

MAIN EVENTS

Windlesham report on "Death on the Rock" published

"Loo of the Year" Award presented by John Lee

Transport in London announcement

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STATISTICS

DEN: Energy trends (Nov)

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PUBLICATIONS

LCD: Legal Aid Advisory Committee and Law Society annual report

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Treasury; Home Office; Prime Minister

Business: Elected Authorities (Northern Ireland) Bill: Remaining Stages

Adjournment Debates: The role of school governors in drawing up proposals for the setting up of City Technology Colleges (Mr J Maples)

Select Committees: EMPLOYMENT  
Subject: Legionnaire's Disease  
Witness: Grace Dearborn Ltd

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS

1. Associated British Ports (No 2) Bill  
North Killingholme Cargo Terminal Bill
2. London Local Authorities Bill

Lords: Starred Questions  
Road Traffic (Driver Licensing and Information Systems) Bill (HL):  
Committee (2nd Day)  
Atomic Energy Bill (HL): Committee  
Monopolies and Mergers Commission (Performance of Functions) Order  
1988: Motion for Approval  
UQ to ask HMG what action they propose to take to deal with the  
increased level of serious crime on the London Underground

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Three main stories today: internal strife within legal profession in response to Lord Chancellor's Green Papers, with Lord Hailsham ranged against proposed reforms; eggs after Edwina Currie's letter to Select Committee gives controversy a new lease of life and raises more questions; and Toyota looking for a car factory site in Europe, including Wales.

Dr Sakharov and Mrs Bonner predict that Mr Gorbachev's days as Soviet leader are numbered (Times).

Green Papers on legal profession welcomed by Mirror, Today, Express, Mail, Times, FT, Independent, Guardian and to some extent Telegraph.

Edwina Currie, in letter to Select Committee, writes: "I did not say, as was incorrectly reported in the press, that most of the eggs in this country are affected. I intended to explain that a significant number of the egg laying hens in many of the egg laying flocks in this country are affected with salmonella".

This results only in further calls to appear before Select Committee to deal with the further questions her letter has raised.

Select Committee chairman to decide whether to call her after hearing Kenneth Clarke.

Today leader takes Opposition to task for their poor turnout for their food debate - if ever there was proof Parliament needs TV cameras, this is it.

Consultants set to clash with Minister over NHS White Paper plans to pay merit money to senior doctors (Times).

Sun tries to perpetuate "row" between Nos 10 and 11 Downing Street with Chancellor's "sensational" new challenge to you over EMS.

Mail - Lawson risks new rift with Maggie.

Express feature on "mischief making on steps of No 10" to break the log jam by unseating Howe, Lawson or Hurd. Hence the whispers that you and Chancellor are at each other's throats which is "spurious".

Market researchers say up to 5,000 estate agents will be out of business within 5 years.

PRESS DIGEST

MORI survey for Business says most of the 500 managers interviewed believe orders and investment will go up and 70% satisfied with Government's performance.

Sun says Labour MPs are trying to find a way of getting rid of Kinnock and replacing him with John Smith. Times says Kinnock will have final say on Labour Party policy review.

Sports pages say 8 of England's most senior Test cricketers are being lined up for a winter tour of South Africa in defiance of Test ban.

Mail says John Baker, CEGB, last night said that nuclear power programme should be scrapped if privatised industry found it too expensive or too much "hassle". He also tells managers they will have to work harder and become motivated by profit after privatisation.

Water industry may be sold in stages.

Government is to take special shares in electricity companies to block private investors trying to increase their shareholdings above 15%, Mr Parkinson tells Energy Select Committee (FT).

Struggle to create large conference centre in Edinburgh came closer to conclusion when four developers made their final presentations yesterday (FT).

Young wife wins right to State paid nanny so she can go back to work - industrial tribunal rules she should be paid £100 a week for 3 children while she is on Employment Training Scheme (Mail).

You pour £9million yesterday into fight against cancer; ASH says you haven't gone far enough.

Mail and Express portrays it as your bid to stamp out teenage smoking.

Mail reports a Turkish housewife selling her kidney to furnish her flat.

Hospices may have to cut nursing staff as Government has not fully funded nurses pay award RCN claimed yesterday (Independent).

MMC understood to have recommended GPs should be allowed to advertise their services (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Muslim parents threaten national boycott of State schools over refusal to make Batley school "voluntary aided" (Times).

Two Heathrow cleaning firms have had their security passes returned because they meet new security requirements.

Search for 17 people still missing after Lockerbie disaster called off.

Police, transport authorities and Government against US-style vigilante group set to patrol Tube - may provoke violence rather than prevent it, says Home Office.

Leader of group says he would consider signing up people convicted of violence.

Police bungle: pictures of boxing champion wrongly issued as that of dangerous gunman.

Criticism of Judge Pickles for failing to jail 46 year old man for indecently assaulting 6 year old girl to protect him from bullies in prison.

Relatives of 6 soldiers blown up by IRA at charity run complain about "insulting" offers of compensation (Express).

Mail says young Britons are looking forward to being part of a strong and united Europe - 68% wouldn't mind provided Britain retains decision making powers.

Chancellor says in Chatham House speech that neither the Government nor Parliament would accept any further erosion of national independence (Times).

TV plans to celebrate your 10th anniversary by poking fun at you, according to Today: BBC with a comedy programme it admits "could well be controversial" and ITV with a Spitting Image hour-long "tribute".

BBC plans to tell Government it will consider a night-time subscription service provided one of its channels is not allocated to late-night commercial use (FT).

William Cash, writing in the Times urges support for the Privacy Bill saying Press excess needs some control. Privacy laws exist in other countries without any clamour that freedom of the Press is being undermined. Why not here?

PRESS DIGEST

Foreign Secretary says Britain has not forgiven Japan for its appalling war atrocities. Sun asks him: Then why go?

Prince Philip to present Reagan with Churchill Award on May 17. Reagan has signed a contract to write his memoirs.

Rotary Clubs vote to admit women.

Lord Basnett dies, 64.

Speculation that Brian Keenan, hostage in Lebanon, is to be released.

West German firms are raided as Germany steps up Rabta chemical weapons investigation (Times).

Israel, through its London Embassy, rebukes Mr Waldegrave for naivety over meetings with PLO (Times).

EGGS

Star - Edwina says: I got it wrong.

Sun - At last Edwina says she made a mistake over poisoned eggs.

Mirror - What I really meant, by Edwina.

Today page 1 lead - Edwina lays another egg - her new gaffe.

Mail page 1 - Edwina breaks silence in egg furore.

Times - Edwina Currie says she meant to say that a significant number of egg-laying hens in many of the egg-laying flocks were infected with salmonella.

Telegraph page 1 - Currie explains remarks on eggs.

Edwina Currie admits she made a gaffe over salmonella in eggs and in a letter to the Commons Select Committee on Agriculture says she intended to say a "significant number" of egg laying hens were infected (Independent).

Guardian page 1 - Currie breaks silence on egg infection.

LEGAL PROFESSION

Star - page 7 - Lawyers' bar war - Barristers resent that solicitors will be able to share their rich pickings.

PRESS DIGEST

Sun page 4 - Law fat cats in shake up - new moves to smash the most powerful closed shop in Britain.

Mirror page 2 - Lawyers to face a huge shake up. Leader says they are over-privileged, over-rated and overpaid. Lord Chancellor deserves maximum support. Last night the barristers were whingeing because the golden goose is about to have its throat cut.

Today page 2 - Bar wars as court monopoly is ended. Leader says no wonder lawyers are in a state of severe shock. They expected a little dab of reform but have got something far more radical. Lord Mackay has had the courage to face up to the fact his own profession is dominated by restrictive practices which make the worst of the old fashioned shop stewards look positively progressive.

Express page 1 lead - Law wars: turmoil over shake up of future system. Top barristers pledge to fight all the way. Leader headed "A great legal battle that must be won", says you must be delighted with Lord Chancellor's proposals. Naturally they are provoking squeals from lawyers. This is an excellent sign.

Mail page 1 lead - Open up the law to the people. Entrenched privileges and hidebound customs of legal system to be swept away. Leader headed "Scottish hammer of English bar" says the last great restrictive practice in the land - the English bar - is to be busted. Apart from contingency fees it rejoices at the spectacle of the Scottish lion making the fur fly among the fat cats of the English bar.

Times describes proposed changes as the most sweeping this century. They look set to provoke a tough and prolonged Parliamentary battle between the Government and the Bar whose chairman says proposals would deprive judges of independent control of the courts and the advocates.

Lord Hailsham, writing in the Times, says proposals are ill-timed and ill-thought out. Law Society welcomes them. Times leader says the Lord Chancellor's logic scores a number of direct hits. There is little ground for denying solicitors access to the High Court bench. There is a sensible case for a limited contingency fee system.

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph page 1 lead - Bar's monopoly would go in legal shake up. Leader says the proposals may in time come to be seen as heralding a revolution but Bar's cries of hurt should not be entirely ignored. It hopes the Lord Chancellor will be able to sort out strong arguments for special pleading.

FT page 1 lead - Sweeping law reforms would end barristers' monopoly in courts. Bar reacts with anger and alarm. Lex column assesses that solicitors will survive in the new competitive world proposed for conveyancing. Leader welcomes bold reforms which "exceed all expectations". If implemented, they would revolutionise the legal services system and move it from being one of the most laggard internationally to one of the most advanced.

Lord Mackay proposes radical legal changes - will not lead to fusion of the two branches of the legal system but rather to the survival of an independent Bar marked by excellence rather than statutory restrictions (Independent).

Independent leader says yesterday's Green Papers on legal reform represent a welcome assault on one of the great bastions of middle class privilege, the law. By tackling members of your natural constituency you have demonstrated courage and consistency and undermined the claims of those who suggested your zeal to reform the unions would not be repeated elsewhere.

Guardian page 1 lead - Bar furious over end of monopoly. Leader says Lord Mackay is a revelation.

CHANCELLOR/BUDGET

Sun - Lawson snubs Mrs T. Chancellor puts his job on the line with a sensational new challenge to you over who runs the economy over EMS. Cabinet Ministers stunned.

Express - Lawson's duty free holidays bonanza - he wants to raise present £250 limit.

Times - You launch an all-out effort to quash persistent suggestions that you and the Chancellor are at odds over the Budget.

Lawson attacks schemes for EC economy. His speech to Royal Institute for International Affairs was characterised by an identity of attitude to European issues with you. His main departure was in brief references to EMS, on which he said that problems associated with sterling's full participation had diminished over time (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph - Euro unity castigated by Lawson. In another story "Thatcher denies rift as new fiscal row (EMS) threatens". Undisguised anger in Whitehall over reports suggesting a clash between you and Chancellor.

FT - Government launches determined effort to quash speculation of a row between you and the Chancellor.

Guardian - Lawson rounds on Delors for pushing Euro money.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MAFF: Mr MacGregor presents Massey-Ferguson award to Professor Armstrong
- DEM: Mr Luce presents Loo of the Year Award, London
- DH: Mr Freeman meets North East Thames District Health Authority/Regional Health Authority Chairmen
- DOE: Mr Trippier addresses Housebuilder of the Year luncheon
- DTp: Mr Bottomley visits Disley High Lane, near Manchester
- HO: Lord Ferrers visits Leicestershire Emergency Services about M1 crash
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses opening of new headquarters for the North of England Museum Service, Newcastle; later addresses opening of art exhibition at Lang Gallery, Newcastle
- WO: Mr Roberts opens CBI Wales conference, Cardiff; later visits Fitzalan School and Kitchener School, Cardiff
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DOE: Lord Caithness visits Germany for Housing conference
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington attends Berlin Green Week (to 30 January)
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe interviewed by Washington Post
- DES: Mr Jackson records interview with WPFM, Radio 4
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TV AND RADIO

- 'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)
- 'Kilroy': BBC1 (9.20)
- 'The Time, The Place': Tyne Tees (10.00)
- 'The Parliament Programme': C4 (1200)
- 'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)
- 'The World at One': BBC Radio 4 (13.00)

TV AND RADIO (cont'd)

'Soundtrack': BBC Radio 4 (19.20). Second of 10 programmes which take life as the microphone takes it. Focus on non sexist animal free circus

'9-2-5': BBC2 (20.00). Series about the changing world of work. The programme discovers how change is affecting people at work. A report on the trends that affect our working lives

'The North Sea': BBC2 (20.30). 'And Man Created Holland'. Fourth of six programmes on the use and misuse of the North Sea. A look at how Dutch forged their country in a war of attrition with the North Sea and how their scientists lead the way in evaluating the effects of Europe's pollution on their coast

'Death on the Rock': (20.30). A special feature on the publication today of the independent enquiry by Lord Windlesham into the making of Death on the Rock. Replaces 'This Week'

'Forty Minutes': BBC2 (21.30). 'Our Darren'. Story of Darren Lillywhite, paralysed at 17 after a car crash

'Question Time': BBC1 (22.15). With Sir Simon Hornby, Chairman of WH Smith, Richard Ryder MP, David Steel MP and Ann Taylor MP

'Newsnight': BBC2 (22.30)

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

'The City Programme': Thames (22.35)

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