

29 November 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Euroconference, Ministers of Transport, Paris

STATISTICS

BOE: London Sterling Certificates of deposit (Oct)

BOE: Bill turnover statistics (Oct)

BOE: Monetary statistics (including bank and building society balance sheets)
(Oct)

BOE: Sterling commercial paper (Oct)

OPCS: National travel survey - one and seven recording periods

OPCS: Mid 1987 based national population projections

OPCS: Hospital in-patient enquiry: trends 1979-1985; in-patient maternity 1982-1985

OPCS: Fatal accidents occurring during sporting and leisure activities 1987

OPCS: Legal abortions 1987

OPCS: Hospital in-patient enquiry: Maternity 1982-1985

OPCS: Deaths by cause (March 1988) registrations

OPCS: Deaths from accidents and violence (March 1988) registrations

PUBLICATIONS

HOC: 4th Report Defence Committee, Implementing the Lessons of the Falklands Campaign, Volume II - minutes of Evidence

HOC: Agriculture Committee, Land - Use and Forestry

HOC: Report by Comptroller and Auditor General, Overseas Development Administration-multilateral Aid

HOC: 20th Report Package Travel Industry

ODA: Multilateral Aid Support for Intermediary Development Institution

HSE: Mines Exits Regulations

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PARLIAMENTCommonsQuestions: Defence; Employment; Prime MinisterBusiness: Debate on the Address : The Economy (Chancellor
of the Exchequer)Adjournment Debates:Select Committees: Members' Interests - Parliamentary Lobbying
Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration
- Annual ReportsLords: Starred Questions: DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS - Second Day

The Debate will concentrate on ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

You are furious over the Patrick Ryan affair - former priest and IRA quartermaster goes into hiding after Belgians dump him in Dublin.

Police and Customs in London smash suspected IRA gambling racket in 30 London pubs, seizing gaming machines.

Britain ranged among those critical of USA for refusing Arafat a visa to address UN.

Telegraph says the UN is likely to hear Arafat at special meeting in Geneva.

Arab Ambassadors give US 24 hours to change its mind before initiating moves to transfer the debate to Geneva.

Sun says Chancellor was shocked to discover you talking with leading Backbenchers last night about his handling of the economy; press see Chancellor as being "on trial" in today's debate.

Share price fall causes concern about British Steel flotation.

Petrol prices may rise because OPEC agrees to peg output in first half of next year - forecast increases range from 2-6pence.

Today says building societies are getting tough on non-payers.

44 of North Middlesex hospitals 55 midwives resign.

Kenneth Clarke hits back by giving details of massive increases arising from regrading.

Mail says nurses who have refused to take industrial action over the regrading dispute have become victims of physical threats and verbal abuse.

FT leader says the nurses dispute is an indictment of the present practise of running a £20billion business by issuing directives from Whitehall. The regrading exercise was inadequately planned and implemented according to an unrealistic political timetable. NHS managers need more autonomy to decide how and when to implement sensitive reforms.

Survey shows that families live in greater comfort now than in 1981 with at least 75% of homes having central heating and 70% benefiting from loft insulation (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

UDM signs flexible 6-day agreement with British Coal for Vale of Belvoir mine.

Two South Wales collieries are to close, with loss of 1,400 jobs.

Ford sack a Left-winger accused of provoking wildcat strikes.

Cambridge computer company moving to Scotland because it cannot get enough skilled workers.

GEC talk to EC today on Plessey bid (Independent).

Jaguar has got rid of a quarter of its component suppliers and the other 600 have been told to improve value for money.

Engineers reject 5.1% pay offer (Independent).

Some charities are offering salaries of £45,000 to attract the best qualified personnel (Independent).

The Government may allocate more radio frequencies to car-phone operators to cut congestion in their networks (FT).

Government abolishes its capital grants scheme for farmers and switches aid to help them combat agricultural pollution (FT).

High Court limits DTI inspectors' powers preventing them from investigating investment business carried out by individuals before 1986 Financial Services Act came into force (FT).

Ministers have agreed in principle to buy British tank instead of American according to senior Tory Backbenchers and sources in Whitehall (Times).

Nicholas Ridley dismissed as "absolute rubbish" claims that water charges could double in the wake of privatisation (Independent).

Today says Russia is trying to attract 200,000 British tourists.

Gallup to open office in Moscow in view of growing importance of opinion polls as a barometer of support for Gorbachev's reforms.

Case of doctor, now suspended, after sending a hit and run victim home with a clean bill of health even though he had a broken back, skull and pelvis.

PRESS DIGEST

Express says a new teenage crime wave is sweeping Britain with a frightening number of serious offences committed by girl thugs.

Professional Footballers' Association want Government to reconsider national membership card scheme.

Kenneth Baker tells driver to go across football pitch to avoid college protest in Bracknell.

Mail discloses that Hattersley and Denis Howell are up in arms over a comprehensive which votes 13-2 to opt out.

Number of 16-18 year olds staying on at school has risen from 25% in 1975 to 32% this year (Times).

Virginia Bottomley says nations must find substitutes for gases which are breaking up the ozone layer. Express wants Government to work out a timescale for ban on CFCs.

You pledge another £6million to plant trees to repair consequences of hurricane; pictures of you planting tree in Mirror, Today, Express

Brent Council warns of 18% rise in rates.

Bradford pensioner challenging legality of Tory controlled council's "cuts" refuses to see Robin Cook on his visit to city; Cook accused of cynical political manipulation.

Japanese buyer pays nearly £21million for a Picasso.

Duchess of York's child to be baptised by Archbishop of York - some papers see it as a snub for Canterbury.

Nigel Dempster, Daily Mail, on drink/drive charge.

Sir Bernard Lovell fears that 'space junk' could eventually trigger a third world war by knocking out "Star Wars" defence systems.

Benazir Bhutto expected to be named Prime Minister of Pakistan on Thursday.

Delors appeals to EC member states at this week's Rhodes council meeting to avoid dogmatic challenges to the international market programme (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Armenian playwright, Alexander Shaganyan, who walked into BBC claiming political asylum has had his request turned down by Home Office (Times).

IRELAND

Star - Free "IRA priest" goes into hiding.

Sun - Uproar as IRA priest does a runner. Irish plot, says MPs.

Mirror - Maggie furious as Ryan vanishes. You are heading for a showdown with Haughey.

Today - Ryan slips net by hours.

Express leads with "Fury as Priest is freed"; new extradition crisis with Dublin".

Mail page 1 lead - Wanted priest vanishes. New diplomatic crisis with Dublin over extradition of terror suspect.

Telegraph - Anglo-Irish rift as wanted priest goes into hiding. Attorney told Dublin he feared flight from hospital.

Times - Anglo-Irish relations under severe strain as Ryan leaves clinic. Government not told by Dublin for more than five hours and you are especially concerned because the legal officers had quickly prepared extradition papers.

Times leader says the Belgian Cabinet's decision to consider and ~~refuse~~ Britain's request for the extradition of Ryan falls well below the level of co-operation expected from a NATO ally and EC position. It is pusillanimous, self-interested and a setback to a united European front against terrorism.

Independent - UK and Ireland face crisis over Ryan: you are expected to give vent to anger and frustration in Questions this afternoon. Attorney General did everything to facilitate his arrest by Irish. The ECHR is also expected to rule in Brogan et al that the 7 day detention provision of the PTA is contrary to the European Convention.

Guardian - Prime Minister furious as Ryan slips away; another story says Haughey is likely to tell you that Dublin feels it is delivering on its commitment to help the RUC defeat the IRA in Northern Ireland but the Republic is receiving little action. Leader says Irish should leave extradition decision to lawyers not politicians.

PRESS DIGESTARAFAT

Sun - When he last spoke to the UN he wore a gun. He betrayed himself as a man of violence. Americans are right to ban him, especially when UN is supposed to be dedicated to the rule of law.

Mail leader can well understand the reluctance of Americans to allow Arafat into their country. He would not be very welcome here. But Shultz was wrong to deny him a visa; news story headed "Howe leads the protest at US ban on Arafat".

Egypt, Jordan and Iraq urge George Bush to focus his attention on the Middle East. Criticism of the US move to refuse a visa to Yassir Arafat mounts among EC countries and Britain is known to be reconsidering its ban on ministerial meetings with the PLO (FT).

Times leader discusses US visa refusal for Arafat saying he may well be to the US what Gerry Adams is to the British Government: a man of violence for whom the presumptions in favour of freedom of speech may be suspended. These are not arguments which should have weighed most heavily with Mr Shultz. The decision harms both the image and the strategic interests of the US.

Independent - Arafat to address the Assembly via satellite. Britain may authorise a meeting between an FO Minister and a representative of the PLO as a means of expressing its disappointment at Washington.

Independent leader says George Schultz decision not to admit ~~Yassir~~ Arafat was not just ill-advised but uncharacteristically stupid.

Telegraph shares world wide befuddlement over America's decision to bar Arafat. It has made a potential peace initiative more difficult.

NURSES

Mirror wants to know why in the middle of negotiations did you secretly decide to try to find a job for Trevor Clay. Didn't you realise that proposing such an appointment would smell of attempted bribery?

PRESS DIGEST

Independent - 20 London hospitals hit by day of action. RCN described as "michievous nonsense" the suggestion Trevor Clay was to be offered paid Government employment. Cabnet Office pointed out that recently that Downing Street merely passed on a third party suggestion, nominating him but that he had been on the list of the great and the good since 1981 anyway.

ECONOMY

Today - Chancellor strikes oil - increase in oil prices will help both balance of payments and tax revenue; leader says the Chancellor need not worry about defending his economic policies from Labour attacks today. It is not his policies that are wrong but his own air of ineffable superiority that gets up Labour noses and those of ordinary people. His arrogant complacency could be the deaths of his political career.

Express takes oil companies to task for their lightning reflex action about petrol prices on the announcement of higher oil prices. It proves their disdain for the motorist and the need for the MMC investigation.

Express City page canvasses 10 actions to change VAT and tax rates to cut down on consumption.

Mail - Maggie to the rescue of Lawson. You are prepared to speak out in his support; City Page asks if the Chancellor has blown the next election because of the delayed action of building societies in raising mortgage rates.

~~Times~~ - Senior Conservatives rally behind Chancellor and his policy of high interest rates as he prepares to face a critical two days.

Guardian - Tory MPs urge Lawson to drop plans for tax cuts.

Independent - Treasury has dismissed as mere speculation claims that the Chancellor is considering reducing tax on interest on bank and building society savings.

Independent - Peter Jenkins writes that the fickle fat cats are deserting Mr Lawson: they should stand by him.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Mr Baker launches Schools Management Task Force
- DTI: Mr Newton addresses Construction Industries annual dinner, London
- HMT: Mr Major addresses the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders annual dinner, London
- DEM: Mr Nicholls attends Labour Attache reception; later meets Belgium Minister for Employment; later attends Ministerial Group on ET and Ethnic Minorities
- DEM: Mr Lee opens Minorities Food, Ale and Wine House, London
- DEN: Baroness Hooper attends lunch with COI and FPA; later attends dinner with the Council of the Society of Company and Commercial Accountants
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits Institute of Education at University of London
- DES: Mr Jackson visits Doncaster Institute of Higher Education
- DOE: Mr Moynihan visits Rickmansworth Water Company
- DOE: Mr Gummer addresses Council for Countryside Sport
- DOE: Mr Chope visits Coventry
- DTI: Mr Clark addresses Single European Market regional breakfast, Aberdeen
- DTI: Mr Forth launches Instructions and Consumer Products booklets
- MAFF: Mr Ryder attends British Frozen Food Federation Luncheon, London
- DTI: Mr Maude addresses Sunday Times 1992 Conference
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley attends Tidy Britain Group Presentation Group
- DOH: Mr Mellor addresses National Conference for Members of Area Review Committee
- DOH: Mrs Currie opens Chinese Centre, Dene Street and visits Mobile Women's National Cancer Control Campaign
- DOH: Mr Clarke attends Nuffield Provincial Hospital Trust
- DTp: Lord Brabazon opens the Surveyor General's conference, Sunley House; later attends the Master Marines annual dinner, London
- HO: Lord Ferrers opens the International Disaster Management Congress, "Emergency 88" at QEII Conference Centre
- WO: Mr Roberts addresses Welsh Consortium of Managing Agents conference, Llandrindod Wells
- MOD: Lord Trefgarne opens new Weather Centre, Aberdeen
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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)

'The Divided Kingdom': C4 (20.00). Greater England, with Julian Critchley

'The New Professionals': BBC Radio 4 (20.00)

'1988 Reith Lectures': BBC Radio 4 (20.45). Politics in the USSR

'The Bandung File': C4 (21.00). The Pakistan elections

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

'Newsnight': BBC 2 (22.30)
