

28 March 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Princess Royal and Captain Mark Phillips visit Australia (to 1 April); The Princess Royal will open and attend the Bicentennial Royal Easter Show in Sydney for the Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales

EC: Agriculture Council, Brussels (to 29 March)

Electrical Power Engineers Association conference, York (to 30 March)

STATISTICS

CBI: Monthly Trends Enquiry (March)

HO: Statistical Bulletin: Time taken to process cases in Magistrates' Courts - Oct 87 (prov)

MAFF: Food Facts (4th qtr)

PAY

Local Authority Engineering Craftsmen; 9,400: 1 February

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Energy; Transport; Wales

Business: Education Reform Bill: Completion of Remaining Stages.
(4th allotted day)
Motion relating to the Community Charges (Registration)
(Scotland) Regulations

Adjournment Debate: Council House Sales in the London Borough of Sutton
(Sir N MacFarlane)

Select Committees: ENVIRONMENT
Subject: Air Pollution
Witness: Warren Spring Laboratory

TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE
Subject: The 1988 Budget
Witness: Rt Hon Robin Leigh-Pemberton,
Governor of the Bank of England

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Subject: Section 8, Assistance (HC 329
of 1986-87) Regional Industrial
Incentives
Witness: Sir Brian Hayes, GCB, Department
of Trade and Industry

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Lords: Starred Questions
 Duchy of Lancaster Bill: Committee (to be discharged)
 Employment Bill: Report
 Social Security (Contributions, Re-rating) Order 1988) Motions
 Social Security (Treasury Supplement to and Allocation) for
 of Contributions) (Re-rating) Order 1988) Approval
 Social Security (Contributions) Amendment (No 2))
 Regulations 1988)
 State Scheme Premiums (Actuarial Tables) Amendment
 Regulations 1988

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

CBI comes out with another ebullient forecast - more bumper order books than for a decade. Almost half expect higher output in next 4 months.

Morgan Grenfell forecast larger than projected trade gap.

London Business School says economy is set to expand by more than 3% this year and inflation should remain below 4%.

Policy Studies Institute worried about growth of debt - and easy lending; Telegraph says debt and despair bring shame to middle classes.

Kinnock and Hattersley refuse to share debating platform with Benn and Heffer.

Prescott considering whether to renew his challenge for deputy leadership.

Guardian says so far Left coordinating committee has rejected both Hattersley and Heffer for deputy leadership and will seek their own nominee - Cook, Gould and Prescott mentioned.

Ian Aitken, in Guardian, says Heffer should think again.

Five of 7 full time officials of Prison Officers' Association, including deputy general secretary, sacked for staging pay strike.

Ministers concerned about effect on Seoul Olympics if British rugby players join world team tour of South Africa. But Mail leader says you won't be downhearted if our players go there because your respect for Britain's tradition of individual liberty is as sincere as your detestation of apartheid.

Today says IRA funeral lynch mob, pinpointed by Sunday Times yesterday in photos, has fled south into Republic.

Two more nonetheless to be charged with Corporals' deaths this week (Mail); third man already charged.

Telegraph says Ministers have discussed powers to ban press and TV contact with terror organisations like IRA.

Norman Tebbit accuses broadcasting organisations of making deals with terrorists.

Hammersmith NALGO Lefties send letter of sympathy to relatives of 3 Gibraltar IRA terrorists, much to anger of moderates in branch.

BBC decides drama, news and current affairs must take precedence in programming for 1990s.

Norman Tebbit rejects as "bloody rubbish" Mail on Sunday report that he would back Chancellor in leadership bid. He hopes you fight fourth and fifth elections. But Sun feature says Mr Tebbit wants to succeed you and has given himself 3 years to do so. And Today says his denials failed to dampen reports of growing tensions in Cabinet over your style.

US firms invited to compete for £40bn worth of orders for nuclear power stations in Britain.

Norman Fowler to announce inquiry into restrictive labour practices today.

Norman Willis says he has not given up hope of persuading Ford to go to Dundee.

Teachers start campaign for a BMA-style professional body controlling teacher training and having right to exclude unsuitable people.

ACTT said to be secretly photocopying and then publishing in its journal those who cross its picket line at TV-AM.

John Moore tells provincial editors: hospitals are becoming more efficient.

Harriet Harman MP claims that women have to wait 9 months for cervical cancer tests in more than one-third of Britain's health districts.

Street director of Berne, writing in Mail, hopes you win your fight against litter.

Greenpeace launches campaign against acid rain.

Paul Channon to launch motorway safety drive this week and to try to attract private money to road building.

Mass Observation poll shows that 9 out of 10 of London's head teachers are against abolition of ILEA.

Adam Smith Institute proposes abolition of MAFF, Energy, Transport and Employment and division of DHSS and splitting of Environment.

Separate murder hunts over the weekend in respect of 2 girls, one 13 in Northampton and the other 17 in Bexley.

Douglas Hoyle MP calls for public inquiry after death of 12th defence expert, apparently from suicide.

Home Secretary to experiment with progressive fines for petty crime, rising with income.

Black activist from Bristol, Kuomba Balogun, calls for guns and bombs to wipe out white South Africans - this even shocks Bernie Grant who leaves meeting.

Former British intelligence officer and gun runner accuses MI6 of cutting him off without proper compensation.

Jesse Jackson wins Michigan caucus and runs neck and neck with Dukakis; Guardian says this has thrown Democrats into confusion.

Washington Post claims that, according to secret defence documents, US Administration has abandoned ambitious SDI in favour of more limited objective of protecting military installations.

Brian Gould allegedly makes 100% profit on his country cottage which he has sold for £250,000.

Son of Col H Jones, Falklands VC, follows him into the ARmy.

Mark Thatcher silenced his critics when he came second in Italy's Monza Touring Car championships (Express).

UNIONS

Sun on P&O ferry strikers says they are a mean-minded and selfish crew. Express says the truth is that they don't want to lose their perks.

1000 Britons stranded in Cyprus by Cyprus Airways strike over long hours.

Telegraph leader on lessons of Land Rover whose workers are back today "sadder, poorer and - it is to be hoped somewhat wiser". They will delude themselves if they fail to recognise that world-wide their industry is a buyer's market in which only the most efficient and productive will survive.

Independent: P&O and NUS put different interpretations on high court ruling that NUS could face seizure of its £2.8m assets if it called a national strike.

INDUSTRY

Independent: Businessman takes legal action against the Government for failing to protect him from American pressure to curb his high-technology exports to the Eastern bloc.

Times: You have been asked to intervene in trade dispute over subsidies that allow Turkish textile manufacturers to export to Britain at artificially low prices.

Times: 7,000 miners have left the industry in past two weeks in rush to beat deadline set by British Coal which gave them extra £5,000 in redundancy payments.

Time: Government considering last-minute contribution to European Space Agency to save its stake in American Columbus space station.

FORD

Mirror: says there is just a chance Ford will go to Dundee provided Norman Willis can convince the shop floor that if Ford doesn't come here it will go somewhere else and our loss will be someone else's gain.

Today leader says Britain's reputation as a safe place for industrial investment has been blackened again. We cannot have insufferably selfish trade unions getting in the way of investment and jobs and some new safeguard should be built into union reform programme.

Independent leader suggests Kinnock's silence over the Ford Dundee affair is for constitutional reasons. The TGWU is the biggest union affiliated to Labour. Without its block vote, the leadership will find it more difficult to persuade the party to endorse its revisionist proposals.

Times: Engineers Union sets Wednesday deadline for Ford unions to guarantee that they will not disrupt work at Dundee should Ford be persuaded to change decision not to build there.

ECONOMY

Times: Chancellor and Bank of England Governor will attempt to present united front on exchange rate policy to select committee this week following Downing Street "summit".

FT: West Germany's finance minister, Gerhard Stoltenberg, interviewed by FT, urges you to accept full EMS membership.

FT: Sam Brittan, in Lombard column, argues that D-Mark's importance to sterling is its link with EMS; and it is precisely this which you so much dislike. It will be interesting to see your future attitude to interest rates as a means of controlling both inflation and the strength of sterling. The point at principle is that there should be either an exchange rate standard or a domestic monetary policy standard, instead of chopping and changing between the two on the basis of either the Treasury forecasting model or the balance of personalities at the top of the Cabinet.

POLITICS

Sun leader, on idea that Michael Heseltine will succeed you, says he was a lousy Minister and his gross disloyalty will never be forgotten or forgiven.

Express leader on "Why Maggie must name her deputy" says there are symptoms of a Tory suicide tendency in the endless speculation about who will succeed you. Perhaps we are witnessing the real facts of life without Lord Whitelaw. The appointment of a deputy is the way to end the jockeying.

Independent: Kinnock is to receive ultimatum from Labour's black activists to make concrete proposals for ethnic minority representation within the party or face indefinite internal conflict.

Independent: Right wing Tories are planning to set up new free-market ginger group to push forward the frontiers of Thatcherism. Their targets will include privatisation of job centres and social services, abolition of Royal Mail monopoly, abolition of all rent control and introduction of voucher system for health, education and pensions.

Times: Benn to throw Labour Party into state of permanent internal warfare in his determination to bring back a commitment to true socialist policies.

Keith Smith, Economics lecturer at Keele University writing in Times, under heading "Labour's economic blinker" says labour leaders know party cannot become electable unless it convinces voters that success of Conservative economic policy is transient, that Labour has identified Britain's major economic problems and has workable answers to them.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Times: Environment and Agriculture ministers feeling way towards changes in rating law on land use for breeding, grazing and riding horses.

Times. Blueprint to provide new image for centre of Birmingham was drawn up at weekend at meeting of 85 architects and planners from Britain and overseas.

Times: Institute of Economic Affairs says local authorities should be able to charge developers over the granting of planning consents and money used to improve local environment.

EDUCATION

Times: Secondary Heads Association says Government's plans for national curriculum are inflexible and in parts display sheer stupidity.

HEALTH/SOCIAL SECURITY

Independent: Study at Oxford University shows losses for the poorest claimants under new social security system will be significantly larger than those estimated by the Government. About three-quarters will be worse off.

LAW AND ORDER

Independent: NACRO report says concern mounting over increasing use of Section 53 of Children and Young Persons Act as number of juveniles sentenced to long periods of detention for serious crimes doubled between 1980 and 1986.

Times: London solicitors concerned that stricter controls over legal aid fees in Crown Court could lower standards.

Times: Trial deadlines which impose statutory time limit over period in which defendants can be left in custody awaiting trial are to be extended to 10 further areas.

Times: Hereford and Worcester director of social services calls on Government for clearer guidelines for diagnosis of child sexual abuse.

IRELAND

Times: British and Irish Governments expected to settle differences within next few days on procedures for extraditing IRA suspects from Dublin.

FT: Brian Lenihan, in BBC radio yesterday, said that prosecutions should, if necessary, follow current "shoot-to-kill" inquiries by RUC.

DEFENCE

Independent: Government communications network would fail in nuclear attack as ministers decide they cannot afford "astronomical" cost of protecting links between emergency centres of regional government and local authority buners.

Times: Select Committee to urge George Younger to guarantee black recruits fair chance of joining top regiment.

GATT

Times: Japan hints that it will accept GATT ruling on semi-conductor pricing.

GIBRALTAR

Times leader says if Joe Bassano means what he says, Gibraltar is about to cast a lengthening shadow on Anglo-Spanish relations. Whether that is in the interests of its 30,000 inhabitants, however, is something to which he should give serious thought. So, too, should they.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler addresses dinner, House of Commons
- DES: Mr Baker addresses, and Mr Dunn attends the DES Rural Schools Teachers conference, University of London Institute of Education
- WO: Mr Walker attends South East Wales Financial Initiative press launch, London
- CO: Mr Luce addresses opening of Research in Art and Design, Education with Industry conference, London
- DEM: Mr Nicholls hosts a reception for USSR State Committee on nuclear power safety, House of Commons
- DES: Mr Dunn receives deputation led by Roger Knapman MP about secondary re-organisation, Stroud, Glos
- DES: Lady Hooper visits the Mars Chocolate Factory, Slough, on business governors; later meets Mr Savage from the British Educational Equipment Association, about the Education Reform Bill
- DHSS: Mrs Currie launches Sickle Cell on Thalassemia Card, Richmond House, London
- DHSS: Mr Portillo visits Hemel Hempstead local DHSS office
- DOE: Mr Trippier visits Merseyside (inner cities)
- DOE: Mr Moynihan attends Countryside Commission, Biennial Heritage Coast conference, Totnes
- DTI: Mr Atkins addresses Awards Ceremony for Moss Side and Hulme Task Force Enterprise Competition; later addresses opening of Preston Enterprise Initiative satellite office
- DTI: Mr Clark visits ECGD, Export House, London
- HMT: Mr Lamont addresses Bow Group dinner
- HO: Mr Hogg visits Holloway Prison
- HO: Mr Patten visits North Peckham Task Force (prov)
- MAFF: Mr Thompson attends Gin Rectifiers and Distillers Association lunch
- SO: Mr Forsyth opens Nursing Times/Scottish Home and Health Department recruitment conference, Edinburgh
- SO: Mr Lang attends Scotland Moving Forward in Europe conference on the Single European Market, Skean Dhu Hotel, Aberdeen
- WO: Mr Roberts attends premiere of Gerald of Wales film, Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- MAFF: Mr MacGregor attends Agriculture Council, Brussels (to 30 March)
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TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Money Box": BBC Radio 4 (10.00)

"You and Yours": BBC Radio 4 (12.00). Consumer concerns

"Business Daily": Channel 4 (12.30)

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

"Advice Shop": BBC 2 (16.00) studies changes in the benefits system

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

"Promises and Piecrust": Channel 4 (18.30). Last programme in series looks at what the education system will be like in twenty years' time

"Watchdog": BBC 1 (19.35). The fight to stop the closure of cottage hospitals in Shropshire

"World in Action": ITV (20.30). "Kurt Waldheim, the man who lived a lie" (part two)

"Pamorama": BBC 1 (21.30) looks at change in the Church of England and includes an interview with the Archbishop of Canterbury

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

"Newnight": BBC 2 (22.55)
