

9 March 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister hosts a reception for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The Duke of Edinburgh attends receptions for young people who have reached the Gold Standard in Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, St James Palace

DOE: Statement on Enterprise Zones

PER Privatisation

Unions lobby Parliament on NHS

Launch of Home Office Crime Prevention Campaign

National No Smoking Day

DEN: Mr Parkinson appears before the Energy Select Committee on privatisation of electricity supply

STATISTICS

DEM: Detailed analysis of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators

OPCS: Cancer Registrations 1984

PUBLICATIONS

OAL: Report by Minister for the Arts on library and information matters during 1987

CO: "Plain English" booklet, Making it Plain

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Trade and Industry; Environment; Scotland

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Gaming Machines (Prohibition on use by persons under sixteen)
Local Government Bill: Consideration of Lords Amendments.
Motion on the Rate Support Grant Supplementary Report (England) (No 4) 1983-84.
Motion relating to the Electricity Generating Stations and Overhead Lines (Inquiries Procedures) Rules.

Adjournment Debate: Safety on the A1(M) in the North East
(Mr G Steinberg)

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Select Committees:

WELSH AFFAIRS

Subject: Inward Investment in Wales

Witnesses: Committee of Welsh District Councils;
Welsh Counties Committee

ENERGY

Subject: The Structure, Regulation and Economic
Consequences of Electricity Supply in the Private
SectorWitness: Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson, MP, Secretary of
State for Energy

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS

Subject: Aspects of the Government's Expenditure
White Paper relating to Education and ScienceWitnesses: Rt Hon Kenneth Baker, MP, Secretary of
State for Education and Science and officials from
the Department

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: Urban Development Corporations

Witnesses: Rt Rev. J Thompson, the Bishop of
Stepney; Manpower Services Commission officials

HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Broadcasting

Witnesses: British Satellite Broadcasting; Rank
Organisation

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: The Annual Statement on the major defence
projects; control and management of the development
of major equipmentWitness: Mr Peter Levene, Chief of Defence
Procurement, Ministry of Defence

ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Air Pollution

Witness: Imperial Chemical Industries

TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE

Subject: Duties and responsibilities of civil
servants in relation to MinistersWitness: Sir Robin Butler, Head of the Home Civil
ServiceJOINT COMMITTEE

PRIVATE BILL PROCEDURE

Witness: Society of Parliamentary Agents

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL

London Docklands Railway (Beckton)

Lords: Starred QuestionsDebate to call attention to the role of energy generation in
sustaining the growth and expansion of the British economy.UQ to ask HMG whether they will promote an international
conference on the conflict in Palestine.

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

George Bush wins convincingly in Southern States and believes he is on way to becoming President.

Spanish police find car with 220lbs of explosives inside it at Marbella. Timing device with it but not connected - set at time of Changing the Guard parade.

Biggest crowd for a long time at Rock's ceremony yesterday.

Four Irish people served with exclusion orders from UK.

Irish Government "gravely perturbed" over shooting of unarmed terrorists - as are some Labour MPs; David Owen calls for inquiry. Alarm over shootings in Euro Parliament.

Threat to turn burial of 3 IRA bombers into stage managed "martyrs funeral".

IRA calls on British Government to declare itself to be at war with Republican movement.

Star says IRA were also planning a blitz on London as part of a propaganda coup to restore morale.

Pound soars after you tell Commons a cut in interest rates would not be consistent with fighting inflation. Andrew Alexander (Mail) describes your remarks as extraordinarily candid.

Oxfam workers, including Briton, released from captivity in Lebanon. Briton says he was to blame - arrested for taking photos. Mail says he is very lucky and was foolhardy.

Seven Panamanian Embassy staff charged after storming their own premises. Ambassador seeks diplomatic immunity.

Kenneth Baker announces inquiry into classroom violence.

HMI back new GCSE.

Welcome for DTI Green Paper proposals for new legal framework regulating competition, including in professions.

Deadly martial arts weapons to be outlawed as part of drive against street crime.

Teacher charged with shotgun deaths of 2 people 30 miles apart brings calls for more gun controls. But Government retreats in Commons over curbs on semi-automatic weapons; police worried.

Lord Young confirms he will write off Rover debts to facilitate quick sell off to B/Aerospace.

B/Rail threatens to sack and sue train drivers if they strike over nurses' pay at King's Cross on Monday.

Deadlock continues in Rover strike.

Kuwait back in the market for more of BP.

Only 9% of shoppers surveyed by Options magazine praise service in stores; complaints of rude assistants, long queues and petty irritations.

TV-AM ends right of Aitken family and a group of Saudi Arabian shareholders to vote on company's affairs.

Times: Syria publicly rejects Shultz peace initiative. Coming after Monday's PLO bus hijacking and Shamir's delay of a decision on the initiative, this appears to have made it almost impossible for the initiative to start as planned next month.

FT: Chirac calls for France to play bigger NATO role but avoids spelling out his ideas in detail.

Michael Heseltine, in Telegraph, wants us to pursue our European destiny with connections through WEU, within exchange rate mechanism and by internal market without being alarmed by fiscal diversions or constitutional booby traps.

Keele University strips Waldheim of his honorary degree.

Egypt considering legal action to recover Tutankhamun artefacts found at ancestral home of Lord Caernarvon.

PLO blamed after battered and bound body of Arab policeman found in a refugee camp; believed to have murdered him for "collaboration" with Israel.

Nancy Reagan to have operation of skin cancer of lip.

IRELAND

Express leader headed "Time Maggie gave Haughey a nudge" calls Haughey's statement "astonishing and dishonest" for a "supposedly

responsible Government". Describing the bombers as "unarmed Irish people" is as misleading as calling Peter Sutcliffe as "a bearded Yorkshireman". Presumably the Irish Government would have had no complaints if the shootings had taken place after the bomb had gone off.

Guardian says it is always suspect when people in distant armchairs challenge the conduct of soldiers involved in a war with a ruthless enemy. But we need to be told why so much information pumped out of Sunday proved to be frail.

Times P1 lead: Explosives in third IRA car found in Spain. Increasing political and diplomatic tension in the wake of the shootings, and demands growing in Gibraltar for a public inquiry. But the Government has defended the shootings, saying the operation had been very tightly controlled.

Independent: Government rejected demands from Opposition parties for an inquiry into the Gibraltar shooting. You were loudly supported by Tory MPs when you congratulated the security services.

ECONOMY

Sun heralds the rising pound. It says German and Japanese built their success on a strong currency. We should be cheering from the roof tops.

Times: Thatcher lets the pound rise towards two dollars. You overrule Chancellor and force change of policy. You also give a further boost to sterling by ruling out interest rate cuts or heavy foreign exchange intervention. Leader says the decision to allow the pound to float upwards is the right choice made in the wrong way. The Chancellor must now spell out more clearly his monetary objectives. The best way would be entry into the EMS, or at least a clear affirmation of the Government's intention with respect to the exchange rate.

FT: Pound surges after Thatcher rules out Government action. Your impromptu words reflect your usual broadbrush instinctive approach on such issues at Questions, rather than a carefully prepared statement agreed beforehand with the Treasury.

INDUSTRY

Times: British Rail announces seven year programme to give £160m facelift to its 935 Network South East stations.

Times: Port employers announce package of measures to persuade Government to end National Dock Labour Scheme. However you have so far resisted pressure to end the scheme and Department of Employment say there are no plans to change the policy. Leader describes the scheme as a blatant anachronism and calls for it to be scrapped. It appreciates the risk of a general ports strike, but believes it might be possible to continue for existing and aging employees but not for new ones.

FT. Paul Channon expected to tell port operators today that the Government is considering ways of allowing trust ports to tap private capital.

Independent: Figures which would help explain clusters of leukaemia cancer near nuclear installations have been withheld by the Scottish Office.

Times: NAC report says that regional industrial aid scheme is open to fraud, is of questionable effectiveness and in some cases is likely to destroy jobs.

Times: Marks and Spencer set to extend its food retailing operation in up to 800 stores in North America.

POLITICS

Sun says if Steel believes, as he says, he is starting "a three year sprint for power," he needs a good psychiatrist.

Independent: Scottish Labour MPs gave a warning of a surge of nationalist feeling and of damage to Parliamentary democracy if the Government fails to keep the Scottish coal mining industry open.

RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES

Independent: Sweeping new legislation to end cartels' power and restrictive practices in business unveiled by Lord Young. The proposals could lead to the biggest shake up yet of the legal, medical and other professions and have a profound impact on business. All-party hostility in the Commons to restrictive practices of lawyers; leader says you should take heart from the ferocity of the opposition. It will be an indication that you are indeed threatening privilege and vested interest. If you succeed in placing strong legislation on the statute book you will have redeemed your reputation as genuine reformer.

FT: Lord Young's new broom finally alights on one of the less glamorous aspects of his department's activities. His proposals have a radical approach suggesting tough powers of search and entry for a restructured OFT. Leader says the Green Paper deserves a warm welcome. Lord Young was right to reject an alternative policy. But it says the new laws will not be effective unless the Government changes its attitude on exemptions.

CLAUSE 29

Independent: Labour leaders were involved in angry dispute over the Clause 29 in Local Government Bill. The clause is to be reviewed by the Commons tonight.

AIDS

Times: WHO say up to 10 million people will be affected by AIDS virus by 1991, with 100,000 suffering from the disease. Researchers estimate cost of care and prevention will cost European countries £3bn a year; and in Britain there will be a rapid increase in the number of children with AIDS.

Times: Government-commissioned Wagner committee calls for vouchers to buy community care for people with special needs.

NHS

Independent: You hinted in the Commons that more health service cash could be targeted at areas calculated to reduce waiting lists.

LAW AND ORDER

Times leader on banning of offensive weapons, says the list is both welcome and overdue, though it questions whether the measures go far enough, for example giving the police the powers to confiscate knives or similar weapons on the spot.

Independent: More riots, escapes and disorder in prisons are inevitable unless the Home Office reduces overcrowding by reopening empty cells, prison officers warned yesterday.

PORTUGAL

FT: You are expected to discuss Portugal's failure to compensate British farmers dispossessed in the 1975 revolution when you meet Portuguese Prime Minister on Friday. The matter casts a shadow over generally good bilateral relations.

SOUTH AFRICA

Times: Britain and US veto UN Security Council resolution calling for new mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa after its recent clamp-down.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler addresses Overseas Women's Club Gala lunch
- DHSS: Mr Moore meets Royal College of Radiologists and Pathologists, Richmond House, London
- DOE: Mr Ridley addresses North London Polytechnic
- DTI: Lord Young opens RNIB Enterprise Fair
- DTp: Mr Channon addresses British Ports Association lunch, London
- HO: Mr Hurd addresses Indian Journalists Association dinner
- DEM: Mr Lee presents Young Chef and Young Waiter of the Year awards, London
- DEM: Mr Nicholls at A F J Nottingham launch
- DEM: Mr Cope visits the North East
- DEN: Mr Spicer addresses the British Cable Makers Confederation dinner, London
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits Grove Primary School and Cambridge College of Further Education, Cambridge
- DES: Mr Jackson has meeting with John Drew of UK office of Commission of Euro Communities; later receives courtesy call from the Japanese Minister of Science
- DES: Mr Dunn lunches with Gambian Minister of Education, Lancaster House; later with Mrs Currie (DHSS) visits Hayes Comprehensive School, Bromley to address school assembly about National No Smoking day
- DHSS: Mrs Currie addresses King's Fund Course for District Health Promotion, Education Offices, London
- DHSS: Mr Newton attends launch of Essex Health Authority promotion bus
- DOE: Mr Trippier visits Portsmouth (inner cities)
- DOE: Mr Chope attends local Government annual conference, Stafford; later visits Armitage Shanks, Stafford
- DOE: Mr Moynihan visits Severn Trent Water Authority
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave attends key handover ceremony at Hyde Housing Association, St Mary Cray
- DTI: Mr Maude addresses Institute of Credit Management national conference
- DTp: Lord Brabazon receives courtesy call from Mr Stallard, Bermudan Minister of Transport, London
- HO: Mr Hogg visits HM Prison, Maidstone
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses reception for the Mozart Players, London
- ODA: Mr Patten visits the Institute of Aquaculture, Stirling University
- SO: Lord Sanderson, with Mr Gummer (MAFF), meets Sea Fishing Industries Association, Edinburgh

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

WO: Mr Grist addresses Housing Centre Trust, Swansea
WO: Mr Roberts attends dinner hosted by Mr Selwyn Alleyne, Hong Kong Commission, Cardiff

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DES: Lady Hooper departs for Mauritius to celebrate their 20th anniversary of independence (to 14 March)
FCO: Mrs Chalker departs for Strasbourg for European Parliament Plenary Session (to 11 March)

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

WO: Mr Walker interviewed by Jenny Longhurst, South Wales Echo, on stress
DHSS: Mrs Currie appears on "Kilroy" on No Smoking

TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)
"Schools: Teaching CDT": Channel 4 (11.41) - series made at invitation of DES
"Business Daily": Channel 4 (12.00)
"You and Yours": BBC Radio 4 (12.00)
"The World at One": BBC Radio 4 (13.00)
"File on Four": BBC Radio 4 (16.05) Value for money in the NHS (First shown yesterday)
"P.M.": BBC Radio 4 (17.00)
"An Outside Chance": Channel 4 (18.30) looks at non-custodial alternatives to prison. This week, projects dealing with drug addicts.
"In Business": BBC Radio 4 (19.20) repeat of yesterday's programme about the quality of British management.
Comment: Channel 4 (19.50): A Liberal MP speaks in this political slot.
"A Week in Politics": Channel 4 (20.30). Details unavailable at time of going to press.
"The Judges": BBC Radio 4 (20.45) A new series of interviews with judges on aspects of their job. Today the Circuit judge.
"Up North": BBC 2 (22.20). 'Dianne's children'. Hull charity aiming to combat child abuse.
"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.50)
"The World Tonight": BBC Radio 4 (22.30) followed by "The Financial World Tonight" then "Today in Parliament"