

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

EC: Informal Meeting of Ministers for Telecommunications, Berlin

EC: Budget Council, Brussels (to 29 April)

Wales TUC Annual Conference, Llandudno (to 30 April)

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STATISTICS

CLSB: Quarterly house purchase finance statistics (1st qtr)

DEN: Energy trends (Feb)

DTp: New motor vehicle registrations (March 1988)

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PUBLICATIONS

CO: Official history of the National Health Services since the war, volume one

DES: Kingman Committee Report (prov)

Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration: Fifth Report session 1987-88, Selected Cases Volume Two, 1988, published at 12.00 noon

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Northern Ireland; Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Prime Minister

Business: Copyright, Designs and Patents Bill (Lords): 2nd Reading, Money and Ways and Means Resolutions Motion on the Summer Time Order Details of the EC Document relevant to the debate will be given in the Official Report

Adjournment Debate: The role of Government Agencies in the development of Holyhead (Mr I W Jones)

Select Committees: COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL Hampshire (Lynchurst Bypass) [Lords]

Lords: Starred Questions British Rail Order Confirmation Bill: Third Reading Housing (Scotland) Bill: Committee (3rd day)

NOTE: Subject to the progress of business, the Committee stage of the Housing (Scotland) Bill may be adjourned at approximately 7.00 pm for approximately 1 hour

The following business would be taken in the break

Merchant Shipping Bill (HL): Consideration of Commons Amendments

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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28 April 1988

PRESS DIGEST

P&O flies out 240 seamen to Rotterdam to sail 2 ferries back to Dover.

High Court warns strikers not to involve Sealink - case continues today.

Threat of a national ferry strike. Dover Harbour Board to cut almost 100 jobs as a result of strike.

Kinnock calls on Labour movement to back seamen's strike after backing given by party's NEC. Sun says that while he says he wants a new look Labour Party he shows it is as firmly rooted in the past as Keir Hardie. He must have a death wish.

Ex-miner jailed for assaulting a policeman during miners' strike is now demonstrating with seamen, claims he was paid by unions to be full-time picket. Star calls him a roving troublemaker.

Benn and Heffer on picket line today.

Social security concessions head off another Tory revolt - no Tories vote against Government; 3 believed to have abstained.

Mail leads with its interview with you; Why this lady had to turn - you decided a week ago after listening to constituents.

Sun gives currency to line, hidden away in FT report yesterday, that you were seen rowing with and wagging finger at Chancellor in voting lobby on Monday; Downing Street moves swiftly to squash rumours, it says, and then goes on to print them.

Express diary says Chancellor is likely to leave office this summer.

TUC pulls back from threat to suspend EETPU - to administer strong censure. Speculation EETPU might leave TUC.

You urge big earners to give some of their Budget tax cuts to charity.

Telegraph - with picture of you with crying child "Charity is our duty".

Michael Heseltine in Telegraph puts case for a return to private philanthropy.

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PRESS DIGEST

Reagan clears way for UK to build Canadian nuclear submarines if we win order - transfer of technology agreed.

ITV programme tonight with claim that two of three IRA gang shot dead in Gibraltar were killed while surrendering (Mail). Thames expects sparks to fly over programme.

Pubs will stay open until 3pm on Sundays after what Douglass Hogg describes as a Government procedural cock up in Lords.

Banham, CBI, says strong pound, higher electricity prices and skill shortages are casting a cloud on buoyant industrial scene. British Aerospace on brink of awarding £1 billion worth of contracts on Airbus to foreign companies (Guardian).

Nuisance relief to be scrapped under community charge.

Maxwell virtually closes down his Northern editorial operation; makes 136 journalists redundant in Manchester.

Labour Party expected to soften its support for closed shop (Telegraph).

Sun - Employment Minister, Patrick Nicholls, is opposing plans to build a factory which would create 200 jobs at Tiverton because it would spoil the view from his home.

Today says he has practised exactly the opposite of what he preached and no Minister can continue in office if he does that.

Scotland's soccer manager mugged by Spanish hooligans after friendly match in Madrid; English soccer fans arrested after disturbance in Budapest.

47 arrested in another police crackdown on organised squads of soccer hooligans in Britain.

Pakistan cricketer in court after hitting a West Indies fan in Barbados during Test match.

Skinheads throw young mother with bike and two babies off bridge into muddy ditch in Cambs.

Rupert Allason MP, in Mail, suggests MI5 and Special Branch are at loggerheads.

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Confusion in Thames Valley police force over whether Hungerford killer's application for licence for weapons used in massacre was properly checked.

Magistrate in Basingstoke advises punks excluded from a shopping centre by Prudential security guards to sue the Prudential.

Minicab driver shot dead by motorist in teatime rush-hour incident in Streatham.

Home Office report shows millions of youngsters feel that stealing is hardly a crime.

Dukakis scores resounding win over Jackson in Pennsylvania and looks likely to secure nomination. Bush has runaway win there, too.

Acute embarrassment for French Government; five planeloads of troops sent to New Caledonia after head of its anti-terrorist force and 5 crack members of squad kidnapped by separatists.

Amateur Swimming Association bans all official water polo matches while it investigates alleged illegal tour of South Africa.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Star - Maggie rebels' £100million victory.

Sun - Moore deal ends revolt on benefits; leader-headed "Oh John, No John" says John Moore had 10 months to work out the benefit reforms. His climb down will encourage those who suspect that, behind the strong words, there is another soft touch.

Mirror - page 1 - "The big retreat ... Mrs T climbs down again"; leader says you haven't given in because you have seen the error of your ways but out of self preservation.

Today - £100million buys off benefit rebels. John Moore boosts his image.

Express - page 1 lead - Tory rebels settle for Moore deal; MPs rally to Maggie - she heeds pleas over and for needy; leader-headed "Expensive lesson for Tories" says the package should relieve some of the pressure on the Government and Ministers

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should now examine how they landed in such a pickle. Reforming a 40 year old system is not easy, but even granting the uncertainty it does not seem that the Government did its homework sufficiently thoroughly. Norman Fowler has a lot to answer for.

Mail leads with "Maggie: why this lady had to turn" - your interview. Parliamentary Sketch writer says John Moore's was a lame effort.

Telegraph - leads with "Benefits retreat quells revolt by backbenchers", John Moore faced uncomfortable time. Leader says discretion has proved the better part of valour and welcomes it. Not a sign of weakness. On the contrary it demonstrates Government-in-Parliament system is working as it should.

Guardian - Moore buys time with climbdown, leader says for the first time since Westland your credibility is under threat. Your virtues begin to be seen as vices. But the sort of explanation now offered - you didn't know or hadn't been told - could damage most of all.

Times - Rebel Tory MPs force £100million benefits boost - second triumph in 9 days for backbench power; organisations representing elderly and disabled say millions of claimants would still face hardship but Kinnock's constituent, Mrs Harrison, welcomes the changes.

FT - page 1 lead - Some Tory backbenchers want of need for further action, and expect more concessions following the autumn public spending review. Sketch writer claims you are going to be very angry indeed about the whole debacle and are casting about to find a culprit among your Ministers. The cry of "Why wasn't I informed?" has gone up from No 10.

Independent - page 1 lead - The Government yesterday bought off a threatened large scale Conservative revolt in the Commons with a concession of £100million for some of those worst affected by the social security changes. Leader says politicians should feel no shame about changing their minds when experience demands some shift. Obduracy in error is a far more reprehensible vice. It is, however, wise to give the impression that flexibility was part of the original plan rather than something forced by overwhelming political pressures.

Independent - Presenting his emergency social security budget yesterday, John Moore did nothing to help his own ailing ministerial career but enough to dampen down a party rebellion far

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more serious than the poll tax revolt, says Peter Jenkins. The incident shows that our revolutionary Prime Minister has not forgotten the art of retreat.

FERRY STRIKE

Today leader on Kinnock's support for strike says this is knee jerk politics of the worst kind. If Kinnock wants to be taken seriously as tomorrow's political leader he must stop behaving like yesterday's man.

FT - NUS is set to expel 280 seafarers flown out by P&O to Rotterdam to break the three-month Dover strike.

Independent - NUS in danger of having its £5million assets sequestered today. They were warned that further breaches of a court injunction prohibiting disruption of Sealink services would be a "serious matter".

Independent - The plan by P&O European Ferries to sail its ferries with strike-breakers encountered a new hurdle yesterday when French unions pledged their support for the stoppage.

INDUSTRY

Times - Electricians' union signs new single-union, no strike agreements with two South Wales companies confounding its critics on the Left who want to ban such deals; Left-led NUPE to put forward motion at today's Wales TUC meeting to prevent electricians signing similar deals.

FT - Financial services companies are having difficulties ensuring their accounting systems are ready for Financial Services Act's A-day tomorrow.

Independent - The DTp has been accused of preventing Manchester airport from expanding, despite a boom in its services.

FT - MSC signals it is ready to accept flexibility within Employment training programme.

POLITICS

Times - In a move to weaken influence of far-left activists Labour leaders call on local parties to hold membership ballots to open up this summer's leadership elections to as many members as possible.

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Independent - Kenneth Baker last night pitched himself into the emerging "post-Thatcher" Tory Party debate on Conservative philosophy, saying that the emphasis on personal wealth and choice needs to be matched by a commitment to the community of individuals.

Independent - Peter Kellner looks at the growing gloom over the welfare state and discusses a poll which makes "ominous" reading for the Government.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Times - Court of Appeal tells Liberal-controlled Tower Hamlets they must reconsider their decision not to house Bangladeshi families on the grounds that they were "intentionally homeless".

NHS

Times - Government figures show more than 660,000 people are still waiting for hospital treatment and a quarter of them have been waiting more than a year.

Independent - Well over three-quarters of a million people are now waiting for hospital admission in England according to the latest waiting list figure from DHSS yesterday, but some confusion over whether figures are up or down.

LAW & ORDER

Times - Home Office report says victims claim many crimes are too trivial for police.

Times - Lord Chancellor launches recruitment drive to increase number of magistrates drawn from manual workers and ethnic minority groups.

DEFENCE

Times - New Civil Engineer magazine says Trident programme being held up by unexpected problems in construction of £600 million maintenance base for the submarines.

EDUCATION

Times - Tory peers to join forces with Opposition to force key changes over religious education and compulsory national curriculum; you are said to be "highly supportive" of the effort

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to clarify the law on religious education and compel schools to give pupils a largely Christian grounding.

Times - Fourth and fifth formers, teachers, governors and parents from Manchester school where Asian pupil was stabbed by white boy have been meeting every fortnight since last September to discuss changes to controversial anti-racist policy introduced by head.

Independent - Lord Joseph has joined with the Opposition in an attempt to downgrade radically the Government's planned national schools curriculum to the level of non-binding guidance.

MEDIA

Times - IBA chairman threatens to resign if Government gives too much power to the Broadcasting Standards Council.

Times - BBC to spend £62million more on news including an expansion of network of foreign bureaux to correspondents.

CIVIL SERVICE

Independent - The Civil Service was yesterday accused of failing to meet savings targets for Whitehall purchasing set by you in 1984 and of fiddling the figures to cover up its record.

IRELAND

Times - 16 men involved in IRA breakout from Maze prison cleared of murdering prison officer.

NATO

Times leads with NATO being briefed by the US about steps being taken by Moscow to restructure its nuclear weapons to take account of the elimination of intermediate-range missiles under the INF Treaty; Soviets carrying out tests to shorten range of some IBMs so that they can be retargeted towards Europe.

Times - Shultz/Shevardnadze to meet in Geneva on 11 and 12 May for further preparatory work for Moscow Summit.

MIDDLE EAST

Times leader says Saudi Arabia's decision to break off diplomatic relations with Iran is not just the culmination of 12 months of bitter argument between the leaders of modern Islam but goes back into the pact. Its impact on future developments in the Gulf



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would have effects far into the future. Saudis' move shows once more that countries are no longer afraid to stand up to Iran. That is the most promising path to peace.

PEOPLE

FT - Diary says Catherine Pestell, a senior FCO diplomat, is to be new Principal of Somerville College in succession to Daphne Park.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DTI: Lord Young addresses Cutlers Feast, Cutlers Hall, Sheffield

DEM: Mr Cope attends launch of Graduates into Small Business publications later presents 2000th Site Management education and training school certificate, London

DEM: Mr Lee visits Lancaster and launches Tourism Development Action Programme

DES: Mr Jackson visits Glasgow University

DHSS: Mrs Currie attends British Dental Association Healthy Eating Awards, Park Lane Hotel, London

DHSS: Mr Newton addresses the Cambridge Union

DHSS: Mr Portillo addresses Pensions Journalist of the Year Awards, London

DOE: Mr Trippier attends launch of National Council for Voluntary Organisations, How Green is Your City booklet

DOE: Mr Moynihan visits leisure centres, Portsmouth

FCO: Mr Mellor addresses East European Trade Council

MAFF: Mr Gummer visits Wales

MAFF: Mr Thompson visits CVL, Weybridge; later addresses National Office of Animal Health annual dinner, Park Lane Hotel, London

MAFF: Baroness Trumpington attends Grain and Feed Trade Association annual dinner, Grosvenor House, London

OAL: Mr Luce visits Lancashire (to 29 April) and addresses opening of Citadél Arts Centre, St Helens

SO: Mr Lang attends inauguration of Alwyn North Field by Prince of Wales, Hadd House, near Aberdeen; later addresses British Venture Capital Association dinner, Calédonian Hotel, Edinburgh

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTI: Mr Butcher attends Telecommunication Council, Berlin

DTP: Mr Bottomley visits Sweden to see the Swedish equivalent of ROSPA and TRRL (to 29 April)

FCO: Mr Mellor addresses East European Trade Council

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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

MAFF: Mr MacGregor lunches with David Henke, The Guardian, Tate Gallery

DES: Mrs Rumbold interviewed for Can I Have Your Autograph Please, Radio 4, by Lucy Hunt and Peter Haigh

FCO: Mrs Chalke appears on BBC TV Question Time

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TV AND RADIO

'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

'Business Daily': C4 (12.30) :

'Tourism: the Welcome Business': C4 (13.30)

'The Parliament Programme': C4 (14.00)

'From Raj to Rajiv': BBC Radio 4 (19.30) Dynastic Democracy

'Inside the Enigma': BBC Radio 4 (20.15) Is Russia still an enigma or with glasnost is the mystery beginning to dissolve?

'World in Action': C4 (20.00) Mick Jagger - Off the Hook

'This Week': ITV (21.00) Death on the Rock

'Question Time': BBC 1 (22.10) Lynda Chalker, Lady Antonia Fraser and Tom Sawyer

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

'The City Programme': ITV (22.35)

'Newsnight': BBC 2 (23.00)

'The Eleventh Hour: The Cold War Game - the USA': C4 (23.30)

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