

22 April 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

PM on regional visit to Nottingham.

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STATISTICS

BSA: Building Societies monthly figures (Mar)

CSO: Preliminary estimate of consumers' expenditure (1st Qtr prov)

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PUBLICATIONS

CO: ACOST Report into Environmental Pollution

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business:

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILL

Protection of Animals (Amendment) Bill: Remaining Stages.  
(Mr John Browne)

Malicious Communications Bill: Remaining Stages.  
(Mr Andrew Stewart)

Sales of War Toys (Prohibition) Bill: 2nd Reading.  
(Mr Tony Banks)

Adjournment Debate: The conduct of the Prime Ministers Private Office  
(Mr T Dayell)

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGEST

Warm welcome for the pay increases for nurses - they say its a great morale booster.

Bickerstaffe, NUPE, says you had to cough up because of the strikes.

Robin Cook says it is a famous victory for the NHS.

Kinnock says there is still an underfunding crisis.

Mail sees the rises as launching of your counter attack on NHS.

Mixed reception of idea of a lottery to help NHS in spite of your welcome.

Edinburgh professor claims that babies are dying or being left with brain damage because of a lack of special care facilities.

Six Conservatives vote against unified business rate.

Tory Backbenchers said to have been angered by disclosure in Answer that cost of raising social security capital cut off from £6,000 to £10,000 only £60million.

Mirror leads with your advice to pensioner to take out a loan against asset of her house. It quotes Halifax Building Society as saying it is not possible for old people with little or no money to raise cash on their property.

Botha apparently abandons attempt to appease Right and paves way for political role for blacks.

Charles Haughey, on visit to USA, criticises British policy in Northern Ireland; knocks Anglo-Irish Agreement; and says constitutional conference is needed with Dublin.

"Sensitive" American naval documents about its nuclear submarine base found on beach in Scotland.

Surge in lending brings fears of higher inflation - mortgage borrowing hits new record.

Bank intervenes to stem rise in pound after money supply figures.

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Details of managerial redundancies in Post Office to be given today; 1,200 said to be going to go.

British Rail improves its pay offer by 0.5% to 5%.

Sunderland Shipbuilders' future in doubt as efforts to save Danish ferries order fail - threat to 3,000 jobs.

Trade union membership falls 2.5million from 1979 peak of 13.2million.

Yorkshire TV producer publishes book telling people how to make a nuclear bomb - Winston Churchill says book is grossly irresponsible.

13 arrested in early morning swoop by police investigating lynching of 2 British soldiers in Northern Ireland.

You urge new international moves against hijackers (Express). Times says Britain is to press ahead with efforts to bring international pressure on Algeria for letting hijackers go.

Reports of murder of kidnapped US Colonel in Lebanon seem unvalidated by announcement by group that he may be tried for spying.

Princess Royal criticises inefficient methods of giving aid to Third World.

Star leads its front page with an alleged picture of SS General, living in Hamburg, who, it is claimed, ordered murder of 80 British prisoners of war in 1940; ITN crew has to make a run for it when neighbour of general goes for them with tractor.

Home Secretary orders search of files as Jeff Rooker MP calls for the man to be brought to account.

Claims that sex abuse test used in Leeds and Cleveland is no better than witchcraft.

Nicholas Winterton MP has offers his services as State executioner.

Linda Bellos quits as leader of Lambeth Council - hard Left accuse her of sell out.

Joe Haines in Mirror rather suggests the leaker of the No 10 letter is in No 10 and if so detection is almost inevitable.

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Allegation that an escort and model agency was being run from Birmingham Treasury's Department - two suspended.

Three new TV channels for Britain via satellite from next year.

Government considering launching TV campaign to sell community charge.

Garter awards to Lord Hailsham and Viscount Leverhulme.

Zola Budd says she is so fed up she may quit athletics and go home.

Senator Gore withdraws from US Democratic presidential race.

Express says Iran is on the run in the Gulf now.

Reports claim Gorbachev has won his battle with Ligachev who has lost his job.

#### NURSES - TREATMENT

Star - Jackpot day for the angels - rises all round and some nurses get 60%. MPs see rises as your reward to RCN for reaffirming no strike policy.

Sun - page 1 - Loads, Loads money for our super nurses. Delighted with billion pound deal. Also "Forces hit the jackpot".

Mirror - page 1 - Thatcher caves in over nurses' pay.

Today - page 1 - £40 rise for staff nurse - Britain enters age of super nurses. Award a huge relief to MPs.

FT - page 1 lead - Nurses receive 15.3% as Government meets pay recommendation. Health authorities give a welcome but National Association of Health Authorities said they still face problem of under-funding.

Times - Nurses given 15% to stave off NHS crisis and rise will be fully funded by Government; Ministers hope it will give them political breathing space to review future of NHS.

Express - page 1 - 15% pay joy for nurses. Maggie honours £750million pledge with record rise. Marks beginning of Government's counter attack on health issue.

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Mail - page 1 - Record rise for nurses. Government gambling on deal taking heat out of health service emergency.

Telegraph - page 1 - 15% for nurses raises spirits of Tory MPs. Treasury funding to avoid cash squeeze on hospitals.

Guardian - page 1 - nurses pay rise stems tide of health debate. Much lower increases for top earners intended to show Ministers' concern for fairness.

#### NURSES - COMMENT

Star - Things are at last on the mend in the NHS. Nurses' special case has been recognised. Now there must be a review of hospital purchasing.

Sun - You have always said you want the best for nurses. Now you are delivering your promise. But it should be seen as only a start. Nation wants best for nurses every year.

Today leader headed "£1billion cheer for nurses" says the whole country will welcome it without reservation. Government has put nurses on right road to becoming a properly paid profession - at last. Whole package spells a move away from bad old union-inspired habit of dishing out rises across the board. It is justice and is seen to be justice and the Government has done nurses proud.

Express under "A good deal for nurses" says you have proved as good as your word in promising a generous pay award. With inflation running under 4% a rise of 15% is handsome. Government should also be congratulated for insisting on varying the award for skills and region.

Mail on "The Angels get their rise" says the decision will have general satisfaction. The award is all the better for the contrast with lower awards for top people. This shows Government is listening.

Telegraph says it is another matter whether the award will do much to improve consumer satisfaction with the NHS. Meanwhile, the climate of wage bargaining is bound to increase pressures on labour costs all round. Its wider repercussions must cause concern.

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Independent - Tory nerves calmed by 15.3% award for nurses - a package calculated to restore some of the Government's lost support. Award generally welcomed though some Backbench critics say they will not silence their protests.

Times - leader says decision to accept the recommendations is sound politics and the Government's general line is right. Whether the increase will prove statesmanlike as well as politically sensible will only become clear later. But it is critical about staging for top salaries saying that singling them out in this way is both politically inept and economically unjustified. Much better they be treated as members of the profession like any others.

Guardian says winter protests have worked.

#### NHS

Independent - New pressure group - Action for the Newborn - says inadequate Government funding is condemning new born babies to death or needless handicap.

Independent - Speaker to decide Alton Bill's fate; its future depends on the order in which amendments are taken.

Times - Consultant calls for ban on brain cell transplants from aborted fetuses because of fear of commercial exploitation.

Times - Owner of Harrods gives Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital most advanced body scanner in world costing £3million.

Express - leader on idea of lottery, says it is splendid and well overdue.

#### NORMAN TEBBIT

Sun says you backed him over his speech on South Africa; leader says he got it exactly right. For years Foreign Secretary has fawned on Kaunda, Mugabe and Nigerian generals. Why doesn't he tell them the truth Tebbit-style?

Guardian leader says that as an implacable opponent of apartheid Mr Tebbit should ask himself whether his speech to the South Africa Club is likely to build up pressure to a swift elimination of the system.

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COMMUNITY CHARGE

Express - Ridley crushes rebels with a big rates coup - help for small businesses.

PRIME MINISTER

FT - Letter to the Editor on ice cream technology attributed a paper on the elasticity of ice cream to you.

POLITICS

Sun leader on "When Tories lose faith" says Labour has the worst leader in its history, dominated by the Left and disfigured by hooligan element. Yet an opinion poll suggests they may have taken the lead. Unless Tory Backbenchers recover their nerve and faith the decline could become a fall.

Independent - Confidential accountant's report leaked to the press shows Labour's finances are in perilous state and its senior management weak.

Times - Channel 4's Chief Michael Grade in row with Labour over cut in coverage of this year's party conferences; Conservative relaxed about it and SLDP sceptical.

FT - Under the headline "Mrs Thatcher knows how far is too far", Joe Rogaly writes that one day Britain's conservative revolutionaries may go too far. If (when) they do they will self-destruct. You are blessed with the ability to know when a move would be "too far". If you lose that ability you yourself will be lost.

George Gale in Mail, says you should not allow yourself to be blown off course by latest opinion poll or diverted by Backbench revolts. You are setting about your third term the right way. Getting difficult reforms under way early on.

Mail says Benn has forged an alliance with black militants and black sections movement.

INDUSTRY

Times - Ford tells dealers they should set up special fast service bays at out of town shopping centres.

Times - British Steel signs two-year pay deal with workforce.

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FT - Association for Conservation of Energy calls for tough electricity watchdog to regulate industry after privatisation.

#### DEFENCE

Times - Ministry of Defence cancels £45million radar modernisation contract for Navy's Lynx helicopters.

#### LAW & ORDER

Independent - Home Office Select Committee condemns "scandal" of 207,000 unopened letters at the Home Office's Immigration and Nationality Department.

Times - Lords rule that hacking into computers for amusement is not a criminal offence.

#### TRANSPORT

Independent - Air traffic controllers tell Parliamentary enquiry that there are more near-misses than statistics show and that air safety is threatened by an overloaded system.

Times - Britain to clamp down on growing number of foreign airlines who employ armed "sky marshals" to protect their jets from possible hijacks.

#### EDUCATION

Independent - ILEA warns of grim doomsday scenario of the future of inner London's education service after its abolition.

FT - This week Lords' debate on the Education Bill demonstrated once again the extent opposition to the Thatcher Government's proposed measures. Many of the reforms are not fully worked out, and some seem peripheral to the central task of raising standards.

#### ZOLA BUDD

Joe Haines, in Mirror, though it pains him to say it "because of the company he is forced to keep", says if there is a spark of decency in the BAAB it will tell the International Federation to get lost.



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EC

Roy Jenkins in the Times looks at West Germany's deep-seated reluctance to play a strong political hand in Europe since the war. In both an Atlantic and a European context Germany, the third most powerful economy in the world, finds herself in a subordinate position, mainly by her choice, but the original free choice having somewhat run away with itself.

SOUTH AFRICA

Independent - President Botha abandons attempt to appease far right and maps out bold new reforms which may let blacks into cabinet. The initiative is certain to be welcomed by you and Reagan. Leader says Botha's on-off reform programme appears to be on again. His remarks suggest he believes political reform is a viable alternative to increasingly bloody confrontation.

SOVIET UNION

Independent - Indications increase that leader of conservative faction within Soviet leadership, Ligachev, is losing his power struggle against Gorbachev's reforms.

Times - Soviet Army scandal erupts in official media over ritualised bullying and violent initiation techniques regularly used against new conscripts.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- HO: Mr Hurd opens Rule of Law and the Control of Terrorism conference, Ditchley Park; later opens Thames Valley Police new special interview room, Oxford
- SO: Mr Rifkind opens Scotvec Headquarters, Hanover House, Glasgow; later opens Murray Johnstone's new offices, Glasgow
- DEM: Mr Cope visits South West
- DES: Mr Jackson visits NERC, Swindon
- DES: Mr Dunn awards prizes at the Mid Kent College of Higher and Further Education prize giving ceremony
- DES: Lady Hooper attends launch of London Chamber Training and Bursary Scheme at the London Chamber of Commerce
- DHSS: Mrs Currie visits Chester Social Services Area and addresses Chester and North Wales Society of Chartered Accountants dinner
- DHSS: Lord Skelmersdale visits the Spinal Injuries Centre, Stoke Mandeville Hospital
- DTI: Mr Maude addresses the Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry conference
- DTp: Mr Mitchell visits Hoylake and Leasowe level crossings, Merseyside
- DTp: Mr Bottomley addresses the annual conference of the Chartered Institute of Transport, Yorkshire
- HMT: Mr Lilley visits Customs at Gatwick Airport
- MAFF: Mr Gummer lunches with Water Authorities Association, Queen Annes Gate, London
- MAFF: Mr Thompson visits Manchester Polytechnic Department of Food Manufacture and Distribution; later addresses Association of Public Analysts dinner, Manchester
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington attends launch of NSDO Ltd new company
- SO: Mr Forsyth opens East Sands Leisure Centre, St Andrews
- SO: Mr Lang visits Scotbic Workshops, Stirling; later addresses Scottish Rating and Valuation Association conference
- WO: Mr Roberts visits headquarters and projects of the Community Industries programme, Menai Bridge Village; later launches Welsh language version of road safety "Accident in Park Street", video for schools, Bangor; also presents "Fit for Work" MSC Awards, Hotpoint, Llandudno Junction and addresses Ysgol Dafydd Hughes PTA on Education Reform Bill, Bangor
- WO: Mr Grist visits Brand New Homes Show, Cardiff; later addresses Welsh Medical Committee, Builth Wells
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTI: Lord Young attends Trade Fair, Hanover

OAL: Mr Luce visits Berlin, EC City of Culture for 1988

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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DES: Mr Baker appears on Any Question, Radio Four (20.45)

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TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Business Daily": C4 (12.30)

"The Parliament Programme": C4 (14.00)

"Dispatches": C4 (20.15)

"Any Questions?": BBC Radio 4 (20.20) with Kenneth Baker, Baroness Seear, Jack Straw and Germaine Greer

"Secret Services": BBC 2 (22.05). The press - three weeks in the undercover world of Sunday Mirror investigative reporter Steve Bailey

"The World Tonight": BBC Radio 4 (22.30) followed by "The Financial World Tonight"

"The London Programme": Thames (22.35)

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.50)

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