

PRIME MINISTER

January 24, 1989

MAIN EVENTS

The Prince of Wales visits Lockerbie and Glasgow

The Princess of Wales visits Camberwell Alcohol Project

The Princess Royal visits Cardiff Prison, South Glamorgan

International Fund for Agricultural Development 12th Governing Council, Rome
(to 27 January)

Mrs Chalker visits Zambia

STATISTICS

BSA: Building Societies monthly figures (Dec)

CBI: CBI Industrial Trends survey (Jan)

PUBLICATIONS

NAO: Management of Administrative Telecommunications

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Health; Education and Science; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: British Racing Commission. (Mr Alan Meale)
Opposition Day (2nd allotted day, 1st half)
There will be a debate on MAFF and the Protection of the
Consumer on an Opposition Motion

OPPOSED PRIVATE BUSINESS

City of London (Spitalfield Market) Bill
Avon (Light Rail Transit) Bill

Motion on the Access for Personal Files (Social Work) (Scotland)
Regulations

Adjournment Debates: The case for calling in the application for extractions
of saw and gravel at Burnham Beaches (Mr T Smith)

Select Committees: EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS
Subject: The Supply of Teachers for the 1990s
Witnesses: Universities Council for the Education of
Teachers (UCET) and Polytechnics Council for the
Education of Teachers (PCET)

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL
London Local Authorities (Lords)

PARLIAMENT(cont'd)

Lords: Starred Questions

Civil Aviation (Air Navigation Charges) Bill (HL): Committee

Law of Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (HL): Second Reading

Road Traffic (Driver Licensing and Information System) Bill (HL):
Committee

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Guardian poll of polls gives you an 8% lead.

More than 1,000 people die in earthquake in Tadzhikistan.

President Bush rings you for a personal chat. His first Budget fixed for February 9 when he will address Congress.

EC backs down from confrontation with USA over beef hormones.

Cockfield says single Euro currency will come regardless of Britain's objections.

East Germany to cut armed forces by 10%. Warsaw says Soviet Union will withdraw several million units from Poland in next 2 years.

John MacGregor faints at Brussels meeting, but soon recovers. Spends night in hospital.

2 flocks of hens have been identified as the source of repeated epidemics of food poisoning (Independent):

Now 7 fall ill with histamine poisoning after eating Stilton.

Institute of Environmental Health Officers warns about dangers of pre-packaged nouvelle cuisine meals and need for proper training for those who prepare them.

And Britain is facing a rat plague, according to Express.

Mail claims a battle of wills is developing between you and Chancellor over the Budget; it will probably decide whether he stays. Relations at a new low.

Mail leader hopes you have prevented in winning tax relief for pensioners' private health schemes and praises your practical compassion.

Paddy Ashdown calls for construction of common political agenda around which your opponents could write. Leader under heading "Negative Thinking" says talk of an agenda simply to oust you only reveals the despair at the heart of Mr Ashdown and his party (Times).

Express calls for raising of stamp duty threshold from £30,000 to £60,000, as advocated by building societies.

PRESS DIGEST

House prices in parts of London have fallen by up to 5% in real terms since the autumn, according to RICS survey. Prices in the North have continued to rise, but more slowly (FT).

Solicitors being urged to adopt a "national protocol" to speed up house buying by shifting more of the work to the vendor (Times).

House sale chains getting longer as first time buyers delay entry into market because of high mortgage rates (Times).

John Smith, on his return to politics, calls for a credit squeeze and new incentives to saving - such as favourable interest rates or tax remission.

OECD chief economist David Henderson attacks EC trade policy for widespread recourse to protectionism over the past two decades (FT).

Staff shortages and rising labour costs could cramp business growth in London, according to London Chamber of Commerce (FT).

Norris McWhirter's attempt to stop ICC from preventing cricketers from playing in South Africa thrown out by courts; court action being pursued.

Times leader says TCCB must continue to insist on an amnesty for those who have played in South Africa in the past. To do otherwise would be to perpetrate a gross injustice.

Independent leader says cricketers are entitled to feel aggrieved that their sport has been invaded by politics but a boycott undoubtedly has its attractions for nations which trade with South Africa; a sporting boycott attracts a great deal of attention at far less cost.

Times backbench Conservative MPs becoming increasingly nervous about some NHS reforms particularly proposals to make GPs budget-holders for patients seeking hospital care.

IRA have disbanded a cross-border "active service unit" in Donegal because they do not believe their explanation for the murders of two civilians (Independent).

Mirror make much of Parliamentary Answer by Norman Lamont which, it says, shows overall "tax" take is higher than when first came to office.

PRESS DIGEST

Campaign by MPs to raise war widows pensions to the levels paid to Falklands widows.

British Coal announces 1,135 job losses in North West pits.

Miners to be offered free shares in small power stations to be built on sites of pits.

Airport fire officers pay talks break down; strike ballot likely to be authorised by IPCS.

CAA is setting up a special committee to consider limiting the hours worked by air traffic controllers (FT).

Britain and Norway are to have talks early next month in which safety of high-pressure exploration in the North Sea will feature prominently. A well operated by Saga Oil in the Ekofisk field is threatening to explode at any time, according to experts (FT).

Loss of freighter Derbyshire was almost certainly not caused by a structural fault, according to report by Wreck Commissioner (FT).

Sainsbury follows Tesco and Safeway on offering "environment friendly" goods for sale.

Texaco plans to scrap 2 star petrol and use pumps for unleaded petrol.

You may meet leaders of Northern Ireland's three main political parties to discuss the future of Harland & Wolff (FT).

Multi-million pound campaign against litter in London to be launched today.

Express and Mail say that if you do not back his plan to give away council houses Peter Walker will resign. [Peter Walker rang to say it's nonsense].

Government concerned that Lord Elton's report on school discipline will not be tough enough; Mail canvasses idea of extra staff to deal with unruly pupils; leader rejects idea of calling in pensioned off police and for authority of teachers to be buttressed.

Claims that dozens of British people every year offer to sell their kidneys for transplant.

PRESS DIGEST

Dr Raymond Crockett, the Harley Street consultant who supervised the care of Turks who allege they were paid for their kidneys, was involved in an earlier controversy about the sale of organs (Independent).

Government to set up national register of all transplant operations in both NHS and private sector to curb sale of human organs (Times).

Home Office has shelved politically sensitive plans to reform the parole system (Independent).

Police investigating poisoning of Cornish water last July - South West Water Authority could face criminal negligence charge.

National Council of Civil Liberties takes full page ads to claim that Britain under your Government faces the most serious challenge to our liberties in our history.

Allegations of crookedness in snooker betting.

Brian Clough questioned by police after incidents on field at Notts Forrest; FA also expected to conduct hearing.

Express leader contrasts the social event of American football's Superbowl final with soccer disfigured by crowd trouble. It backs the national membership card.

Ministers urging you to take a more visible interest in the arts (Guardian).

You are being urged by new IBA chairman, whom you saw last week, to change the proposed system for awarding ITV franchises to highest bidder (Times).

Norman Tebbit starting a new career as a Sky TV presenter along with Austin Mitchell.

Officials say Shamir has privately conceded he will have to negotiate with supporters of PLO.

Iraq trying to attract tourists to help repair economy.

Salvador Dali, artist, dies, 84.

PRESS DIGESTKENT

Sun says the middle classes are in revolt over a fast Chunnel rail link and everything should be done to avoid spoiling the green and pleasant land of Kent. But the track will have to cross Kent somehow.

Today says the suspicion is developing that in order to match French standards on the cheap, large chunks of beautiful English countryside are going to be ruthlessly destroyed. You must make sure it doesn't happen.

Express highlights criticism of employment of Michael Dobbs and Saatchis by British Rail to sell new route through Kent.

Telegraph says Kent protesters will not be impressed by the appointment of Saatchi & Saatchi to improve the fast rail project's image. This is only the latest of gaffes perpetrated by the Government and British Rail. The sooner the Government admits its commitment to the railway the better and accept its liabilities for the environment.

Independent leader says there must be fuller compensation than has previously been available under the Land Compensation Act 1973 for those affected by the Channel Rail Link.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler addresses Association of District Councils conference, London
- DOE: Mr Ridley meets scientists in Oxford on the ozone layer
- HO: Mr Hurd addresses lunch at Policy Studies Institute on Police Efficiency; later judges Whitbread Book of the Year Award
- WO: Mr Walker opens Milford Haven Ice Plant; later attends lunch with Milford Haven Port Authority, Milford Haven and addresses South Pembrokeshire Business Club, Pembroke Dock
- DEM: Mr Lee launches Employment Training Board's Inner Cities Initiative, London
- DEM: Mr Nicholls attends Advisory Committee on Employment Bill
- DES: Mrs Rumbold takes part in Playgroups Association press conference, London
- DH: Mr Mellor meets Royal College of Radiographers
- DH: Mr Freeman attends Readers Digest press party to publicise their initiative on Organ Donor cards
- DOE: Mr Chope addresses Concrete Society (planning)
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley addresses ADC Symposium (local government)
- DTI: Mr Forth addresses Compiling Services Association on Information Technology
- DTp: Mr Bottomley launches Street Sense interactive video on pre-driver training
- DTp: Mr Portillo attends working lunch with the AA, London
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington addresses Joseph Nickerson Heather Award, London
- MAFF: Mr Thompson visits Billingsgate Market, London
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Mrs Chalker visits Zambia and Kenya, Africa (to 30 January)
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe interviewed by Daily Express Magazine (prov)
- HO: Mr Renton gives interview to BBC World Service about refugees
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TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Kilroy": BBC 1 (9.20)

"The Time, The Place": HTV (10.00)

"The Parliament Programme": C4 (12.00)

"Business Daily": C4 (12.30)

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

"The Open Learning Business": C4 (13.00). 2 "Open Learner". A nurse, an engineer, an office administrator and a manager show how they have developed their careers through open learning

"Tomorrow's World": BBC 1 (19.00). It's exactly 50 years since the discovery of the process that creates nuclear energy - the splitting of the atom. But will we still have nuclear power stations in another 50 years?

"File on Four": BBC Radio 4 (19.20). Will an alliance of opposition parties force a new constitutional deal for Scotland?

"Open Space": BBC 2 (20.00). ET Isn't Working. A film by the Brighton Unemployed Centre takes a look at the Employment Training Scheme, through the eyes of the unemployed

"4 What It's Worth": C4 (20.30). The first of a new series of the award winning consumer programme

"The World Tonight": R4 (22.30) followed by "The Financial World Tonight" and "Today in Parliament"

"Hirohito: Behind the Myth": BBC 1 (22.15). Journalist and author Edward Behr after a two year personal investigation re-examines the "most enigmatic leader of the 20th century", using diaries of contemporaries, wartime records and previously unseen archive film

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.30)

"The Bangladesh Story": C4 (23.30) Second of 3 part history of Bangladesh
