

13 April 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets a delegation of Australian Parliamentarians and later gives lunch in honour of the King of Norway.

Royal College of Nursing holds nationwide rallies.

G7 and IMF Spring meetings, Washington (to 15 April)

NEDC

First 'Action for Cities Breakfast', Newcastle

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Trade and Industry; Environment; Scotland

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Indecent Displays (Newspapers)
Health and Medicine Bill: Progress on Remaining Stages
Motion relating to the Local Government (Prescribed
Expenditure) (Amendment) Regulations

Adjournment Debate: Maintenance grants for elderly persons discharged
from NHS hospitals into private care (Sir Anthony
Meyer)

Select Committees: TRADE AND INDUSTRY
Subject: Petrol Retailing
Witness: Office of Fair Trading

FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Subject: FCO/ODA Expenditure 1988/89
Witness: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Officials

DEFENCE
Subject: Major Defence Projects:
European Fighter Aircraft and CACS 4
Witness: Ministry of Defence

ENERGY
Subject: The Structure, Regulation and Economic
Consequences of Electricity Supply in the Private
Sector
Witness: Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP, Secretary of
State for Scotland

EMPLOYMENT
Subject: Urban Development Corporations
Witness: Teesside Development Corporation

HOME AFFAIRS
Subject: Broadcasting
Witnesses: British Telecom W H Smith Television

Select Committees (Cont'd)

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Resourcing the NHS

Witness: Dr M Goldsmith, Mr D Willetts, Dr E Butler,
Dr M Pirie

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL

South Yorkshire Light Rail Transit

Lords: Starred Questions

Short Debate to call attention to the Report "Local Authority Property - A Management Overview" issued by the Audit Commission; and to move for papers

Short Debate to call attention to the importance of forestry to the United Kingdom; and to move for papers.

UQ to ask HMG about the problems of bunching coaches with heavy lorries on motorways etc (L. Teviot)

MINISTERS - See Annex

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MAIN NEWS

12 more hostages leave plane in Cyprus before hijackers fly off with rest of hostages to Algeria.

Those released - 5 Kuwaitis, 4 Egyptians and 3 Jordanians - say hijackers treated them well.

You fiercely defend social security reforms which will bring greater fairness. Speaker grants emergency debate today.

Kinnock describes you as a "knave" over issue.

Reports of Conservative concern over issue - and especially over £6000 cut off.

Mirror up in arms because you claim their story about Mrs Godden, of Bristol, is "substantially inaccurate" and John Moore "smears" her. The Mirror stands by its story.

Times says Government faces Backbench revolt tomorrow over its plans to abolish free eye and dental checks and another on Monday on community charge.

P&O issues warning that it will hire 2000 new workers to end Dover strike and sack any employee who refuses to work with new crews.

New single union row in prospect over Jaguar-GKN plans for one with GMBTU at Telford.

Jaguar chairman warns workers they will wreck sales in USA if they strike. Vauxhall announces first profit of 9 years - £31million.

Express suggests Ford plant, lost to Dundee, will go to Germany.

ITV Unions threatening to disrupt summer programmes as companies try to end restrictive practices.

Middle ranks of Civil Service offered 11% two-year pay deal.

Equal opportunities Commission wants women to be allowed to work in coalmines.

House prices rise in South-East by 18.2%, according to Halifax Building Society. Midland cuts its mortgage rate to below 10%.

Daily Telegraph moving towards profitability this year after near collapse in 1985.

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Glaxo announces £1billion expansion of R&D by 1993, half in UK creating 700 jobs.

ICI also discloses £1billion 10-year plan for pharmaceutical investment, half to be spent in Britain.

National Audit Office claims that health authorities could realise £500million by selling unwanted land and buildings; says £2billion needs to be spent on repairs to existing hospitals.

Express says if health authorities did not have their eyes so firmly fixed on Whitehall as they bellow for more cash they might have spotted the new source of funding arising from property sales. A chance, the Mail says, for John Moore to show what a dynamic Minister he is.

Editorial welcome for North report on road traffic law which recommends a much tougher approach to motorists.

Saunders, ex-Guinness chief, refused legal aid.

Star campaign for Brady and Hindley to be put on trial for murder of girl on whom inquest jury brought in murder verdict yesterday. But Today wants case closed for ever - and Brady and Hindley to stay in jail for ever.

Home Secretary has blocked police idea of hypnotising Hindley to try to discover where another of the Moors' victims is buried.

William Rees-Mogg expected to be named as first chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Council (Times).

Speaker in rare TV interview on Channel 4 says behaviour of MPs is as good as it has ever been and denies he is too weak a disciplinarian (Times).

Conservatives on look out for dirty tricks from new SDLP in local elections (Express).

Labour keeps control of National Union of Students' presidency.

Hounslow Council want to name a street after a Sikh terrorist who murdered a British military governor.

31 terrorists died in Northern Ireland last year and 16 policemen - worst since 1987.

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Sean Connery wins Oscar - which Express celebrates with a leader linking Connery's triumph with that of British-made "The Last Emperor" which won 9 Oscars and Sandy Lyle's golf victory.

Nicholas Fairbairn MP recovering in hospital after operation for gallstones and ulcer.

Alan Paton, South African author and anti-apartheid campaigner, dies, 85.

Row looming between UK and USSR over failure of Russians to reunite Soviet jewess with son in London.

HIJACK

Times leader says this latest crisis should be used to create a new resolve on the part of Western, and other Governments, towards terrorism against the world's travellers. Governments should not simply greet the end of this crisis by waiting passively for the next one.

Independent leader says terrorism is not a new phenomenon, nor is the terrorist state. What is new is the complexity of the issue: the dilemma for the international community in this case, as in some others in the past, is to know which section of the Iranian leadership is involved. In the future changes must be made, perhaps including efforts to form an international intervention force.

Independent The Iranian militants responsible for exposing the Iran-Contra arms affair are behind the hijack of the Kuwaiti plane, according to Iranian sources.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Sun gives space to Michael Protillo and Margaret Beckett to set out their cases.

Mirror leader says not for the first time the Government accused the Mirror of not telling the truth and not for the first time they were lying.

Today - Maggie refused benefits rethink - defies onslaught from all sides.

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Express report headed "Benefits Showdown" says this is what MPs are preparing for in today's surprise debate; Tory MPs furious with Speaker for granting it.

Mail - Maggie stands firm on benefits shake up but concern among Tories that impact of changes will be more severe than Ministers have been prepared to admit. Professor David Marsland, head of sociology, Brunel, explains why reforms are long overdue - only a small minority lose out and is entirely in line with the approach to welfare which most people in Britain have always supported. What ought to be causing an outcry is the opposition to the extension of freedom, not least among poor and most deprived.

Independent The afternoon's debate will take place against a background of significant Conservative unease, and an effective Opposition attack. But you have made it clear that you will not budge from the new rules and senior Tories are resigned to there being no amelioration of the package.

Financial Times leader argues that targeting, the intellectual bedrock of this week's changes, appears to make eminent sense. But there is a very real risk that increased targeting of benefits, by undermining the incentives of the low paid, will institutionalise an underclass.

Telegraph Thatcher makes stout defence of benefit changes.

Guardian PM refused concessions; but many Conservatives expressing opposition to £6000 cut off; report on Sir Hugh Rossi MP's postbag suggests public outrage over the benefit changes could be "a trifle exaggerated".

ROADS

Today says Government must act on North report without delay and should add in a zero alcohol limit for drivers and random breath testing.

Express considers report to be timely and to be a good job. It will be strongly backed by public and should form the basis of new traffic laws.

Mail describes proposals as "much needed reform" - the Government's comprehensive attempt to create a legal framework in which punishment fits the crime. The sooner the proposals become law the better.

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Times Wide backing for tougher road law proposals; leader welcomes the proposals saying they would give courts the appropriate sentencing power to express public abhorrence of the worst cases.

Guardian says the report could save far more lives than all the new restrictions on knives and martial weapons put together. To their credit the motoring organisations supported the report. All the signals are pointing to green for the Government to get things rolling.

INDUSTRY

Sun, accepting reports you want coal to be privatised, says it should first be offered to the miners.

Today says John Edmonds, GMBTU, is a humbug and a hypocrite because while giving kiss of death to Ford, Dundee, is trying to secure a single union deal for GMBTU with Jaguar/GKN at Telford.

Times Government considering taking legal action against CPSA if it continues with its campaign of selective strikes against YTS.

Times John Banham, CBI, in hard hitting speech, says employers are sitting on demographic time bomb which is impossible to defuse and which would have devastating effects on economic growth. He warns that those leaving school without qualifications would no longer expect wages five times higher than those being earned by qualified technicians working in Third World.

Times News International MD says transformation of Fleet Street totally due to unbelievable stance taken by print unions.

Times leader discusses the Government's delay on space policy saying Lord Young has done little to reassure Britain's still significant community of space scientists about the Government's ability to formulate a coherent space policy. Welcoming the fact that he has reduced taxpayers' contribution to the Columbus project, it adds that he should now make crystal clear whether he intends to participate - preferably in the affirmative and before deadline expires.

Independent Consumers and animal welfare groups have combined to attack the secrecy surrounding the testing of BST on cows in Britain.

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Independent Eric Hammond writes on why the fortunes of industry are bound up in single-union deals and concludes that too many workers' leaders are clinging to the past.

Financial Times French, West German, Spanish and British ministers embrace proposals for sweeping reform of management of Airbus project. They will present detailed plans by their next meeting in Hanover on May 5.

Financial Times BAA Chairman Sir Norman Payne announces review of London and South East's runway needs post-1995.

NHS

Financial Times Government is likely to announce decisions on restructuring of nurses' pay and other pay review body recommendations on April 28. There had been hopes of an announcement on April 21, but a week later now looks likely, following confirmation by the full Cabinet. Ministers expect fully to finance the extra cost of the nurses award.

LAW & ORDER

Times Police appeal to Home Secretary to reverse decision not to allow Myra Hindley to be hypnotised in search for further body on moors.

EDUCATION

Times Classical Association to support amendments to Education Reform Bill to introduce flexibility and freedom to choose minority subjects.

Independent Ministers are to hold inquiry into student unions following backbench concerns about affiliation to the NUS.

Independent Leader on education, says the NUS is a bureaucratic structure ultimately dependent on the taxpayer. Membership at local student unions is usually compulsory. Mr Baker should seek a structure which divorces lobbying on educational matters from wider political crusading. One way might be to ensure that local student unions funds were not, in future, spent on affiliation to any national union.

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Independent Feature article on Nigel Lawson saying that he may have difficulty justifying his balance of payments deficit at today's meeting of the Group of Seven.

ENVIRONMENT

Independent The Queen expressed her concern over the North Sea at banquet for King of Norway last night and said it was in Britain's best interest to keep the area free from pollution.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Independent IRA violence in Northern Ireland increased sharply last year while fewer Republican activists were brought to court, according to Chief Constable of the RUC's annual report. Sir John Hermon called for tougher anti-terrorist laws, warning that the IRA had the intention and capacity to escalate violence in the province.

EC

Independent The European Parliament is ready to approve a first draft of this year's EC budget but a final settlement, already months behind schedule, could be delayed by a dispute over procedure.

MIDDLE EAST

Times Soviet union has again strongly signalled its anxiety to return to the centre of the stage in the Middle East peace process after years on the fringes playing second fiddle to the US.

USA

Independent Reagan's former press spokesman, Larry Speakes, has disclosed that he sometimes made up quotes for his boss, and the American media have reacted with horror, shock and delight.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Fowler and Mr Lee attend Waterside 2000 conference, Bristol

DES: Mr Baker visits Letchworth School to see Education 2000 project; also visits nearby schools; later receives deputa^{ti}on from Devon LEA about Axe Valley reorganisation; Mr Dunn also attends

DTI: Mr Clarke attends National launch of Action for Cities breakfast presentation, Newcastle

DTP: Mr Channon launches Autoguide

MAFF: Mr MacGregor lunches with Allied Lyons board of directors

WO: Mr Walker opens Llanelli Radiators new factory, Llanelli; later visits Glanamman Workshops, Glanamman; also addresses Swansea Chamber of Commerce and Shipping Dinner, Swansea

CO: Mr Luce visits HM Customs and Excise, Southend; later visits the New Towngate Theatre, Basildon, Essex

DEM: Mr Nicholls attends Lady Platt Award for Equal Opportunities; later meets Patrick Cormack on the Employment Bill

DEM: Mr Cope attends Action for Cities Roadshow

DES: Lady Hooper addresses the National Institute for Adult and Continuing Education, Loughborough

DOE: Mr Waldegrave addresses the Abbeyfield Society in London

DOE: Lord Caithness launches Shell schools video, For All our Sakes, London

DOE: Mr Trippier visits Brent

DOE: Mr Chope addresses PSA awards ceremony, London

DTP: Mr Mitchell receives courtesy call from Danish Minister of Transport

HMT: Mr Lamont addresses the Association of Inspectors of Taxes

HO: Mr Hogg visits Maidstone Prison

MAFF: Mr Gummer dines with Directors of Agriculture Mortgage Corporation, Spencer Rooms, Brooks; later has bilateral talks with M. Gummelgaard, Danish Fish Minister

MAFF: Mr Thompson attends Reception for Institute of Environmental Health Officers

MOD: Mr Sainsbury visits Devonport Dockyard

WO: Mr Roberts attends Aluminium Federation lunch, House of Lords

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

MOD: Mr Younger interviewed on the BBC's World Tonight programme on defence policies post NATO Summit

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 Conservative Party representative speaks in this political slot (name not known at time of diary preparation)

"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, Lord Templeman one of the 11 Lords of Appeal in Ordinary.

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

"Newsnight" BBC 2 (22.45)