

PRIME MINISTER

18 July 1988

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh take the Salute at a performance of the Royal Tournament at Earls Court

Princess of Wales attends a gala performance by London Festival Ballet, London

Princess Royal visits HMS Amazon at Portland, Dorset

Prince Edward starts 'An Extremely Trivial Pursuit 1988', a treasure hunt from London to Monte Carlo

Legislation of morning bingo

EC: Political Cooperation ministerial meeting, Athens

EC: Agricultural Council, Brussels (to 19 July)

DTP: Private finance seminar

STATISTICS

CBI: CBI/FT Survey of distributive trades (June)

DTI: Retail sales (June-prov)

HMT/CSO: PSBR (June)

PUBLICATIONS

CO: ~~—~~ Women's National Commission report on stress and addiction among women (and press conference)

HO: Punishment, Custody and the Community Green Paper

London Regional Transport annual report and accounts

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Wales; Energy; Transport

Business: Education Reform Bill: Supplemental Timetable Motion

Education Reform Bill: Consideration of Lords Amendments
(1st allotted day)

Adjournment Debate: The handling by the Home Office of alleged miscarriage of justice: The case of Mr Paul Clelland (Mr J Hughes)

Select Committees: TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE
Subject: International Monetary
Co-ordination
Witnesses: Sir Douglas Wass and
Mr Tonomura, Nomura International Limited

TELEVISIONING OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE
Witnesses: SVC (5.00 pm); CGA (5.30 pm); TVF
(6.pm); Panoptic (6.30 pm)

Lords: Starred Questions
Firearms (amendment) Bill: Committee (1st Day)
Army, Air Force and Naval Discipline Act (Continuation) Order
1988: Motion for Approval

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGEST

Kinnock to protest to Mugabe today after being held at gunpoint by corporal in border town in reception mixup.

Soldier and Kinnock swear at each other and Kinnock leads singing of Jerusalem in bid to keep spirits up.

Terry Dicks MP says Kinnock now knows the truth about freedom and democracy in Africa after crowing so long about it.

Express says he will return to a leadership crisis with some MPs asking whether it is time to ditch him. Doubts about his judgement reinforced by his tasteless joke about you and DT.

Jesse Jackson demands major role in US presidential campaign on eve of Atlanta convention. Sun says he is also trying to secure release of IRA terrorist in jail in New York.

Mail says Jackson is making it hot for Dukakis, demanding everything from power sharing partnership to private plane.

Speculation that mortgage rates will rise to 12% if further jump in base rates occur, as expected, this week.

Government to take measures against gazumping. John Heddle MP says cowboy estate agents are a national scandal.

CBI reports no let up in retail spending - strong evidence of UK growth.

British acquisitions in US rise sharply according to British/American Deal Review.

Professor Alan Walters denies he disagrees with Chancellor's handling of economy (Times); but confirms he has been discussing return to No 10 (Independent).

Air traffic delays expected to ease after French air traffic controllers call off 24-hour strike due today.

Express says Government will end consultants' job-for-life contract after next General Election as part of review of NHS - leader says that Government is grasping at a notorious nettle; ending this privilege is an essential step towards a more streamlined NHS.

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph says up to a quarter of Britain's universities could lose their science departments and become liberal arts colleges under UGC plans.

Big demonstration in London yesterday on eve of Mandela's 70th birthday. South African police ban Cape Town University music festival to mark birthday - and any kind of public or private celebration (Times) but Cape Town Court throws out ban (Independent).

Mail says police to carry out random spot checks to stop jury and witness nobbling.

Strong similarities reported between weekend riot at Lindholme, Yorkshire, jail, and that at Haverigg, Cumbria, last month.

Allegations of massive fraud at Burghfield Atomic Weapons Establishment; Labour calls for full statement.

Red Adair gets on with capping of Piper Alpha wells; 3 more bodies recovered over weekend; 139 still missing.

Today says Shorts of Belfast are to be privatised this week.

Paul Channon studying private funding for new roads.

Overwhelming majority of EETPU members back Eric Hammond over no-strike agreements and membership of TUC.

Claims that local parties are shifting their support from Hattersley to Prescott for deputy leader; Prescott forecast to force second ballot and win.

Bruce Anderson, in Telegraph, previews Cabinet reshuffle in autumn.

Archbishop Runcie, preaching to Lambeth conference, sees new horizons for Christianity in Russia and China but criticises growing gap between rich and poor countries.

Mail says Runcie has changed his mind about early retirement.

Telegraph says report shows Anglican Church has adopted an unbalanced and ill-informed Leftwing political stance which is likely to be reinforced by Lambeth conference.

Reports of a row at party between Denis Thatcher and Robert Lawrence, lieutenant portrayed in "Tumbledown".

PRESS DIGEST

David Mellor suggests Israel is going the way of South Africa - a thought which earns him the rebuke of "foolish" from the Sun. Israeli Ambassador describes his remarks as "unbalanced and unhelpful."

KINNOCK

Star page 1 lead - Kinnock is held at gunpoint! Neil fury at troops in airport showdown.

Sun page 1 lead - Gun troops seize angry Kinnocks. "I am bloody steaming; in fact steam is coming out of my ears" - Kinnock's blast at soldiers.

Mirror with picture page 1 lead - Seized! Moment when Kinnocks were held at gunpoint.

Today page 1 lead - Kinnock held at gunpoint.

Express page 1 lead - Kinnock held at gunpoint. Labour leader 'prisoner' for an hour. Inside piece says Kinnock will return to a leadership crisis. MPs are asking whether it is time to ditch him. Leader under heading "Neil sussed out" says Kinnock has buffooned his way round black South Africa in his attempt to prove his is the white world's main bastion against the evils of apartheid. What a nasty shock it must have been to read in Zimbabwe's Government-controlled newspapers that he was not worth hearing while his party shows so little signs of gaining power.

Times - Furious Kinnock swears at soldier as he and his party are held at gunpoint by Zimbabwean soldier after plane lands at wrong airport.

Independent - Neil Kinnock held at gunpoint on arrival in Zimbabwe.

Independent - A Labour Party newsheet says Neil Kinnock's style of leadership is too closely modelled on yours.

Mail page 1 lead - Kinnock in gun drama. Troops hold angry Labour leader and Glenys.

Telegraph page 1 - Kinnock held in room at gunpoint.

Guardian page 1 - Kinnocks held in mix up.

PRESS DIGESTPOLITICS

Times - Labour policy review criticised by electricians' union for "clinging to outdated and old fashioned policies".

Independent says return of Professor Walters is likely to renew the war of nerves between yourself and the Chancellor. The timescale suggests you are planning a major reshuffle next year and will make Cecil Parkinson Chancellor.

AIR TRAFFIC

Sun leader blames foreign air traffic controllers for all the trouble at British airports. They ought to be sacked on the spot as Reagan sacked US controllers.

Mirror says air traffic delays are a genuine scandal - of incompetence, complacency, bureaucratic indifference, short-sightedness and contempt for customers. The skies are not overcrowded. The equipment to cater for the demand is not modern enough. Major Europe-wide problem should be solved by Europe acting together.

Today page 1 - Christopher Tugendhat, Chairman, CAA, insists it isn't his fault. Shrugs off MPs' calls to resign. Leader says CAA cannot be allowed to get away with blaming the chaos on strikers abroad. It has shown itself insufferably complacent. When the person in charge - Tugendhat - misjudges on this scale he should be replaced.

Telegraph says if scheduled airfares, kept artificially high to subsidise holiday flights, and holiday fares were allowed to find their own level holiday peaks might even out.

Times leads with you under pressure to intervene in the air traffic control crisis. Backbench MPs critical of Paul Channon for lack of action and predict the crisis could force you to call a "summit" of tour operators, airlines and CAA to bring short term relief to air travellers. Robert McCrindle calls for an end to restrictions on night flights from Gatwick and Stanstead, a European-wide air traffic control system and a no-strike agreement for controllers.

Independent - Air traffic chaos with misery for thousands of holidaymakers continues. Scheduled flights are likely to be affected from today.

PRESS DIGEST

FT - Government and CAA disclaim responsibility for continuing airports chaos.

HOUSING

Star says if there is a professional class of person less loved than an MEP it is an estate agent. Now the Government is planning tough new controls on rogue agents to stamp out the malign practice of gazumping. Sadly this is too late for hundreds of thousands who have had their dreams shattered.

Sun - Maggie tells estate agents to cut rip-off fees; leader says the crackdown is not before time. They should be made to clean up their act by law.

Express leader says any legislation which might limit problems of house sale and purchase is to be welcomed.

Mail leader says buying a house can often be a nightmare. Advertising by estate agents is notoriously misleading and complaints all too familiar. Gazumping adds to the misery. Welcome news that Government is promising a crackdown in sharp practice.

A code of practice to eliminate shoddy practices among estate agents should be ready by the autumn, John Butcher said yesterday.

FT - Government to seek house-buying code. Lord Chancellor is also investigating whether Scottish property laws can be extended to England and Wales.

INDUSTRY

Independent - Acrimony between pickets and "scabs" continues in Dover over the P&O strike.

Independent - Graduates are being paid "golden hellos" of £300 by local authorities.

Independent - 300 employees of the European Patent Office are planning to take the British Government to court for refusing to recognise their children as British.

FT - Dumped nuclear fuel cannister contents puzzle scientists.

FT - Government will confirm in next 10 days its readiness to consider sale of Short Brothers to any suitable private sector buyer.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent -DOE has warned water authorities that plans for a simultaneous flotation may be jeopardised unless they make greater efforts to co-ordinate preparations.

ECONOMY

FT - West Germany looks set to raise interest rates soon, intensifying pressure on the UK to raise bank base rates again.

Independent - Australia is to propose to delegates of a world trade body today a set of principles to establish free global trading in services including banking, insurance, transport and consultancies.

NHS

Times leader is critical of the Government for failing to take any action over Sir Roy Griffiths' report on community care. The Government has buried the report - issuing it without a press conference on the day after the Budget and while Sir Roy was ill. The problem is urgent. Month by month old and handicapped people are landing on the doorsteps of local authorities. You should tell John Moore to scrap his committee set up to study the report and implement Sir Roy's recommendations.

LAW & ORDER

Times - Douglas Hogg promises that prison selection procedures will be tightened after riot at Lindholme Prison.

Times - Scotland Yard protests to Thames TV over the content of press advertisements promoting a new series of "The Bill".

Times - Scotland Yard's drive against soccer hooligans faces further serious damage with a decision by legal experts and senior officers to drop up to three more cases involving more than 60 defendants.

Richard Shepherd writing in the Times spells out the dangers in Government thinking, as he sees it, over reforms to the Official Secrets Act.

EDUCATION

Times - Head Teachers Association tells members that they and teachers are on constant duty when on trips with young pupils involving special risks.

PRESS DIGEST

Times - Labour attacks curbs on education debate as Education Reform Bill goes back to Commons.

Independent - Teachers at Lewes Comprehensive school claim they are being victimised for teaching a Scottish exam syllabus because they are unhappy with the new GCSE.

Independent - Nearly 3,000 primary schools could close if new Government proposals for school budgets go ahead. Village schools with fewer than 100 pupils would be most at risk.

CIVIL SERVICE

Times - Rift widens in Civil Service over Ibbs reforms.

EC

Times - Confusion, blunders and blatant contradictions that are plaguing the official Greek investigation into tour ship attack will cast an embarrassing shadow over today's meeting of EC foreign ministers, the first held under Greek presidency.

Independent - Greek Government will use a meeting of European community foreign ministers in Athens to defend its record on combating international terrorism.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Times - John Hume offers to disclose to Unionist leaders part of his discussions with Sinn Fein.

Times - Government sources deny you have asked President Reagan to bring pressure on US Defence Department to drop fair employment conditions from potential order for Short Brothers.

POLAND

Times - Gorbachev's visit to Poland boosts Jaruzelski's status in Warsaw Pact but his silence on sensitive topics dashes Polish hopes.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- HMT: Mr Lawson addresses and Mr Brooke and Mr Lilley attend Payroll Giving Seminar, Lancaster House, London
- HO: Mr Hurd addresses dinner of UK Pakistan Overseas Chamber of Commerce
- DEM: Mr Nicholls meets Green Alliance, London; later meets Mr Boddington, HCTB, London and launches West End Company, London
- DES: Mrs Rumbold shadowed by schoolgirl, Catherine Bannister (to 20 July)
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave opens Guinness Trust Exhibition at House of Commons
- DOE: Mr Trippier opens Metro Office Supplies in Manchester
- DTI: Mr Clark speaks on Britain's trade with Arab markets at Trade Campaign '88, organised by Arab British Chamber of Commerce; later attends reception for National Day of Iraq
- DTP: Mr Bottomley addresses the opening of Eurosafe '88 conference and attends presentation by the Accident Investigation and Prevention Scheme, Guildhall
- FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses London Chamber of Commerce
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington meets Mr Maki, Japanese Deputy Minister of Agriculture
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses Council of Regional Arts Associations conference (prov)
- SO: Lord Sanderson visits Royal Botanical Gardens, Edinburgh

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTI: Lord Young visits Spain
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor attends Agriculture Council, Brussels (to 19 July)

TV AND RADIO

- 'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)
- 'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)
- 'World in Action': ITV (20.30)
- 'Panorama': BBC1 (21.30) Hot Property. Investigation into mortgage fraud
- 'The World Tonight': BBC Radio 4 (22.30) Followed by 'Financial World Tonight' and 'Today in Parliament'
- 'Newsnight': BBC2 (22.40)
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