

7 December 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister visits Yorkshire

President Gorbachev addresses UN

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh open the extension of the Silver Jubilee Walkway between Blackfriars Bridge and Westminster Bridge, London

The Princess of Wales visits Devon

Kenneth Clarke meets Royal College of Midwives

The Duchess of York visits the West Midlands

London-wide pensioners lobby of Parliament

Anglo/Irish Intergovernmental conference meeting (prov)

? North East Shipbuilders Statement

? Outcome of Anglo-Gibraltar negotiations on pensions

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STATISTICS

DEM: Detailed analysis of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators

HO: Betting Licensing Statistics - Great Britain 1987-88

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PUBLICATIONS

CO: Public Bodies 1988

DTI: Monopolies and Mergers Commission Report on Needletime

DTI: Launch of Competition Policy and Investigation Powers Booklets

NIO: Fair Employment Agency 12th Annual Report

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Trade and Industry; Environment, Scotland

Business: Water Bill: 2nd Reading (1st day)

Adjournment Debates: The impact of the grading review on mid-wives in the Mersey Regional Health Authority (Mr D Alton)



Select Committees:

## ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Toxic Waste

Witnesses: National Association of Waste Disposal Contractors

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Subject: Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union

Witnesses: Professor R Amann, Director, Centre for Russian and East European Studies, University of Birmingham and Mr A H Brown, St Antony's College, Oxord University

## DEFENCE

Subject: The future of the Brigade of Gurkhas

Witness: Mr Roger Freeman MP, Under-Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, and officials of the Ministry of Defence, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Overseas Development Administration

## AGRICULTURE

Subject: Land-Use and Forestry

Witnesses: The Forestry Industry Committee of Great Britain/Timber Growers', United Kingdom

## EMPLOYMENT

Subject: The employment patterns of the over-50s

Witness: Department of Employment and Training Agency

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Subject: Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union

Witnesses: Mr C Donnelly, Director, Soviet Studies Centre, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst and Dr M Light, Department of International Relations, LSE, and Mr M Mackintosh CMG, formerly Cabinet Office

## HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Forensic Science Service

Witnesses: Metropolitan Police; Criminal Bar Association

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy in Great Britain

Witnesses: D H Andrews CB, CBE, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; G Stapleton, Chief Executive, Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce



**TRANSPORT**

Subject: Roads for the Future

Witness: Department of Transport

**PROCEDURE**Subject: Members' Conduct and Alleged Abuse of  
Parliamentary PrivilegeWitnesses: Mr David Waddington, QC MP, Government  
Chief Whip, Mr Derek Foster, MP, Opposition Chief Whip**COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS**

Associated British Ports (No 2) Bill

North Killingholme Cargo Terminal Bill

Lords:

Starred Questions

Debate to call attention to the high level of consumer debt and to  
move for papersDebate to call attention to the level of assistance available to  
people with mental illness or mental handicap moved from  
residential care into the community and to move for papers

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**MINISTERS** - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Kinnock loses two Front Bench Spokesmen - Clare Short and Andrew Bennett - and suffers the second 40-member revolt in 2 days over anti-terrorist legislation.

Republic of Ireland votes to make extradition law permanent; seen as a Haughey "snub" to you.

Dublin says Britain will not be able to seek trial in Republic of Ryan if Irish Authorities reject extradition.

Foreign Office official in letter to Guardian accuses you of "self righteous invective" over handling of Belgian and Irish extradition of Ryan.

Curried eggs not so hot a story today.

British Egg Industry Council says they are pursuing legal action against Edwina Currie, but NFU have decided not to do so. Mrs Currie stands her ground and media opinion shifts towards her.

IMF revises upwards its estimate for growth this year of G7 countries to 4.25%. Japan's GNP surges to 9.3% (FT).

450 sacked by Morgan Grenfell as it pulls out of market making after losses. Fears that this is only the start of City contraction.

The party's over is the heading in the Times as Morgan Grenfell sack 450; leader says sackings were no more than the City had been expecting. All the big houses have been holding back, waiting for somebody else to admit defeat. The news that the first to lose its nerve was Morgan Grenfell will raise few eyebrows as the company had ambitions beyond its means.

Government expected to announce closure of North East Shipbuilders, Sunderland, today; Cabinet likely to be accused of delaying the decision to avoid embarrassment during your visit to Gdansk (Independent).

Harland & Wolff chairman, John Parker, in interview with FT, makes clear his belief that the yard cannot successfully be privatised unless the "Ultimate Dream" project is revived. He accuses Government of blocking orders and leaking negative information.

Speculation that Gorbachev will announce defence cuts on his visit to UN today.



PRESS DIGEST

Britain's house price boom ran out of steam in November according to market survey. Prices set to drop in real terms next year.

Plans to sell off the electricity industry weakened by CEGB admission that nuclear plants will cost significantly more than coal-fired stations (Independent).

Mirror claims Government is urging water companies to raise charges in run up to privatisation.

High Court will rule today on whether water authorities have legal right to buy shares in private water companies operating in their areas (FT).

Paul Channon studying proposals from private firms and banks for building and operating a series of modest road schemes, such as by-passes, to take traffic from built-up areas (Times).

British Gypsum fined £2million by EuroCommission for blocking foreign competition.

Association of British Insurers considering scrapping third party policies which include fire and theft cover because too many cars insured in this way are disappearing with their owner's knowledge.

Home Office reveals, with Rover, the unstealable car.

Record sales of new cars this year.

France accepts that Nissan Bluebird should be allowed into France freely.

Safeways charged with 102 offences of overpricing and selling underweight in South London.

British Satellite Broadcasting concludes £200million deal with Hollywood to secure screen rights for a host of box office hit films.

In your first important speech on inner cities for several months, you will tell the Per Cent Club that it is not enough for big business to answer the call of conscience; medium-size firms must get involved too (Times).

Engineering Council accuse Kenneth Baker of creating a loophole in the national curriculum by insisting that some pupils should spend less time studying science than others (Times).



PRESS DIGEST

More than 500 residents try to storm public meeting on new Chunnel rail route.

Government expected to introduce random breath testing in the New Year (Independent).

Proposal by Home Office crime prevention group to give free driving lessons to car thieves to keep them out of trouble condemned by MPs. Express says the only lessons public wants to see young thieves get are painful ones.

Crime victims getting £1million compensation a week, according to Home Secretary; crime costs Britain £15billion a year.

Parkhurst prison only half full while other jails are overcrowded.

Case of former prisoner who sat on Old Bailey jury panel for 4 days.

Lord Chancellor announces key reforms to the handling of court cases involving children, effectively ushering in family courts (Times).

Mr Justice Scott, the judge who presided over the first Spycatcher court hearing, speaks out against the dangers of Government legislation in civil laws governing confidentiality (Times).

Finance director of Brent freezes council spending because of crisis.

British Rail seeks single union no-strike agreement in bid to be main operator of rapid rail transit system for Manchester (FT).

Today attacks the "depressing" record of Ministers in converting their cars to unleaded petrol. It says you have converted at cost of £40.

Mail attacks "narrow, carping, mean-spirited attitude" of Post Office workers in Sheffield for objecting to Christmas card delivery service there by Boy Scouts which raises £100,000 for charity.

Former chief coastguard says cuts in coastguard stations are putting lives in danger (Independent).



PRESS DIGEST

Sun expresses concern over American report that West German companies are providing Libya with raw materials to produce poison gas.

Row over Prince Philip, defending hunters, saying taking part in bloodsports was no different to being a butcher selling meat for money. "I don't think doing it for money makes if any more moral", he said. "I don't think a prostitute is more moral than a wife".

Arafat has talks with influential American Jews in Sweden.

New Zealand Foreign Minister does not want England cricketers with South African connections to tour his country.

Greece turns down Italian request for extradition of Arab wanted for the 1982 bombing of the Rome synagogue because his actions were in the context of the Palestinian struggle for freedom (Times).

LABOUR PARTY

Star - Revolt shakes 'bullying Neil'; rebels resign in vote storm.

Sun page 2 - Labour Crisis. I'm no bully - Kinnock fury as top aides quit. Takes extraordinary step of publishing a letter in which he refutes allegation that he rules by "threats and denunciation".

Mirror - MPs quit in terror row.

Today - Rebel Clare storms out on "bully" Kinnock. Leader says Kinnock offered Labour MPs every possible chance to keep their delicate consciences intact over the Prevention of Terrorism Act. It is difficult to decide who is more contemptible. Short and Bennett for making such public parades of their consciences or Kinnock for watering down Labour's support for fight against terrorism.

Express page 1 lead - Kinnock in Provo revolt. Front Bench pair quit in protest. You seize on this to say once again Labour could not be trusted to fully back the battle against IRA. Leader says it is not that the rebels approve of IRA terrorism but that they seem to disapprove of any practical measures to counter it.



PRESS DIGEST

People must struggle to remember that the PTA has put on the statute book by a Labour Home Secretary. And listening to the pious and naive cliches of McNamara they must find it difficult to recall that Labour once had Northern Ireland Secretaries - Rees and Mason - of exemplary common sense and toughness.

Mail - Terror Bill rebellion. Left wingers defy Kinnock over his order not to vote.

Telegraph - Kinnock defied by 44 MPs in Terror Bill vote.

Guardian leads with Terror Bill snub for Kinnock. Labour Front Bench pair resign over three line whip.

Independent - MPs defy Kinnock on Terrorism Bill vote. Although he does not face a direct threat as party leader, the rebellion was seen as a warning shot. You condemn Labour for abstaining. In commentary, Peter Jenkins laments the fact that we now take for granted the erosion of civil liberties in the emotive cause of fighting terrorism.

Times - Kinnock and Shadow Cabinet furious with the 44 rebel Labour MPs for distracting attention from their attack on the Government over the handling of the Ryan affair. The rebels were felt to have ruined the attempt to give Labour a united front on one of the most sensitive political issues facing the party.

FT - Labour's internal divisions surface as front-benchers resign. Leader argues that it would be desirable on democratic grounds for Britain to abide by the ECHR ruling. Government signals its determination to maintain fight against terrorism despite ECHR ruling. Home Secretary tells MPs that Government intends to retain existing powers of police detention under its new legislation.

GORBACHEV VISIT TO UK

Sun leader attacks Chris Mullen MP as "odious" for suggesting Gorbachev should meet relatives of those "wrongly jailed" in Birmingham, Guildford and Woolwich IRA bombings.

Express says KGB and Scotland Yard are linking up in an operation to protect Gorbachev following a threat to kill him in UK.

Telegraph - Campaign seeking new trial for "Guildford Four" IRA bombers says it is a matter for the process of law in this country and has nothing to do with Mr Gorbachev.



PRESS DIGESTGORBACHEV IN USA

Independent - Gorbachev to emphasise today increased role for the UN. His speech is thought unlikely to go into the niceties of new arms control initiatives though speculation is raging that he will offer unilaterally to reduce Soviet troop strength by up to 30%, amid rumours that Defence Minister is ready to resign in protest.

FT - Gorbachev arrives in US seeking warmer relations; and for the first time takes foreign correspondents with him on a special chartered flight, dubbed "Glasnost One".

CURRIED EGGS

Star, inconceivably, leads with the "discovery" of the "safe" egg - totally free of cholesterol and salmonella - laid by a breed of French hens. Meanwhile, Mrs Currie refuses to resign and gets your backing.

Sun - Britain back to work on an egg. Panic subsides. Sales pick up. Edwina says she has no regrets.

Mirror leader says Government brought the poisoned eggs panic on itself. Whom are we to believe?, it asks. The Government has blundered and bungled and owes the country an apology. Inside one and a half pages are devoted to eggs, with main story headed "Splat! Edwina. Thatcher goes to work on a scrambled egg".

Today says salmonella in chickens and eggs has poisoned more than 7,000 this year. Edwina is defiant.

Express - Edwina does it again - bosses warned to keep off drink - and says she won't quit.

Mail - It's scrambled eggs for me, says Maggie. Leader says when Edwina Currie made her now famous pronouncement about salmonella she was branded a scaremonger. It now transpires 7,000 have suffered from food poisoning this year linked with eggs and chickens - a 10-fold increase on 1982. On this evidence it looks as if Mrs Currie has managed to expose a cover up, even if she overegged the pudding somewhat.

Telegraph - Currie defiant on menace of eggs. It claims there is official confusion over the figures for salmonella.

Guardian - Currie stands her ground in row over infected eggs.



PRESS DIGEST

Times - You delivered an implied rebuke to Edwina Currie yesterday when you distanced yourself from her remarks.

Independent - Study by Public Health Laboratory shows that egg producers have seriously misled the public over the extent of the salmonella epidemic. Doctors say the situation is very serious and that Edwina Currie has not exaggerated.

TRANSPORT

Independent - CBI set to support plan for strategic planning authority to deal with London's congested traffic. But DTp says plans are at best a waste of time and at worst a hindrance to any adequate response to the rapid changes in demand for road space and public transport. Leader says it is time the Government abandoned its short-term ad-hoc approach and took a larger view. But as the situation deteriorates, the DTp maintains a profile so low as to be invisible. Only a master plan laying down a timetable for co-ordinated, coherent investment can give the capital the public transport system it requires. Without such an approach London will surely choke to death.



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler and Mr Lee attend Fit for Work awards, Lancaster House, London
- DH: Mr Clarke meets Royal College of Midwives
- DES: Mr Baker addresses Industrial Society conference
- HMT: Mr Major addresses Leeds Chamber of Commerce
- WO: Mr Walker attends London Welsh Publicity Society annual reception, House of Commons; later attends HTV reception for Welsh Members of Parliament, House of Commons
- DEM: Mr Lee addresses Faith in Tourism conference
- DEM: Mr Nicholls attends Race Relations Employment Advisory Group and Ministerial Group on Crime Prevention
- DEM: Mr Cope presents Nat West Prize for Enterprise, London
- DH: Mr Mellor visits Great Ormond Street
- DOE: Lord Caithness addresses CBI conference on the control of industrial pollution
- DOE: Mr Gummer visits Gloucester County Council
- DOE: Mr Chope visits British Coal Exhibition, Margate; later meets National Association of Local Councils, London
- DSS: Mr Lloyd gives evidence to Lords Committee on Equal Treatment
- DTI: Mr Maude addresses Statistics Users' Council
- DTp: Mr Bottomley attends West Midlands Regional Annual Consultative Committee
- DTp: Lord Brabazon attends the General Council of British Shipping annual dinner, London
- FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses General Council of British Shipping dinner
- HO: Mr Hogg visits HM Prison College, Newbold Revel
- HO: Mr Patten addresses Businesses and Crime conference, Windsor
- MAFF Baroness Trumpington addresses annual lunch of the British Society of Plant Breeders, London
- MAFF Mr Thompson presents prizes to Q Guild, Royal Smithfield Show
- MAFF Mr Ryder meets National Consumer Council, London; later attends Food Advisory Committee dinner, London
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses reception for arts sponsors, Poole, Hants
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses WEU Assembly, Paris; later attends North Atlantic Council, Brussels (to December 9)

MOD: Mr Freeman attends WEU conference, Paris

ODA: Mr Patten visits Paris (prov)

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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

LCD: Lord Chancellor lunches with Andrew Marr of the Scotsman

HO: Mr Renton interviewed by Sky TV

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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) Treating alcohol problems

"Business Daily": C4 (12.30)

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

"Party Political Comment": C4 (19.50). This week, a Democratic politician

"Prisoners of Conscience": BBC 2 (19.55)

"Timewatch": BBC 2 (20.10). The execution of Bukharin, examined in the light of President Gorbachev's recent condemnation of the act and his call for the Soviet people to understand their past

"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)

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