

Post ~~HW~~

30 November 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen holds an Investiture at Buckingham Palace

Prime Minister meets M. Mitterrand in France and later visits Margaret Pyke Family Planning Centre

EC: Foreign Affairs Committee visit the Hague (to December 1)

EC: OECD High Level Group meeting on commodities, Paris (to December 2)

STATISTICS

DEM: Overseas travel and tourism (Sept)

DTp: New motor vehicle registrations, October 1988

HO/OPCS: Drinking in England and Wales in 1987

HO: Statistics - Firearms Act

PUBLICATIONS

HO: Official Secrets Bill

HO: Carlisle Committee on Parole report (prov)

SO: Transport (Scotland) Bill

DEM: Selling to the MOD

PAY

Law Commission: Landlord and Tenant Law

HOC: 50th Report Public Accounts Committee, Use of Operating Theatres in the NHS

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth; Trade and Industry; Environment

Business: 2nd Reading Petroleum Royalties (Relief) and Continental Shelf Bill;
Motion to take note of EC Documents relating to Milk Quotas and New Zealand Butter

Adjournment Debates:

PARLIAMENT (cont'd)

Select Committees: Treasury and Civil Service Committee
1988 Autumn Statement: The Rt Hon Nigel Lawson MP,
Chancellor of the Exchequer

Lords: Debate on the State of the Prisons in England and Wales and on alternatives to custody.

Unstarred Question to ask HMG what action they propose to take as a result of the crisis in the London Borough of Brent.

MINISTERS - See attached

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Government has majority of 105 in economic debate, but some newspapers note your failure to endorse Chancellor when offered opportunity to do so by Scottish MP, instead praising Edinburgh's success.

City seems happy with Chancellor's firm line against inflation.

Bank of England steps in to hold back sterling surge (Times).

You attack Irish and Belgians over Ryan affair. Some newspapers suggest you called them cowards.

Today claims that Irish Attorney-General twice stopped his own police from arresting Ryan before he went into hiding.

Hattersley claims after talks with Lenihan that Irish police know where Ryan is.

Belgians claims extradition request was vague and flawed and rejected on strictly legal grounds.

UN urges reverse of ban on Arafat. We alone abstain in UN vote.

Society of Business Economists say economic growth in Britain will slow noticeably next year and in 1990 but will remain above the European average (FT).

Bush prepared to call G7 Finance Ministers meeting soon after he takes office (Independent).

Prince of Wales speaks of dangers in commercial and defence terms of reductions to British commercial fleet.

British Coal chairman warns Government that high cost pits will be in jeopardy if buyers shop around for cheap coal after privatisation; Mirror suggests up to a third of mines will be closed.

Meanwhile, British Coal wants to bring in six day working generally.

Government is to make a second, more cautious attempt to privatise the National Engineering Laboratory following its first embarrassing failure in the summer (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

GEC-Siemens link up for Plessey take-over causes concern with MOD about the potential loss of competition in key areas of military electronics (FT).

British Steel privatisation no longer the handout it looked a week ago. Small investors seeking a quick profit should avoid the issue (Independent).

European businessmen in survey say British business community is more pro-European than the Government or the British public (Times).

20% of BR Southern region staff will resign this year through low pay and unsocial hours (Independent).

Claims that children who drank acid poisoned water in Cornwall in the summer are showing serious personality changes.

Skin cancer risk from depletion of the ozone layer - a 10% decrease could produce 8,000 extra cases a year.

Cardinal Hume has protested to you at the omission from the Queen's Speech of legislation to control experiments on human embryos (Times).

Marks & Spencer to help to train headmasters in management.

Students at North London Polytechnic, where Norman Tebbit was abused, start 48-hour sit-in in protest at suspension of eight colleagues over incidents.

British university researchers threaten to resign over decision to accept MOD money for work on an airborne disease which they believe can only provide for the development of offensive biological weapons (Times).

Oxford don calls for reform of exam system to prevent students being at the mercy of the subjective views of over-harsh or over-sympathetic examining (Times).

BBC sells "golden oldie" TV shows to Channel 4 - including Dad's Army, Top of the Pops etc.

Eddy Shah is suing the BBC over claims his newspaper The Post is in trouble (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Mail, previewing EuroCouncil, says your campaign to cut surplus food production has succeeded, with butter mountain reduced by four-fifths.

EC to propose a single saving tax next month.

Greek government appears to be cracking under strain of long running scandals. Two junior ministers dismissed yesterday for behaviour not in line with government policy (Independent).

Bristol girl, 9, dies after sniffing gas.

Two sisters who killed sex-abuser of a father set free by judge.

Big row over judge who accepts a man was driven to assault his 12 year-old stepdaughter by his wife's pregnancy.

Lord Ferrers gives firm indication that Government will reject calls for a national disaster squad (Times).

Lord McAlpine pays £35million for building to preserve his view of Sidney Harbour (Today).

Lord Goodman accuses Government of letting politics influence senior arts appointments.

West Germany will propose the formation of an allied air-mobile division as a step towards the integration of European armies based in Northern Germany (Independent).

Gorbachev outlines plans to give voters a choice at elections.

Gorbachev sought to pacify Baltic critics by promising political reforms which would "blow up" the "ossified structure" and he acknowledged complaints were justified. TASS deleted a section of his prepared text - deploring Estonia's behaviour - as he spoke (Independent).

British Refugee Council steps in to help Armenian playwright seeking political asylum (Times).

Yasser Arafat invited to address special UN assembly in Geneva. Arafat wrote to British Government following PNC asking for recognition of the newly declared Palestinian state - no reply has yet been received (Independent).

Anthony Parsons says Palestine's peaceful resolve must not be sacrificed to pique (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Claims that 5,000 political prisoners have been executed in Iran (Independent):

CHANCELLOR

Star - Lawson blasts crisis fears.

Sun - Maggie snub shocks Nigel. You dramatically put the skids under Chancellor.

Mirror - Lonesome Lawson's left in the lurch.

Today - Maggie snub for sinking Lawson.

Express - Still doubt on Lawson. His future back in melting pot after you duck opportunity to endorse his handling of the economy. Your reply baffled Tory MPs. Ministers privately fear Chancellor's management of the economy has set back Thatcher revolution 18 months.

Mail - "Trust me" plea from Lawson the Gambler. Chancellor puts his political future on the line.

FT - Chancellor delivers decisive message of "no change" in his economic strategy. In characteristically combative mood, he appears to re-establish his political standing with his own backbenchers following the bout of jitters which hit Tory MPs on Friday. Leader says that the long honeymoon which began with your third term is ending. The Government is now less certain of itself. The Chancellor's March judgement is now regarded as mistaken though the policies he has now adopted are right in the circumstances. What the Government needs above all is a steady nerve and a smattering of good news.

Telegraph - Low key story on front page: "Lawson warning of loans backlash", warning party of period of unpopularity as high interest rates bite. Leader says Chancellor did what he had to do, reassuring his Backbenchers. His chief task is to bring inflation back under control. He will need to keep his nerve.

Times - Chancellor survives his ordeal by fire in the Commons promising that inflation soon would again be on the way down. Leader discusses the Commons debate giving support to the present rise in interest rates saying it is beginning to have some effect and will gradually serve to cool the economy down. Mr Lawson's achievements will be remembered well after his present difficulties have been forgotten.

PRESS DIGEST

Nigel Lawson held off his critics in last night's debate by insisting inflation was the only real problem and would be dealt with by rigorous use of interest rates - interpreted by the markets as a sign he wouldn't hesitate to raise interest rates again. Chancellor spoke of an inflation rate of 5.5% excluding mortgage interest payments next year (Independent).

Guardian page 1 - Chancellor holds line on economy. Emerges virtually unscathed from biggest political test of his 5-year term. Leader, playing with Ted Heath's line that the Chancellor is playing golf with only one iron - interest rates - says the Government ought to consider other ways of cooling down demand for credit.

IRA - IRELAND/BELGIUM - EURO COURT

Star - Angry Maggie slams Ryan fiasco; Europe court slams Britain over terrorist crackdown. Leader asks when did Europe care a hoot about our terrorism. Europe has become a bolthole for political killers. Too many of our neighbours are open house for the bombers.

Sun - Maggie in rage at Irish - Cowards! Maggie lets Belgians and Irish have earful. Devastating attack. Full page leader headed "When the Irish eyes are lying" says for 60 years bad faith, hypocrisy and lies have marred Irish dealings with Britain. But it was never more blatant and disgraceful than in the affair of renegade priest, Patrick Ryan. One permanent solution is to make Ulster a normal part of UK giving Irish a simple choice - either they can be our friends or the friends of terror.

Mirror reports Belgians claiming there were blunders by Britain over details of extradition documentation.

Today page 1 lead - Exposed: the full Irish treachery. Irish Attorney said the British warrants were weak and said there were grave fears among Irish Ministers that Ryan would not get a fair trial. In another story "Maggie turns fury on empty Irish promises". Belgium denies snub to Britain. Leader says the Irish Government could not be doing more to destroy the Anglo-Irish Agreement if it tore it up and burned it in public. Haughey's Government is interested only in keeping on the right side of extremist Irish opinion. British are tired of the insulting argument so often deployed by Irish propagandists that no Irishman involved in a terrorist case will get justice in a British court.

PRESS DIGEST

Express - Thatcher in clash with Ireland and Belgium over Ryan. Ministers considering rejecting EuroCourt outright. Leader headed "Whose side are they on?" says British Government anger with the Republic is understandable and justified. If the Angli-Irish Agreement really is not capable of - or not designed to - preclude the events of the past 48 hours it cannot be worth the paper it is printed on.

Mail leads with "Cowards" - Maggie blasts Belgium and Ireland for lacking the resolve to fight terrorism. Leader asks if the Anglo-Irish Agreement can survive. Well might you express your dismay. The whole affair stinks of backstairs political intervention. There is no denying the Anglo-Irish Agreement is in a sorry state. If it is to continue it will require a great deal more sincerity, effort and will from Haughey's Government.

FT - Thatcher fury over priest's release. You make one of the hardest-hitting attacks on the Haughey government in recent history.

Telegraph page 1 lead - Angry Thatcher rebukes Ireland and Belgium. Terrorism law will be retained despite EuroCourt judgment. International confrontation develops. Leader says your dismay will be echoed by most British people. But the present situation is not best met by indignation alone. The Government has relied upon blunt assertion that Britain is fighting Irish terrorism rather than seeking to explain to our neighbours why this is necessary. The task is made no easier by the Strasbourg ruling. Government must give greater thought than hitherto to accompanying its military campaign against the IRA with a drive to win hearts and minds.

Times headline is "Thatcher dismay over Ryan". You rebuke Dublin Government and angrily accuse it of lacking the resolve needed to fight terrorism. Your onslaught on the Irish Republic's record will infuriate Mr Haughey's minority Government. Dispute expected to dominate EC Summit in Rhodes.

Times - Leader of Parliamentary delegation on visit to Britain cannot understand why you are so upset by the Ryan case. Separate story says ECHR ruling on how long terrorist suspect can be held is a severe blow to the Government's tough stance against terrorism in Northern Ireland.

PRESS DIGEST

Times leader discusses the extradition arrangements with Dublin saying that it should be treated judicially rather than politically. In Dublin such decisions are of more political interest than elsewhere. Under previous Dublin Government, London gained some small advantage, but Mr Haughey's Government has thrown away the progress thus made.

Independent - Government is expected to defer to yesterday's ruling by the ECHR on detentions under the PTA despite your robust attack on Belgium and Ireland and the Court at Questions yesterday. Ministers are said to favour amending the Prevention of Terrorism Bill to give suspects a hearing after 4 days detention. Irish sources claim they are still waiting for evidence from Belgium. The Belgians claim that the request to them was "vague, flawed and rejected on strictly legal grounds".

RTE claimed last night that the Attorney General sent extradition papers to Ireland before Friday, anticipating Belgium's action. This has been fiercely denied.

Guardian - Ministers may alter terror Bill. Government preparing to amend Prevention of Terrorism Bill to accommodate ECHR ruling. Leader says the detention provisions in the PTA must be changed and calls for incorporation of Euro Convention with UK law.

Peter Jenkins, in Independent, writes that the facts in the Ryan case, so far as they are known, would seem to support the British suspicion that on learning the Belgians were dumping Ryan on them, the Irish authorities stalled and procrastinated so as to avoid political embarrassment of arresting him.

EURO COUNCIL

EC leaders will focus on East/West relations and free trade. The Independent has obtained a copy of a draft declaration which, it claims, seeks to reassure EC trading partners about access to the single market after 1992 and calls for reductions in conventional forces across Europe.

NHS

Times leader says that only the Health Service could soak up £1billion more of taxpayers' money and still end up looking in need of intensive care. Seven months after the nurses' pay deal morale in many hospitals appears poorly and the Government must ask itself what went wrong.

PRESS DIGEST

7,000 middle managers in NHS are to have pay linked to performance (Independent).

EAST-WEST

FT - Manfred Woerner says US pressure for an increase in the European contribution to Nato should be taken seriously, but he does not expect a substantial withdrawal fo US troops.

FT - Despite the space co-operation and President Mitterrand's assertion that his two day visit to Moscow marked a "relaunching" of relations, his trip has been widely dismissed in the French media as rather a let-down.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEN: Mr Parkinson addresses Engineers Employers Federation Commercial and Economic Committee
- DH: Mr Clarke visits Hastings Hospital
- DOE: Mr Ridley visit Lincoln Cathedral and Nottingham - issue of statement on air pollution and later addresses Salmon and Trout Association Dinner
- DTI: Lord Young meets Lord Mayor of Brisbane; later launches BIM Helpline; later present CBI Business Enterprise Award
- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses Royal College of Defence Studies
- DEM: Mr Cope attends press conference to launch MOD Booklet, Selling to the MOD
- DEM: Mr Lee tours British stands at World Travel Market, Olympia; later addresses seminar on Holiday Taking in the British Isles, launch of "Great English Cities" video, Hilton
- DEN: Baroness Hooper attends "Think Green" reception
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits Hants LEA, Highbury College of Technology and Crookhorn School
- DOE: Mr Gummer addresses Society of Local Authority Chief Executive Seminar
- DOE: Mr Howard visits Severn Trent Water Authority; later addresses G A Property lunch on the Green Belt
- DOE: Lord Caithness addresses NHBC lunch
- DTI: Mr Clark addresses Bristol Chamber of Commerce
- DTp: Mr Bottomley attends Ministerial Group on Alcohol Misuse, London; later addresses the London Chamber of Commerce on London and the South East; later opens the Sawtry Weighbridge site, Cambridgeshire
- DTp: Mr Portillo attends the 16th Joint Consultative Committee on the Channel Tunnel, Folkestone
- HMT: Mr Lawson gives evidence to Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee on the Autumn Statement
- HMT: Mr Lilley opens HMSO's new Parliamentary Press Building, London
- HO: Ministerial Group on Alcohol Misuse, London attended by Mr Nicholls and Mr Bottomley
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor attends County Nat West Luncheon, London
- DTI: Mr Maude launches new video on credit with Infolink
- DOH: Mr Mellor addresses Financial Times Conference on New Opportunities in Private Health Care and attends UKCC dinner
- DES: Lord Skelmersdale addresses Kent University Conservative Association
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Mr Eggar visits United States and Jamaica (prov)

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DEM: Mr Lee interviewed on Wish You Were Here, about World Travel Market

TV AND RADIO

'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

'Kilroy': BBC 1 (9.20)

'The Parliament Programme': C4 (12.00)

'You and Yours': BBC Radio 4 (12.00). World Aids Day - Briain's record in caring for victims of the disease

'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)

'The World at One': BBC Radio 4

'Party Political Comment': C4 (19.50). This week, a Labour politician

'Plague and Panic': BBC Radio 4 (20.15). Syphilis and Aids

'Dispatches': C4 (20.30)

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

'Newsnight': BBC 2 (22.30)
