

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister visits Cambridge

EC: Culture Council, Brussels

EC: Industry Ministers, informal meeting, Brussels

Schools Challenge conference at the Institute of Civil Engineers

STATISTICS

DTI: Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures
(April 1988)(prov)

DTI: Company liquidity survey (1st qtr)

DTI: Finished steel consumption and stock changes (1st qtr - prov)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: Timed Spring Adjournment Debates until 3.00 pm

Adjournment Debate: The future of the New Town Commission and housing in
Basildon (Mr D Amess)

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGEST

You reject Kinnock's claim that Rowntree decision has put "for sale" sign on British industry, making point we are the big investors abroad.

Rowntree rejects Suchard bid of 950p, compared with 890p Nestles' offer.

60 Tory MPs sign motion criticising Government's handling of Rowntree.

Summit build up.

Syria to move into militia-held Southern Lebanon today - new hope for hostages.

Mail says Home Secretary is to conduct an inquiry into £100million race relations industry and leader says the time is ripe for this but hopes it will lead to cut in grants.

EUFA make it clear they expect England to pull out of European Championships next month if there is any crowd trouble at tomorrow's international with Switzerland.

Ron Brown to face censure motion in his constituency over mace and "apology".

Lord Hailsham writes leader page feature in Mail on "Testament of a woman who cares - what you can teach Kinnock about bringing religion into politics.

Blacks up in arms over dumping of coloured candidate in Kensington by-election for white woman housing adviser.

British Airways strike crumbles with a third of 3,000 maintenance men who walked out returning to work to save holiday flights; Gatwick men vote not to join stoppage.

And P&O announces more cross-Channel sailings. Strikers at Dover reject plans to recover NUS funds from sequestration.

TGWU up in arms about Jaguar-GKN single union deal with GMBTU, one of the unions which attacked EETPU for one-union agreements. EETPU accuse GMBTU of humbug.

New round of disruption in schools threatened after Kenneth Baker imposes review body pay award of 4.5% on teachers.

PRESS DIGEST

TNT, Murdoch newspaper delivery firm, creates 600 new jobs in Warwickshire.

Independent says Government is considering an official national lottery to raise £1 billion a year for NHS.

Hospital managers in survey want closer links with private health firms to give patients better service.

Sir Patrick Nairne, ex PUS, DHSS, in BMJ says no public service thinks less of public than DHSS.

Leon Brittan wants NHS financed through special insurance instead of taxation.

Calls for inquiry into GCSE exam questions in Midlands asking for four reasons for committing suicide.

Capital punishment to be debated on June 7.

Denis McClean, deputy commander of extremist Loyalist group, given three life sentences for 44 offences, including three murders, one manslaughter and six attempted murders.

Tory chairman of Avon and Somerset police authority resigns after being caught drunk driving; says He's been doing it for 40 years - an outrageous admission, Today.

Tom King says Unionists have agreed to talks with SLDP while Anglo-Irish conference continues in existence (Guardian).

Guardian says you are believed to have clashed with FCO over choice of UK EC Commissioners. FCO would not be unhappy to see Cockfield and Clinton Davies stay on.

St John Stevas comes to the defence of traditional British passport in Star.

Tony Nelson MP named as MP who had love affair with actress Fiona Fullerton (Sun).

Mail says Crockford's Director is to drop its controversial preface.

White South African MPs hold 'secret' summit with ANC in Germany.

PRESS DIGESTSUMMIT

Star - Reagan to get tough on human rights.

Sun - Reagan blasted by Russian hardliners for plans to meet Russian dissidents.

Express leader says Soviet propagandist, Arbatov, yesterday suggested that the Summit would put an end to cold war. Express thinks he is probably right. But we must bear in mind that during detente Soviets engaged in a massive arms build up. This is something to bear in mind before euphoria sets in.

George Young warns West that military threat from Russia is as strong as ever.

Mail says there is deep anxiety about Reagan's fitness to cope with intellectual agility of Gorbachev; leader says both leaders are exploiting the get together for their own purposes. But there are heartening signs that the exhibition of goodwill is not wholly cosmetic.

Telegraph leads with Kremlin diehards in retreat before Gorbachev. Open debate in Parliament backs further reforms.

Times - Senior Soviet spokesman strongly attacks President Reagan's plan to host a special meeting for Jewish refuseniks and other dissidents during visit to Moscow.

FT - Summits should not be judged on immediate results alone. President Reagan's and Mr Gorbachev's main achievement is to have created an atmosphere of much greater mutual confidence between Washington and Moscow, which has permitted a genuine relaxation of East-West tension. In the absence of such a regular exchange of views at the highest level, which give a much needed political impulse to the solution of seemingly intractable problems, an INF agreement would probably not have seen the light of day and the Soviet withdrawal from afghanistan might not be taking place.

Telegraph thinks the summit will be more theatre than substance. Every stage along the way to reducing tensions must be painstakingly negotiated on the basis of mutual self-interest. A cautious Western response represents not unfriendliness but prudence.

Guardian suggests Gorbachev has been forced to pay a price for his reforms, in compromises.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent - The Party draws up blue print for biggest transformation of Soviet society since 1917 - reform triumph for Gorbachev. Leader says that the Soviet Union is entering a period of fundamental reform is now beyond doubt. It is however, open to question whether those reforms will be as fundamental as Gorbachev might wish. Authoritarian regimes are at their least stable when attempting reform and liberalisation from above.

LABOUR PARTY

Sun leader on Labour's new policies says Kinnock now claims party is turning to sensible policies. Who does he think he is kidding? The Left controls as much of the party now as it did last year.

Joe Haines, in Mirror, says Labour Party, which is the party of the people, forgot the people. The only way back is to put people first and mean it. You had a gut feeling for what the public wanted and that has kept you in office. Labour once had that feeling, too. It has got to get it back.

Today's political columnist says a growing band of MPs is openly questioning whether Labour can win the election with Kinnock as leader.

Times - Kinnock brands Government a family-fracturing regime as he renews the tussle between the parties for moral ascendancy; Kinnock to open today a refurbished park in Newcastle for which Government provided the lion's share of the finance.

POLITICS

Independent - John Biffen steps into battle of the Bible and warns against fashion for evangelism as Labour MPs put you on the defensive.

Independent - Edward Norman finds you, Kinnock and the Churches on the same side. He says Thatcherism has until now embodied the idea of the safest government is that which governs least, in its notion of a withdrawal of the competence of the state in many economic and moral relationships. It must now be careful that, in a laudable desire to return to family values, it does not take the first steps towards the recreation of a new moral authoritarianism.

Telegraph says you sparked off yet another schism between Church and State by using Wesley's words as moral justification for

PRESS DIGEST

Government's wealth creating policies. General Secretary of Methodist Church's social responsibility division accuses you of misinterpreting Wesley.

UNIONS

Today leader on "Humbug of Brothers" says not a whisper of complaint has been raised by TUC over GMBTU single union deal at Telford. Yet they are planning to expel EETPU for same reason. The only explanation is humbug. The EETPU must not submit to crude blackmail.

ROWNTREE

Independent - Rowntree workers begin seeking shares and seem resigned to a takeover.

FT - Rowntree has sound defence document spelling out its reasons for wanting to remain independent.

Times - EC Commissioner Peter Sutherland mystified at Rowntree's failure to forward complaint to EC over bids from Nestle and Suchard. Suchard boss admits if it comes to an auction Nestle have deepest pockets.

Times reporters look at how open some countries are to foreign bidders for companies. US remains the most open market in the world; Swiss firms structure themselves so that contested takeovers are effectively ruled out; a hostile foreign bid for Japanese company would fail mainly due to the high percentage of cross-holdings between large corporations; Sweden still practises an extremely restrictive policy on foreign investment; and French governments have traditionally intervened in foreign bids despite the lack of anything resembling a legally enforceable takeover code.

INDUSTRY

Times - Survey shows that the high-flyer in today's business world runs two cars, takes three foreign holidays a year, probably reads the Sun, earns more than £41,000 a year, lives in the South-east, has at least £5,000 in stocks and shares and spends much of the weekend watching TV and reading paper.

Times - Thousands of bank and credit card borrowers who have not repaid debts will soon be recorded on files open to scrutiny by high street banks.

PRESS DIGEST

Times - Scientists told to join forces to stay in race in superconductor research.

FT - New car sales in Western Europe are expected to fall sharply this year and in 1989 following weakening of demand in West Germany, the biggest single car market in Western Europe.

FT - BT have announced setting up of consumer liaison panels to resolve tricky issues as part of plan to improve consumer relations.

FT - Privatisation of Crown Agents - "an increasingly distant prospect" because of continuing demand for space in legislative programme, according to chairman.

FT - Employers are forcing job applications to use their rights under the Data Protection Act to obtain a handover of information about themselves from police records, Data Protection Registrar said yesterday.

TRANSPORT

Times - Europe's air traffic control chiefs to hold series of emergency meetings to work out a common policy that will beat the coming capacity crisis in the air.

NHS

Express leader on Sir Patrick Nairne's comments, says his comments as a whole show why it is so difficult for a radical Government to make progress. Far from believing the NHS needs shaking up, he thinks it merely needs a sharp talking to.

Times - RCN conference told elderly patients are being harnessed in chairs and locked in wards because of hospital staff shortages.

Times - NUPE report claims it has uncovered widespread neglect in old peoples' homes in Kent.

Times - Faculty of Community Medicine of the Royal Colleges of Physicians say every pregnant woman should be tested anonymously for AIDS.

Independent - 1,300 pregnant women have been tested for AIDS without their consent or knowledge at Homerton Hospital, East London, in one of the first examples of the "anonymised" screening that the Government is now prepared to consider to help to establish the spread of AIDS.

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PRESS DIGESTCIVIL SERVICE

Times - Cabinet Secretary tells Dalyell that civil servants should not be made targets of campaigns to which they cannot reply. Report says rebuke comes after Dalyell's repeated questions about the role of Charles Powell and Bernard Ingham in the Westland affair. It also refers to Mr Powell's wife having complained to Dalyell about him "persecuting" her husband.

HOUSING

Times leads with the Government considering a daring plan to extend the council house sale revolution by giving even the poorest tenants the chance to buy their properties. The scheme is being enthusiastically supported by Ministers, who say it will benefit tenants, local authorities, and the Treasury.

DEFENCE

Times - Select Committee's damning report says George Younger and senior MoD officials tried to conceal significant delays in key posts of the Trident programme from Parliament; leader says the committee's expression of concern is well justified. It is important for the programme that it continues to run smoothly - and that the Ministry does not make matters worse by adopting unsubtle camouflage of its errors.

FT - US tactical fighters due to be withdrawn from Spain will be transferred to Italy and NATO will shoulder the cost.

ENVIRONMENT

FT - Nicholas Ridley has rejected two big schemes proposed for the green belt on borders of North West Kent.

TERRORISM

Independent - Douglas Hurd will next week call on his European partners to bring in powers which will allow terrorists' assets to be traced and seized.

LAW & ORDER

Times - DPP wants Crown Prosecution Service lawyers to have the same rights of barristers to take cases in the Crown court.

27 May 1988

PRESS DIGEST

s Gibb, writing in the Times, looks at the problem facing P.

- Judge orders newspapers and TV to surrender to police
ished film of demonstrations at Wapping.

ident - The High Court yesterday ordered three newspaers
television stations to hand to the police pictures of
clashes outside News International's printing works at
f.

BBC wins 7 out of 10 Royal Television Society programme

M

Austrian Government official claims Waldheim was given
ent job after being cleared by US Nazi-hunters.

OWN

leader on Mail's criticism of "Robert Lawrence industry" -
licity surrounding the hero of the BBC TV film Tumbledown -
e trouble is that Lt Lawrence became an embarrassment to
iment, MoD and Government.

N IRELAND

ident page 1 lead - Sir John Hermon, the Chief Constable of
last year bought a yacht from an international conman who
e money to help finance himself and his family during an
£64,000 fraud attempt in Northern Ireland.

k of legal action between West German steel industry and
pean Commission after Brussels rejected a complaint from
try's main producers' association against state aid for
ish Steel Corporation.

riega revelling in his ability to resist US now confident
ee-month crisis has moved in his favour. Noriega alleged
"explicit information" which could damage Bush in his
cial campaign.