an all-out ports strike as part of their campaign to scrap the National Dock Labour Scheme.

ECONOMY

FT: Government bows to currency market pressure and allows pound to rise. Despite Treasury assurances of no change in policy, City analysts see move as a major change raising doubts over Government's resolve to maintain sterling's value within a fairly narrow range and over the extent to which it would support the currency if it fell. Leader says that, in the absence of full membership of the EMS, the Chancellor need so remove the ambiguities in his policy by re-establishing a nominal framework in his Budget speech. If he does not, the Government could face more in flation in the medium term and more unemployment in the long term.

Times: Strong growth in consumer credit continued in January as retail sales boomed.

Times: Incomes Data Services report that skill shortage, most acute in engineering, being exacerbated by lack of training and house prices, which prevent workers in areas of high unemployment moving to the South-East.

Independent: The Government policy of keeping pound stable on foreign exchanges suffered a setback yesterday as the Bank of England abandoned attempts to hold sterling below its unofficial ceiling against the Mark.

POLITICS

T E Utley, writing in **Times**, under the heading "Thatcher's natural allies" discusses the Tory situation in Scotland, saying it is admirable that the party has not been stampeded into any radical

and ill-thought out bid for the recovery of lost ground there. He concludes that you must not be conned into the belief that Scottish culture is historically biased against Thatcherism. On the contrary, the Scots believe in thrift and hard work on a scale which makes hearts of most Englishmen pale. You have a lot going for you there, if you and your Ministers have the courage to evoke it under the banner of Unionism.

NHS

Times: BMA claims that cuts in health service led to more than 3,000 bed closures last year and thousands of cancelled operations and out-patient appointments.

Times: COHSE nurses at Lewisham, St Thomas's and Maudsley Hospitals vote for 24-hour strike next Monday; Guys and King's College being balloted.

Independent: Nicholas Timmins' survey of other countries' health care starts with Denmark. Although they appear to have a good NHS, the system is made up with 17% private spending on drugs, dentistry etc.

Independent: William Rees-Mogg writes on NHS under heading: Why radical solutions are needed to cure the crisis in hospital care.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Nicholas Scott, writing in Times, discusses the social security changes which he sees as promoting efficiency and benefiting those most in need.

EDUCATION

Independent: The University Grants Committee has proposed four-tier classification of earth science, identifying a small number of institutions as leaders in the field and downgrading others.

LAW AND ORDER

Times: Law Society says restrictive practices of legal profession should be swept away to allow solicitors to become High Court and Court of Appeal judges.

EAST/WEST

Independent: Peter Jenkins says you have seemed to be in some confusion about how exactly to assess Mr Gorbachev. You are not the only one. Last week's NATO summit brought the alliance no nearer to a coherent appraisal of the Soviet leader or to a policy for dealing with him.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- WO: Mr Walker visits Gwynedd Health Authority and meets Gwynedd County Council
- DEM: Mr Nicholls visits Mutual Aid Centre, Managing Agency, CP project, Romford
- DEM: Mr Lee attends Cleanest City prizegiving at International Cleaning Exhibition, Olympia
- DES: Mr Jackson dines with John Butcher MP and Professor Burnett of Warwick University, House of Commons
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits the Ideal Home Exhibition, London; later attends reception at Japanese Embassy
- DES: Lady Hooper has lunch for the Guatemalan Vice President; Sir Geoffrey Howe attends; later courtesy call from the Gambian Minister of Education
- DHSS: Mr Newton opens London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medical/WHO/DHSS Global Impact of AIDS conference
- DHSS: Lord Skelmersdale visits Eastman Dental Hospital
- DTI: Mr Maude addresses Institute of Economics Affairs on Morality in the City
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington visits Chinese Vice-Minister of Commerce, Mr He, London
- ODA: Mr Patten visits Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine, Edinburgh and takes part in debate on aid, at Teviot Row Union, Edinburgh University

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTI: Lord Young addresses American Chamber of Commerce lunch
- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe departs for Luxembourg to give Churchill Memorial lecture (to 9 March)
- MAFF: Mr Gummer attends Agriculture Council, Brussels

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DEM: Mr Fowler gives local radio interview and phone-in for Pebble Mill TV, Birmingham
- LCD: Lord Mackay lunches with editor and senior staff at the Guardian
-

TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

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

"Daytime on Two": BBC 2 (11.35) 'Getting to grips with racism'. The representation of black people in the media.

"Business Daily": Channel 4 (12.00)

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

"The World at One": BBC Radio 3 (13.00)

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

"In Business": BBC Radio 4 (16.05) looks at the quality of British Management

"PM": BBC Radio 4 (17.00)

"File on Four": BBC Radio 4 (19.20) The second of two programmes on the NHS - how efficiently is the money spent?

"Reporting London": ITV (19.30):

"The Media Show": Channel 4 (21.00). New series. Has the COI become the Government's propaganda machine?

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.50)

"The World Tonight": BBC Radio 4 (23.30) followed by "The Financial World Tonight: then "Today in Parliament".

"Super Tuesday": Channel 4 (02.00) A round-up in a key day at the polls for the US presidential candidates.
