

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister's 9th Anniversary in office

Prime Minister meets Mr Eglin, Leader of South African Progressive Party, and Mr Takeshita, Prime Minister of Japan (photocalls)

Announcement of Legal Aid Board chairman and members

BUPA announces new private health care scheme

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STATISTICS

BOE: Capital issues and redemptions (Apr)

DEM: Tourism statistics

DEM: Detailed analysis of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators

DEM: Overseas travel and tourism (Jan-Feb)

DEN: Advance energy statistics (Mar)

HMT: UK official reserves (Apr)

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PUBLICATIONS

ACOST: The industrial impact of Sizewell B

DEM: ACAS annual report

OMCS: Review of equal opportunities for women in the civil service

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth; Trade and Industry; Environment

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: The Right to Live  
Legal Aid Bill (Lords): 2nd Reading and Money Resolution  
Debate on the Rover Group on a Motion for the Adjournment  
Immigration Bill: Consideration of Lords Amendments  
Public Utility Transfers and Water Charges Bill:  
Consideration of Lords Amendments

Adjournment Debate: Gaelic language broadcasting (Mrs R Mickie)

Select Committees: DEFENCE  
Subject: Use of Merchant Shipping and Civil Aircraft  
for Defence Purposes  
Witnesses: Ministry of Defence; Department of  
Transport  
TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
Subject: Information Technology  
Witness: Dr Rob Wilmot, CBE, Chairman, OASIS

WEDNESDAY 4 MAY 1988 (Cont'd)

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Select Committees: WELSH AFFAIRS

(Cont'd)

Subject: Inward Investment into Wales

Witnesses: Wrexham Maelor Borough Council; Delyn Borough Council

ENERGY

Subject: The structure, regulation and economic consequences of electricity supply in the private sector

Witnesses: Representatives from the Association of Independent Electricity Procedures, the Combined Heat and Power Association and ICI

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS

Subject: Educational Provision for the Under-Fives

Witnesses: National Nursery Examination Board; British Association for Early Childhood Education (at approx 5.15)

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: Urban Development Corporations

Witnesses: Department of the Environment officials

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Subject: Famine in the Horn of Africa

Witnesses: Officials from the Overseas Development Administration

HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Broadcasting

Witness: Trades Union Congress

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Research into Advanced Information Technology (the Alvey Programme)

Witness: Sir Brian Hayes, GCB, Permanent Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Resourcing the NHS

Witnesses: Dr M Goldsmith and Mr D Willetts; Dr E Butler and Dr M Pirie

ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Department of the Environment's Main Estimates, 1988-89

Witnesses: Department of the Environment officials

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL

Hampshire (Lyndhurst Bypass) [Lords]

Lords: Starred Questions

Debate to call attention to the gap between British and North-West European manufacturing productivity, its implications for British earnings and for public and social services, and the case for more entrepreneurs to provide more jobs.

UQ to ask HMG what their response is to the comments on the Social Security changes contained in the Sixth Report of the Social Security Advisory Committee

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGEST

Army captain in Germany escapes after driving a mile through West German town with magnet bomb under his car; security check finds it.

Princess Margaret visits RAF Bruggen today under tight security.

Army schoolchildren get armed guards on way to school.

Dutch promise a major crackdown on IRA terrorists hiding in Amsterdam (Express).

Mail says Thames TV faces revolt from advertisers over IRA film.

Meanwhile, BBC set to broadcast another documentary on Gibraltar shootings, confirming much of Thames' evidence.

National Union of Seamen fight on after being fined £150,000 (with £100,000 costs) and had its £2.8million assets sequestered. McCluskie predicts a world-wide strike will result.

Judge warns McCluskie that further action could follow if court continues to be defied.

Shipping companies supplying North Sea oil rigs secure injunctions against NUS.

James Sherwood, of Sealink, warns staff they will be dismissed unless they return to work - his crewmen at Portsmouth vote to return.

NUS - and McCluskie - get severe criticism from leader writers.

Independent claims Britain is on the verge of losing the £3.4billion Canadian nuclear powered submarines contract.

After the Department of Employment sweeps against unemployment benefit fraud, Express features "work cheats who could bleed us all dry".

35 Labour MPs sign motion protesting at Robert Maxwell's decision to sack more than 100 editorial staff in Manchester and urge people to boycott Northern edition of the Mirror.

PRESS DIGEST

NB: Mirror leader has cheek to say P&O job cuts are "not necessary".

Telegraph says Dr Bunny Pantchell, MI6 officer named in Wright memoirs, has become third ex-agent to turn author since Spycatcher affair.

Alasdair Milne criticises "more political complexion" of BBC board of governors and says it is unhealthy it has "a conservative look about it".

Many scare stories about the extent of threat from Broadcasting House's cooling system; 5 so far have Legionnaire's disease.

Lords vote overwhelmingly - majority of 74 - for Government legislation on curriculum.

UEFA will require British Government to support England's return to European soccer; otherwise it won't happen.

100 MPs call on Government to allow Britons to choose between "proper blue British passport" and red Euro replacement.

Russell Harty said to be fighting for his life in Leeds hospital, suffering from hepatitis and liver failure.

Fears of Army coup grow in Turkey after Evren raises serious doubts about his commitment to constitution (Independent).

15 Britons and Irishmen caught up in street fighting in Tenerife have been in jail for 3 months without charge; they appeal to you for help. Star says they should be charged or sent home - scarcely credible that a Christian democratic, West European country could treat human rights with such merciless contempt.

Polls suggest Mitterrand will win presidential election with 10% margin.

Lech Walensa calls for "decisive protest" as thousands join Gdansk shipyard strike.

Israeli troops storm Arab homes in four Lebanese villages in search for Palestinian gunmen.

PRESS DIGESTTERRORISM

Express leader says Dutch action against terrorists is long overdue. And you must leave EC in no doubt that a Europe without frontiers still needs a co-ordinated and determined strategy for counter-terrorism.

Mail feature by Ian Curteis, playwright, says Roger Bolton, in his letter to Times yesterday, nowhere met the main charge: that he deliberately concealed crucial facts about his chief witness. And as more and more damaging revelations are made about how the programme was manufactured and facts omitted Lord Thomson's defence becomes shriller. His duty is not to defer to erring broadcasters but soundly to chastise them.

Independent - BBC documentary on the Gibraltar shooting row said to contain 2 new eye-witness accounts which corroborate much of the evidence presented in the Thames TV programme.

Times - Bomb found under officer's car in West Germany will be regarded as a coup by investigators. RUC and Scotland Yard officers will be able to identify the source of the explosives, matching the bomb's make-up to other devices uncovered in the past.

Times - Lord Thomson rejects complaints from Lt Col George Styles about lack of balance in Thames TV's "Death on the Rock". All 12 members of IBA likely to give Lord Thomson full backing.

Peter Jenkins, in the Independent, looks at the role of the media in the fight against terrorism. He says that to claim that the Thames TV programme on Gibraltar prejudices the legal proceedings to come is nonsense considering that the Government has preceded the inquest with its own official version of events. He believes that the day a free press lends itself to the covert activities of the State will be a poor day for freedom.

Guardian - says your further attack on IBA convinced your Backbenchers that you will respond to their demands for even stricter controls on broadcasters.

P&O DISPUTE

Mirror leader says the P&O seamen are not greedy, fighting restrictive practices, seeking to keep jobs which have gone or blackmailing their employers for huge wage rises. They are

### PRESS DIGEST

fighting longer hours, shorter holidays, smaller pay packets - combined with job cuts which aren't necessary. What the Kaiser and Hitler failed to do to the ferry masters the law is close to achieving.

Today says that as a dunderhead among union leaders Scargill is a hard act to beat but McCluskie has done it. In a few months he has got his P&O members the sack; his Sealink members face the same prospect; and his union has been fined and had its funds sequestrated. Scargill only split his union in two. McCluskie is on the point of destroying his altogether.

Express links P&O's dispute with 3 million fall in union membership and tripling in number of shareholders since 1979. The stubborn Luddism of McCluskie is estranging a significant number of his members and he is living in a world of his own if he believes sequestration will strengthen the NUS.

Mail - All-out strike call sets NUS on suicide path; leader headed "The union that scuttled itself" says this is not a union deliberately wrecked by Sir Jeffrey Sterling and then heartlessly consigned to a Thatcherite breakers' yard. The NUS scuttled itself. Meanwhile, Labour Party champions yesterday's men. Labour's commitment to modernisation is all image and no guts.

Independent leader says there was an almost tragic inevitability about the way in which the union seemed to invite the sequestration of its funds. It is right that the law should be obeyed and inevitable that the ferry companies should modernise their operation. This is not however a time to rejoice, but one to contemplate with sympathy the price which ordinary people must pay when competition forces change and bitter upheaval upon them.

Guardian leader says it is an unnecessary dispute and has not been characterised by statesmanship on either side. The union's blundering tactics have been countered by a steady escalation of the ante by P&O. It is beginning to look as if the union needs to be saved from itself.

### COMMUNITY CHARGE/LOCAL ELECTIONS

Sun leader says with breathtaking arrogance Socialists advocate civil disobedience against community charge. If, as they say, Scotland didn't vote for you it didn't vote for income tax cuts, "so will Scottish Socialists be sending back the extra bawbees jingling in their sporrans?".

PRESS DIGEST

Express says you sounded a warning to local electors - a vote for Labour would be a vote for spiralling community charges in 3 years' time.

Independent - Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities says increases in poll tax of 30% or more would have been more likely in Tory rather than Labour controlled districts if the system had been fully in force this year.

Times leader says local elections should be about local issues. If there is a swing against Conservatives it will reflect the government's unpopularity in recent months, a consequence of the changes in social security benefits, the community charge and NHS financing. It adds that a protest vote for Labour now is a dangerous tactic. It would give Labour undue plausibility. Kinnock is trying to produce more attractive policies, but there is nothing to suggest that the strife-laden realities within the party have truly changed for the better.

Times - Labour tries to ignite an eve-of-poll squib by publishing a list of projected community charge payments based on council budgets made this April.

Times - Local election battle dominated yesterday by charge and counter-charge between parties on community charge with Labour accusing Nicholas Ridley of near-dishonesty over rates.

Times - Conservative hopes of regaining control of Birmingham after four years of Labour rule have been dented by concern and confusion among voters over community charge.

Geoffrey Smith in Times says local elections could hardly be coming a worse time for Conservative. There will still be a wave of alarm if results are really bad, but Conservative confidence will not suffer too much so long as Labour offers an ineffective alternative.

Sir William Wade, Britain's leading constitutional lawyer, writing in the Times, under the heading "Let their Lordships loose", considers the arguments for and against the Lords siding with the community charge rebels. He looks back to the 1671 and 1678 House of Commons resolutions giving it exclusive privilege in fiscal legislation and the changes that have taken place since then. He

PRESS DIGEST

says the rules of constitutional propriety are not so strict in practice as they appear in theory. Under these tolerant rules the Lords may consider themselves entitled to "have a go" with the community charge - and see what happens.

INNER CITIES

Today noted that Prince Charles praised you at yesterday's Anglo-American conference for your "inner cities crusade".

Mail - Prince Charles, Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan called on business leaders yesterday to help rejuvenate decaying inner cities.

FT - page 1 coverage as UK and US businesses pledge help on social issues. You forecast that city fathers are coming back into the cities and holding out their hands, especially to the young.

INDUSTRY

Independent - Tories study radical plan for public sector pay. Pay structure linked to performance agreements negotiated at local level, pioneered by British Steel, is being examined by Lord Joseph and the Policy Unit.

Independent - Internal MSC figures show key employment initiatives are failing. The success rate of Jobclubs is falling and people are leaving the Job Training Scheme in droves - but not for jobs.

Independent - £17million investment programme will turn Herdmans of Northern Ireland into the world's largest independent producer of high quality linen yarn.

Times - British Coal planning to take a stake in a network of coal-fired power stations.

Times - British Steel Corporation involved in EC investigation into possible operation of an illegal cartel in stainless steels.

FT - UK electricity prices will become among the highest in the world as a result of privatisation, claims Croydon based analysts, National Utility Services.



PRESS DIGESTECONOMY

FT - CSO is considering how to improve key economic statistics, following TCSC criticism.

FT - Take-home pay of a married couple on average earnings has risen by almost 30% since 1979, according to Treasury figures.

HEALTH

Independent - Doctors organisations attack Alton bill, saying that logical limit for abortion is 24 weeks.

EDUCATION

Times - NUT demand publication of report into murder of Asian boy by white pupil at Burnage School, Manchester.

Independent - LSE research report supports "top-up" loan system alongside student grants.

LAW & ORDER

Times - Howard League to launch newspaper advertising campaign against hanging.

Times - Hundreds of thousands of disputes now pursued in civil courts will be brought into a new small claims court geared to "do it yourself" justice without lawyers, under proposals to go to Lord Chancellor.

Independent - Royal College of Psychiatrists call for random breath tests to help cut number of accidents caused by drink-driving.

MEDIA

Independent - BBC and ITN executives warn that TV companies will refuse to censor what happens in the Commons when the televising experiment begins.

FT - British Satellite Broadcasting asks Government to reconsider whether scarce UHF frequencies should be used for a fifth TV channel or be reserved for an expansion of services such as mobile communications.

PRESS DIGESTEC

Independent - Agreement expected next week by EC Ministers allowing members of the professions to set up shop anywhere in the EC with the qualification awarded in their own country.

POLAND

Independent - Calling for a decisive protest against the Polish government, Lech Walensa says Poland faces revolution and bloodshed if the government and opposition failed to get together to carry out reforms and restructure the economy.

MIDDLE EAST

Times - 2,000 Israeli troops on Lebanon guerrilla hunt; leader says the invasion into Lebanon sends a message both to Israeli critics and to the restive Palestinians that Israel's resolve is as firm as ever. But Israel's return to southern Lebanon has international repercussions which cannot be ignored. Only way they can counter international critics is to ensure that operation is no more than a search for guerrilla bases.

HUNGARY

Independent - leader looks at the grave difficulties of the Hungarian economy and says that Prime Minister Grosz will be looking to you for verbal support in obtaining loans. In deciding how to respond, you will face a characteristic dilemma of Western governments dealing with Eastern Europe - cut off credit and the regime may become more repressive; allow credit and one of the prime spurs to reform is removed.

FT - Profile of Mr Grosz describes him as an unabashed admirer who hopes you will stay in office for another 10 years. Leader believes he may well use his visit to London as a launching pad for a bid for Hungary's party leadership.

JAPAN

FT - Your talks with Mr Takeshita are expected to be very wide ranging and intended to help formulate a framework for a much broader relationship between the UK and Japan.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

ANNEX

DEN: Mr Parkinson visits United Kingdom Atomic Authority installation at Harwell and Culham, Oxfordshire

HO: Lord Ferrers visits Civil Defence College, London

MAFF: Mr MacGregor lunches with Royal College of Physicians, Regents Park, London; later addresses annual luncheon of Flower Milling and Baking Research Association

DEM: Mr Cope visits and addresses Royal Mail letter ATO, Chelmsford

DEM: Mr Nicholls attends press launch for non-graduate software engineers campaign EITB, London; later attends reception, Burnbake Trust

DEN: Mr Spicer attends the Sellafield Emergency Exercise

DEN: Mr Parkinson visits United Kingdom Atomic Authority Installation at Harwell and Culham, Oxfordshire

DES: Mrs Rumbold visits and addresses the Hall Junior Special School, Hampstead

DES: Mr Jackson visits Surrey University, Bucks College of Further Education and Templeton College, Oxford

DHSS: Lord Skelmersdale addresses Phobic Action/Phobic Society, national conference, Aldgate

DOE: Mr Waldegrave visits Milton Keynes (housing)

DOE: Mr Trippier addresses National Contractors' Group AGM, London

DOE: Mr Moynihan visits Reading Football Club for launch of membership card sponsorship by British Rail

DTI: Mr Maude chairs session of RIIA, Chatham House, London

DTI: Mr Clark meets Finnish Trade Minister, Mr Salolainen, London

DTP: Mr Mitchell launches new prototype train for London Underground Ltd, Stanmore

HMT: Mr Lilley addresses the Trade Policy Research Centre

HMT: Mr Lamont addresses the Electrical Engineering Association, London

HO: Lord Ferrers visits Civil Defence College

HO: Mr Renton opens Radio Nova International, Camberley

MAFF: Mr Thompson lunches with Mr Cooper and Mr Tucker, Coca-Cola, The Connaught, London

MAFF: Baroness Trumpington meets Mr David Cohen-Wahnon, Director General of Mercamadrid

SO: Lord Sanderson attends National Economic Development Organisation conference on land use and Scottish agriculture, Inverness

WO: Mr Roberts presents Enterprise Allowance Scheme awards, Cardiff

WO: Mr Grist addresses National Federation of Fish Fryers Banquet and Ball, Cardiff

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Mrs Chalker attends Council of Europe meeting, Strasbourg

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TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Business Daily": C4 (12.30)

"The Parliament Programme": C4 (14.00)

"Horizon": BBC 2 (20.20) Cancer at Bay

"A Week in Politics": C4 (20.30)

"An Ocean Apart": BBC 1 (21.40) Part 3 of series about Britain and America

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

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.55)

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