

11th  
12 March 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets Portuguese prime Minister,  
Professor Anibal Cavaco Silva

Demise of £1 note

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STATISTICS

BSC/BISPA: Usable steel production (Feb)

CSO: UK Balance of payments (4th Qtr)

DOE: Construction output (4th qtr)

DOE: Digest of Environmental Protection and Water Statistics No 10 1987

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business:      Private Members' Motions  
Mr Patrick Thompson - Engineering  
Mr George J Buckley - Coal Mining Subsidence  
Mr Edward Leigh - Procedure

Adjournment Debate: The case for an increase for the London Borough of  
Newham from central Government funds (Mr R Leighton)

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MINISTERS    -    See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

Much coverage of Royal skiing tragedy in Klosters avalanche. Former equerry to Queen, in party with Prince Charles, killed.

Prince Charles said to have been only inches from death - and to have ignored warnings.

Swiss start inquiry.

Sixty Labour MPs, led by Heffer, describe SAS as "terrorists" for their part in foiling IRA in Gibraltar - embarrassment for Kinnock.

Star says IRA is plotting revenge for Gibraltar shootings with main targets Royal Family and politicians.

Mirror suggests it may cost families £25,000 to fly IRA bodies home, avoiding England.

Police found £6,000 in IRA bombers' car in Spain.

Government will not allow military involved in shootings to give evidence in public.

Labour Party launches non-registration campaign in Scotland against community charge.

Rover Group on way to £27m profit - best figures for a decade - standing by for take off (Express).

BNFL dismisses as 'codswallop' allegations in Star that Sellafield is causing mutations in fish.

Judge orders King's Cross drivers to call off 24 hour strike in support of NHS.

P&O's striking Dover ferrymen face sack next week. Today draws attention to fact that they are out against terms which include 31-week holiday a year - used to 38 weeks.

Mirror alleges you have had a row with the Chancellor over management of currency and interest rates - on top of one with Mr Baker. Telegraph: Prime Minister and Lawson differ on £.

Seven out of 10 members of the public think the NHS needs more money, according to latest Gallup.

Express says ward at Welsh hospital about whose closure Queen Mother complained may reopen; subject of squabbling at hospital.

Suggestions by experts that AIDS has killed nearly twice as many as official figures show.

You launch war for a tidier Britain - ?will people be forced to clean up in front of their own property.

City banker, Lord Spens, charged with offences in connection with the Guinness affair.

Independent P1 lead: Robert Maxwell is expected to take one of the world's most distinguished booksellers, Blackwells, to court today in an attempt to stop the sale of two biographies which he claims libel him.

Waldheim, in TV programme to mark Anschluss, promises to set about moral renewal of Austria. Times: Wartime German intelligence document signed by Waldheim and recounting the capture of 20 Allied soldiers was systematically censored after the war to erase the identity of any survivors. The deletions were made almost certainly by American officials in Washington and provide the first apparent evidence that Americans covered up details of wartime events that involved the future Austrian President.

Hart and Kemp fall by the wayside in Presidential race and even Dole reported to be thinking of pulling out.

Panamanian Ambassador agrees to give up diplomatic immunity; will be questioned by police.

Times: New Zealand government makes fundamental shift in its anti-nuclear policy, acknowledging for the first time the important role that nuclear deterrence has in maintaining world peace.

#### SKIING TRAGEDY

Star: It was a tragedy that should never have happened. Their guides must have been mad or reckless to allow Prince Charles out on that slope.

Mirror says Prince Charles hates being mollycoddled but as the next King he must be safeguarded, if necessary from himself. The Royals have a duty to play it safe.

Express: The tragedy could have been far worse. Prince Charles could have perished.

Mail: Why do so many members of the Royal Family go in for perilous sports? It hopes the adventurous spirit will never be quenched. But could the Queen not ask her offspring to show a little more care for the nation's sake?

#### EDUCATION LETTER

Sun says leak of letter is embarrassing but does no real harm. It shows Kenneth Baker is flirting with a trendy, complex scheme while you rightly prefer old fashioned, simple written tests. Mr Baker needs a lesson in commonsense.

Mail says the leak proves that there is a lively debate within the Government on school exam reform. You have every reason to be anxious that the Government is not taken for a ride and the fact that you are prepared to intervene vigorously when you have doubts should be an occasion not for jeers but for rejoicing. It shows you are on top of your job.

Guardian leader headed "She is asking the right questions", says Labour should think about the fact that the poorest performers will benefit most from the tests.

Times leader looks at national curriculum testing in the light of the leaked letter and concludes that Professor Black's scheme will now have to be simplified.

Independent: Kenneth Baker yesterday signalled his resistance to your concerns over the assessment and testing proposals of the Education Bill. He denied a rift with you over tests. Leader says this is not the first occasion on which you have clashed with your cautious Secretary for Education. A potentially damaging dichotomy seems to be developing between objective testing advocated by you and the subjective judgements about effort and progress which Baker wants.

#### EDUCATION

Independent: Key sections of the Education Bill are unlikely to be implemented before the next general election. Labour says promises made by the Government during last election were empty.

Times: Baker opposes move by Tory MPs to reintroduce corporal punishment in state schools during report stage of the Education Reform Bill. He also faces a separate campaign to outlaw the closed shop enjoyed by the NUS.

ECONOMY

Telegraph takes your side of the currency /interest rates argument and says the Chancellor will be wise to confirm in the Budget that in future the right cost of borrowed money will be judged not by what is happening to the exchange rate but by what is happening in the High Street.

Guardian says that if you persist with a policy which makes British industry less competitive, next week's redundant tax cuts will be used, even more so than previously, to buy imports.

Independent: The Chancellor said a further rise in the pound against the mark was "unlikely to be sustained" indicating that it was near the top of his new range. However you heightened speculation of a rift on exchange rate policy when you told the Commons that you could not "buck the market".

Times: Kinnock tries to exploit apparent differences between you and Chancellor. He is said to be convinced of value of a "managed float" of leading currencies with some intervention to regulate the market, but you oppose strong intervention and rule out interest rate cuts. Chancellor's remarks pushed sterling down but it recovered after your comments.

FT: Lawson denies confusion on £. He pressed his belief that any further significant rise in its value, especially against D-Mark, was "unlikely to be sustainable".

INDUSTRY

Times: NAO report finds flaws in Government's justification for introducing commercial management at Devonport and Rosyth dockyards.

Times: Ron Todd of TGWU attacks Ford of America for signing single union agreement with AEU. Ford's proposal to build £40m plant in Dundee could be scrapped if the TUC cannot settle the inter-union dispute.

Times leader looks at EC merger policy, in the light of its ruling on the BA/B.Cal merger, and encourages Britain to welcome the draft EC proposals which would stop nationalistic vetoes on cross-border deals which many member states impose.

FT: 30,000 worker-partners of John Lewis will receive record bonus, worth 24% of their salaries, following 15% increase in group's profits.

FT: TGWU opposes new MSC training programme.

### UNIONS

Independent: Left-wingers who now control the executive of the country's largest union yesterday moved quickly to stamp their authority on the TGWU with a series of hardline policy decisions.

### MEDIA

FT: ITV companies appear increasingly reluctant to commit themselves to £60m plan for new ITN headquarters because of uncertainty over Government intentions towards commercial TV.

FT: TV-AM to hire only about 70 new workers to replace 229 sacked technicians.

### POLITICS

Charles Moore, in Express, on why Kinnock is on course for oblivion, and says one Labour MP told him this week that Kinnock is "unelectable".

### NHS

Independent: The public does not suppose you are any more satisfied with the NHS than you are with the Education Bill. Your known preference for private rather than state services is assumed to mean that as soon as you are presented with a means of setting up a private health service you will embrace it with open arms. Whom you wish to destroy, you first starve of funds. Yet two reports published this week indicate that the NHS may be safer with a Thatcherite Government than had been supposed.

Independent: A Tory-dominated Commons Committee has criticised you for misrepresenting and rejecting out of hand a detailed cross-party report on the financial crisis in the health service. The Social Services Select Committee is now involved in a public row with you and John Moore, whom MPs accuse of making light of the financial plight of health authorities.

Independent: Nicholas Timmins concludes his series on health care and the one clear-cut message is that there are no easy answers. The message from abroad is that it is easier to get it wrong - causing loss of equity, spiralling costs and no better health care. John Moore may get it right.

LAW AND ORDER

Independent: More than £1m could be paid out to gun owners forced to surrender firearms under Government legislation banning rapid-fire assault weapons.

Times: More than 1000 London prisoners on remand are being held in police cells throughout England because of shortage of space in jails.

DEFENCE

Times: PAC admonishes MoD in the strongest terms for failing to take disciplinary action after the discovery of expenses fiddlers costing millions of pounds. Growing flow of cases of wasted spending unearthed by PAC and NAO across Whitehall.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Fowler visits University of Warwick, Small Business Centre, Birmingham and opens Lloyds British Training Centre

DHSS: Mr Moore visits Croydon, Surrey and District Spastics School

DTp: Mr Channon visits Manchester

HO: Mr Hurd visits Anglia TV and probation service, Norwich

DHSS: Lord Skelmersdale visits West Dorset Health Authority

DHSS: Mr Portillo visits Barnet local office

DHSS: Mr Newton presents Diploma's at Essex School of Occupational Therapy

DOE: Mr Waldegrave addresses the Institute of Housing, Housing Action Trusts conference

DOE: Lord Caithness visits Johnson Matthey, Royston, Herts

DOE: Mrs Roe visits Burton on Trent and South Derbyshire (housing)

DOE: Mr Moynihan visits British Waterways Board, Birmingham

DTI: Mr Maude addresses Coventry Polytechnic

DTp: Mr Bottomley visits Essex, for lead free petrol week

DTp: Lord Brabazon attends the 85th Annual Dinner of the Institute of Marine Engineers, Grosvenor House, London

HO: Mr Hogg visits Risley Remand Centre

MAFF: Mr Thompson attends NFU North East Poultry Committee, Doncaster

MAFF: Baroness Trumpington visits Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley Gardens, Surrey; later addresses Wisbech Fruit Growers Association, annual dinner

MAFF: Mr Gummer opens Ross-on-Wye livestock market; later addresses Suffolk County, Joint Consultative Committee, County Hall, Ipswich

SO: Lord James Douglas-Hamilton addresses Countryside Commission for Scotland, EYE conference, Countryside Around Towns, Battleby

SO: Lord Sanderson addresses dinner of Scottish National Farmers Union, Hospital Inn, Glasgow

WO: Mr Roberts meets Chairman of Manpower Services Commission, Committee for Wales, Cardiff; later attends lunch with Sianel Pedwar Cymru (Welsh fourth channel) Cardiff

WO: Mr Grist addresses Mental Handicap conference, Bridgend

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DES: Mr Baker takes part in Radio Mercury's "The Sunday Debate" on Topical, Moral and Ethical questions

DTI: Mr Clarke interviewed by James Naughtie, BBC Natural Selection



TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Analysis": BBC Radio 4 (11.00): 'Adam Smith's Children'. Can Scotland rebuild its economy?

"Business Daily": Channel 4 (12.00)

"The World at One": BBC Radio 4 (13.00)

"The Parliament Programme": Channel 4 (14.00)

"Wilko's Weekly": BBC Radio 4 (16.05): Looking at how the local press operates, visits 'The Ulster Gazette'.

"P.M.": BBC Radio 4 (17.00)

"What the Papers Say": Channel 4 (20.00) with Paul Foot

"Dispatches": Channel 4 (20.15). Investigative documentary.

"Any Questions?" BBC Radio 4 (20.00) with Peter Bottomley, Peter Snape MP, and the writers Sir Alfred Cherman and Denise Robertson.

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.25)

"The London Programme": ITV (22.35)

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

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