

MAIN EVENTS

Seamus McElwain Inquest (shot by Army 1986)

Canadian Parliament convenes

EC: European Parliament Plenary, Strasbourg (to 16 December)

EC: ECOFIN Council, Brussels

EC: Telecommunications Council, Brussels

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STATISTICS

DOE: Provision against homelessness; Local Authorities' action under the homelessness provisions of the 1985 Housing Act: England

DTI: Overseas Trade Statistics

DTI: Retail Sales (November) (prov)

DTI: Producer Prices (November)

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Energy; Social Security; Transport

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

Adjournment Debates: The European Community's hormones ban (Mr K Hargreaves)

Select Committees: PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
Subject: Multilateral aid  
Witness: J Caines, Permanent Secretary,  
Overseas Development Administration

Lords: Starred Questions  
Iron Casting (Scientific Research Levy)(Abolition) Order 1988:  
Motion for Approval  
Debate to take note of the Report of the Investigation into the  
King's Cross Underground Fire (Cm 499)

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Plane on relief mission to Armenia crashes in collision with helicopter; 79 dead.

40-45,000 dead in earthquake and another 60,000 may still be trapped.

Complaints of bureaucracy and inefficiency on part of Soviet authorities in co-ordinating rescue; ethnic protests also flare again.

Gorbachev shocked after his tour of stricken areas and furious with those seeking to exploit tragedy.

Britain sending three plane loads of relief supplies each day.

Live-aid style concert to be staged in London and broadcast on Saturday in support of victims.

Drastic plans for a devaluation of at least 50% in the rouble, and concessions to attract foreign investors into joint ventures, have been announced by the Soviet government (FT).

Reports that up to 10million hens are to be killed because of slump in egg demand.

Sun says Edwina Currie has been gagged by Kenneth Clarke - she has turned down a "deluge of requests" for interviews.

Egg producers seeking compensation from Government; say over 10,000 jobs will go.

John MacGregor considers advertising campaign to reassure public.

Sun says you should knock Ministers' heads together and stop them speaking with two voices over eggs.

British trawlermen furious over conservation cuts imposed by EC on haddock catches; statement by John MacGregor today.

Conservative MPs furious over 4-day visit to Belgium by Sinn Fein publicity officer, Danny Morrison. Home Secretary sees it as a Sinn Fein publicity stunt.

Patrick Ryan thought likely to escape extradition - decision expected today.

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph diary draws attention to delays in operation of our extradition system - case of Italian linked with Right-wing revolutionary group blamed for Bologna bombings still being considered after 7 years.

CBI gloomy about prospects for exports in view of strong pound, but 9 out of 10 firms expect output to grow next year.

Liverpool University forecast says inflation may rise to nearly 8% in the first half of next year (Times).

Stock market dealers believe BP is to sell its minerals division to RTZ (Times).

Teresa Gorman MP seeking to end Post Office's monopoly in Commons today because of 24 hour strike today over downgrading of 250 offices.

Kinnock to visit Vickers this week and will question you in the House about why the delay in deciding which tank to order for Army (Times).

Plans to save HOTOL through private funding have failed because the consortium could not reach agreement with Rolls Royce which holds the patents (Independent).

As he tackles one of the biggest hurdles in his political rehabilitation Cecil Parkinson will today seek to reassure the public and his own backbenchers that the £20billion sale of the electricity industry will not force up prices (Times).

UDM reject pay offer worth 7.5% on average.

Leading architect and planning consultant, Jerry Matthews, puts forward £8.5billion tunnel scheme to ease traffic congestion in London (Times).

Reports of a reverse North/South divide, with North spending for Christmas while South tightens up, worried about mortgages.

Report says high house prices have caused more people to leave South East this year than at any time since the blitz in 1940 (Times).

Employment Training is operating at least 25% below target, according to confidential DE reports (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

Today claims that mothers who return to work could be penalised by up to £20 a week by Treasury threatening to tax creche facilities.

Great concern over 2 deaths by stabbing in quick succession on London transport.

Express and Mail say Home Secretary is to announce this week special measures against London rail and tube violence.

Mail says there is no substitute for a dramatic increase in uniformed police on commuter system and Home Secretary should enrol special constables.

Concrete mixer dumped on main Waterloo-Weymouth line; Express train smashes into it and one carriage derailed.

Conservatives, in TV debate, fear White Paper plans for broadcasting will lower standards.

Independent leader says worries expressed by Lord Whitelaw about Broadcasting White Paper are widely held. There is a nagging suspicion that media tycoons with no particular interest in quality programming will be free to use the power of the purse to push aside the creative and the committed in order to gain control of the most important franchises on Channel 3.

Successful launch of Astra satellite has started high street battle for consumers money but there is much confusion over what equipment is needed (Independent).

Owen, Ashdown, Hattersley, Shepherd and Aitken will join together on Thursday at the "Secret Rally" to demand a "public interest" defence is included in Official Secrets Bill (Times).

Financial crisis threatens National Marriage Guidance Council.

Home Office appears to have fended off efforts by No 10 to become involved in the forthcoming revision of laws affecting charity (Times).

Enoch Powell calls for repatriation of coloured people after warning of danger of civil war in future between whites and blacks.

Labour MPs will continue to seek an electoral pact against you despite negative reactions from Neil Kinnock, David Owen and union leaders (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Radical school reforms, approved in principle by you, to hold back less able pupils may run into difficulty with Kenneth Baker who is ready to block the more extreme changes and demand modifications. Proposals come from Wandsworth's CEO, Donald Naismith, said to be your favourite education officer (Times).

Sun agrees to pay Elton John £1million damages following allegations about his private life.

1,500 Church of England priests, a lot of them retired, declare their opposition to women priests.

Richard Needham to address North Down Conservative Association in party capacity; brings association new hope of affiliation to Tory Party.

Celtic historians claim you are descended from Colonel John O'Sullivan, a wild Jacobite chieftain who terrorised the English 250 years ago.

Massive protection for UN in Geneva on eve of 3-day sitting to hear Arafat.

Princess Anne, in interview with Brian Walden, says she doesn't much like children, but seems to get away with her frankness in editorial columns.

47 killed in Mexico City when fireworks being sold illegally explode and start fire.

Your glowing valedictory assessment of President Reagan which you gave to the National Review is carried in the Times.

DEFENCE

Saceur claimed yesterday that cuts proposed by Gorbachev in conventional weapons did not undermine the case for modernising short range nuclear weapons (Independent).

EC

Times leader discusses Francis Maude's remarks on whether it will be worth collecting European trade statistics after 1992. It concludes that Ministers are right to consider carefully whether bureaucratic burdens can be lifted and also whether market mechanisms can be made to operate in the provision of statistics, but they should proceed with care.

PRESS DIGEST

Serious doubts are being voiced that the EC will be able to abolish frontiers by 1992. The Schengen agreement, a prototype involving France, West Germany and Benelux has yet to be implemented because the countries have failed to agree on common drugs and arms laws to compensate for losing border checks (Independent).

Cockfield will make a final attempt tomorrow to defend his blueprint for harmonising EC indirect tax rates (Independent).

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler receives Japanese MP, Akira Ohno
- DTI: Lord Young launches World of Work, Walworth School, Peckham
- HO: Mr Hurd addresses Council for Education in World Citizenship on Human Rights
- LCD: Lord Mackay lunches with Newspaper Conference
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits Latymer High School, Edmonton
- DOE: Mr Gummer meets Association of County Councils
- DOE: Mr Howard addresses National Consumer Council on Water Privatisation
- DSS: Lord Skelmersdale attends reception for disabled organisation
- DTI: Mr Forth visits Nottingham Task Force
- DTp: Mr Bottomley attends Minibus Rally, Battersea Park
- HO: Lord Ferrers visits Norwich Prison
- HO: Mr Pattern addresses Crime and Policing conference, Sidney Sussex College
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme reception, London
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- MAFF: Mr MacGregor and Mr Ryder attend Agriculture Council, Brussels (to 16 December)
- DTI: Mr Atkins visits Telecommunications Council of Ministers, Brussels
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe interviewed by ITN (prov) and This Week on Vietnamese Boat People (prov)
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TV AND RADIO

'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

'Kilroy': BBC 1 (9.20)

'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)

'The World at One': BBC Radio 4 (13.00)

'The Education Programme': BBC 2 (19.30). A Big Apple for the Teacher.  
Methods of urban education employed in New York schools could be adopted in  
the UK

'Watchdog' BBC 1 (19.30)

'World in Action': ITV (20.30)

'In the Club? - birth control this century': C4 (21.00). Second of three  
programmes, "Every child a wanted child."

'Panorama': BBC 1 (21.30) Britain will soon decide whether to try alleged war  
criminals in British courts

'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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