

18 APRIL 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

EC: Single Internal Market conference

EC: Finance Council, Luxembourg

EC: Agriculture Council, Luxembourg (to 19 April)

New hearing for the Sharpeville Six, South Africa

National Union of Journalists annual delegate meeting, Sheffield (to 22 April)

Amalgamated Engineering Union national committee, Eastborne (to 27 April)

Scottish TUC annual congress (to 22 April)

INF Ratification before US Senate

Publication of Kenneth Baker's Book 'English History in Verse'

Jaguar strike starts (prov)

STATISTICS

CBI: CBI/FT Survey of distributive trades (Mar)

DTI: Retail Sales (Mar-prov)

PUBLICATIONS

DHSS: Annual report of Chief Adjudication Officer

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Transport; Wales; Energy

Business: Local Government Finance Bill: Progress on Remaining Stages

Adjournment Debate: Supplementary Benefit appeals (E Loyden)

Select Committees: PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Review of Scottish New Towns

Witness: J A Scott, Secretary of the Industry
Department for Scotland

Lords: Starred Questions

Education Reform Bill: Second Reading (1st Day)

MINISTERS -

See attached

PRESS DIGEST

Much interest in the community charge vote this evening as pressure on Michael Mates and supporters intensifies; Mates claims 45 Tories who support his banding amendment.

Government majority could be cut to 20. Mates denies he is tool of Heseltine. Narrow Government margin may embolden Lords to change legislation.

MORI poll shows Conservative lead cut from 11% to 8%.

Two Olympic qualifiers in Marathon say they back Zola Budd in row with International Amateur Athletics Federation. British Board to meet on Sunday in face of threat to suspend them if they do not act against Budd.

Mail says you have asked for a full report on the Budd case which has left Britain facing its worst sporting crisis.

Telegraph says athletes are split over Budd ban.

Algiers hijack in 14th day with no sign of a resolution - hostage appeals for release of 17 Arab militants in Kuwait.

Guardian says Algiers is preparing to concede defeat and to allow plane to move on.

Sterling riding high against dollar - \$1.8985 - prompts speculation about a further cut in interest rates.

Mirror leads with case of a widow who has lost £43 in social security payments after a DHSS official heard her broadcast about her handicapped son, 9, who was selected as one of the Children of Courage.

New row forecast over projected sale of Govan Shipbuilders bringing end in sight for British Shipbuilders.

Guardian forecasts contract for Harland & Wolff tomorrow to build world's biggest cruise liner.

TGWU trying to sign a single union deal for new Coca Cola factory in Yorkshire, notwithstanding their opposition to one in Dundee.

P&O seamen vote to continue their ferry strike by large majority. - company say they will recruit non-union labour and there will be no further offers.

ACTT and Broadcasting & Entertainment Trades Alliance agree to merge to help fight employers' demands for changes in working practices.

Department of Employment tells CPSA that unless it ends strikes against YTS it will sue and end check off.

Mail on Labour plan to allow shareholders in privatised companies to keep their shares but take away their votes says it has not lost is urge to plunder.

TGWU and GMBU tell Prescott to end his challenge to Hattersley.

Norman Fowler says ban on strikes in essential public services is being considered.

Express, featuring your interview, leads with you calling on millions of tax exiles to return home with their talents.

Low Pay Unit claims that lowest paid are worse off relatively than 100 years ago - earn only 64% of annual pay compared with 69% in 1886. 46% of workers below "decency threshold" compared with 38% when you took office.

Anti-abortion campaigners demand end to transplants of brain cells from aborted babies into sufferers of Parkinson's disease. Telegraph says BMA is to give its backing to transplants.

Mail says Scotland Yard is compiling a blacklist of corrupt lawyers who are suspected of helping major underworld figures escape justice.

Sir George Young MP claims that homosexuals of Ealing Council are being given time off on full pay to distribute leaflets promoting homosexuality.

Star says Reagan is on the point of ordering another air strike against Libya and will ask permission to use bases in Britain.

Seven members of King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, dismissed

for drug taking.

Israel's Mossad accused of killing PLO No 2 - and Arafat suspects
Americans are behind it.

Iraq claims to be pushing Iranians into sea in new battle on Fao
peninsula.

Red Brigade terrorists murder Italian Premier's righthand man.

200 massacred by Sudanese rustlers in remote Kenya.

Lord Cockfield is facing the axe at the end of his 4 year term.

Britain has record number of 100 year-olds.

Mail says a major critic of the Church of England's liberal
establishment, Canon George Austin, who supported Dr Bennett in
the Crockford's affair, has been exiled to a tiny rural parish.

COMMUNITY CHARGE

Sun - Tarzan leads the poll tax revolt. Heseltine challenge to
Maggie; leader says one alternative to the community charge is to
stick with rates. That would mean ratepayers being constantly
bullied by spendthrift councils. If these MPs want to desert
their party's policy to abolish the rates they should resign.

Mirror - It's crisis night for Thatcher - the biggest Tory revolt
since you took office, leader says the community charge is a tax
on people regardless of ability to pay and will benefit the rich
and penalise the poor. It is unfair, unpopular and won't work
well.

Today - I'm not a Heseltine stooge says poll tax rebel (Mates);
leader headed "Tax that's not worth revolt" says the Government
should be pondering whether the community charge is so wonderful
that it is worth the risk of a backbench revolt. You should think
again before you set in concrete a major reform that will offend a
lot of your supporters.

Express - Heseltine accuses (Government of dirty tricks) as poll
tax rebels dither - he denies he is using community charge to
further his leadership ambitions. Government confident revolt
about to fizzle out; leader headed "Michael and his mixed up
Mates", says Mates' proposal is so manifestly absurd as to make
anyone suspect ulterior motives. It is hard to credit that any
Tory MP could dream up such a scheme, contradicting, as it does,

almost every tax tenet to which the Government is committed.

Mail - Heseltine in 'dirty tricks' revolt row - says he is being set up by senior Tories; leader says old Parliamentary hands will smile at Heseltine's injured innocence. It may well be he is not calling the shots so there is no conspiracy but Mates is doing his work. Heseltine's interest is in promoting disenchantment with you. Mates' amendment would serve his ends by wrecking the Bill and humiliating you - a very powerful reason for ensuring it fails.

Telegraph - Whips woo tax rebels. Privately Mates' supporters estimate 30 Tory MPs will vote against Government. Leader says Nicholas Ridley's concession is well judged and the disadvantages of Mr Mates' amendment should make his supporters hesitate. His amendment appears neither simple nor particularly fair.

Guardian reports heavy pressure on the rebels and total rebellion is not likely to exceed 35.

Independent - Page 1 lead Thatcher poll tax majority may fall to 20. Given a poor Commons majority, the Lords could feel emboldened enough to offer their own amendment to the legislation.

FT - Page 1 'Poll tax rebels test Government'` Director Michael Howard says he is confident of a healthy majority.

Times lead with "Poll tax anger as Ministers lash Heseltine". Report estimates a 30 majority and says Heseltine is behind Mates' amendments. Heseltine denies this and Mates says "Do I look like anyone's stooge?".

OLYMPICS

Star leader headed "Bullies and hypocrites" says this time the scapegoat is Zola Budd - an easy target for IAAF zealots who have not the slightest interest in sport. All they want to do is to score political points off West.

Sun says foreigners are trying to dictate to Britain in an outrageous way. Her prosecutors include corrupt, ramshackle dictatorships who have not respect for human rights within their own borders. Britain has no choice but to stand firm.

isn't exactly the height of sportsmanship when 180
 manipulate the rules of athletics to confront Britain
 enge over Zola Budd. But Budd is not exactly the
 r whom to sacrifice the ambitions of leading British
 she wishes to demonstrate true sportsmanship she
 the decision and instead withdraw to South Africa.

First athletes chosen for British Olympics team call
 athletics authorities to support Zola Budd even if it
 banned from the Games. Leader says Budd's behaviour
 foolish, at worst deliberately provocative. But
 British Board nor the International Federation gave
 it would bring her into conflict with the spirit of
 It says it would be wrong for this country to

ow.

TY

- Child benefit under review by John Moore. DHSS
 offer the Treasury a change in the basis of child
 ment as part of this year's public expenditure

- New DHSS advice leaflet advises social security
 not to go shopping when they are hungry because they
 pted to buy more than they need.

- Britain's first brain transplants expose need for
 guidance. Cases to be raised in Parliament and have
 on by anti-abortionists.

- St Barts bringing in US management consultants to
 llion on costs of treating patients.

Birmingham surgeon to continue brain cell transplants as
 to issue guideline next month; leader discussing the
 d moral issues of using brain tissue from aborted
 says it is natural to want to help the 100,000 people
 from Parkinson's disease in this country. But where
 al - and civic - duty lie? Science is too serious a
 to be left to the scientists. It requires policemen,
 areness of both ethical and environmental dangers.

McCall-Smith, visiting professor at Southern Methodist
 Dallas, writing in the Times about medicine's new
 le says foetal tissue transplantation is an incidental

issue thrown up by the practice of abortion which in many ways conjures up distinct ethical and legal dilemmas as profound as those engendered by the abortion question itself.

POLITICS

Times - John Wakeham will have to arbitrate soon in fierce financial tussle between David Owen and former Alliance colleagues about allocation to opposition parties.

INDUSTRY

FT - Planned Hinkley 'C' power station is unlikely to be economically competitive, according to latest experiments in Whitehall.

FT - CBI/FT survey of retailers shows marked fall in optimism.

FT - Britain is to announce today decision to join Columbus space project.

Times - AEU expects fresh protests after they sign single union deal with AC Delco, a subsidiary of General Motors.

UNIONS

Independent - Scottish TUC which opens today seeks formula to avoid repetition on Ford Dundee's single-union row.

LAW & ORDER

Independent devotes whole page looking at race relations and immigration as 20th anniversary of Enoch Powell's "rivers of blood" speech comes on Wednesday.

Times heading medical experts say controversial technique used to diagnose more than 400 cases of alleged child sexual abuse in Cleveland and Leeds is worthless.

Times - BMA protest to Law Society about advertisement by solicitors encouraging people to come forward if they have a claim for medical negligence or other personal injury.

Times - President of Law Society says Government's plans in Legal Aid Bill would inflict serious damage to quality and accessibility of legal aid service.

Times - JPs losing faith in probation service.

EDUCATION

Independent - As stalemate continues in the negotiation, leader points its finger at Iran for collusion with the hijackers. It says international action should include denial of landing rights to any country harbouring or assisting hijackers.

MEDIA

FT - ITN is today expected to approve a radical plan to cut costs and introduce new technology. About 100 jobs are likely to go, out of a present total of 1,050.

FT - British Satellite Broadcasting is advertising for an independent contractor to provide eight hours of television news a day in a contract worth £30million over three years.

FT - ACTT rejects call for all-out strike to defend pay and conditions.

EC

FT - Lord Jenkin (Patrick Jenkin) is among the front runners to become new European Commissioner.

Times - After initial doubts and scepticism, Britain is to play a full part in the single European market in 1992 - provided controversial EC schemes, such as VAT harmonisation, are altered or shelved.

MIDDLE EAST

Independent - Israel seals off West Bank and Gaza Strip to prevent further violence following assassination of PLO number two, Abu Jihad.

Times - Pravda says Kremlin want joint Middle East role with US following superpower co-operation over Afghanistan.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Fowler attends Action for Jobs, Scotland

DTI: Lord Young launches Single Market campaign, Lancaster House

SO: Mr Rifkind and Mr Lang attend launch of Action for Jobs, Hospitality Inn, Glasgow

DEM: Mr Nicholls makes Hairtech presentation, London

DES: Mrs Rumbold launches Industry Matters: School Governors from Business pack, Royal College of Art

DHSS: Mrs Currie launches Sickle Cell and Thessalaemia Card, Richmond House

DOE: Mrs Roe visits Wellingborough

DOE: Lord Caithness attends Royal Commission on Historic Monuments conference, Oxford

DOE: Mr Trippier visits Black Country Urban Development Corporation

DTI: Mr Maude visits London Fox Exchange

DTP: Mr Mitchell receives courtesy call from the Managing Director of Nigeria Railways

HMT: Mr Lilley addresses the Institute of Directors, Director dinner party

ODA: Mr Patten addresses the Financial Times/African Development Bank seminar on African debt, Intercontinental Hotel, London

WO: Mr Roberts visits Conwy Tunnel Crossing Scheme

WO: Mr Grist attends launch of British Health Care Association, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe attends Western European Union Assembly, The Hague (to 19 April)

MAFF: Mr MacGregor attends Agriculture Council, Luxembourg (to 19 April)

MOD: Mr Younger attends Western European Union Assembly, The Hague (to 19 April)

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DES: Mr Baker appears on Start the Week on Radio Four, about his book "English History in Verse"

DEM: Mr Nicholls interviewed by Personnel Today

TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Money Box": BBC Radio 4 (10.00)

"Daytime Live": BBC 1. Life in Long Lartin prison

"Business Daily": C4 (12.30)

"Woman's Hour": BBC Radio 4 (14.00). Interview with Linda Chalker about what it will mean when the EC becomes a single market in 1992

"Open Space": BBC 2 (19.35). "Dear Mr Baker", - about gerbil

"World in Action": BBC 2 (20.30)

"Panorama": BBC 1 (20.30). Child Abuse: Battering the System

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

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.50)

"Business Matters": BBC 1 (23.25)
