

31 March 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets President of Cyprus

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh attend the Maundy Service in Lichfield Cathedral

The Princess of Wales attends a luncheon organised by Capital Radio in aid of Help a London Child, Cafe Royal, London

House rises for the Easter recess (to 12 April)

Announcement on British Summer Time

STATISTICS

DEN: Energy trends (Jan)

PUBLICATIONS

DES: Booklet on care studies of school/industry co-operation

HO: Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons report on Stocken prison

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Treasury; Prime Minister

Business: Timed Easter Adjournment Debates until 3.30 pm

Adjournment Debate: Not known at time of diary completion

Lords: Starred Questions
Duchy of Lancaster Bill: Third Reading
Foreign Marriage (Amendment) Bill (HL): Committee (to be discharged)
Legal Advice and Assistance (Financial Conditions) Regulations 1988)
Legal Aid (Financial Conditions) Regulations 1988)
Civil Legal Aid (Financial Conditions)(Scotland) Regulations 1988) Motions
Advice and Assistance (Financial Conditions)(Scotland) Regulations 1988) for
Licensing Bill: Report) Approval
EASTER RECESS

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

Prescott launches his challenge for deputy leadership and embarrasses Kinnock who nails his colours to Hattersley.

Writers see Kinnock being damaged by a defeat for Hattersley, which they see as a possibility, because he would be saddled with a deputy he doesn't want.

Labour Party report tells Kinnock to drop "soppy and sentimental" approach for tougher line.

Two Army camps to be converted to prisons and military police will act as warders.

Today: Fall in for HM Prison Colditz; its leader says crisis has not been helped by POA's campaign against new working methods.

Pound rises to highest for more than a year after markets decided Chancellor had bowed to your preference for strong exchange rate and more determined attack on inflation (Guardian).

Volvo buys Leyland Bus and says its 1850 jobs are safe.

Mail reveals that petrol companies sell each other's petrol; Select Committee hears exchanges are quite common.

B/Telecom freezes its prices for another 12 months - this will extend it to two-and-a-half years.

TV licence up £4.50 (colour) and £3 (black and white) from tomorrow.

Graham Day forecasts job security and a new range of Rover cars under B/Aerospace.

BAe announces it is allowing £320m for potential losses on civil aircraft manufacture up to 1991 (FT).

ETU membership overwhelmingly backs no-strike deals and warns TUC not to interfere.

Building trades employers recruiting in Irish Republic to cope with boom in South East.

Halifax Building Society cuts home loan rates by 0.5% to 9.8% - gives house price spiral another twist (Today). Lloyds also cuts rate 0.5%.

Sophie Merman, founder of Sock Shop chain, named Businesswoman of the Year.

Sun devotes 2 pages to the state of the trade unions.

Young unmarried mothers will have to rely more on charity and their families, or may have to have their children taken into care, according to DHSS evidence.

Storm over Royal Free Hospital's decision to set aside beds in general wards for AIDS patients.

Islington Council award woman housing officer, convicted of corruption, a lump sum of £6,748 and a pension of £43 a week.

Brent Council's deputy leader in court on corruption charges.

Black activist, Kuba Assegi, alleged to have assaulted Brent's education chief - kicked him outside council chamber.

Haringey Parents' Rights Group threatening to take council to court over plan to introduce homosexual issues with lessons.

Children should learn about gay scientists, lesbian stand-up comics and Nazi persecution of homosexuals, Haringey report recommends (Independent).

Mail says not a few liberal folk wondered whether Government was going over the top with S.28 but Haringey provides an object lesson on why the law is needed.

Private education fees rocketing at four times inflation but parents queue for places. Express: Government will see this as confirmation that parents are dissatisfied with state education.

No 10 angry over fresh leak of private secretary correspondence (Express P1).

Eight Arsenal fans arrested in dawn raids on hooligans.

United Newspapers - Express Group - profits up £39m to £95,612,000.

Mirror Group profits double to £166m - plans colour magazines for Sunday Mirror and People.

Mirror prints a religious Easter message for Bishop Daly; he says there will only be peace when enough men and women, Catholic and Protestant, fight on the side of peace.

Four Palestinians killed and 60 wounded by Israeli troops in yesterday's Land Day violence.

Dukakis rebounds to foil Jackson in Connecticut.

LABOUR PARTY

Sun: Neil in rage at Prescott job grab; leader is glad Prescott has taken their advice. And now that Benn is promising an annual challenge to Kinnock, the Labour Party has one consolation - this is the only poll a Socialist is likely to win.

Mirror: Kinnock fury; Prescott is wrong, he says.

Today: Prescott back in the race for power - leadership contest turns into brawl Kinnock was desperate to avoid; leader says since Labour's leadership is up for grabs, John Smith or Bryan Gould should grab it. Either of them would make a far better leader than Kinnock who has had his chance and has blown it. He has also made what could prove to be the costliest mistake of his life in pinning his own fate to that of Hattersley.

Express: Prescott bid spells chaos for Kinnock. Writers feel that Prescott's candidacy is very much different than Benn/Heffer challenge.

Times leads with Kinnock risks his future on Hattersley by strongly rebuffing Prescott's challenge for deputy leadership; leader looks at the problems in the Labour Party and the difficulties for the Tories should a strong Opposition disappear; the country would become a disagreeable, rancorous place drifting towards ungovernability which - to some extent - was what was happening in the 1970s.

Times: Unions will have key role in Prescott's bid for Hattersley's job.

Independent: Prescott yesterday declared that he would stand against Hattersley for deputy leadership, posing a direct challenge to the "dream ticket" alliance between the right and soft left on which Kinnock has founded his leadership.

Mail: Kinnock snubs Prescott's challenge to be his deputy. Puts his authority on the line; leader says prescott's intervention is more serious than Benn/Heffer challenge. It cannot be dismissed as shadow boxing. Although the probability is that Prescott will lose. Now there is going to be a dust up. Those who yearn to see Labour in Government must make the most of it. That means grabbing the best and almost certainly the only chance of

replacing Kinnock before next election. Mail money is on John Smith.

Telegraph: Kinnock rebut to Prescott who has been endorsed by NU Seamen sponsoring union.

Guardian: Kinnock stakes his credibility on Hattersley as deputy leader; leader says Prescott fails the tests to be applied to a deputy leader.

POLITICS

Independent: Peter Jenkins writes on the Tebbit-Lawson plot that's not. He says that Tebbit is a long paid-up member of the Nigel Lawson fan club. The two of them were members of your hit squad back in early opposition days. If a vacancy occurred at No 10, Mr Lawson would be Mr Tebbit's candidate for the job. But Peter Jenkins concludes that there is no plot against you. What Tebbit thinks is that you had better watch out or you will come a cropper. You reign supreme and serene, saying nice understanding things about Norman and advising us all not to believe what we read in the papers.

YOUR SCOTTISH TOUR

Express: Maggie's toast to jobs in Scotland - you proved you can have your own Dundee cake and eat it. Other things to open up if not Fords.

Times: You attack both Labour Party and trade union movement for loss of Ford factory in Dundee.

Independent: You visited Dundee yesterday and announced a £4m project which would create up to 300 jobs and accused Labour of killing Ford's plans to build a £40m electronics factory. You paid tribute to Gavin Laird but added that in this modern age there are still some trade unions who are more concerned with restrictive practices than with jobs.

Independent: Ken Gill, joint general secretary of MSF union argues that Ford's decision not to expand in Dundee is due to political and economic pressure, not obstruction by workers' representation.

Mail: Maggie on attack over lost Ford deal.

FT: You set out to revive spirits in Dundee, announcing go-ahead for health care product factory and enterprise zone at Inverclyde.

Guardian: PM attacks Labour over Ford jobs.

CIVIL SERVICE

Times: John Major to ask Lord Young to justify his multi-million pound advertising budget.

Independent: The Treasury has challenged Lord Young about the size of his Department's advertising budget for the enterprise initiative.

FT: Treasury formally queries scale and effectiveness of sharp increase in DTI's advertising budget. John Major has written to Lord Young on the issue.

Independent: A Civil Service Union leader said that there could be a national campaign if a suspended trade union activist were not reinstated at GCHQ.

Telegraph: Treasury yesterday challenged the advertising budget of DTI.

INDUSTRY

Times: BAe to shed 5,000 jobs as it announces pretax losses of £159m in 1987.

Times: Women's victory in equal pay test case in Court of Appeal may bring claims from other women.

Independent: Power station engineers served notice yesterday that they will take industrial action if privatisation of the electricity industry leads to compulsory redundancies or the scrapping of national pay agreements.

FT: British Urban Development aimed to turn Teesside into world capital for chemical industries with redevelopment of 1,000-acre derelict site.

FT: Scottish electricity prices are to increase this weekend by less than half the rate ordered for England and Wales - 4.7%, announces SSEB and North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board.

ECONOMY/BUDGET

Times: Chancellor refuses to tell Select Committee whether there is a target range for sterling against the mark.

Independent: The Chancellor struggled to reassert his command of exchange rate policy and bridge the gap between his views and

yours at the TSCS yesterday. His refusal to discuss target ranges for the pound was interpreted by the markets as evidence that you had ruled out further heavy intervention to hold down the pound against the mark.

FT P1: Pound rises sharply as Chancellor defends exchange rate policy. He strongly emphasised the Government's commitment to fight inflation and stressed that there had been no change in the policy of seeking exchange rate stability. Within hours the US Federal Reserve was selling sterling at \$1.8775. Lex column says market has got itself in a muddle. You and the Chancellor seem to have reached a compromise; but news spread that you had won the battle of the pound and sterling went above DM3.12.

Guardian leads with "markets see Thatcher as pound victory".

Andrew Alexander, in Mail, says the conclusion drawn by the market from Chancellor's appearance before Select Committee was that he is throwing his weight behind your approach to inflation and that no early cut in interest rates is likely.

Telegraph: Chancellor neatly reconciled all conflicting interpretations put on Government policy in recent weeks.

NHS

Times: Thousands of NHS patients may be treated in military hospitals following new agreement between DHSS and MoD.

Independent: Government has been accused of promoting the growth of poverty and ill-health in the blind pursuit of ideological commitments; steadfastly averting its gaze from the obvious connections between poverty, deprivation and ill-health, says Townsend report.

Independent leader says John Moore is showing signs of a serious loss of nerve. The Advisory Council on Drug Misuse has produced remarkable report on AIDS but he has damned it with faint praise and said he will provide no new money for the urgent measures needed to treat addicts and reduce spread of AIDS. The Government has also refused to consider the provision of condoms for prisoners. AIDS is a much greater danger to society than drug abuse, and immensely more so than any risks of sex imagined or real.

Mail feature by Prof David Marsland, Brunel, on why sociologists are the saboteurs of Britain - biasing analyses.

Guardian says the Government has scrapped the index used to indicate the number of people living in poverty.

COMMUNITY CHARGE

Telegraph says Tory rebellion against community charge is growing - 31 MPs want charge linked to ability to pay.

FT: Leader claims that successive Thatcher administrations have failed to reform local government; instead they have seen it as something to be controlled and restrained. The point has been reached where central government is actually seeking ways of excluding local government from decisions affecting local communities. This adverse shift in power is being accompanied by one of the least sensible tax "reforms" ever introduced.

EDUCATION

Times: Inquiry launched into leaked letter from No 10 to Scottish Office about education in Scotland.

Times: Three brilliant British students being denied places at International Space University in USA because of lack of £17,000 in industrial sponsorship.

Independent: A furious political row has broken out over an apparent shift of policy by the Government to allow schools in Scotland to opt out.

LAW AND ORDER

Independent: The police failed yesterday to overturn a court ruling that an application to make The Independent give up classified documents should be heard in public.

IRELAND

Times: Agreement believed to be close over extradition from Irish Republic after significant concessions by British Government.

DEFENCE

Times: MoD officials tell Select Committee that no viable plans exist for disposing of Britain's obsolete nuclear submarines and their reactors.

Independent: Page 1 lead: Serious delays to nuclear warhead production facilities at Atomic weapons establishment at Aldermaston were confirmed in Parliament yesterday by senior civil

servants. Members of Defence Committee have been told by officials in private that any further delays to the nuclear warhead production facility could cause a shortage of warheads for Britain's new Trident ballistic missile submarines.

FT: MOD is to make substantial improvements in procurement practices following value for money inquiry in value of Nimrod cancellation.

FT: Row over short fat ships design continues as designers Thornycroft Giles withdraws from Lloyds inquiry claiming it is unfair.

EC

Times: The EC could be forced to revise drastically plans for VAT as opposition grows.

WALDHEIM

Waldheim may have done deal with Allied intelligence, says Times, after examination of hundreds of wartime files at Public Record Office shows numerous War Office documents have been retained by MoD.

CHINA

Times: Diplomatic row breaks out as China ends flight pact with UK after first flight by BA.

TURKEY

FT: NATO solidarity in the wake of the European missiles agreement and assurances of expanding business for Britain are the most specific goals of your forthcoming visit.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DTI: Lord Young presents 1988 Businesswoman of the Year awards
DTp: Mr Bottomley opens the Leatherhead Highways Depot, Surrey
HO: Mr Hogg visits Regional Secure Unit, Leicester

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTP: Mr Channon and Lord Brabazon visit Toulouse to collect the first
British Airways air bus
HMT: Mr Lamont addresses a Privatisation Seminar, Morocco

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)
"P.M.": BBC Radio 4 (17.00)
"Out of Court": BBC 2 (20.00). Story of a teenage girl, jailed for
killing her mother, whose case is before the Court of Appeal this week
"Analysis": BBC Radio 4 (20.15). How revolutionary have the Thatcher
governments been? Discussion with Profs David Marquand, Eric Hobsbawn
and Sir John Hoskyns (repeated tomorrow)
"This Week": ITV (20.30). Anti-semitism in Austria
"40 Minutes": BBC 2 (21.30). "Street Girls" spotlights teenage
prostitution
"The World Tonight": BBC Radio 4 (22.30) followed by "The Financial World
Tonight" then "Today in Parliament"
"The City Programme": ITV (22.35)
"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.50)
