

29 March 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets Prime Minister of Fiji and Mayor of Shanghai (photocall)

Lord Young launches Enterprise Initiative II

The Duchess of York attends 'British Fashion Meets the City' show in aid of Action Research for the Crippled Child, Mansion House

The Princess of Wales launches Brigg Regeneration Project, opens new terminal building at Humberside International Airport and opens new factory extension of Falcon Cycles, Brigg, South Humberside, later opens King Edward Street New Enterprise Centre, Grimsby

ECGD Advisory Council City luncheon, Bank of England

DES: Announcement of transitional funding for Polytechnics and Colleges

STATISTICS

Bank of England: London sterling certificates of deposit (Feb)

Bank of England: Bill turnover statistics (Feb)

Bank of England: UK banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock (Feb)

Bank of England: Sterling commercial paper (Feb)

HMSO: Population trends 51, Spring 1988

OPCS: Monitor infectious diseases (March qtr 1987)

PUBLICATIONS

SO: New Life for Urban Scotland report

HO: Interception of Communications Report

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Employment; Social Services; Prime Minister

Business: PAC hearing on the use of operating theatres in the NHS
10 Minute Rule Bill: Horses, Ponies and Donkeys. (Mr David Amess)
Housing (Scotland) Bill: Progress on Remaining Stages

Adjournment Debate: Government support for buyout of RTZ's tin mining interests in Cornwall (Mr M Taylor)

PARLIAMENT (cont'd)Lords: Starred Questions

Copyright, Designs and Patents Bill (HL): Third Reading
 Housing Benefit (General) Amendment Regulations 1988)
 Housing Benefit (Supply of Information) Regulations 1988)Motions
 Social Security (Payments on Account, Overpayment and) for
 Recovery) Regulations 1988)Approval
 Income Support (General) Amendment Regulations 1988)
 Family Credit (General) Amendment Regulations 1988)
 UQ to ask HMG what is their response to the 16th Report
 of the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments on the
 Education (Publication and Consultation etc)(Scotland)
 Amendment Regulations 1988

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

Much interest in Government's reference to union restrictive practices in film and broadcasting industries to Monopolies Commission. Union leaders describe move as attempted intimidation.

NU Seamen strike ballot ruled illegal by High Court, but unofficial action expected to go on.

Independent and FT report B/Aerospace-Rover deal "at give-away price" - less than £200m (Independent), writing off £400 debts and injecting £100 to help fund business in the future.

Royal College of Nursing votes 4-1 against strikes.

Prescott expected to challenge Hattersley for deputy leadership in light of Benn/Heffer move.

Tribune Group attacks Benn/Heffer decision to fight leadership and backs Kinnock/Hattersley.

Benn calls for end of British rule in Northern Ireland by 1990.

Kinnock angers colleagues by rejecting plan to side with Tory rebels who want to link community charge to tax rates. Meanwhile he launches anti-community charge campaign, backed by some Tories, under "Axe the tax" banner.

Archbishop of Canterbury, on Panorama, thinks Church has been a victim of excessive preoccupation with prosperity and "monochrome values of society". Mail: Archbishop attacks get rich Britain.

NALGO threatens to discipline Left wing members of Hammersmith branch who write in support of three IRA members shot dead in Gibraltar; investigation ordered. Lawyer named Fitzpatrick wrote letter (Mail). Left refuse to rescind letter.

ILEA teachers striking today in protest against job cuts.

Post Office freezes postage rates at least until end of August.

Paul Channon considering high speed rail link between Central London and Heathrow.

Edwina Currie tells dentists to do less drilling and give nature a chance.

Bristol man who killed 4, eight weeks after Hungerford massacre, sent to Broadmoor without time limit; policeman had tried to prevent him from holding shotgun licence nearly 2 years earlier.

Mirror alleges that a youth of 17 committed suicide under wheels of a train after Essex police questioned him about vandalism.

Leeds United soccer fans convicted of violent or racist offences could be banned from all city council amenities (Guardian).

Reports that one of the IRA men photographed attacking one of two corporals in car at IRA funeral was in court in Belfast six days after lynching; has now gone to ground after winning damages against Government.

Political astrologer, Marjorie Orr, in Express, says we are on the brink of a total transformation as a nation with a reformed country emerging by 1992 or 1993 with a new monarch and new parties at Westminster. You are entering a long phase of panic and defeat, but it doesn't show yet.

Guardian discovers the plug for Government leaks - computerisation, permitting (it says) Government to put less on paper.

Chancellor given use of Dorneywood.

Gephardt gives up presidential race.

Reagan orders withdrawal of troops from Honduras after 12 days there.

Israel closes down West Bank and Gaza strip to media for 3 days to head off trouble.

Libya urges Palestinians to copy IRA tactics in resisting closedown.

Iranian gunboats set two supertankers on fire in Gulf.

Mirror wants Government to take lead in banning capture and display of whales.

Six suspected KGB agents arrested in West Germany.

Secret information about the Tornado and EFA have been betrayed to the Soviet Union by a West German businessman, arrested in a round-up of six alleged spies (Independent).

Matu Mara meets you today to try to retain Fiji's links with the British Crown, though nobody expects the talks to result in their immediate restoration (Independent).

ECONOMY

Sun leader on CBI says they are the pessimists of industry, moaning when pound goes up and when it goes down and finding a cloud between every ray of sunshine. Yet even they now say Britain is booming.

Express leader says latest survey from CBI suggests firms are better able to cope with a strong £ than some people, including CBI itself, give them credit for. When effects of Budget start working the boom should be well nigh unstoppable.

STERLING

Today: Governor of Bank dashes hopes of cheaper home loans; further cut in interest rates would fuel inflation.

Express: Maggie gets her way in row over £.

Times: Governor of the Bank of England comes down publicly on your side in debate over the pound. He denies shadowing the mark; emphasises the need for flexibility and says intervention perfectly legitimate provided it did not become a habit.

Richard Owen in Times looks at the forces pushing Britain to monetary union under heading "When EMS meets 1992".

Mail: Governor warns fight against inflation has to be priority.

FT: Governor of Bank of England sought to clarify policy towards sterling by stressing that official aim is to promote exchange rate stability as long as it is compatible with efforts to hold down inflation. He took a fine line between policies espoused by No 10 and No 11.

Guardian claims Governor admitted there is a new, if covert, range for the exchange rate.

INDUSTRY

Times: Professor Paul Cook blames lack of support from industry for failure of his Sci-Tech '88 exhibition.

Times. City calls for £3bn rail improvements to cope with growth of traffic into the City.

Mail features the £20,000 a year super miner.

Independent: Minutes of Transport Select Committee just published show that Britain is being forced to draw up wartime plans to send retired ships' officers to take over foreign-registered ships because of decline in British merchant fleet.

FT: Peter Walker launches drive to develop Cardiff as a centre for the financial services industry. Consortium including local authorities and WDA will spend £1m in next two years on promotional campaign.

FT: Proposals for tighter and more effective management of Airbus Industrie are to be made in report of "three wise men" panel due to be submitted shortly to governments of four countries involved in the project.

RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES

Today leader, commenting on the first use of the 1973 powers to refer union restrictive practices to MMC, says its too late and wrong treatment. You can't heap blame on unions when TV bosses have been sitting on guaranteed monopoly revenues. To expect unions to keep their hands off that kind of loot is to ask plain folk to behave like angels.

Times leads with unprecedented inquiry ordered by Government into working practices of TV and film industries. What you have described as "the last bastion of trade union restrictive practice" has been under consideration in Whitehall for weeks. Unions describe inquiry as unprecedented attack on free collective bargaining and a misuse of the MMC.

Mail leader says frankly and fearlessly, night after night, TV turns its cameras on the tricks of other people's trades. Now it is their turn to sweat. You are determined to expose TV to the full blast of competition. Viewers have no choice but to pay licence fees. The Government deserves a big hand for ensuring they are not held to ransom.

MEDIA

Independent: LWT to screen 3-hour "trial" of Sir Roger Hollis on Sunday, with Chapman Pincher leading the prosecution and Phillip Knightly leading the defence.

FT: DTI committee decides it is probably not feasible to run a new VHF television channel because of problems of interference and low coverage.

FT: Granada TV to be split into three separate divisions and a new competitive strategy group set up to plan the company's response to White Paper on broadcasting expected later this year.

FT: British Medical Television - off-peak coded broadcasting for doctors - begins tests this week.

NURSES

Sun leader finds it no surprise RCN has voted against strike weapon. You should pay them their award in full.

Express leader says it would be special treatment for nurses review award to be funded in full but their commitment has shown they are special people.

Times: COHSE says RCN vote will allow Government to meddle with pay review body report without fear of consequences.

Guardian requires a new scapegoat for the state of the NHS - the new general managers who, according to Association of Community Health Councils, have weakened service's ties with localities.

WELFARE

Times: Citizens Advice Bureaux in Yorkshire survey shows sick and disabled people stand to lose up to £18 a week under new social security reforms. Also twice as many pensioners will lose as gain through cuts in housing benefit.

POLITICS

Benn says Britons have been corrupted by love of money and its worship has degenerated into a form of witchcraft.

Paul Potts, in Express, says a terrible truth is beginning to dawn on key members of Tory High Command: No 10 is as far away as when they entered Commons. You are being destabilised by people who should know better.

Times leader under the heading "Angels and Devils" looks at the relationship between you, Nigel Lawson, Lord Young and Norman Tebbit. It says that Lawson and Tebbit have long worked together

but does this mean they are ganging up on you? Hardly. The relationship between the two may be a factor in any future contest to succeed you. That does not mean that their continued strength is now ready to be deployed against you.

EDUCATION

Express leader says Lords, by giving Education Bill a fair passage, would be putting itself on the tide of reform rather than reaction.

Independent: Examination boards having difficulty finding examiners to mark the new GCSE which almost 700,000 fifth-formers will take this summer.

ENVIRONMENT

FT: High Court judge refuses planning permission to develop County Hall as offices. Environment Secretary may decide to appeal.

Independent: Nick Ridley urgently considering planning circular to ease Tory fears about development in the Green Belt around the Home Counties.

LAW AND ORDER

Times: Police Chief says police may have to be armed permanently if there is continued increase in number of shootings.

Times: Law Society still undecided on whether solicitors can form mixed partnerships with other professionals to offer "one stop shopping" services.

Times: Home Office conference to seek ways to reduce building site thefts and vandalism which is costing industry £400m a year.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Times: Tom King to meet SDLP in fresh attempt to break deadlock among mainstream political parties in Ulster.

Times: Republic's senior police chiefs criticise Dublin Government's failure to allocate resources for effective campaign against IRA terrorism.

Independent: You consider curbs on media coverage of demonstrations by terrorist groups in Ulster.

Independent: Unionists attack secret SDLP talks with Sinn Fein as it is revealed second meeting took place last Wednesday.

Independent: Tom King refuses to comment on the legal authority under which MI5 is said to have bugged a hayshed near Lurgan in 1982. His silence suggests there was no authority.

Independent leader asks why it is taking so long to construct reliable Anglo-Irish extradition arrangements. It understands British reluctance to accept Irish "safeguards" - a prime facie requirement not previously part of Anglo-Irish practice - but says progress on extradition now would heal a long-running sore and send a powerful signal to terrorists.

RUGBY TOUR

Sun leader says our footballers have a right to play where they wish; the Russians will compete at the Olympics regardless of their persecution of Afghan, Kurds, Armenians and Jews; and the Commonwealth includes countries like Nigeria, Ghana, Malawi, Kenya and Zimbabwe which have not the remotest concept of equality or decency. Replace Foreign Secretary with Chancellor who "at least has some fire and guts about him".

Independent leader looks at the world rugby tour to South Africa. It admits sports boycotts have been effective there, but says the British government has done all it can to discourage sporting contest and various calls for it to do more are misplaced.

Guardian says Foreign Secretary (and you) should publicly express your opposition to rugby tours of South Africa.

FIJI

Times says one of Queen Victoria's best known titles "Tui Viti", or Supreme Chief of Fiji, is being dusted off with a view to fresh service. You are expected to hint to Fiji's Prime Minister that you would be prepared to recommend that the Queen accepts the title if Fiji's new constitution is acceptable.

MIDDLE EAST

Independent: Israel and US at loggerheads as Shamir criticises Shultz for meeting US supporters of PLO and again rejects idea of a conference on the Middle East.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler meets Philip Gough, New Zealand Minister for Employment
- DES: Mr Baker meets Councillor Riddell and a delegation from the north of England as a follow up to the North of England Conference; later meets Norman Willis, General Secretary, TUC, about the Education Reform Bill
- DOE: Mr Ridley addresses Audit Commission's fifth annual conference, London
- DTI: Lord Young addresses Economist conference on doing business with the new Japan; later hosts lunch for Mayor of Shanghai, Jiang Zemin; also launches Enterprise Initiative phase 2
- DTP: Mr Channon visits Teeside
- HMT: Mr Lawson addresses Association of American Correspondents in London lunch, London
- WO: Mr Walker attends Anglo-Japanese Seminar, Cardiff; later attends British Coal Enterprise Day, Maes-y-Cymmer; later visits Cwmbran Development Corporation and tours Gwent Police Headquarters, Cwmbran
- DEM: Mr Nicholls meets British Clothing Industry Association, regarding wages council; later meets Equity about the Employment Bill
- DEN: Mr Morrison opens Shell seminar, London
- DES: Lady Hopper addresses the University Council for Adult and Continuing Education, University of Southampton
- DHSS: Mrs Currie visits National Pharmaceutical Association HQ, London
- DHSS: Mr Newton addresses Adam Smith Institute seminar, London
- DOE: Mr Moynihan addresses Electricity Council conference, Nottingham
- DTI: Mr Butcher addresses British Fashion meets the City dinner
- DTI: Mr Clark addresses ECGD Advisory Council, Bank of England
- DTP: Mr Mitchell visits London Taxi's International, Coventry
- DTP: Mr Bottomley addresses the Accident Investigation Programme Seminar, York
- DTP: Lord Brabazon attends opening of Terminal Extension, Humberside Airport
- HO: Mr Renton addresses TV and Radio Industries Club on new development in broadcasting
- MAFF: Mr Thompson tours South East (wine)
- ODA: Mr Patten hosts a dinner for Mr Msuya, Tanzanian Finance Minister, Lancaster House
- SO: Lord Sanderson visits Scottish Food Fair, Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTI: Mr Maude visits Frankfurt/Bonn

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

ODA: Mr Patten interviewed by the Financial Times for their Monday Profile page

TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

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

"Business Daily": Channel 4 (12.30)

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

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

"In Business": BBC Radio 4 (16.05). Details not available at time of going to press (repeated Wednesday)

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

"Workforce": BBC Radio 4 (19.20). Prospects for the long-term unemployed (repeated Wednesday)

"Reporting London": ITV (19.30). Details not available at time of going to press

"Moneyspinner": Channel 4 (20.30). New financial series examines, among other things, the new benefit regulations

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.35)

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