

1 November 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Autumn Statement

Prime Minister accepts seedlings from new Canadian High Commissioner (photocall)

The Queen attends a service in Westminster Abbey to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Welsh Bible

The Princess Royal visits Norwich Prison

? Industrial action by Scottish teachers

General Election in Israel

STATISTICS

OPCS: Population projections by area 1985-2001

PUBLICATIONS

HO: Animal Procedures Committee report 1987

HSE: Docks and fishing vessel regulations

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Health; Education and Science; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Trade Descriptions Act 1968 (Amendment)
Health and Medicines Bill: Consideration of Lords Amendments

Adjournment Debate: Safety requirements for industrial chemical premises
(Mr J Ward)

Select Committees: EMPLOYMENT
Subject: Legionnaire's Disease in the Working Environment
Witnesses: Officials from British Aerospace; Dr D N Constable, Bolton District Health Authority

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

1 November 1988

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PARLIAMENT (Continued)

Lords: Starred Questions

School Boards (Scotland) Bill: Report

Motion that this House calls upon HMG to revoke the Income Support
(General) Amendment No 4 Regulations 1988, laid before the House on
15 August 1988

UQ to ask HMG whether consideration has been given to the effect on
employment in Northern Ireland of the decision to privatise Short
Brothers

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Kenneth Clarke sends eyes and teeth check charge rebels away empty handed: no more concessions. Autumn Statement's increase in health spending may save Government from defeat. Sun says rebel MPs were accused of bickering over the price of 3 pints. Kenneth Clarke tells them defeat for Government would leave them with no choice but to cut health care elsewhere.

Some reports that the revolt is fading. But Express says Government is braced for defeat.

Announcement of closure of Lenin Shipyard, Gdansk, casts shadow over your visit to Poland.

Telegraph quotes Solidarity source "Mrs Thatcher's popularity among Opposition groups for her anti-Communism, coupled with her regulation as a union basher and economic realist, is being cynically used by the Government to deflect blame for the closure".

Jack Straw leaks documents sent to him about a seminar on higher education at Chevening - fifth major leak this year. Ministers furious Labour are encouraging disaffected Civil Servants.

34 Universities stand to lose their chemistry and physics departments under reforms proposed by UGC.

10,000 nurses worked to rule yesterday over new job gradings. Thousands to appeal against outcome of review.

IRSF and IPCS look set to reject November 7 strike in support of sacked GCHQ employees (FT).

IRA gunman steals aiming device for heat seeking rockets by walking unchallenged into Shorts factory in Belfast. Mirror attacks bumbling factory management. FT says an investigation has been ordered at Shorts.

Chancellor admits millions of families are worse off after tax cuts because of higher interest rates.

Institute of Directors' survey shows that 87% of business leaders believe rise in interest rates has brought no change to investment plans (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

Shadow Cabinet elections descend into unprecedented bitterness with allegations that Derek Foster has been involved in efforts to undermine the position of Frank Dobson (Times).

Labour prepares personal campaign against Lord Young over Barlow Clowes and Royal Ordnance, exploiting his background in property development (Independent).

Leader calls for Elders' bid for Scottish & Newcastle Breweries to be referred to the MMC, and questions Elders' intentions and commitment to basing its operations in Scotland (Independent).

Sun Microsystems of California is to locate its first manufacturing plant outside the US in Scotland, employing 300 people at Linlithgow by 1991 (FT).

Kuwaitis call for more time to sell BP holdings.

Government to sweep away laws which ban women from working underground in coal industry.

NUM claims 50 pits could be lost as a result of electricity privatisation.

Gavin Laird supports Nicholas Ridley's call for more nuclear power.

Sun says, with proper precautions, running a nuclear power plant is far safer than burrowing into the ground. In campaigning against nuclear power Labour gives voice to prejudice and ignorance. But Today says Ministers are going to have to answer a lot of questions if we are to be persuaded we need more nuclear power stations. Telegraph says nuclear power represents the genuinely green option for the future.

Express leader in praise of Paul Channon says he seems genuinely excited by a mission to improve the transport system. A news report says he is to slash road building time by at least 3 years.

Kinnock says proposed review of traffic congestion is feeble.

Rush of last minute bidders for Settle-Carlisle line.

Home Secretary says Civil Servants face the sack if they make racist remarks.

PRESS DIGEST

Call for use of more bail hostels and special hospital beds for prisoners with physical and mental problems who would otherwise be held in unsuitable police station cells (Independent).

NUT urges teachers to stamp out sexism in schools.

Bishop of Manchester, responding to your anti-litter campaign, says you are defeating your own objective by cutting funds of councils responsible for litter collection.

Express reports formation of litter squads and other clean up measures across the country.

Bishop of Bradford calls special meeting of church leaders to discuss response to Tory plans for sweeping changes in the city.

Case of 19 year old who fractured his skull, arm and bones in neck after 40 ft fall after drinking, who was left by ambulance men in London because he had been drinking.

Lord Cudlipp at memorial service for Lord Jacobson, attacks newspapers; continuing role in public enlightenment no longer business of popular press.

TV in Commons unlikely before next October - a year later than originally hoped.

Psychologist claims Esther Rantzen's Childline was a waste of time - only 6% of calls from most vulnerable age group.

All party select committee concerned that no social workers have been allocated to at least 600 registered cases of child abuse in London (Times).

Anna Ford to read BBC 6 o'clock news - at a salary varying according to reports from £50-100,000.

Likud thought likely to win Israeli general election after bus bombing on West Bank which killed mother and 3 children.

World Bank farming expert from Britain shot dead by gunmen in Uganda.

Reagan rejects charge on video by hostage that US Government has stopped agreements leading to his release.

Galtieri loses appeal against 12 year jail sentence.

PRESS DIGEST

Imelda Marcos bailed for £2.9million on fraud charges in USA.

Russia is ready to accept a "strictest examination" of its human rights record, according to senior Soviet official (FT).

LEAK

Star - Whitehall 'Mole' lands Kinnock in a hole.

Sun - New leak sparks big Whitehall mole hunt.

Mirror - Secret Tory plan to get well-off students to buy their way into university comes to light.

Today - Maggie anger at college fee leak.

Express page 1 lead - The great mole hunt.

Mail - Hunt for mole after new leak.

Times leads with Government being shaken by leak of confidential Ministerial papers about higher education, the second in less than a week. Angry Tory MPs insist you crack down on civil servants who release such documents.

Independent - Plan to scrap free higher education. Leaked papers reveal detailed scheme for private fees and voucher system.

FT - Leaked papers reveal plan to charge students. Leader questions decision to embark on a review of university science without allowing for the possibility that the present investment of resources might be too little.

Telegraph - row over leak on students' £500 fee.

Guardian leads with 'degree by voucher' put on ice. Cabinet Office may launch hunt for Whitehall mole.

EYE/TEETH TESTS

Today says the Government has got the wrong enemy in its sights. The people it should be after are opticians and dentists who make the charges. Why should they charge for testing at all? They get enough for fixing our teeth and specs. Government should withdraw charges and find a way to make dentists and opticians carry the cost.

PRESS DIGEST

Express tells rebels to think again. They, not Ministers, are the ones who appear stubborn and dogmatic. The argument is a re-run over that of freezing child benefit. And the Government is arranging for needy families to be exempt.

Times - Government faces one of its biggest trials of strength today as Ministers refuse to back down in face of a 70 MP revolt over teeth and eye test charges; leader says it can hardly be maintained that charges for sight tests and dental check ups will cause noticeable hardship as the most needy 40% will be exempt.

Independent - Thatcher defies health rebels, who themselves doubt if they can beat the Government but are confident of cutting majority to around 20.

FT - Concessions on health charges ruled out. Party Whips appear confident that revolt can be contained.

Telegraph - Clarke rules out concessions to rebel Tory MPs; leader says it is no more right to rely on free testing to encourage financially independent individuals to care for their teeth and eyes than it is to subsidise the size of families. If the culture of dependency is to be reversed this cannot be shirked.

Guardian says health rebels acknowledged that their support had slipped slightly on the face of sustained Government pressure - from 60 to under 50. Leader urges all rebels to vote against charges.

YOUR VISIT TO POLAND

Sun - Police riot fear on eve of Maggie's trip; fury as Walesa is fired. Shut down seen as attempt to wreck your talks with Walesa. Polish Government furious at your insistence on meeting him and believe you will have to support the closure.

Today - Maggie flies into Lech's job battle.

Express - Maggie sales into Lech's yard row.

Mail leads with "Maggie's trip into trouble" - catapulted right into the cauldron of Polish politics; leader says if the closure of the yard taunts you it is a whiplash to Solidarity. You will pick your way with care and courage through the minefield to convey the message to all that neither Communist planning or Thatcherite economics will drag Poland out of the depths without the consent of the Polish people.

PRESS DIGEST

Times - Polish Government present you with diplomatic teaser by closing Gdansk shipyard on eve of your visit. Should you criticise closure the Polish authorities will be able to say it is only the kind of rationalisation you have carried through in turning around the British economy. Leader says the Government's economic logic is unimpeachable but because of what the shipyard has stood for the closure will set back the possibility of even a limited consensus between the authorities and the people for a very long time.

Thatcherism crosses the Iron Curtain as Gdansk shipyard is closed. Rakowski admits there could be trouble. Solidarity say protests to coincide with your visit are a near certainty.

FT - Solidarity plans fight over closure of Lenin shipyard in Gdansk. Feature says both sides are looking to you for a lift. Human rights will be the main theme of your visit.

Guardian - Poland closes yard that gave birth to Solidarity. Your visit bound to trigger emotional protests.

Guardian says closure of Lenin yard on the eve of your visit reeks of political sandbagging.

ENVIRONMENT

Independent - At start of National Lead-Free Petrol Week, only 1.5% of petrol sold is unleaded and only 2% of motorists are buying it, despite fact that over half the car population could use it. Leader places blame for this ignorance on motorists, car manufacturers, oil companies and Government. It calls for a gap of at least 10p between unleaded and four star petrol.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler attends Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors reception, London
- DEN: Mr Parkinson opens the Permanent Exhibition of Britain Offshore Oil and Gas, British Museum of Natural History
- DH: Mr Clarke attends dinner with Royal Pharmaceutical Society
- DSS: Lord Skelmersdale visits Royal British Legion Poppy Factory, Richmond
- DTp: Mr Channon addresses the Chartered Institute of Transport lunch, Connaught Rooms, London
- WO: Mr Walker, Mr Roberts and Mr Grist attend Commemorative Service for 400th anniversary of translation of bible into Welsh, Westminster Abbey
- DEM: Mr Cope visits British Telecom Technical College, Stone, Staffordshire
- DEM: Mr Nicholls attends opening of Lloyds British Training Centre, Burton-on-Trent; later addresses London Wharfingers Association dinner
- DOE: Mr Chope visits Teesside Crown Court, Middlesburgh
- DTp: Mr Bottomley addresses the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Disc Brakes for Trucks international conference; later opens North Devon Link Road Stage 2a
- DTp: Mr Portillo presents the Minister of State Cup to the Euston/Northampton line
- HO: Mr Renton addresses YMCA Indian Students Dinner
- MAFF: Mr Ryder attends National Restaurateurs conference, London
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses opening of British Bibliographic Service Exhibition, British Library; later addresses opening of English Speaking Union Art and Antique Fair

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DOE: Lord Caithness visits Bulgaria to sign UK Protocol on Nitrogen Emissions
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TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Kilroy": BBC 1 (9.20)

"The Parliament Programme": C4 (12.00)

"Business Daily": C4 (12.30)

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

"File on 4": BBC Radio 4 (19.20). Should there be specialist regional centres for cancer treatment? Repeated Wednesday

"Brass Tacks": BBC 2 (20.10). Gamekeepers are fighting back against the organised crime of poaching

"4 What It's Worth": C4 (20.30)

"The Other Europe": C4 (21.00). How the Communist parties exercise their influence in Eastern Europe

"Building Sights": C4 (22.20). Architectural value of water pumping station on Isle of Dogs

"The World Tonight": C4 (22.30) followed by "Financial World Tonight" and "Today in Parliament"

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.30)

"First Tuesday": ITV (22.35). Can education system cope with dyslexic children with high IQs?
