

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister visits Aberdeen

Neil Kinnock visits Southern Africa

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS
Malicious Communications Bill: Consideration of Lords
Amendments (Mr Andrew Stewart)
Access to Medical Reports Bill: Consideration of Lords
Amendments (Mr Archy Kirkwood)
Landlord and Tenant Bill (Lords): 3rd Reading (Mr Matthew
Carrington)
Solicitors (Scotland) Bill: 3rd Reading (Mr Alistair
Darling)

Adjournment Debate: The treatment of the late Mr Bahdur Singh in
Barlinnie Prison (Mr T Clarke)

Lords: Starred Questions
Debate to take note of ECC Report on Reform of the Structural
Funds (14th Report, 1987-88, HL Paper 82)
Town and Country Planning (Assessment)
of Environmental Effects Regulations 1988)
Environment Assessment (Scotland))
Regulations 1988)
Land Drainage Improvement Works (Assessment) Motions
of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1988) for
Environmental Assessment (Afforestation)) Approval
Regulations 1988)
Environmental Assessment (Salmon Farming in)
Marine Waters) Regulations 1988)
Highways (Assessment of Environment Effects))
Regulations 1988)

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGEST

166 feared dead in Piper Alpha disaster in North Sea.

Coverage concentrates on horror of incident in which it is said steel melted like chocolate; the sea boiled; and the night turned into day.

Sun summarises dilemma of those on board: fry and die or jump and try.

Crewmen of rescue tug who were blown to their death proclaimed the heroes.

You are to visit Aberdeen today.

Red Adair, the Texan oil disaster expert, flying to North Sea. So is Armand Hammer.

Full public inquiry ordered - Department of Energy inspection of platform on June 28 found nothing seriously amiss.

Appeals by MPs for state aid for victims and families.

Four nearby oilfields shut down as precaution. Gas leak blamed for explosion.

Insurance cost put at £500million. Price of North Sea oil rises \$1 a barrel.

~~IRA~~ bomb intended for security forces explodes in Falls Road among shoppers and children. Two killed - six injured, including 4 children; soldier killed during clearing-up operations.

Cleveland parents file writ in High Court against Drs Higgs and Wyatt for negligent diagnoses and damages for injury, distress, anxiety and expense. Council also being sued.

Times says more than 900 children are on the sexual abuse register of 11 local authorities.

Nicholas Ridley, in shake up of local government financing, requires councils to start paying off £45billion debts. Only 7 councils ratecapped. Labour denounce proposals as a fraud, scandalous and bogus.

Chancellor says inflation will be higher than 4% predicted for end of year.

PRESS DIGEST

Sun says the rise in house prices means that most British home owners earn less than their houses.

Today says Chancellor yesterday urged building societies to put up mortgage rates to take pressure off housing market but he rules out crisis measures to curb spending.

Phone bills to be frozen until August 1989.

Mail leader says to many any EC prevention of the BAe-Rover deal would be an intolerable interference on our domestic affairs. But if we are to enjoy the benefits of a single Euro market the imposition of common rules is inevitable. Our firms must learn to exploit those rules.

Guardian worries about a strengthening of power in Community without parallel strengthening of Euro Parliament.

Brinks-Mat lawyer who helped launder £7.5million of the bullion jailed for 12 years; 1.5 tons of gold still missing.

Government has heard of 20 firms interested in producing a soccer membership card scheme for the 1989-90 season.

Meanwhile Tottenham pay record £2million for Newcastle United player.

Home Secretary gives go-ahead for Coventry experimental by-law to stop drinking in designated areas.

Cost of security for Conservative Party conference put at £1.4million. Mail reports fears of an IRA sea strike at Brighton.

Iran buries Airbus dead to chants of "Death to America" and "Death to Reagan".

Strike brings Armenia to a standstill.

Opposition parties in Mexico cry "foul" as PRI wins again.

David Blunkett MP's guide dog dies.

PIPER DISASTER

Sun hopes that this appalling tragedy does not stop others wanting to produce oil.

PRESS DIGEST

Mirror says the disaster brings the death toll on rigs in North Sea to nearly 500. It shows we need to adopt a wartime approach to offshore rigs, harnessing talents of best engineers, scientists and managers and develop environment .

Today says there must be the fullest possible inquiry; the most urgent action to prevent a recurrence; and generous compensation for bereaved.

Express says even with the best safety precautions and the best evacuation procedures an oil platform is always the merest spark away from all consuming conflagration.

Mail says the toll would have been even greater had it not been for heroic work of rescue services and hospitals. Past record of the industry has not been bad. But the sad fact remains that the industry is a high risk one.

Telegraph says this is a high risk industry but for two decades thousands have worked in this dangerous zone with only one previous disaster approaching the Piper scale.

Guardian says the inquiry must take account of the testimony of unions that they were frozen out of safety management and that their complaints and warnings went insufficiently heeded.

Times - page one half-page picture of burning rig. Three pages of coverage. Build-up of lethal gas believed to have triggered the explosion. £3million worth of oil and gas production a day being lost. The same rig was hit by serious explosion four years ago which led to evacuation of 175 workers and 55 being treated in hospital. Leader says the inquiry should shed light on whether union officials who yesterday renewed calls for a health and safety inspectorate separate from Department of Energy are justified.

Independent - Disaster has caused such a big loss of oil production it could have significant economic ramifications, including a bigger balance of payments deficit, loss of government revenue and perhaps a weaker pound. Whitehall officials and City economists said yesterday.

SOCCER HOOLIGANISM

Sun takes to task chairman of Manchester City, Peter Swales, for attacking national membership card scheme. Swales and his friends did nothing while Britain's name was dragged through the mud.

PRESS DIGEST

Today reports Secretary of the Professional Footballers' Association as saying national membership card scheme could lead to disintegration of League. Complains about Government's failure to provide money.

Express leader says in claiming that a national membership card scheme won't work what the League really means is that it does not like the idea. It would cost the clubs £10million, which represents little more than five or six top players at current prices. In fact the scheme has every chance of working. Someone has to do something to tackle the problem. The League had the chance and did next to nothing. The only surprise is that the football authorities could have believed you wouldn't act.

Independent - Membership card plans meet an icy response from the football authorities and the Opposition yesterday.

Independent - Leader says you fell into a trap this week when you decided to impose a statutory membership scheme on football. There is no easy or obvious solution to soccer hooliganism. A computer jammed with personal and potentially libellous details concerning "soccer related violence" is offensive. Who would be responsible for gathering such details - would they be attached to the national police computer? Far better, it says, to make voluntary membership of clubs attractive to supporters by giving them rights and duties.

Guardian leader, while sceptical of the benefits of a national membership card scheme, says the Football League has only itself to blame that you have now blown the whistle. And it is time the League, in saying it can't afford the scheme, found a way of redistributing from the clubs which can afford to pay £1million for a player, money to clubs which cannot afford £10,000 for increased security. You are quite right to pursue your goal of eradicating "this blight on our reputation".

Times - Leader says, given future of football authorities to control situation themselves, Ministerial intervention should come as no surprise. The League should welcome the introduction of a "golden card" as an opportunity for more enterprising clubs to compete for members.

RATE SUPPORT GRANT

Sun - Ridley's blitz on big debt councils who owe £45billion - major shake up of local government finance.

PRESS DIGEST

Express - Ridley tells councils to pay off debts and ease poll tax burden.

Independent - Local councils will be allowed to increase spending by 4.7% next year, slightly more than inflation. The Government is also making £110million available to help councils prepare for the community charge. ILEA is to appeal against the spending levels outlined yesterday by Kenneth Baker.

Times - Nicholas Ridley announces dramatic change of policy to tighten control over local government finance in the run up to the introduction of the community charge.

FT - leader on local authority spending says yesterday's proposals are welcome in themselves but are advanced only because of the absurdity of the community charge. The tragedy is these desirable changes are not being introduced in the context of a more acceptable reform of local authority finance than the community charge.

POLITICS

Joe Haines, in Mirror, says if Labour is going to win the next election it is going to have to settle the defence issue pretty soon since nuclear weapons can't be disinvented. He puts 8 questions to Labour Party and calls for a national ballot of the party on them.

Today political columnist says Kinnock is doing a bunk to darkest Africa so as not to be around for Kensington by-election.

KINNOCK'S TRIP - ignored by pops

Telegraph says before leaving for Africa Kinnock said trip would concentrate on "destruction wrought by South Africa and its attempt at imposing domination over half the Continent"; diary column says the visit is being seen by some of his colleagues as a gamble.

ROVER

Times - British Aerospace and European Commission are now separated by £75million in negotiations - EC prepared to accept £200million cut in Government subsidies and BAe unhappy to accept more than £125million.

PRESS DIGEST

FT - Signs emerge of a split within 17-member European Commission over what action to take on Rover/BAe, with M Delors understood to be urging more flexibility.

INDUSTRY

FT - Richard Branson's Virgin Group plans to become a private company again less than two years after its £55million flotation on the Stock Exchange. Shares had fallen from the 140p offer price and in the past few weeks have been trading in a range of 85p to 95p.

FT - Daiwa and Nomura, the 2 largest Japanese security houses are to begin dealing in the gilt-edge market by the end of the summer following the lifting of a UK government ban. The UK's change of heart has happened without any obvious signs of progress at the Japanese end in getting British companies on to the Tokyo stock exchange.

FT - Boeing, the world's biggest builder of airliners, is poised to move quickly if negotiations between its rivals Airbus of Western Europe and McDonnell Douglas and Lockheed result in a new airliner venture. Boeing believes it can meet the challenge with any of its "family" of aircraft with minimal modifications.

FT - Commercial vehicle sales rise by 10.3% in first six months of the year.

UNIONS

Independent - EEPTU are considering staging a walk-out at the TUC annual congress in September in anticipation of expulsion.

EDUCATION

Independent - Parents in Derbyshire have won an 18 month campaign to prevent the merger of two comprehensive schools despite a DES decision that the merger should go through.

FT - Lords amend Education Reform Bill to allow religious assemblies for schoolchildren of minority faiths.

AIR CONTROL

Independent - European Parliament last night heard a plea for the merging of Europe's air traffic control systems into one single EC network - based at Euro control in the Netherlands.

PRESS DIGESTEC

Independent - Leader says Delors speech is a stimulus to debate. With Japan already an economic superpower and China preparing for superpower status Europe will have to accelerate the pace of its integration.

FT - European Commission said the number of unemployed in the European Community dropped by more than 400,000 to 15.5million in the year to May, the lowest for three years.

SECURITY

Independent - Dick Shepherd has asked the Foreign Secretary to issue guidelines for the operation of MI6 based on the Maxwell Fyfe Directive which binds MI5.

LAW & ORDER

Independent - The family of Blair Peach have accepted £75,000 damages from the Metropolitan Police. They claim it represents an admission that the police were responsible for his death. The Met says the payment is being made "without prejudice".

IRAN

Independent - Iran Airbus victims were cremated in a low-key ceremony yesterday. President Khomeini said "When in some place some people have hostages imperialism through the media tries to make a big issue of it. But hostages are not killed. Yet, when there is a killing like this, why don't they react?"

Times - Technical inability of jet to receive warning from US warship appears to have been direct cause of destruction. But there is also substantial evidence that American naval personnel have proved to be ill-trained and inefficient.

JAPAN

Independent - A wide ranging share scandal has touched Mr Takeshita when one of his aides admitted taking part in a scheme by which politicians and businessmen reaped huge profits from shares in a recruitment company.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Fowler visits GEC, Stafford and opens Stafford Enterprise Agency

DES: Mr Baker visits Felbury House and St Theresa's Convent School in Dorking; later addresses the National Grammar Schools Association conference

DHSS: Mr Moore visits Wellcome Research Laboratories, Beckenham

HO: Mr Hurd visits Wolverhampton (safer cities)

LCD: Lord Mackay performs opening ceremony at Swansea Crown Court

DEM: Mr Lee visits Exeter (to 9 July)

DEM: Mr Cope visits Reading Small Firms Service

DEN: Mr Morrison visits Winfrith Atomic Energy Establishment

DES: Mr Dunn visits Devon LEA

DHSS: Lord Skelmersdale visits Moss Side and Park Lane Special Hospitals

DOE: Mr Trippier addresses Land Reclamation '88 conference in Durham

DOE: Mr Maymban plays 100 holes of golf for disabled initiative

DTI: Mr Maude on regional visit to Hatfield, on the Single Market Campaign

DTp: Mr Bottomley visits Vehicle Inspection Services at Crayford Mill, Crayford

HO: Mr Hogg visits HM Prison and YCC New Hall

HO: Mr Renton opens 40th Anniversary meeting of Institute of Marital Studies

MAFF: ~~Baroness~~ Trumpington addresses Kent Farm Wildlife Advisory Group, Link Farm Project, Chisley Court, Chisley, Canterbury

WO: Mr Roberts addresses Welsh Joint Education Committee, Wrexham; later takes office as Day President of International Eisteddfod, Llangollen

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Mrs Chalker departs for Ivory Coast, Cameroon and The Congo (to 16 July)

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

CO: Mr Luce answers listeners calls on Radio Sussex phone-in programme

TV AND RADIO

- 'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)
- 'Analysis': BBC Radio 4 (11.00) The legal system under strain
- 'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)
- 'The Parliament Programme': C4 (14.00)
- 'My Heroes': BBC Radio 4 (16.05) Cliff Morgan talks to broadcaster and journalist Alistair Cooke
- 'Reagan on Reagan': C4 (20.15) The All-American. First of series of three programmes
- 'Any Questions?': BBC Radio 4 (20.20) With Norman Tebbit, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Joe Ashton and Linda Bellos
- 'Law in Action': BBC Radio 4 (21.05) Issues from the courts and Parliament
- 'Omnibus': BBC 1 (22.10) Paintings and drawings which survived Nazi concentration camps
- 'Newsnight': BBC 2 (22.25)
- 'The World Tonight': BBC Radio 4 (22.30) followed by 'Today in Parliament' and 'The Financial World Tonight'
- 'The Week in the Lords': BBC 2 (23.15)
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