

10 November 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Govan by-election

King's Cross Fire Report

Healthcare Financial Management Association autumn conference and  
AGM (to 11 November)

EC: OECD Executive Committee Special Session, Paris

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STATISTICS

BOE: Financing of the CGBR (3rd Qtr)

BOE: UK banking sector statistics (3rd Qtr)

BOE: Money stock (3rd Qtr)

DEM: 1987 New Earnings Survey, Report Part D: Analysis by Occupation

OPCS: Labour force survey 1986

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PUBLICATIONS

CO: Government Response to the Treasury and Civil Service Select  
Committee report on "The Next Steps", Command Paper

DES: Physics and Chemistry Reviews

HO: Prison Department annual report 1987

HO: Scientific Procedures on Animals 1987 Command Paper

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Northern Ireland; Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Prime Minister

Business: Debate on a Motion to take note of the Draft Revised Guidelines  
for Handling Members' Representations in Immigration Cases.

## PARLIAMENT (Continued)

OPPOSED PRIVATE BUSINESS

Northampton Bill (Lords): 3rd Reading

- \* River Humber (Burcom Outfall) Bill (Lords)
- \* Port of Tyne Bill (Lords)
- \* Newcastle upon Tyne Town Moor Bill (Lords)
- \* Harwich Harbour Bill (Lords)
- \* London Regional Transport (No 2) Bill
- \* London Regional Transport (Penalty Fares) Bill (Lords)
- \* Avon Light Transit Bill (Lords)
- \* City of London (Spitalfields Market) Bill
- \* London Local Authorities Bill (Lords)

- \* These are all Carry-over Motions

Road Traffic Bill (Lords): Committee and Remaining Stages.  
(CONSOLIDATION MEASURE)

Road Traffic (Consequential Provisions) Bill (Lords):  
Committee and Remaining Stages. (CONSOLIDATION MEASURE)

Road Traffic Offenders Bill (Lords): Committee and Remaining Stages.  
(CONSOLIDATION MEASURE)

Motion on the Consumer Protection Act 1987 (Commencement No 2) Order.  
(EXEMPTED BUSINESS for 1½ hours)

Adjournment Debate: Development in the privatisation of the Giro Bank  
(Mr A Roberts)

Lords: Starred Questions

European Communities (Finance) Bill (Money Bill): Second Reading  
and Remaining Stages

Rate Support Grants Bill (Money Bill): Second Reading and  
Remaining Stage

Education Support Grants (Amendment)(No.2) Regulations 1988:  
Motion for Approval

Food Protection (Emergency Prohibitions) Amendment No 4 Order  
1988: Motion for Approval

Farm Diversification Grant (Variation) Scheme 1988: Motion for  
Approval.

UQ to ask HMG on what basis Government funded agricultural  
research and development in excess of £30 million has been  
identified as "near market" to be funded in future by the  
agricultural industry and how they propose that the necessary funds  
should be raised

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Guardian Marplan poll puts Labour neck and neck with Conservatives  
- 42/42.

Sir Keith Bright resigns as chairman of LRT on eve of publication of King's Cross fire report; head of Underground, Dr Tony Ridley expected to resign today.

John Prescott demands Paul Channon's resignation, too

Bush names Baker as new Secretary of State and promises to heal divisions in USA.

Dollar falls to 5-month low on declaration of result.

You are expected to confer an honour (Knight of Garter) on President Reagan during next week's visit.

Cabinet to decide today whether Chancellor should face censure motion by Opposition over his meeting with Sunday Lobby. Mirror headline - Bid to "fine" meanie Lawson. Mail says most of Chancellor's colleagues agree he is victim of over-imaginative journalists.

Independent, pursuing the case of the Sunday briefing, says a senior government source describes the motion as a "leg-pull". Treasury said last night that the Independent's analysis of the briefing was "broadly accurate", suggesting that the Chief Whip and Leader had disagreed on whether to have a debate. Speculation ~~that~~ you were being urgently consulted. Treasury now say tape of the briefing has been "lost".

Sun critical of student loans - idea has been a disaster in other countries and it's quite wrong for state to add a burden of debt to youngsters starting in their career. Pay as you learn scheme angers Opposition but Kenneth Baker wins over Tory critics.

Colin Moynihan insists national membership scheme will bring back soccer fans. Welcome for plans from Today, Express. Opposition says scheme is too costly and unnecessary.

Post Offices in London and West Midlands hit by strike of counter staff over working practices.

Trevor Clay, RCN, calls on nurses to end work to rule in Birmingham: babies will die if they don't he says. Today says it's time Government created an Ombudsman for nurses.

PRESS DIGEST

Over 98% of Scots register for community charge.

Kenneth Clarke says there will be no charges for medical screening tests or visits to the doctor.

Jaguar loses through the current strike now total £20million.

MMC to investigate allegations of petrol price rigging.

Paul Foot features the "shocking waste" of nuclear power as revealed, he says, by CEGB: a report on the performance of AGRs.

Government announces crackdown in bogus shop bargains and hotels and restaurants who force customers to give tips - a welcome from Today.

Commercial TV companies gained £38million because of a Home Office blunder over taxation, according to PAC.

DTI plans no action over the controversial way Burton acquired Debenhams in 1985.

British business contributes over £1billion a year to charity.

Mail says Russia is targetting British firms for purchase of agricultural machinery and machinery to boost consumer goods output, according to Aganbegyan, Economic Head.

Household survey shows more people are buying their own homes and ~~filling~~ filling them with hi-tech goods.

Receivers called in at Hall Russell Shipyard in Aberdeen.

Harland and Wolff appears likely to lose £8million order because of refusal by Government to provide subsidies from the Shipbuilding Intervention Fund.

Tony Blair has written to you seeking an explanation of the sharply differing views of Cecil Parkinson and Nicholas Ridley on the future expansion of the nuclear industry (Independent).

Home Secretary is considering a voluntary national identity card scheme (Independent).

Punch up at Brent Council last night; three Labour councillors assaulted by demonstrators. Police throw out 200 protesting about budget cuts.

PRESS DIGEST

Parents petitioning Kenneth Baker over a two-week Hindu course at a school in Bristol which has no Hindu pupils.

Registered Nursing Home Association claims family doctors are being paid retainers of up to £20,000 a year to provide services for private nursing homes patients which they should give free under NHS contracts (Times).

Labour claims that spending on housing benefit has fallen up to six times more sharply than predicted have been denied by Nicholas Scott (Independent).

Number of Neighbourhood Watch schemes increases by one-third this year to 60,000.

Case of Indian ticket collector on Tube require 40 stitches when slashed by man who attacked him when he asked for 40p fare.

Village halls under threat, according to Telegraph, because Customs & Excise have decreed they should be classed as businesses and lose their exemption from VAT under EC rules.

Britain footing the bill for a £200million blunder over pensions for Spanish workers in Gibraltar - started before your visit to Spain to ensure a smooth tour.

British Scientists in Antarctic get £23million to study ozone layer.

~~Express~~ says Walesa, enjoying greater authority since your visit last week, has stopped a wave of wild cat strikes over threatened closure of Lenin Shipyard. But he holds out long term threat of trouble if closure not withdrawn.

Archbishop of Canterbury, at Kristallnacht memorial, says Holocaust could not have occurred without guilty silence of Christians.

Mirror prints a pretty grudging apology to Nicholas Ridley.

Telegraph says a strong offensive will be mounted in Rhodes to shake Britain's opposition to some elements of Cockfield's 1992 plans.

Lord Cockfield says that despite some persistent difficulties, the EC was now well on target for completion of the European internal market by 1992 (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Pravda scolds you for your hard line on closer integration of the European Community (FT).

PRESIDENT

Star - Maggie joy for Bush - your telephone call of congratulations; leader: Bush is not the most dynamic man in the world but you believe you can work with him and he certainly stands in awe of you. The world should breathe a huge sigh of relief today because the indications are that Gorbachev is prepared to do business with Bush.

Sun, following Today's discovery that Bush's ancestors came from Essex, claims he is 13th cousin four times removed of Princess Diana and that he could be King George VII of Britain!

Mirror - A personal triumph for Bush whose election is welcomed in Britain, Europe and Soviet Union. Now Bush has to show us what he is made of by action on deficits, tension in Middle East, co-operation with Europe and on disarmament.

Today - A good result for America and its good for us, too.

Express says winning was the easy part for George Bush. Defeated Democrats with their hold on Congress consolidated, will be hostile and unforgiving. But Bush has a clear mandate and he will need to assert his right to govern.

Mail leads with Bush setting out to build his reputation as a decisive man of action. Leader says Bush has yet to inspire but his election does offer continuity and experience. But can he break free of the machinery that hems him in?

Times - Bush chooses Baker for key foreign post and hopes for early summit with Gorbachev. You lost no time in congratulating Mr Bush and, in his message, Mr Gorbachev hoped for stronger bilateral ties. Leader says Mr Bush faces different problems from those faced by President Reagan when he started to enact his manifesto in the face of a Democratic Congress in 1980. Then a specific set of commitments existed which could be presented as a mandate. Now there is no such list of priorities.

Telegraph leads with messages sent by Bush and Gorbachev; leader says the twin deficits crowd out all other issues! They are bad for America and Europe and their cure will be painful.

PRESS DIGESTSTUDENTS

Little coverage in Star, Sun and Mirror, though critical leader in Sun. Explanatory feature in Today.

Express leader says it is right students should be asked to pay something towards their education. It is also likely they will take their education opportunities more seriously when they have to pay towards them.

Mail leader headed "A modest proposal" says the idea behind the scheme has long been the custom in most countries. It makes belated good sense.

FT - Subsidised loans for students planned in 1990. Leader says the proposals will be broadly welcome if they turn out to be the first tranche of a wide-ranging reform of the financing and structure of higher education.

Independent - Jack Straw said the scheme would "mortgage knowledge". NUS said they would reinforce the elitism of higher education. Committee of Vice Chancellors said scheme would act as a deterrent.

Independent leader says yesterday's White Paper is "too timid" to hold out prospects of anything better. There is no reason why students should not eventually repay the whole cost and perhaps a proportion of their tuition costs as well. A bolder scheme would introduce loans for new students with the aim of increasing the numbers in higher education by 50% by the end of the century.

Guardian admits the system is ripe for reform. Loans are the obvious solution; but not the regressive scheme announced yesterday.

SOCCER

Opposition attack plan for national membership scheme as too costly and unnecessary.

Mirror page feature on the pros and cons of the membership scheme to beat hooligans.

Today says the football authorities would like to shrug their shoulders over the hooligan problem. The Government is absolutely right to ignore their obstinate complacency. A national membership scheme can only be a winner.

PRESS DIGEST

Express - Having done little to combat hooliganism themselves, clubs are now squealing about the Government's hi-tech solution. They will win - and deserve - little sympathy. The Government's solution may not be the complete answer but at least it is a serious attempt to solve a still serious problem.

Times leader says it is a sad but inevitable consequence of bad behaviour. There are bound to be teething troubles but these should not be used to excuse inaction. The overall effect of the scheme promises to be beneficial and all parties should combine to make it work.

Independent - Opposition from football authorities who described it as "sledgehammer legislation".

ECONOMY

Chancellor, in interview with FT, praises co-operation among G7 countries in stabilising exchange rates and helping to create a world-wide investment boom. The G7 countries, he says, have undertaken a study on how to improve the working of the international monetary system. He sees no need for an early G7 meeting after the US Presidential election. On sterling, he says the Government is seeking to maintain as much exchange rate stability as possible in the context of bearing down on inflation. On targeting benefits for poorer pensioners, he denies that it would increasingly lead to a dependency culture among old people.

FT - Bank of England bulletin will today reveal a fall of ~~£23~~ billion in Britain's overseas assets, because of strong pound and investment flows following the stock market crash.



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler addresses British Forging Industry dinner, Birmingham
- DEN: Mr Parkinson addresses Bow Group on electricity privatisation, House of Commons
- DH: Mr Clarke addresses Charities Aid Foundation; later addresses Oxford Union health debate
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor lunches with International Distillers and Vintners Ltd, London
- SO: Mr Rifkind addresses Esso centenary dinner, City Chambers, Glasgow
- WO: Mr Walker attends Diwali, the Festival of Light and Hindu New Year, New Zealand House, Haymarket; later attends dinner at the Portuguese Embassy
- DEM: Mr Lee attends BITOA conference, Glasgow
- DEM: Mr Nicholls opens Nissan Factory, Redditch; later attends Anthony Grant Industrial Advisory dinner, House of Commons
- DES: Mr Jackson gives the Harry Kay lecture at Exeter University
- DES: Mrs Rumbold opens Barnet TVEI exhibition at Hendon College
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley addresses British Scrap Federation
- DOE: Mr Moynihan addresses Central Council of Physical Recreation annual conference
- DTp: Mr Bottomley chairs the North West Regional Annual Consultative Committee, St Helens, Lancs
- DTp: Mr Portillo addresses the annual luncheon of the Export Group for the Constructional Industries
- DTp: Lord Brabazon opens the Chartered Institute of Transport conference on airport capacity "The Real Limitations", Cafe Royal, London
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington and Mr Thompson attend NEU Ministerial dinner, London
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses opening of British Library's new building, Boston Spa, Yorkshire
- ODA: Mr Patten visits Wye Agricultural College, Kent
- WO: Mr Grist attends Community Action Trust dinner, Cardiff Castle
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTI: Lord Young visits Paris for talks on Single European Market

DH: Mrs Currie attends Tobacco Conference in Madrid

DTI: Mr Maude addresses Chicago Mercantile Exchange on The Financial Markets in the 1990s

MAFF: Mr Ryder attends Atlantic conference, Florida, USA (to 11 November)

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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DH: Mr Mellor appears on BBC TV Question Time

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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)

'This Week': ITV (20.30). The Protestant view of the Anglo-Irish Agreement

'Question Time': BBC 1 (22.00). David Mellor, Janet Daley, Simon Jenkins and Gerald Kaufman

'Newsnight': BBC 2 (22.30)

'The World Tonight': BBC Radio 4 (22.30) followed by "The Financial World Tonight" and "Today in Parliament"

'The City Programme': C4 (22.35)

'Govan by-election special': BBC 1 (23.30)