

25 October 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen holds an investiture at Buckingham Palace; later visits Church House, Westminster

NEDC autumn meeting

Prime Minister has talks with Prince Sihanouk (photocall)

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STATISTICS

CBI: Industrial Trends Survey (4th Qtr)

HO: Criminal Statistics Annual Volume 1987

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Employment; Health; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: National Cervical Cancer Foundation (Establishment)  
Opposition Day: There will be a debate on an Opposition Motion on the Economy  
Road Traffic Bill (Lords): 2nd Reading. (CONSOLIDATION MEASURE)  
Road Traffic (Consequential Provisions) Bill (Lords): 2nd Reading (CONSOLIDATION MEASURE)  
Road Traffic Offenders Bill (Lords): 2nd Reading (CONSOLIDATION MEASURE)

Adjournment Debate: Management of Wakefield Health Authority (Mr D Hinchliffe)

Select Committees: MEMBERS' INTERESTS  
Subject: Parliamentary Lobbying  
Witnesses: Public Policy Consultants  
GJW  
Ian Greer Associates

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS  
Associated British Ports (No 2)  
North Killingholme Cargo Terminal

Lords: Starred Questions  
Health and Medicines Bill: Third Reading  
Housing Bill: Report (2nd Day)  
Lord Rees Mogg introduced

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Solidarity say round-table talks with the Polish government, originally scheduled for last week, are likely to be further postponed and their restoration look very bleak (Independent).

City looks for strong stance by Chancellor in today's economic debate as pound comes under further pressure.

Government announces Green Paper on future organisation of legal profession - warmly welcomed in leaders.

Star Chamber will not be required this year.

Conservative revolt of 25 over child benefit forecasts; Sun wants to see child benefit scrapped. Express wonders what on earth Tory rebels are thinking about.

Government about to decide whether British Scientists should continue to work on JET; conclusions will emerge with the Public Expenditure White Paper (Times).

Nicholas Ridley wins more money to help housing associations improve Council estates (Mail).

Bishop of Bradford calls on Conservative-controlled Bradford Council to reconsider its planned welfare cuts. Telegraph says today's Council meeting to bring sanity to its finances is a small milestone in the politics of local government.

~~Lord~~ Lord Cockfield says European Union is the very substance of the Community itself; after the single market will come the single economy.

EC forecast UK trade deficit of £15billion next year.

EC Foreign Ministers decide that EuroCouncil in Rhodes should be mainly devoted to defining Council's world role after 1992; Telegraph says this is a triumph for you.

British electricity prices rose faster this year than anywhere else in Europe - Mirror says the reason is that the Government is fattening the industry up for privatisation.

Express suggests City is lukewarm to any Barlow-Clowes lifeboat fund.

PRESS DIGEST

Express says the NHS review has hit trouble and will be delayed until the New Year.

Sun tip Jeffrey Archer as next Ambassador to USA.

Kinnock sacks Ann Clwyd from Front Bench team for voting against defence spending estimates instead of abstaining.

Ron Brown MP promises to pay £1,175 cost of repairing Mace.

Peter Bottomley admits his remark that new roads in South of England were a waste was "foot in mouth".

UGC expected to propose cuts in 20 University physics and chemistry departments.

Report says 20% of newly qualified teachers are not up to their job.

Rover has 850 vacancies but only 100 applicants on its lists; employees asked to help with recruitment.

Petrol firms urging Chancellor to raise tax on leaded petrol to encourage sales of unleaded fuel; they want a 10p a gallon penalty.

Lonrho presses for early publication by DTI of Harrods report.

British wool price guarantee to end.

~~Secondary~~ school heads call for 27% pay rise.

Oftel says most users are dissatisfied with Cellphone quality (Times).

Thousands of civil servants to be moved from South East as part of this year's spending talks. MOD win extra funds as George Younger understood to have agreed to draw up plans to transfer procurement executive from the South (Times).

Tory MPs call for computer hacking to become a crime, following case where man was released uncharged after gaining access to MOD computers and US defence systems.

Man who broke constable's skull in 3 places with hammer sentenced to 7 years' jail.

PRESS DIGEST

Most of 23 defence lawyers walk out after another row with judge at Heysel trial.

Attorney General tells Commons money on Wright case was well spent and any other security service officers who write memoirs will be similarly pursued.

Sun says police know killers of 2 soldiers who were trapped at funeral and then murdered; Mail leads with identification of pair of IRA gunmen now in Republic. Tory MPs call for their extradition.

Crown Prosecution Service rules that journalists can legally interview the IRA as it decides that no offence was committed by Donna Foote of Newsweek when she interviewed an IRA staff officer. This move proves wrong your comments made in Australia (Independent).

11 blacks removed from Surrey prison after riot on Friday in which they were chased through jail by 100 white inmates.

John Patten, according to Mirror, announces programme to end discrimination against women.

Your visit to Bhavan - picture of welcome spot being applied in Sun. Pictures in Telegraph and Times of you with Bishop of London at T E Utley Memorial Service.

Mail joins row over whether TV series on Battle of Britain is defaming memory of pilots, bestowing on them morality and language of today's lager louts; it says the series reflects cynicism of battle for TV ratings.

Search for missing teacher and pupil after Piraeus sinking called off; Italian captain charged.

One British tourist drowned and another missing after flash floods in Crete.

Euro MP claims 20,000 Britons are victims of property fraud in Spain.

Lester Piggott released from prison.

Central TV programme tonight will claim that President Kennedy was killed by Mafia hit man and not Lee Harvey Oswald.

Kohl calls for end to division of Germany during Moscow visit.

PRESS DIGEST

Leading white South African opposition leaders meet with ANC and Russian delegation in West Germany.

Telegraph leader says you are right to express your disquiet about suggestion of a Marshall plan for Eastern Europe. A cool head, not naive excitability, is required.

Robert Adley, Andrew Faulds and Stuart Randall are in Beirut following tour of Syria (Times).

Green Paper on Legal Profession

Star welcomes "decision to sweep away ancient layers of dust which mysteriously clog our judicial system".

Today says the proposed reforms are long overdue. Old fashioned restrictive practices have turned justice into a high priced jungle. And it welcomes idea of no-win no-fee work.

Express - Not before time. Restrictive practices in legal profession have bought a system of justice which is too rigid and too expensive. The power of competition could turn lazy surveyors into eager beavers.

Times says speed of operation has shocked legal profession.

Child Benefit

Sun leader says John Moore might have to scrap the whole lunatic ~~system~~ of distributing £4.5 billion a year in child benefit and only give it to those in need.

Express says opposition to pegging of child benefit is absurd. Surely directing money to needy families should appeal event to Labour Party. What on earth are Tory rebels thinking about?

FT leader says government would be unwise to attempt to alter the balance between universal national insurance and means tested benefits without first seeking a popular mandate. Why does John Moore think that an extension of means-tested benefits will strengthen work incentives and reduce people's sense of dependency?

PRESS DIGEST

Independent - Child Benefit to be frozen. Tory backbench rebellion, which ministers are confident can be kept down to about 25, assured after John Moore agrees to freeze payments at their present level; Peter Bottomley speaks out in support of demands for a fundamental review of the child benefit system.

Public Spending

Times - John Major has settled all the main disputes within a £3billion self-imposed overspending limit. John Moore expected to get much less in additional family credit resources than the £130million the Treasury will save by freezing child benefit. Star Chamber is expected to hold a formal meeting to examine outcome.

Telegraph - page 1 lead - Agreement close on spending curb; overshoot below £3billion.

Broadcast Ban

In an Independent commentary, Peter Jenkins looks at last week's broadcasting ban, and concludes that it is part of a generally casual attitude towards free speech. The justification for its introduction would carry more weight if the Government understood the need to balance expediencies of state against the upholding of fundamental freedoms.

Politics

Independent leader looks at the new left-of-centre opposition ~~group~~, led by Baroness Blackstone, and its monthly magazine Samizdat, and sees something reactive and ultimately uninspiring about a movement which sees its purpose as being to voice a negative consensus against the views of the ruling party.

East West Relations

Independent - Kohl breaks the Kremlin ice. He delivers a ringing appeal for improved human, cultural and economic ties between East and West and speaks forthrightly on German reunification, but the differences are unlikely to sour a summit which both sides want to be a success. Leader says the Germans expect to clinch a £1.6billion credit package; it calls for a co-ordinated Western approach. Experience shows that untargetted credits to Eastern Europe often do more harm than good. It suggests the best candidate for Western loans could be free-enterprise Soviet farms.

PRESS DIGEST

FT - Spain and Portugal could join WEU early next month as negotiations are on point of being concluded.

FT - West Germans sign deal with Russians to plan and construct advanced nuclear reactors in the Soviet Union.

Defence

Independent - Government expected to be severely criticised tomorrow by Select Committee for failing to get best price for Royal Ordnance.

Independent - PAC set to level serious criticism at MOD's handling of big defence procurement projects, especially on cost and time overruns on the foxhunter radar and alarm missile programmes for Tornado.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler attends NEDC meeting, London
- DTp: Mr Channon addresses the Motor Agents Association annual dinner, Hilton Hotel, London
- WO: Mr Walker visits Texaco, Pembroke Dock; also visits Organic Growers Association, Lampeter; also visits Dyfed/Powys Police, Carmarthen
- DES: Mr Jackson addresses the Royal Society's one day discussion meeting on the subject of science funding
- DES: Mr Butcher launches the Local Management Scheme Guidance Manual, Connaught Rooms, London
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley addresses opening of International Heritage/Town Regeneration conference, Halifax
- DTp: Mr Portillo opens conference of the Institution of Civil Engineers on the Channel Tunnel
- DTp: Mr Bottomley addresses the Freight Transport Association annual council meeting, Hilton Hotel, London
- ODA: Mr Patten attends Save the Children Fund annual meeting, Harrogate
- WO: Mr Renton visits Liverpool Passport Office

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DOE: Mr Gummer addresses MARS Towards 2000 Seminar, Brussels
- DTI: Mr Atkins visits USA (to 3 November)
- DTp: Lord Brabazon attends Aviation Security conference, Washington (to 28 October)
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TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Kilroy": BBC 1 (9.20)

"Business Daily": C4 (12.30)

"The World at One": BBC Radio 4 (13.00)

"File on 4": BBC Radio 4 (19.20). Looks at the United States' Central American Policy in the light of Honduras' problems. Repeated Wednesday

"The Kingdom Divided": C4 (20.00). Report on whether there is a North-South divide in Britain, and where the North begins

"Brass Tacks": BBC 2 (20.30). Asks if the private security industry needs to be brought under tight control by the Home Office

"Viewpoint 88 Special": ITV (21.00). Investigation into assassination of President Kennedy, with new evidence

"The Other Europe": C4 (21.00). Czech commentator examines impact of Stalinism on the Warsaw Pact countries

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.50)

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