

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister visits Scotland

The Prince of Wales, accompanied by the Princess of Wales, lays the foundation stone of the new Sainsbury wing of the National Gallery

Press conference on Defence Procurement

National Union of Seamen's strike ballot closes

Chancellor gives evidence to TCSC

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STATISTICS

DTP: New motor vehicle registrations (Feb)

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PUBLICATIONS

DHSS: Adjudication officers guide

HO: Research Study on Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

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PAY

National Health Service; Ancillary Workers

British Steel Corporation and ISTC; 52,000

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth; Trade and Industry; Environment

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Empty Property and Community Aid  
(Mr Ken Hargreaves)  
Housing (Scotland) Bill: Completion of Remaining Stages  
Merchant Shipping Bill (Lords): Remaining Stages

Adjournment Debate: Playground injuries to children (Mr C Shepherd)

Select Committees: TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
Subject: Petrol Retailing  
Witnesses: Shell UK Ltd; BP Oil Ltd

FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
Subject: Ethiopia  
Witnesses: Mr Christopher Patten, MP,  
Minister for Overseas Development

WELSH AFFAIRS  
Subject: Inward Investment into Wales  
Witnesses: CBI, Wales; TUC, Wales

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Select Committees:

## DEFENCE

Subject: The progress of the Trident programme

Witness: Ministry of Defence

## HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Broadcasting

Witnesses: Channel 4 Television; Independent Programme Producers' Association

## SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Social Security Issues

Witnesses: Rt Hon Nicholas Scott, MP  
Minister for Social Security and the Disabled

## ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Air Pollution

Witnesses: The Earl of Caithness,  
Minister of the Environment,  
Countryside and Water and officials  
from the Department of the Environment

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Subject: Current UK policy towards  
the Iran-Iraq conflict

Witness: Sir Anthony Parsons

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: Petrol Retailing

Witness: ESSO

## TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE

Subject: The 1988 Budget

Witness: The Rt Hon Nigel Lawson, MP,  
Chancellor of the Exchequer

Lords: Starred Questions

Debate on the Report of the Select Committee on Science and  
Technology on United Kingdom Space Policy (2nd Report, 1987-88)  
UQ to ask HMG what they are doing to promote the quality of  
British architecture

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

Government runs into political storm with its "giveaway" sale of Rover to B/Aerospace.

Brian Gould describes sale as "act of political irresponsibility and industrial sabotage".

EuroCommission to hold its own investigation into deal which is subject to their clearance.

B/Aerospace, meanwhile, cuts 1200 jobs from its military division.

Pound surges in spite of shortlived rumours that Chancellor about to resign.

Kinnock faces new blow today with Prescott widely predicted to stand against Hattersley for deputy leadership.

Four women members of Campaign Group - Richardson, Short, Beckett and Ruddock - said to have resigned in protest against Benn/Heffer challenge to leadership.

Senator Dole pulls out of presidential race and backs Bush.

Mail feature contrasts what Jesse Jackson has so far been allowed by the media to get away with about his private life compared with other presidential candidates.

Sealink threatens to join P&O in strike in ferry dispute today.

British Steel to pull out of South Africa in run-up to privatisation.

New Japanese Ambassador follows his predecessor in saying Britain has made a remarkable turn around in industrial relations and now seen as a springboard for success in Europe.

EC Commission says Community could create 5m new jobs if it removes barriers to internal market by 1992.

Mail reports that North/South pay divide is crumbling as your revolution gathers pace - industrial heartlands are beginning to reap the benefit.

High Court decides Guinness should pay £100m to shareholders who were short-changed in Distillers' takeover.

Mirror says Association of British Travel Agents has a lot of explaining to do to OFT about why it isn't weeding out crooks, stopping cheats and guaranteeing fair deals.

Plans for Canary Wharf unveiled.

Lord Walter Marshall says consumers could have a raw deal under electricity privatisation.

Government puts TUC HQ on protected building list.

Guardian says Government is ready to legislate to remove more union restrictive practices.

Parents of 600 children left handicapped after whooping cough inoculations denied compensation; judge rules there was no evidence vaccine caused brain damage.

Sixty soccer fans arrested in dawn swoop on Wolverhampton hooligans after three-and-a-half month under cover operation - one a pastor's son.

Tory MPs launch new campaign for restoration of hanging under Criminal Justice Bill - drug smuggler jailed for 14 years asks to be executed.

Star claims that a vicar jailed on Teesside for seducing choirboys tried to sell his story to them.

London police amnesty brings in 1500 knives and guns.

Black and Asian groups now represent 5% of population - and growing.

One of GCHQ union campaigners at Cheltenham has his pv withdrawn.

Government survey shows town hall waiting lists are wildly inaccurate.

Mail says Haringey yesterday launched a charter for a gay revolution in its schools, with lessons on "gay history, geography and literature".

Criticism of BBC's plan to close down children's TV programme, Play School.

Labour Party complains to IBA about public information adverts which, it is claimed, plug Tory line.

Michael Checkland welcomes Government's decision for MMC to study labour practices within the TV and film industries (Independent).

Peter Walker criticised for spending £30,000 on business breakfasts when NHS needs more money.

Today wants to know how the Chancellor can accept the free gift of Dorneywood when he hates perks.

South Africa's far-right Conservative Party scored a landslide victory over President Botha's National Party yesterday.

South African anti-apartheid leader shot dead in Paris. Independent says she had asked for police protection but had been told to stop anti-apartheid activities first.

Denklash sets two-day deadline for start of Cyprus peace talks.

#### ROVER

Star: Sold! £150m for Rover, with bumper state bonus thrown in.

Sun: It's a bargain! Rover sold off for £150m - deal looks a real snip for B/Aerospace.

Mirror: Anger at Rover £650m give-away. Air firm cash in.

Today: £1.9bn debt written off as Rover goes for £150m; leader says B/Aerospace is getting a snip but its no use MPs bellyaching about it; they worked themselves up into a lather when the Government got into negotiations with Ford.

Express: Rover sold for a song - biggest industrial albatross of the Thatcher years finally off-loaded; leader says the terms are generous and right. Nobody remembers Gould complaining when £3bn of taxpayers' money was being poured into the company. Labour's knee jerk outrage shows it cannot really cast off its outmoded and ignorant dogmas.

Mail: The Golden Giveaway - anger in Commons as Government announces £800m dowry for Rover; leader sees the Government as glad to get Rover off its hands and B/Aerospace shares jumping for joy. But the taxpayers have no real cause to complain because if Rover had stayed nationalised the drain on the public purse would have been never ending. Labour sneers about the size of the dowry are humbug. Andrew Alexander describes deal as being between a convalescent whose recovery could go badly wrong and a normally healthy party passing though a spell of poor health.

Telegraph leads with Rover sell-off storm as State aid tops £3.7bn. Labour fury at £150m 'giveaway' sale; leader says it looks like the bargain of the century but it may not be quite as good as that. And the taxpayers may not have too much cause to grumble. There was never any prospect of recovering the money they have put in.

Guardian leads with B/Aerospace snaps up Rover for £150m. It claims EC will want serious restructuring, even if it means job losses, if it is to endorse anything like the present terms. Leader says what makes it difficult to give the thumbs down to the B/Aerospace link is the lack of an obvious alternative.

Independent: Investigation by EC stalls £150m Rover takeover. Two month delay as Commission officials consider the extent to which Rover would be restructured under BAe, following the £800m proposed Government injection - a larger sum than anticipated; leader says that yesterday's deal must appear heaven-sent to the Government. But some scepticism is in order. If another prospective buyer should come forward, and if the terms for Rover and the taxpayer are better, Lord Young should not hesitate to think again.

Times P1 lead: "Anger in the Commons as Government injects £800m to sell off at Rover". Amid whistles of surprise at the figures, Bryan Gould condemned the deal. Approval from the EEC may well take longer than the official deadline of April 30. Leader says regardless of the long term and even if the disputed industrial synergies bear no fruit, the short term advantages of the deal are overwhelming.

FT: Sale of Rover Group to BAe for £150m will involve £800m aid. Lex column's verdict: the initial 22% jump in BAe share prices said it all. Leader says real objection to proposed deal is that its basis seems more designed to save political face than to protect the taxpayers' interests. The reduction in Rover Group's available tax losses is simply the figleaf of respectability on an otherwise uncommercial looking deal.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

Commons clashes ignored by Sun, Mirror, and Today.

Star: Fury over axed benefits - Kinnock silenced your supporters with savage attack on cuts.

Tiny piece in Express - Maggie in cash clash.

Telegraph, on Parliamentary page: "Thatcher and Kinnock in benefits fury"; Parliamentary Sketch says you won again - another social injustice with which Mr Kinnock will have to learn to live.

Guardian P1: Kinnock riles Thatcher on benefits.

Times: An angry exchange over social security benefits yesterday between Kinnock and you left Labour MPs convinced that their leader had scored a significant victory on the benefit changes.

## POLITICS

Express leader on Labour's leadership struggles, says it is difficult, in view of events, to see why Prescott should not proceed. The facade of unity which Kinnock wanted to preserve has been demolished by Benn/Heffer.

## NHS

Sun leader on differences in throughput of patients by different hospitals says John Moore is entitled to an explanation when surgeons and doctors are constantly complaining about lack of money.

Independent: Government says it will not allocate extra cash to fight AIDS as Advisory Council on Misuse of Drugs tells John Moore that spread of AIDS virus is greater danger to individual and public health than drug misuse.

## BUDGET/ECONOMY

Express, interpreting Chancellor's speech to American Correspondents, says he gave the clearest hint he is anxious to stay at Treasury.

FT: Manpower staff agency predicts faster employment growth in the coming quarter than at any time since 1974.

Independent leader looks at the Chancellor's position, and says speculation about his future ought to be absurd. There should be no question of his leaving the Treasury. He has been an outstanding Chancellor though plenty of work remains to be done. He should expect to remain for several more years and you should be anxious to ensure that he does.

Britain's economic and industrial engine has moved into high gear, according to a new study which says management pay in the

West-Midlands and the North went on rising faster than anywhere else in the country. (Times).

#### INDUSTRY

Independent: Private and confidential papers acquired by Dale Campbell-Savours show Scottish and National Breweries' secret plan to close down recently-acquired brewery in Cumbria with 110 jobs at stake.

Independent: PAC asks NAO to investigate MoD attempt to cover up job losses at Devonport dockyard.

Independent: Ministers play numbers game. Your commitment to free market principles taken a step further as Government announces plans to go into the number plate business.

Times: The South of Scotland Electricity Board has agreed to take supplies from the Scottish coalfield until the end of time. The truce will enable negotiations on future supplies to proceed without the threat of court action by British Coal.

FT: CPSA and NUCPS likely to reject 4% offer to civil servants.

#### TELEPHONE TAPPING

Sun: Sorry! Wrong 'phone tapper - security men got wrong numbers.

Mirror: BT bugs the wrong 'phones.

Times: Three mistakes in the interception of telephone calls are disclosed in annual report.

#### MEDIA

FT: Rupert Murdoch wins US court victory enabling him to retain ownership of Boston Herald newspaper despite owning a TV station in the city.

#### CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Sun says Archbishop of Canterbury is a good man in wrong job and accuses him of abdicating leadership over homosexuality. It begs him to go.



### EDUCATION

Independent day schools cost at least £500 per pupil a year less to run than ILEA schools, according to survey in Times.

Independent: Commission for Racial Equality survey shows racial harassment and violence in schools and colleges is widespread and persistent, and not just confined to inner city areas. Teachers, lecturers and parents as much to blame as pupils and students.

### ARTS

Independent: NAO report says prints, paintings and tapestries at the British Museum, V&A Museum and Tate Gallery are deteriorating and decaying in damp and overcrowded conditions.

### IRELAND

Times: Hopes of renewed dialogue among Ulster's main political parties were strengthened last night after talks between Tom King and John Hume.

### EAST/WEST

Independent: Foreign Office reacts sanguinely to Pravda attack on your "hot and cold" attitude to Soviet disarmament proposals. Pravda article called Britain's attitude "egotistical and amoral" and blamed you for scuppering progress at the NATO summit.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DES: Mr Baker meets the Association of London Authority Leaders and Neil Fletcher about education in Inner London and meets members of the Council for Local Education Authorities as a follow up to the North of England conference

DHSS: Mr Moore gives major speech on social security reforms

DEM: Mr Nicholls attends Hurlingham Club discussions

DHSS: Lord Skelmersdale visits General Electric Medical Services

DOE: Mr Trippier opens housing scheme in Fiddway; later addresses UK Healthy Cities conference, Liverpool

DOE: Mrs Roe visits Peterborough to hand over 10,000th privately-built house; later attends launch of housing book for the elderly in Boston

DTI: Mr Butcher addresses Mobile Radio Users Association, Cambridge

DTP: Lord Brabazon visits Dartford Tunnel

DTP: Mr Bottomley attends the Prince Michael Road Safety Awards

HO: Lord Ferrers visits Cleveland Prison

MAFF: Mr Gummer opens NFU/RASE conference NAC, Stoneleigh on new business opportunities for tenant farmers

MAFF: Baroness Trumpington attends Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Information Bureau presentation

OAL: Mr Luce addresses Topping Out ceremony, Imperial War Museum, London

ODA: Mr Patten visits Water Aid, London

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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DES: Mr Baker interviewed by Geoffrey Smith, The Times; later interviewed by Richard Heller, Mail on Sunday about Mr Baker's poetry anthology

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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)

"Workforce" BBC Radio 4 (16.05). Prospects for the long-term unemployed (first shown yesterday)

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

"In Business": BBC Radio 4 (19.20) (repeat of yesterday's programme). Details not available at time of going to press

"Comment": Channel 4 (19.50). A Labour Party representative 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 series of interviews with judges on aspects of their job. Today the Vice-Chancellor and head of the Chancery Division of the High Court

"Up North": BBC 2 (22.20). "Visions of big business". The story of a redundant miner who now runs his own business

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

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.50)

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