

19 MAY 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister inaugurates Tower Bridge floodlighting

The Queen attends a Reception at St James's Palace to mark the tenth anniversary of Motability

The Princess of Wales attends a Scottish Gala Evening at the Guildhall, London

Association of University Teachers Bi-annual council, London (to 21 May)

Government Data Network contract announced

STATISTICS

BoE: Provisional estimates of monetary aggregates (Apr)

CLSB: London and Scottish banks monthly statement (Apr)

CSO: Provisional figures of vehicle production (Apr)

CSO: Index of output of the production industries (Mar)

DEM: Labour Market Statistics: Unemployment, Employment, Vacancies, Earning, Hours, Unit Wage Costs, Productivity, and Industrial Stoppages

DTI: Provisional figures of vehicle production (Apr)

DTI: Manufacturers' and distributors stock (1st qtr-prov)

DTI: Capital expenditure by the manufacturing and service industries (1st qtr-prov)

PUBLICATIONS

HO: Charity Commissioner's Report (1987)

HO: Research and Planning Unit report on police training

PARLIAMENTCommons

Questions: Home Office; Northern Ireland; Prime Minister

Business: Opposition Day (12th allotted day) (1st part)
 There will be a Debate on an Opposition Motion entitled
 "The Future of British Shipbuilding"
 Motion to take note of EC Documents on Own Resources and
 Future Financing. Details will be given in the Official
 Report

Adjournment Debate: UK Relations with Poland (Mr A Coombs)

Select Committees: AGRICULTURE
 Subject: Chernobyl: The Government's Reaction
 Witness: Department of the Environment

DEFENCE
 Subject: Statement on the Defence Estimates 1988
 Witness: Rt Hon George Younder, TD, MP, Secretary of
 State for Defence

Lords: Starred Questions
 Education Reform Bill: Committee (7th Day)
 Malicious Communications Bill: Second Reading
 Control of Misleading Advertisements Regulations
 1988: Motion for Approval
 ROYAL ASSENT

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGEST

Gallup puts Conservatives 9 points ahead - 10 point improvement since last month.

Death of Sir Brandon Rhys Williams in "marginal" Kensington puts Kinnock on trial.

Speculation that the Chancellor will have scope for further tax cuts next year after good start to year with public sector borrowing.

Sun Alliance cuts mortgage rate from 9.2% to 8.65%.

Chancellor, at OECD, warns of dangers of rise in world inflation.

TUC leaders try to avoid split with EETPU and AEU; agree to look again at a controversial new code for single union agreements. Eric Hammond in Express explains why they won't let TUC push EETPU around.

Militant Macreadie, CPSA, forced off TUC General Council; CPSA accepts 4.25%.

Michael Meadowcroft decides to join SLD "to be involved in leadership contest".

Irish troops fire into the air as mob of supporters try to prevent re-arrest of alleged IRA bomber on English warrant on his release from prison in Republic; now awaits extradition. First test case of new agreement.

Rover Group, according to Mail, wants 1,000 more men to build new family saloon; Vauxhall faces threat of equal pay strike by women machinists.

Two jets register near miss over Midlands, coming within 500 yards of each other; CAA inquiry. Air traffic controllers vote to ballot on industrial action if individuals are forced to compromise on safety.

Prince Philip attacks Government for failing to curb acid rain - fed up with trying to defend Britain abroad about its industrial filth.

Cumbria County Council refuses planning permission for test borehole at Sellafield throwing nuclear industry's waste disposal strategy into disarray.

PRESS DIGEST

Pay-as-you-drive motorway lanes alongside existing motorways being considered by Government as a means of getting private money into road building.

National Union of Seamen expects to get control of its funds on Monday after selling £300,000 worth of shares to pay fines.

Threat of first clash with police over pay for 10 years after Home Secretary refuses to rule out cuts in pay and allowances.

Home Secretary says Britain is under attack from a new breed of louts with too much money in their pockets and too much beer inside them.

Extra 450 police for provincial forces announced.

Express says parents, teachers and community leaders must be responsible for helping police by transmitting right values to children.

Demands for a Home Office inquiry as another trial of alleged football hooligans is stopped because of unreliability of police logs. Jurors join accused fans in a celebration. Scotland Yard to hold inquiry.

Another trial, after 7 months and costly £4million, collapses when jury fails to agree verdict in case of 3 accused of mortgage fiddles.

Michael Heseltine hots up intra-Tory Party row over greenfield housing development in South East.

Campaign for Real Education encouraging selected grammar schools and comprehensive to opt out of local authority control - Express says 100 schools have already said they are interested.

Labour furious at rise in concessionary TV licence from 5p to £5.

Peter Walker suggests long standing council tenants should be given their homes.

Government bans a cola drink with five times more caffeine than coffee.

Government to fight EC plan to levy tax on defence imports.

PRESS DIGEST

Labour MPs question BBC on whether firms other than Terry Wogan's car hire company were given a chance to take guests to Wogan's TV chat show.

Colin Moynihan in trouble with Labour for expressing sympathy with John Carlisle's claim that Zola Budd was hounded out of Britain by left-wing extremists.

Rugby League fine clubs £5,000 and £500 respectively after brawl.

Telegraph reports senior Iranian saying hostage crisis will end when fighting stops in Southern Beirut.

France resumes diplomatic relations with Iran.

Scores of workers believed dead after explosion at Soviet rocket motor and fuel plant in USSR. Western experts predict Soviet ballistic missile production could be disrupted for a year.

11 Soviet tourists die in cruise liner fire in Japan; claims Russians are hampering inquiry into the cause.

Seige of Golden Temple in Amritsar is over.

Sara Keays says her daughter may need a brain operation because epilepsy gets worse. Today says she has lost all sympathy. If she needs more money the place to argue for it is in the courts, not on the airwaves.

STERLING etc

Sun leader takes a whole page to say "Ignore 'em Maggie - forget - your critics and finish the job". In 9 years you have accomplished a most extraordinary transformation of Britain. But at every turn you have been harried by Tory opposition. And another one is within your Cabinet, enjoying the fruits of office and luxury of dissent. There can rarely have been a more shameful act of disloyalty over the pound. You were being consistent. Chancellor believes in currency manipulation. Mr Lawson is a man who demands loyalty. What loyalty has been given to you? Then there is Sir Geoffrey. The cruel truth is that no one, except perhaps Lady Howe, rates him as Prime Minister. You are on an entirely different planet from these two and without you Tories would be sunk.

Express leader says "Kinnock flops against Thatcher" may no longer be news, but that is no reason for broadcasters to start covering up his failures. Some of yesterday evening's BBC bulletins gave a

PRESS DIGEST

completley false impression. By accident or design Kinnock's question was edited into coherence.

Telegraph says its Gallup poll may surprise Government as much as its critics. It says a good deal about underlying reactions to its policies as well as about the Opposition. Most obvious explanation is that people feel better off. The signs are that Conservative will continue to benefit from Labour's bleak performance. Mr Kinnock's inability to score over you, even when you hand him the arrows, repeats his inability to grasp economic realities.

Hugo Young, in Guardian, on one consequence of sterling difficulties - position of FCS - says you need his job to create space at the top. He has rather had his day.

Geoffrey Smith in the Times says you went to the Commons on Tuesday to make a tactical concession, and came away with a tactical triumph. You effectively restored the appearance of unity with the Chancellor, but he says he is not persuaded that you and the Chancellor have managed to do more than buy a valuable breathing space.

Times - Industrialists hope cut in interest rates will be enough to moderate strength of sterling which has been tough on exports.

FT - Pound continues upward trend, closing in London last night at DM3.18 and \$1.8645. Sam Brittan argues that it is not possible to use short-term interest rates both to regulate money and credit at home and to achieve an exchange rate objective. The British economy will continue to suffer needlessly until there is a clear statement of long-term currency policy. If sterling continues to rise to DM3.3 to 3.4, offset by 6% base rates, it would then be senseless not to join the EMS.

TRIAL FAILURES

Star says the police have been tarred with a reputation of foul play and real football holligans will hold the law in even more contempt.

Today says when the police proudly announced that fans had been arrested there was loud applause. Now they must be prepared for equally loud demands for investigations into their own officers' activities.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail says the pressure on the police to get results becomes ever more pervasive and intense as yobbism encroaches ever further. Sometimes under such pressure police integrity buckles. This has happened twice within a week in London. The Home Secretary must satisfy himself in the thoroughness of the inquiry.

FERRIES etc

Mirror criticises Paul Channon for failing to impose higher safety standards on existing ferries after tests against IMO standards for new ferries show that 8 out of 10 failed.

Paul Foot, in Mirror, says Government is promoting a shipping register in Cayman Islands which will make it easier for British shipowners to avoid British tax and employment laws.

POLITICS

Times - Brandon Rhys Williams' death will set Government election test in inner city seat where Tory majority was less than 5,000; leader says the majority sounds more vulnerable than it probably is. The constituency has almost the smallest electorate in London and comparatively few of them take the trouble to vote. But in modern by-elections there is no such thing as a foregone conclusion.

Independent - Tam Dalyell alleges that article written by John Biffen about the Speaker was cut from publication in the House Magazine to save you from embarrassment.

HEALTH & WELFARE

Times - MPs accuse private residential homes of profiteering and exploitation of old people; PAC report condemns Government's £4billion programme for caring for 8 million old, mentally handicapped and mentally ill people in the community rather than in institutions.

Times - Senior Conservative MPs warn Government against placing too much emphasis on provision from the private sector to improve NHS.

Times - Report says nurses suffer thousands of preventable injuries in hospitals every year because health authorities ignore precautionary measures.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent - Network of 500 social security offices seen as key candidate for becoming a self-managing agency by the Cabinet Office.

EDUCATION

Times leader describes Manchester's decision not to publish full report on school where Asian boy was murdered by white pupil as deplorable. There is no justification of the Labour council's refusal to publish. It is probably motivated by a wish to avoid public discussion of the implications of its anti-racist policies and the violence and indiscipline in some of its schools. It calls on Kenneth Baker to take some action to influence the lines on which so-called anti-racist education is conducted.

LAW & ORDER

Times - Big police recruitment drive planned which could add substantial numbers to forces next year on top of the increased intake for this year.

Times - Police Federation critical of special constables being used for plain-clothes work.

Times - HSE considering prosecution of BBC over Legionnaire's disease.

Times - Attorney General says workload pressures on Crown Prosecution Service partly caused by lack of police co-operation and unjustified criticisms in court.

Times - Government thrown into confusion over Alton's amendments to Criminal Justice Bill in effort to revive his Abortion bill. His tactics could mean Government having to impose a guillotine. Hattersley tells Speaker Labour is opposed to Alton's Bill being tagged on to Criminal Justice Bill.

Independent - Ten year review of administrative law published today advocates setting up of powerful public watchdog to oversee administrative justice.

MEDIA

Times - Government hinted strongly last night that US investors could soon be allowed to have controlling interests in British cable TV ventures.

PRESS DIGEST

Times - profiles William Rees-Mogg under heading "Nice Pedigree ... nasty bite" saying the reputation that precedes the new chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Council may mislead as to his effectiveness.

FT - Rupert Murdoch has been invited to next breakfast, in two weeks time, to discuss broadcasting with Sir Jeffrey Sterling and Brian Griffiths. Ian Trethowan, Richard Dunn of Thames, Christopher Bland of LWT and Brian Tesler of LWT have also been invited. The broadcasting White Paper has been postponed from July until the autumn.

INDUSTRY

Times - Britain's attempt to rejoin the space race with a rocket built entirely by private finance will receive vital boost today with the announcement that several big European space contractors are to join the project.

Times - Survey shows that middle-class professionals suffer more marital problems than those of other classes when made redundant or forced to take early retirement.

Times - US Bank cuts credit card charges while Britain's four main banks dither over reducing rates on their VISA and Access cards.

Times - Land Securities stunned the City with a property revaluation showing a £1billion increase to more than £4billion in a year.

Times - British luxury car makers face difficult time in US market as price discounting to boost sales is rife.

FT - BAe is seeking to re-open negotiations with Government on £450million launch aid for Airbus.

FT - British Coal appoints Mr Albert Wheeler to run its four peripheral coalfields in South Wales, Scotland, the North-East and the West.

FT - Bank of England's annual report shows its total salaries bill rose 11%, although payroll fell, led by Governor's 23% increase to £122,348.

PRESS DIGESTUNIONS

Independent leader says TUC's special review body acted with unaccustomed tactical skill with its plans to water down its proposals to limit single-union, no-strike deals. The concessions are calculated to drive a wedge between AEU and EETPU. It hopes a credible new body competing with the TUC can be formed in order to provide more democratic and competitive trade unionism.

FT - TUC is instructing GMB to withdraw from single union deal at BICC Cables' new optical fibres plant in Lancashire.

ENVIRONMENT

FT - Earl of Caithness tells Tidy Britain Group that Government intends to introduce legislation to control environmental pollution more effectively.

EC

Independent - European Parliament finally approves this year's EC budget but urges Lord Plumb, who agrees, not to sign it because of a row with member governments as to who should have the last say on fixing community spending. If it is not resolved quickly it could spill over into next month's European Council at Hanover.

SCOTLAND

Peter Jenkins, in the Independent, looks at the question of Scottish Nationalism and the possibility of devolution. He concedes that Scotland is in many ways a different country and believes that giving a Scottish identity to a modern Conservative party is much easier said than done. Dormant nationalism in Scotland provides a ready vehicle for grievance against a Westminster Government. But he sees no real steam behind the issue currently and believes the devolution dream is therefore scotched for good.

IRELAND

Times leads with first IRA suspect arrested in Dublin under new extradition agreement. Dublin sources say that McVeigh, wanted in connection with explosions in UK between 1981 and 1983, is likely to try to take his case to Supreme Court to test legitimacy of extradition laws.

PRESS DIGEST

Times - Angry mourners storm out of Belfast church as Bishop of Down and Connor calls for prayers of forgiveness for the loyalist gunmen.

SOUTH AFRICA

Independent - South African police claim they are holding in Angola one of the ANC's "white guerillas" who has worked for several anti-apartheid organisations in London but this is denied by ANC.

Independent - Kinnock to visit African frontline states in July but he will not visit South Africa on principle while apartheid persists.

SOVIET UNION

Times leader on explosion at Soviet rocket fuel plant says if Russians have to rely on foreign satellites and foreign radios for news of untoward events in their own country, then glasnost has not spread very far. The accident could not have come at a worse time for Moscow. Any delay to the long-range missile programme will weaken Soviet bargaining position. It will restrict Gorbachev's room for manoeuvre and make progress towards a treaty less likely. Yet progress is something he needs if he is to strengthen his domestic position.

ART

Times - Student rediscovers Tutankhamun's funeral feast in London.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DHSS: Mr Moore attends Motability Presentation, London

DTI: Mr Clarke briefs German Correspondents Group, London

WO: Mr Walker and Mr Grist attend Royal College of Pathologists dinner, Carlton House Terrace, London

DEM: Mr Lee visits Plymouth to launch Tourist Board and Small Firms Advisory Service

DEN: Mr Morrison opens Energy Efficiency conference, Hilton Hotel, London

DHSS: Mrs Currie addresses Royal College of Nursing, Family Planning Nurses Forum on cervical screening, London

DHSS: Mr Portillo addresses Employers Retirement Association conference, London

DHSS: Lord Skelmersdale attends launch of Contact a Family's "Contact Line", London

DOE: Lord Caithness attends Wildlife Conservation festival, Alexandra Palace, London

MAFF: Mr Gummer attends Lloyds Bank/UKF Fertilizers conference, The Grand Hotel, Leicester

MAFF: Mr Thompson attends British Agrochemicals Association annual dinner, London Hilton

OAL: Mr Luce addresses open seminar held by the Association of British Orchestras and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives, London

WO: Mr Roberts addresses Meat and Livestock Commission, Aberystwyth; later addresses TASC conference, Llandrindod Wells and visits Coleg Harlech further education establishment, Harlech

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DES: Mr Jackson visits Stockholm on CERN

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

HO: Mr Patten appears on BBC TV Question Time

TV AND RADIO

'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

'Oratory': BBC Radio 4 (9.30): Great parliamentary orators of today, with Enoch Powell, Lord Jenkins and Michael Foot

'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)

'The Parliament Programme': C4 (14.00)

'Opinions': C4 (20.00) Malcolm Turnbull considers freedom of speech and information in Britain

'This Week': TVI (20.30)

'Analysis': BBC Radio 4 (20.15) All's Fair in Love and Tax - the community charge. Repeated on Friday (11.00)

'Nature': BBC 2 (20.30) From Atomic Power to Zoos - interview with Prince Philip about his concern for British wildlife

'40 Minutes': (BBC 2) (21.30) Mixed Blessings - babies mixed up in hospital

'Question Time': BBC 1 (22.00) with Lord Donoughue, Walter Hayes, Sheila McKechnie and John Patten

'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 (22.50)
