

20 MAY 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister goes to Edinburgh

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visit Peterborough

The Princess Royal visits Derbyshire

STATISTICS

BSA: Building Societies monthly figures (Apr)

CSO: Tax and price index (Apr)

DEM: Retail prices index (Apr)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: Debate on Arts on a Motion for the Adjournment

Adjournment Debate: Travellers encampments in the London Borough of Greenwich (Mr J Cartwright)

Lords:

Starred Questions

Debate to call attention to the White Paper on Privatising Electricity - The Government's proposals for the privatisation of the electricity supply industry in England and Wales

MINISTERS _ See Annex

PRESS DIGEST

Delight over another big fall in unemployment tempered by high lending and fears of resurgent inflation.

Today describes Britain as the investment capital of Europe.

Less than 250,000 days lost through strikes in March - 25% down on average for last 10 years.

Express puts on page 1 one of Kinnock's worst weeks in his political career. Labour MPs unhappy.

Governor Thomas Kean, New Jersey, says Republicans have a lot to learn from Thatcherism.

Anonymous campaign mounted by SLD MPs to spoil Paddy Ashdown's leadership prospects.

13 injured in blast in Belfast agricultural show, but no confirmation at this stage it was terrorist bomb. Some reports suggest it was a gas cylinder explosion.

Russia admits as many as 15,000 of its soldiers were killed in Afghanistan.

Tribune, Socialist newspaper, suggests world is a safer place thanks to Philby and that he should be honoured.

Labour Party withdraws Whip from Ron Brown MP for 3 months; accused of spending too much time in bar on night of mace incident. Tony Banks resigns as Whip in protest.

John Prescott says unions are justified in breaking unjust laws.

National Union of Seamen fined £30,000 for breaking Scottish court order; to ballot members on merger with NUR or TGWU. Claims dispute has cost P&O £25million.

NUS to ask TUC to kick out NUMAST, officers' union.

Manchester beats Birmingham as our nominee for 1996 Olympics.

Lords pass amendment designed to safeguard university teachers from loss of tenure.

Much attention to and concern over relationship between jurors and acquitted soccer fans accused of hooligan offences; Mirror leads with case of woman juror who is "dating" one of the acquitted.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail leads with Home Secretary promising no let-up in war on hooligans in spite of failure of 2 major trials.

All day drinking expected by July.

Today leads with report we might soon have to pay £2 a time to see the doctor, to stop wasting of doctors' time and raise £450million a year; and that ERNIE premium bond lottery to be turned over to NHS.

You attack Ken Livingstone for naming two SAS men and tell David Alton he did not handle Abortion Bill properly.

MPs react adversely to report that EC has threatened to charge interest if we do not provide advances to tide over its financing.

British Aerospace seeking to renegotiate Airbus launch aid to protect BAe against currency losses on development and production costs.

British Airways loses 2 former B-Cal routes to Paris and Brussels; CAA gives them to smaller airlines.

Mrs Godden, highlighted as a loser under Social Security reforms, to get back £47 a week she lost in what Mirror describes as a U-turn by you.

Conservative Family Campaign says huge housing estates of single mothers and babies are growing up all over Britain, nurtured by State handouts (Mail).

Today says Leon Brittan is your favourite candidate to succeed Lord Cockfield.

Mike Gabbert, Editor of the Star when it plunged down market, dies of cancer, 53.

USA jails "world's top drugs baron" for life.

UNEMPLOYMENT etc

Star - small piece Jobs delight - cash gloom: money supply figures temper delight over jobs.

Sun - Jobless slashed in workshop Britain.

Mirror - Joy in jobs.

PRESS DIGEST

Today - Your next target unemployment down to 2million. Pay going up 3 times as fast as price rises.

Express leads with "It's jobs galore Britain". Ministers confident of cutting unemployment below 2million a year - 700,000 jobs going begging; leader says Great Britain Limited is in tremendous shape and the whole world wants to cash in on its success. Britain is going great guns and we had better get used to the idea. And that includes our exporters who had better get used to the idea that the pound is likely to remain strong. But we must be on our guard against inflation.

Mail - Spending rise brings new inflation worries. Tory fears over too much expansion too fast.

Times leads with jobless now under 2.5million but growth slows. Conservative MPs' delight over fall in unemployment tempered by fears of higher inflation after unexpectedly high bank-lending figures. These illustrate the dilemma which has faced Government in recent days in the differences between you and Chancellor over exchange rate policy.

FT - page 1 - Unemployment falls to lowest since 1981 but output appears to slow. Lex says London's reaction to yesterday's clutch of economic data seems final proof that whatever UK markets are worried about these days, it is not the UK economy. The real worry still is the weakness of the US bond market.

Telegraph leads with "Ministers hail 7 year low in jobless total. Soaring bank loans and pay rises prompt inflation fears". Unemployment falling faster than in any other industrialised nation.

Guardian - Soaring pay and sagging output take shine out of fall in jobless.

STERLING

Joe Haines, in Mirror, says we should not believe the stories about you and Chancellor "being cuddly again". Treasury may have won the battle but Prime Ministers always won the war - or cease being Prime Minister. But we shouldn't laugh at the Foreign Secretary. He's no fool.

Chris Buckland in Today says Tories are bowled over by booming Britain. It is so long since we experienced success that we don't know how to handle it.

PRESS DIGEST

Charles Moore, in Express, suggests your position is weaker than it looks after the row. Your three most senior Ministers all oppose you.

George Gale, in Mail, says although Chancellor emerged as victor you will earn the spoils. You can't lose. If he is proved right you will get credit for graceful way you climbed down. If events justify your stance you will not even have to say "I told you so".

Independent leader reviews the various economic indicators and concludes that the Chancellor's main challenge is to reconstruct a monetary and exchange rate policy which restores a better balance than the current combination of excessive sterling strength and cheap money. He stands more chance of success if you allow him the freedom of manoeuvre to which his record entitles him.

Roy Jenkins, writing in the Times under the heading "This short-sighted isolation", explains why Britain should join the EMS saying that to stand outside a major development in the banking and currency field and still pretend that we are a fully committed member of the EC will not be a tenable position.

SOCCER HOOLIGANISM

Sun wants urgent police inquiry into failure of prosecutions. Meanwhile, it says, there was something distasteful about party attended by the cleared fans and jurors.

Mirror says the sight of jurors cavorting with men who have appeared before them in court is very disturbing. Jurors have to be seen to have no connection with anybody associated with the trial, before, during and after it. Jurors in this case may have been stupid or misguided but it is a blow to British justice.

Today says jurors and defendants had an all-night binge. Lord Denning says any contact between jurors and defendants is "highly undesirable"; leader headed "Shame on jurors" says the next time police or politicians complain about juries, this behaviour will be rightly dredged up. Jurors are supposed to be ordinary men and women but they are also supposed to be responsible. They should be banned from ever again sitting on a jury.

Independent - Police will have to rely on traditional methods after the setback alleging evidence in football hooligan trial had been fabricated.

PRESS DIGEST

Times - Metropolitan Police Commissioner orders all investigations into football hooliganism to be re-examined; leader says there can be no doubt that organised football hooliganism exists on an extensive scale. It praises the police for their undercover work but condemns incidents where police "improve" evidence saying such conduct can only undermine the very rule of law the police are employed to defend.

Guardian says Commissioner has widened police inquiry to possible fabrication of evidence in pending hooligan trials. Another story says the political pressure you applied led to these own goals.

WILBERFORCE

Sun - Maggie moggie is dead; you are saddened.

Mirror - Political editor writes substantial obituary - Wilberforce is dead; Premier mourns No 10 cat - and picture.

Today - Farewell to No 10 cat.

Express - Death of No 10 veteran.

Mail, with picture, Downing Street top cat is dead.

Telegraph, with picture, Wilberforce dies in sleep.

LAW & ORDER

Independent - The privately-sponsored NHS lottery has been referred to DPP for investigation amid concern that it may have been operating illegally.

Times spends a day with a Crown prosecutor to see how really overworked they are.

Times - Police Federation attacks Police Complaints Authority's plans for prosecuting police officers saying they were unfair and treated officers worse than terrorists.

ECONOMY

Independent - Nearly 9.4million now living at or below poverty line - up by one quarter between 1981 and 1985, although new index "Households below average income" shows average incomes in the bottom tenth of the population rose by over 8% - faster than the population as a whole.

PRESS DIGESTEDUCATION

Independent - New Government defeat in Lords. Peers unimpressed with Lord Chancellor's promise to consider new amendments in report stage. Though it was clear the Government had made little effort to attract peers to the House last night.

FT - Labour call for inquiry into City Technology Colleges after lukewarm response from industry.

FT - Association of University Teachers agree to programme of sanctions in protest against no pay rise.

INDUSTRY

Independent - A record of more than £1 billion was invested by the British venture capital industry last year - a 76% increase over 1986.

Independent - Shadow hangs over shipyard. Ken Clarke refuses to give any guarantees on Government support for North-East Shipbuilders in Sunderland.

Times - British Airways furious at losing lucrative air routes to Paris - goes to Dan Air - and Bussels goes to Air Europe - as CAA recreate concept of a protected "second force" of smaller airlines.

Times - Trade unions aim to have cross-frontier collective bargaining when single European market comes in.

Times - Survey shows manual workers cannot afford to buy property in London.

Managing director of Nestle says in the Times that a great deal of nonsense has been spoken on reciprocity and calls for Rowntree shareholders to have the final say about a merger.

FT - Racal wins £300 million Government data contract.

DEFENCE

Independent - Storm of protest in US after Carlucci orders immediate development of texting MX missiles on railways.

PRESS DIGESTMEDIA

Independent - 13 groups, including British Telecom, have put in bids to televise the Commons. These will be discussed next Monday.

Times - Government about to abandon plans for broadcasting legislation this year, and delaying start of three new national radio channels and hundreds of community stations. Douglas Hurd expected to bring one massive broadcasting Bill before Parliament in late 1989. Delay due to pressure on legislative programme.

FT - Rupert Murdoch gives go-ahead for feasibility study into setting up a television centre on the Isle of Man.

FT - Government appears increasingly confident of reaching all-Party agreement on arrangements for televising Commons.

COMMUNITY CHARGE

Times - Government Lords' Whips increasingly confident of defusing revolt by Conservative rebels on community charge.

POLITICS

Times - Friends say Clement Freud thinking of fighting Kensington by-election as traditional Liberal.

Mail leader on Conservatives 9-point lead after a wobbly month says there is surely something amiss when opposition parties are so ineffective. Labour might do better if more than Benn sought leadership in Autumn.

Woodrow Wyatt writing in the Times on the delusions of power in the House of Lords says it is amazing that Lord Chelwood and his supporters should think the Lords is now equivalent to the Commons in its rights to block important legislation and to go further than the Commons by reversing legislation which it has itself already passed. He points out that the community charge was in the Government's manifesto, the fact that the Lords are not elected and that if their Lordships pass Lord Chelwood's amendment they will be setting in train their own disembowelment by harikari.

FT - Joe Rogaly, in weekly column, finds sharpening of central Government power over our lives as one of the principal paradoxes of Thatcherism. Apparently conflicting directions of policy have

PRESS DIGEST

the imprimatur of No 10 Downing Street. There is only one countervailing force capable of turning you - overriding pressure from within the Conservative Party in the Commons.

RACE

Sun leader asks us to imagine what would have happened if a lunatic South African led a terrorist gang that butchered 15 blacks; he surrendered to police; and Government granted him an amnesty. Imagine the outrage in London and from Kinnock and Steel. Yet Kinnock will be as silent as stone over Zimbabwe's release of a black Marxist whose gang murdered 15 white missionaries and children. Black is right, white is wrong.

EC

Times - Select Committee warns that Britain faces big extra payment to EC under arrangements hammered out by you in February. We face prospect of either agreeing to pay nearly £1 billion to balance this year's EC budget, or of paying £250,000 a day in interest charges to finance Community's overdraft.

Times - Surprise among EC diplomats and officials that West German Economics Minister and Chairman of Free Democrats, Martin Bangemann, is to resign posts with aim of becoming president of European Commission.

FT - EC and US agree uneasy compromise on approach to agricultural subsidies and wider trade issues at GATT.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Independent - Sir John Hermon alleged to owe £2,750 to a man who was convicted of three fraud charges.

Independent - As Livingstone names two SAS men in the House, Opposition demands grow for a detailed explanation of the line of command for the SAS unit in Gibraltar. George Younger will face questions next week on who was responsible for sending in the SAS.

SOVIET UNION

Independent - More bloody ethnic clashes in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Fowler attends EEF West Midlands Association seminar

HO: Mr Hurd opens Uxbridge Police Station

SO: Mr Rifkind visits Rosyth Royal Dockyard, Rosyth and later attends Ceremony of the Keys, Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh

DEN: Mr Morrison opens the annual euro-conference of the American Petroleum Credit Association, Hyde Park Hotel

DHSS: Mr Portillo visits Oxford Area Office

DHSS: Mrs Currie attends opening of Edith Cavell Hospital by The Queen, Peterborough

DHSS: Lord Skelmersdale visits Rampton Hospital, Notts

DOE: Mr Moyham attends Inner Cities Review Group meeting, Birmingham

DTP: Mr Bottomley visits the Isle of Sheppey

HO: Mr Hoag visits HM Prison Gartree

MAFF: Baroness Trumpington visits Terrington Experimental Husbandry Farm, near Kings Lynn, Norfolk

WO: Mr Grist opens National Drugs Council conference, Royal Hotel, Cardiff and addresses Nursing Times conference, Hensol Castle, Bridgend

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Mr Edgar departs for Venezuela, Peru, Uruguay, Mexico, Bolivia (to 4 June)

TV AND RADIO

'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

'Business Programme': C4 (12.30)

'The Parliament Programme': C4 (14.00)

'Any Questions?': BBC Radio 4 (20.20) with William Waldegrave, Dr Rod Hackney, Bernie Grant and Rowanne Pasco

'Secret Services': BBC 2 (22.05)

'The London Programme': ITV (22.35)

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

'Newsnight': BBC 2 (22.45)
