

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Civil and Public Services Association annual delegate conference, Bournemouth (to 13 May)

European Trade Union Confederation Congress, Stockholm (to 13 May)

National Union of Civil and Public Servants annual delegate conference, Bournemouth (to 13 May)

Transport Salaried Staff's Association annual delegate conference, Scarborough (to 13 May)

STATISTICS

DOE: Housing starts and completions (Mar)

DTI: Retail sales (Mar-final)

DTI: Credit business (Mar)

DTI: Producer price index numbers (Apr-prov)

PUBLICATIONS

HSE: Further guidelines on safety on building sites (and press launch)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Energy; Transport; Wales

Business: Finance Bill: Committee Stage (2nd day)

Adjournment Debate: The relocation of Government departments (Mr J Cran)

Select Committees: PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Subject: Management of the NHS Estate
Witness: Mr L H Peach, Chief Executive,
NHS Management Board

TELEVISIONING OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE
Witnesses: BBC; IBA

Lords: Starred Questions
Local Government Finance Bill: Second Reading

MINISTERS - See attached

PRESS DIGEST

Mitterand wins a second time comfortably - 54/46%.

Lots of coverage of your interview with Brian Walden; two main themes - you will stay on until younger man emerges; and Owen rejects your overtures.

Seamen refuse deal with Sealink until it produces more jobs for P&O strikers. Meanwhile NUS members on liner Canberra refuse to walk out without a ballot. Lorry drivers blockade Calais alleging Sealink are giving preference to cars and coaches.

Independent suggests the Sealink strike could be called off tonight; and Guardian says plans to call off all secondary action will be put before union tonight.

Speaker, in interview, says he will stay at his post amid speculation he is ready to step down.

Express says evidence at next month's Gibraltar inquest will make nonsense of ITV and BBC "trials by TV". Police to fly to Britain to interview them.

SPD wins landslide victory in Schleswig-Holstein.

Guardian claims a fundamental design fault in AGRs has been kept secret for 12 years. Plans for at least 3 new power stations, two nuclear, will be announced this week.

Mail says Britain's economic boon is spreading to North and Midlands bringing fresh jobs, orders and optimism.

Workers at Nissan, Washington, have staggered their Japanese bosses by building even more reliable cars than their Oriental versions.

CPSA elections believed to have got rid of Militant Tendency from executive control. NAS/UWT to ballot its members on a half-day strike over pay in June; Kenneth Baker hopes teachers will reject this "futile gesture".

EETPU meeting tomorrow expected to reject TUC's call for it to appear before it to be censured over Wapping.

PRESS DIGEST

Holiday flight hold-ups as Spanish air traffic controllers play up again.

British Coal Enterprise created jobs for 12,500 miners last year and could produce 100,000 over next six years.

Legislation being planned to allow women to work in coal mines. And legislation is also to be introduced. (Telegraph).

Workers who bought shares 7p a time in Bristol bus company when privatised now offered 63.50p in take-over.

Tim Renton attacks plan by British Council of Churches to give sanctuary to illegal immigrants to prevent their being deported; Star says the Churches' plan is utterly appalling and tantamount to "treason".

61 foreign students, mainly West African, arrested after inquiry at East London college into illegal immigrants.

Report on neighbourhood Community policing says it has had no effect on violent crime. Paul Johnson, in Mail, advocates setting up a separate force - Counter Terrorist Command.

Express says you are planning to inject another £200million into NHS in July.

Mirror digs up ex-Commando, DSM, who is putting up his medal for sale after losing £80 a month in invalidity pension.

Fall out from Observer article; Kaufman says Bernard Ingham should resign; Hattersley writes to Home Secretary about him.

3 potholers killed by fall of rock in Cumbria.

Hooligans at Bristol City soccer match knock down a linesman and kick him in the face; punch three members of the visiting Doncaster team and strip a home player.

Rugby league player to be questioned by police about assault on spectator; and boy hurt in brawl at same Warrington v. Widnes match.

Terror campaign against estate agents who sell holiday homes in Wales; four parcel bombs discovered.

PRESS DIGEST

Soviet dissidents challenging Gorbachev by announcing plan to form an opposition known as Democratic Union. KGB detain 47 of them.

Allegations that Major Ferguson, father of Duchess of York visits "vice-den" - massage parlour. Royals rally round him.

Sebastian Coe wants to become a Tory MP, according to Express diary.

Mirror says you are to go to Scottish FA Cup final on Saturday.

Russell Harty recovering.

Sue Lawley leaves BBC news reading for more varied broadcasting career.

Mail contains letters welcoming your interview with David English last week.

YOUR INTERVIEW WITH BRIAN WALDEN

Sun - Cabinet "kids" get a boost. You vow to carry on until you find a young Tory to succeed you.

Express - Maggie dashes the dreams of her Tory rivals. Senior Ministers re-thinking their political ambitions.

Independent - You have warned your Commons colleagues that Labour is beginning to pose a challenge to the Government because of divisions and strife within the Conservative Party; leader says it would take a rash commentator to predict the timing or the manner of your departure, still less the name of her successor. But that will certainly not stop the speculation.

Times - David Owen rejects your thinly veiled invitation for him to join the Conservatives.

YOUR INTERVIEW WITH HUNGARIAN TV

Sun - You live up to your Iron Lady image on Hungarian TV by telling interviewer his pessimism won't do.

Telegraph - Thatcher tells Hungary how to improve.

PRESS DIGESTIRELAND

Sun leader attacks Congressman Joe Kennedy for trying, after his visit to Ireland, to block sales to America by Shorts. "This mean and vindictive act reveals his true character" it says. "We hope he never returns again to Ulster to spout phoney compassion".

SEAMEN'S STRIKE

Mail leader says the NUS, lawless, friendless and skint, suddenly receives a new offer of help not from its union brothers but from Sealink but NUS militants demand more jobs from it. "No rescue, please" - the Mail defines the union's attitude, "we're the NUS".

Times - NUS leaders trying to exploit differences between P&O and Sealink management in attempt to re-open talks in 14-week ferry dispute; leader looks at how trade union bullying has been beaten, or at least subdued, thanks to an effort of the will by authority through the 1980s. The NUS dispute will once more show that old-fashioned militant unionism cannot be allowed to preserve jobs in the short term at the expense of jobs later.

Times - Police at Peterhead and Aberdeen evict NUS members from three oil rig supply vessel after company obtains court order.

POLITICS

Sun leader headed "Mrs T must carry on" deals with an interview with Lord Whitelaw in which he says one word "hesitancy" would have marked his premiership. Thank heaven you have decided to soldier on.

Today - David Owen says "I am not a Tory". Maggie spurned in move to woo Owen; leader says Owen should think again about his rejection of your overtures. HIS SDP is dead in the water and even if he acclaims his seat at the next election he will be a voice crying in the wilderness. He deserves better than that. And the country does too. He owes it to the nation to cross the political divide.

Express - Owen flatly rejects open invitation to join Tories; leader says with characteristic bluntness you have effectively written off leadership ambitions of half Cabinet. To bring in new talent you should have a reshuffle in time for the party conference making room for likely lads without ditching most able and experienced.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail - Owen rejects Maggie's overture to join the Tories - but it would be different if a coalition were offered.

Telegraph says yesterday the realisation that they will never lead the party must have dawned on Sir Geoffrey and Norman Tebbit. Your approach to Owen underlines your justified reproof to Tory Backbenchers for running away from party manifesto. You are saying Owen is a better Tory than them.

Independent - The Speaker, who is facing intense Government pressure to stall controversial statements and debates, yesterday issued an unprecedented appeal for the support of MPs. It has emerged that, in the wake of his decision to grant an emergency Commons debate on social security changes, he has been subjected to an unprecedented level of private pressure - verging on abuse - from the Government benches.

Times - Speaker in TV interview criticises Government for attempting to bypass the House when announcing contentious policy, referring to the inner cities policies launch at a morning press conference.

Times - Parliamentary supporters of Alan Beith form leadership campaign team in expectation of David Steel not standing.

MITTERAND

Mirror says Mitterand has pulled off a fantastic coup. A triumph for the good sense of the French and good for Europe for his is the staunchest European.

Express says there have been few less edifying sights than presidential election Chirac's behaviour, in shredding every rule of national decency, has dismayed the most cynical of observers. France will no doubt return to normal.

ENVIRONMENT

Mail leader says there are ominous rumbles of Tory rebellion against the mounting pressure by developers to build in the green belt. But Nicholas Ridley seems not of a mood to soothe their anger. But we have a right to expect Mr Ridley to be sceptical of the vested interests of builders as preservationists.

PRESS DIGESTOBSERVER FALL OUT

Telegraph - Storm over attack on media by No 10 aide.

Guardian - Ingham defends press outburst.

Independent - Hattersley attacks Ingham for usurping the Home Secretary's role as the minister responsible for the media. Hattersley will ask Hurd whether it was Mr Ingham's official function to make public pronouncements on the standards of the media - and whether he had become an additional unelected and unaccountable member of the Cabinet. Because the Independent does not participate in the lobby briefing system, Mr Ingham has in the past refused to speak to this newspaper's political staff.

COMMUNITY CHARGE

John Biffen, writing in Guardian, says it would be extremely unfortunate if the community charge divided British politics, with the cul de sac of controversy over the Lords' powers.

Independent - Whole page devoted to examination of the community charge under the headline: "Poll tax: the unfair and unpopular Tory flagship".

WELFARE

Independent - The Government has approved the setting up of experimental consumer satisfaction groups at a number of social security offices this summer after growing concern over the level and quality of services provided.

Independent - Whitehall officials are locked in a disagreement over rule changes that would allow single parents to take part in a new £1.4billion training programme for the long-term unemployed.

HEALTH

Independent - The private sector's share of health care is unlikely to exceed 20 per cent, even with fairly radical changes to the NHS, a study published by the Committee of Health Services Management conclude.

Times - looks at a number of district health authorities to see what progress, if any, is being made to sell off surplus property as in some regions it is as high as 78%.

PRESS DIGESTTERRORISM

Times - Maze escapee McAllister said to have been seen in Dutch-German border bar shortly before shooting of three RAF men.

EDUCATION

Stuart Sexton, Director, Education Unit, Institute of Economic Affairs, writing in the Times in support of Lord Joseph's opposition to the "nationalised" curriculum, says Lord Joseph won a moral victory in the Lords but lost the vote. He says it remains to be seen what action the Government might take following behind the scenes discussions before the Bill reaches report stage. The opportunity remains for the Government to respond to the Lord's debate by returning to a national curriculum dictated by the "market" instead of a nationalised one dictated by the Government.

Times - Lecturers and students at universities and colleges to mount campaign to try to halt military research at academic institutions; leader says the academics who join this latest anti-nuclear protest should at least pause before assuming themselves morally superior, or even enlightened, than the scientists they are hindering.

Times - School governors appeal to Lords to challenge Education Reform Bill, and Conservative County Councils have said it will give Education Secretary an unacceptable degree of power.

LAW & ORDER

Times - Lord Chancellor says there are no plans to cut legal aid but warned that the scheme was not a bottomless purse.

MEDIA

Times - BBC considering appointment of independent ombudsman to handle complaints from viewers and listeners.

FT - Lord Thomson admits concern over Government's recent advertising campaigns. He says there is a risk of transgressing the line between objective information and making a party political point.

Times - Showdown meeting between Press Council and newspaper owners likely unless it names a new Chairman.

PRESS DIGESTINDUSTRY

FT - Political pressure for a full inquiry by the MMC into future of Rowntree grew over the weekend. Lord Young offered ambiguous pointers to the future of competition policy, opening up the possibility of a deal involving both companies.

Times - BA to mount attack on restrictive practices by European Governments with plans for flights between Lyons and Milan.

Times - Michael Grylls MP to ask DTI to invoke a little used clause in the 1975 Industry Act to stop Nestle taking over Rowntree.

Times - French state electricity company, which is heavily in debt, plans to capture larger slice of British electricity market after privatisation.

Times - Commercial vehicle industry poised for another record sales year with new registrations in first four months up by 7.6%.

ECONOMY

FT - Four groups of economists predict a reduction in the value of the pound and a slow down in growth by the end of the decade but are optimistic about exports and investments.

US

Times - Donald Regan's book portrays President Reagan as controlled by a scheming wife who depends heavily on astrologer's predictions.

POLAND

Independent - Talks between management and stikers' representatives at Gdansk shipyard broke down yesterday and tension grew last night after the strikers ignored an ultimatum to leave the yard. The British delegation to the Anglo-Polish Round Table withdrew following news of the imprisonment of a solidarity adviser.

MIDDLE EAST

FT - King Hussein very gloomy about Middle East peace prospects and Jordanian ministers see no chance of a breakthrough this year.

PRESS DIGESTCANADA

FT - In latest move in long-festering fishing quota dispute between Canada and France, Canadian opposition MPs call on Government to eliminate French vessels from the contract for nuclear-powered submarines.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DES: Mr Baker visits Richmond upon Thames Tertiary College and gives short address

DHSS: Mr Moore and Mr Newton visit National Association of Care and Resettlement of Offenders, Clapham

DOE: Mr Ridley opens Community Alarm Scheme in Bexley

DTP: Mr Channon makes opening speech at Rails into Europe conference, London

MAFF: Mr MacGregor, Mr Gummer, Mr Thompson and Baroness Trumpington attend Royal Agricultural Society of England dinner, The Brewery, Chiswell Street, London

SO: Mr Rifkind opens JVC Video Factory, East Kilbride; later addresses European Democratic Group conference, Angus Hotel, Dundee

WO: Mr Walker attends Business and Education Initiative conference, Cwmbran; also attends Cardiff Bay Presentation and launches Taste for Wales, Cardiff Castle; later visits Cardiff Business School

DES: Mrs Rumbold visits Avon LEA

DES: Mr Jackson visits Trent Polytechnic

DOE: Mr Chope visits East Anglia (PSA)

DOE: Mrs Roe visits Rotherham (planning)

DOE: Mr Trippier attends launch of Shell's Better Britain campaign, London (prov)

DTI: Mr Maude visits London Metal Exchange; later addresses St Albans Industrial Group, House of Commons

FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses Consular Corps' annual dinner

HO: Mr Hogg visits Metropolitan Police Drugs Unit, Scotland Yard, London

WO: Mr Grist visits Cardiff Medical School

TV AND RADIO

'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)

'Open Space': BBC 2 (19.40) Straight and narrow minded - homophobia

'Horizon': BBC 2 (20.10) Traces of Murder

'World in Action': ITV (20.30)

'Panorama': BBC 1 (21.30) In the Shadow of the Killing Fields - Cambodia

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

'Newsnight': BBC 2 (22.35)

'Business Matters': BBC 1 (23.25) Wasted Assets - women
