

PRIME MINISTER

Press

MAIN EVENTS

26 MAY

The Queen visits Royal Air Force, Leuchars

The Prince Edward attends the premiere of the film Appointment with Death, Cannon Cinema, London

President Reagan visits Finland

British Association of Colliery Management annual delegate conference, Scarborough (to 27 May)

Joint UK/Soviet news conference at the end of the Soviet visit to Porton Down

PUBLICATIONS

HSE: Launch of Savety in Fairgrounds, Chessington World of Adventures Theme Park

STATISTICS

CSO: Input/output tables for the UK for 1984

CSO: Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (April 1988)

DEN: Energy trends (Mar 1988)

DTP: New motor vehicle registrations (April 1988)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

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

Business: Motion for the Spring Adjournment, for three hours
Motions on Short Speeches and Petitions
Motions on the Lord Chancellor's Salary Order
There will be FREE VOTES on the Motions on Short Speeches and Petitions

Adjournment Debate: The future of the Carlisle-Settle Railway
(Mr E Martlew)

Select Committees: TRADE AND INDUSTRY
Subject: 1. Petrol Retailing 2. British Aerospace/Rover acquisition
Witnesses: 1. ASDA (at 10.30 am) 2. Trades Unions: TGWU, AEU, MSF (at 11.30 am)

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Lords:

Starred Questions

Dartford-Turrock Crossing Bill: Third Reading

British Steel Bill: Second Reading

Health and Medicines Bill: Second Reading

ROYAL ASSENT

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGEST

Lots of women's angle coverage of your speech yesterday - you champion family.

Church of Scotland's decision not to invite you back next year played down.

Nicholas Ridley barracked by Tory women over housing development in South-East.

Welcome in some papers for Rowntree decision; shares now £10, double price when takeover bid began. But a lot of hostility in Commons.

← Britain is the most successful society in tackling unemployment, according to EC figures. No country can make our 17% fall in year to March.

Rolls-Royce win record £1 billion jet order.

TUC cave in on employment training scheme - drops demand trainees be paid rate for job.

TUC General Council takes first step towards expelling EETPU, voting 32-2 to lay formal charges accusing it of acting "detrimental" to Trade Union movement.

Sam McCluskie, NUS leader, ordered to rest by doctors.

Mirror claims a P&O ferry was operating yesterday with crewmen who had never been to sea before.

Paul Foot in Mirror, says two companies hired by Government to check on British ferries are wholly owned subsidiaries of 2 biggest ferry companies.

Kinnock claims Labour Party has firm platform for 1990s and NEC endorses package of policy documents. Left-wing say it is the Socialist sell-out of the century.

President Reagan looks beyond Moscow to another summit.

Latest edition of Jane's Fighting Ships says Britain is sacrificing Royal Navy in defence of Germany.

ITB chiefs have launched a counter-attack against Broadcasting Standards Council by producing a summer schedule almost entirely of home-made programmes it cannot view.

PRESS DIGEST

Lord Ferrers warns police against a witch hunt against motorists with random breath tests.

Law Commission suggests new procedures to take the pain out of divorce but Today thinks its attitude to divorce is "insufficiently bland".

General Medical allows doctors to break confidentiality to allow partners of AIDS victims to be told they are at risk.

Organisers of NHS lottery attack "legal nitpickers" who caused them to call of first draw.

RCN claims doctors are paid millions of pounds for work they don't do - it is done by district nurses but doctors claim for it.

Teachers' union attacks Liverpool LEA for allowing a girl of 10 to be in charge of a class of 27, aged 7 and 8, because no teacher was available to supervise.

150 of 3,000 striking BA engineers go back to work, but some flights cancelled as dispute bites on maintenance.

British companies bought 256 US firms last year.

Britain's ^{tourist} lowest industry had a record £18billion turnover last year.

Two companies linked with Tiny Rowland, based in Liechtenstein, have been investigated by City police.

Mirror alleges that Boots ignored warning that a baby cot was a possible killer before a child was almost strangled by it; now it is withdrawing it.

Soccer hooliganism in the cinema: two men taken to hospital after fighting breaks out in Hammersmith cinema watching the screening of Chelsea v Middlesbrough.

(130 injuries in Chinese soccer riot).

Japan announces modest reform of liquor taxes - in bid, Telegraph says, to soothe you.

Russia admits 13,310 troops killed and 35,478 wounded in Afghanistan.

PRESS DIGEST

You send a bouquet of flowers to Mrs Gorbachev via Interflora.

Chancellor wins Lions raffle in ^{Hattersley} Livingstone - all he can buy at Co-op to fill a trolley.

Jim Prior has slimmed off 25lbs in 8 weeks.

YOUR SPEECH

Star page 1 - Maggie pleads for family crusade; leader headed "Gentile side of Iron Lady" says like Churchill you have won a war - for the restoration of Britain's pride. but you are deeply wounded by taunts you do not care. Your keyword is happy families - the cornerstone of our society.

Sun page 1 - Maggie backs mums. You hail the role of mothers.

Today page 2 - I'm a housewife to the nation, says Maggie; leader headed "Keep God out of it" says listen to you and you might thank God was a lifelong, true blue Tory. Harken unto Kinnock and you will learn He always has been in red blooded Socialism. This is dangerous nonsense. Religion has no place in politics of modern Britain.

Express page 2 - My crusade for the family - by Maggie. you hint Chancellor is going to stay on. In feature Rev. Peter Mullen, Vicar of Tockwith, N Yorkshire, explains how you have won the right to the moral ground.

Mail page 9 - Maggie's blueprint for better Britain.

Telegraph page 1 - Thatcher stresses value of self-help.

Guardian -page 1 with picture - Prime Minister enforces responsibility line. Evangelical tone. Claims Wesley as ally.

Five column picture on front page of Times under the heading "Self-reliant Prime Minister paying her way" shows you buying flowers. Reporting on your speech Times says you champion the family and in your remarks came close to accusing the Opposition of beint anti-family. You were clearly unabashed by Hattersley's earlier remarks that you were a modern prophet of ruthless individualism.

Independent page 1 - with picture "Thatcher warns of threat to family". You spoke bluntly yesterday of the threat of a breakdown of family life in Britain leading to social upheaval which you said no government could deal with.

PRESS DIGEST

FT - Thatcher steps up claims of moral supremacy. You reject charges that Britain is a greedy society and stress the importance of individual self-reliance.

POLITICS

Sun leader on Julian Critchley over his US article about you says that on any scale of importance he stands knee high to a gnat. He has made a profession of failure, chiefly known for eating out at others expense.

Independent - An accusation that Parliament was misled over a £40,000 valuation contract was made yesterday against Christopher Chope and DoE.

LABOUR PARTY POLICIES

Mirror, whose reporter says Kinnock puts pep into Labour, says he now has authority to write a manifesto to win the next election instead of having to fight one designed to lose it. With a bit of luck it means 10 wasted years are over.

Times - Labour Party papers over its differences on nuclear defence by postponing decision for a year as Kinnock routs far Left and wins massive backing for policy reforms ditching many of its cherished commitments. But critics claim it is a sell-out. Skinner attacks rejection of wholesale public ownership and Benn calls policy review a backward step.

Times - Steel condemns attack on Ashdown.

Mail - New look Kinnock caught by bomb.

Telegraph - Labour defence policy put on ice.

ROWNTREE

Sun says Lord Young had little choice but to allow Nestle bid to proceed. For years British companies have been buying into foreign firms but the Government is entitled to ask the Swiss when they are going to allow us to do the same with them.

Express City Page - Lord Young declares open season on Brits.

Mail leader has a pang of regret about Rowntree. But Lord Young is not a fair-weather free marketeer. These are hard decisions for Government. They do not win immediate applause, but in time

PRESS DIGEST

they usually pay.

Andrew Alexander in Mail says on balance Lord Young made wrong decision but at least he can't be accused of political cowardice.

Telegraph page 1 lead - Swiss are given green light to bid for Rowntree - takeover objectors accused of fortress England mentality.

Times - Government criticised by MPs from all sides of House with Bryan Gould describing it as a "betrayal of British industry" Rowntree chairman says they will continue to fight for independence but City food analyst says they should extract as much cash as they can from the Swiss as its chances of survival were nil; leader is critical of Lord Young giving go-ahead for takeover saying British merger policy has long paid too little attention to potential competition and too much to existing shares of market. the prospect of the single European Market will be viewed with gloom in a number of board rooms and factories and their preparation for 1992 will make them attractive to astute continental competitors with Government approval, a tactic too often not available in reverse.

Graham Mather, General Director of Institute of Economic Affairs, looks at the lesson to be learnt from the Rowntree affair in the Times. Critics of Borrie and Lord Young must face one question: can the market for corporate control in Britain work if every case is as politicized as Rowntree, or its recent predecessors?

In the business section of the Times the headline says "Young ruling puts firms of takeover alert" and the current column says Rowntree chairman has not, up to now, made much of a fist of defending the company. He was put on notice more than a year ago that the predators were gathering, but failed to play the game which might have kept his company out of danger.

Independent page 1 lead - Backbench Tories join protest as Government opens way for Swiss takeover. The last hope of independence for Rowntree vanished yesterday as the Government cleared the way for a foreign takeover; leader says that the Nestle bid is a matter for the shareholders. Lord Young had no views on that. The Government's refusal to order an investigation simply means that there are no grounds for intervention.

FT - Young sets stage for Suchard counter-bid in battle over Rowntree. Leader says Lord Young's decision was the right one; but as the European market becomes more integrated sees the need for a vigilant Europe-wide anti-trust policy.

PRESS DIGEST

Lord Young deserves congratulations for his courageous decision, to do the right thing.

INDUSTRY

Sun leader says it is quite unjust for CAA to deprive British Airways of old B-Cal routes from Gatwick to Europe.

Times - SERC proposes five research centres covering science and technology as Britain is falling behind international competitors.

Times - Group of banks and financial institutions preparing planning application for heliport in the Thames near Cannon Street.

Times - Commons Select Committee puts Shell executives on oath - first time since Poulson property scandal in 1976-77.

Times - NAO confirms that PSA spent nearly 30 times more than it needed to by employing private company to value a new Whitehall building. They pay nearly £40,000 to Cluttons when in-house valuation of new DHSS building would have cost £1,500.

ECONOMY

Express - leader says it is hardly surprising to discover that Britian is outstripping its European rivals in the fight to bring down unemployment. Even so few people could have expected such startling figures. Government should not spend much time and effort justifying it spolicies in moral or theological terms though that is *easy* enough to do. What matters is whether policies work - and without doubt they do.

MEDIA

Mail feature on BBC TV film Tumbledown syas it seems part of a vehicle of denigration of ~~story~~ and particularly its medical services and Scots Guards. *the Army*

SUMMIT

Times - Reagan ready to meet Gorbachev in a neutral country later this year if super-powers can agree on limiting strategic nuclear weapons; leader discusses SDI saying if a non-nuclear defence system, ground-based and space-based, can provide a credible and affordable deterrent, it would be foolish for the US, and her allies, to give up the chance now.

PRESS DIGESTDEFENCE

Times - Peter Levene, Chief of Defence Procurement, tells PAC that big defence contractors are holding MoD to ransom by refusing to comply with labelling system introduced to prevent overcharging on spare parts.

Times - MoD Permanent Secretary amazes Commons' Committee by disclosing that 32 Tornado jet fighters are, or soon will be, put in storage.

Overstated by later model.

LAW & ORDER

Times - Audit Commisison says thousands of police could be returned to the beat, improving role of crime detection if forces reformed way they handle paperwork.

HEALTH

Times - Drug industry's watchdog group calls for stricter standards to prevent greedy doctors seeking payments of rewards in their dealings with drug companies.

IRELAND

Independent - You have privately made it clear to Northern Ireland ministers that you support the introduction of highly controversial legislation to force councillors in Ulster to renounce violence.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler attends lunch at Chemical Industry Association
- DHSS: Mr Moore addresses World Economic Forum on Social Security, London
- HO: Mr Hurd addresses Association of Chief Police Officers conference, Eastbourne
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor addresses EC and the Investor conference luncheon, London
- DEM: Mr Cope addresses European Venture Capital Association conference, London; later attends launch of British Franchise Association booklet
- DEM: Mr Nicholls opens North Devon Enterprise Agency
- DEM: Mr Lee visits Liverpool
- DES: Mr Jackson lunches at the Engineering Employers Federation; later visits Birbeck College
- DHSS: Mr Newton addresses Mid Downs Health Authority summer dinner
- DOE: Mr Trippier visits Epsom (construction industries)
- DOE: Mr Chope addresses the Ipswich and Suffolk Industrial Advisory Council, House of Commons
- DOE: Mr Moynihan attends Supersites Competition award ceremony, London
- HMT: Mr Lilly addresses the 1988 Building Societies Association conference, Torquay
- HO: Mr Patten visits Norbury Police Station on crime prevention
- MAFF: Mr Gummer addresses Association of Agriculture AGM, Potato Marketing Board, London
- MAFF: Mr Thompson visits Coopers Animal Health Ltd, Berkhamstead
- ODA: Mr Patten meets Senor Yanez, Spanish Aid Minister, London
- WO: Mr Roberts addresses South Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education dinner, Cardiff

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe departs for the Philippines and Hong Kong (to 1 June)
- MOD: Mr Stewart visits the Armilla Patrol (to 27 May)
- OAL: Mr Luce attends two day EC meeting, Brussels (to 27 May)

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- FCO: Mr Mellor appears on BBC TV Question Time
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TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Cruelty": ITV (11.30) Rape

"Business Daily": C4 (12.30)

"The Parliament Programme": C4 (14.00)

"Analysis": BBC Radio 4 (20.15) The 40 Years War - How Will People Know
When The Cold War is Over?

"This Week": ITV (20.30) Letter to Gorbachev

"Nature": BBC 2 (20.30) Flixborough - 14 years after the disaster

"Question Time": BBC 1 (22.00) Dr John Cunningham, Charles Kennedy and
David Mellor

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.30)

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

"The City Programme": ITV (22.35)
