

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets Mr Mitsuzaka, Japanese Minister for International Trade and Industry (photocall)

The Queen visits RAF Marham, Norfolk

The Prince of Wales launches Mercury asset management youth enterprise centre, Brixton

The Princess of Wales visits New York (to 3 February)

The Princess Royal visits Prison Service Headquarters

STATISTICS

DEN: Advance energy statistics (Dec)

PUBLICATIONS

DSS: Protective Pensions: Safeguarding Benefits in a Changing Environment White Paper

CSO: General Household Survey

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Scotland; Foreign and Commonwealth; Trade and Industry

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Planning (Notification of Development Proposals)
Opposition Day (3rd allotted day)
Until about 7.00 pm, debate on Housing on an Opposition Motion.
Afterwards,
Debate on Low Pay on an Opposition Motion

Adjournment Debates: Community care for the mentally ill (Mrs G Shephard)

Select Committees: FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Subject: Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union
Witnesses: Sir Bryan Cartledge, Sir Curtis Keeble

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: Privatisation of Shorts and Harland and Wolff
Witness: Mr Tom King, MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

1 February 1989

2.

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

ENERGY

Subject: UK/USSR Energy Relations
Witnesses: Representatives from Shell, British Petroleum
and British Gas

AGRICULTURE

Subject: Salmonella in Eggs
Witness: Rt Hon John MacGregor, OBE, MP Minister of
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and Rt Hon Kenneth
Clarke, MP, Secretary of State for Health

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Subject: Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union
Witness: Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth
Office and the Ministry of Defence

HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Higher Police Training and The Police College
Witnesses: Dr R Reiner, Reader in Criminology, Brunel
University and Dr P A J Waddington, Department of
Sociology, University of Reading; Mr Barrie L Irving,
Director, Police Foundation

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Department of Social Security: Operational
Strategy
Witness: Mr M J A Partridge, CB, Permanent
Secretary, Department of Social Security

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Resourcing the NHS; Whitley Councils
Witnesses: National and Local Government Officers'
Association and Manufacturing, Science, Finance
Union, National Union of Public Employees and
Confederation of Health Service Workers

TRANSPORT

Subject: Roads for the Future
Witnesses: County Planning Officers' Society (at 4.15);
Association of London Borough Engineers and
Surveyors (5.00)

TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE

Subject: Official Statistics
Witnesses: Central Statistical Office officials

1 February 1989

3.

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS

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

Lords: Starred Questions: 20 mins
Debate to call attention to the case for enhancing the quality of life by protecting the environment from increasing pollution
Food Protection (Emergency Prohibitions) Order 1989. Motion for Approval
UQ to ask HMG what measures are being taken to ensure satisfactory standards of care for the infirm elderly in the community

MINISTERS - See attached

PRESS DIGESTMain News

NHS review gets a warm welcome from Sun, Today, Express, Mail, Independent and Times. Star slightly qualified welcome. Mirror and Guardian against. Telegraph ifs and buts. FT lukewarm.

Labour and unions bitterly critical. Patients Association has "strong reservations" and Consumers' Association says careful testing through pilot schemes needed.

National Association of Health Authorities welcomes many of the proposals which Labour maintain put a "price tag on patients".

Shares soared 15% last month, best January stock market for 14 years.

But Britain tops EC for increase in inflation last year.

Talks in Wandsworth prison warden dispute at 'a delicate state', according to union. Douglas Hogg says the Government can go on as long as it has to.

Independent leader says the Wandsworth POA is living in a 1970s timewarp and their behaviour is inexcusable. But the problem is exacerbated by the consistent failure of the Home Office to cope with an unreasonably large number of imprisonments with many in sub-human conditions. The festering prison crisis will only be resolved when the demand for cells is reduced and the supply increased.

Government's power to hold prisoners in police cells will be challenged in Inner London Crown Court today. If the challenge succeeds, it could lead to greater prison overcrowding.

Police detain 6 - 3 men and 3 women - in Donegal under anti-terrorist laws and on suspicion of murdering ex-RUC man.

USFAA orders urgent checks on Boeing 737, 747, 757 and 767 aircraft for wiring faults.

Express quotes a Russian general as telling Ron Todd in Moscow "Your ban the bomb stance is wrong". Unilateralism, while an imaginative gesture, is neither realistic nor a serious option for a major power.

94% of BP shareholders support buy-back of shares from Kuwait (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

£30million pay deal in Post Office includes loyalty supplements and more flexible working.

ACAS delivers unprecedented attack on Government's plans for tough new code of conduct on strike ballots (Independent).

Harland & Wolff make another 470 workers redundant.

Director General of OFGAS to be given powers to supervise British Gas price structure in the industrial market (FT).

Plans unveiled to build a third nuclear power plant at Sizewell.

Lady Phillips hopes to present private members' Bill in Lords aimed at preventing employers from rejecting men or women on the ground of age (Times).

Bank union describes Barclays as Scrooge Employer of the Year.

Safeway fined £6,000 for overcharging - 102 counts.

You signal Government's intention to overturn Monday's House of Lords decision on political donations (Independent).

Gaps found in code for protecting water lands. Michael Howard concedes that private companies set up by privatised water suppliers will be free to disregard special legislative safeguards on conservation and public access (Independent).

Met Office say last year was warmest on record, adding to fears of greenhouse effect (Independent).

World Economic Forum, in Davos, calls for urgent global action over greenhouse effect (FT).

Dutch Parliament has voted for tax rebates of £460 on low pollution cars (FT).

Tourist chief warns that prices, litter, pollution and poor transport threatens Britain's place in top five tourist countries (Times).

Britain signs drug trafficking agreement with Spain.

Guardian Angels threaten to leave Britain because they can't find anywhere to train recruits.

PRESS DIGEST

BBC fined £3,600 over the outbreak of Legionnaire's disease and faces damages estimated at over £1million.

University vice-chancellors condemn student loans proposals as unacceptable and propose instead a graduate tax so that present students would fund their successors (Independent).

Kenneth Baker calls for urgent review to make GCSE exams fairer to pupils.

Mail says busmen are more likely to be attacked by schoolchildren than late night drunks.

TV SW is to pull out of joint national pay bargaining with other ITV companies which will weaken further the national agreement between ITV Association and 3 broadcasting staff unions (FT).

Clare Short MP wants a video on abortion being shown to children to be banned from schools.

Express reports you walk tall in British shoes.

Gorbachev earns £17,000 a year - £100 a week worse off than a Backbench MP; or £18,000, or £19,500, depending on which paper you read.

Sakharov likely to win election to Soviet Parliament as rival candidate pulls out to contest another constituency.

Russians say they will fight their way out of Kabul if necessary (Independent).

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister admits that figures on military balance in Europe could complicate conventional arms talks in Vienna (Times).

Unconfirmed reports say that Anatoly Scharansky is to be Israel's next Ambassador to the UN. Choice could jeopardise improving atmosphere between Israel and the Soviet Union (Independent).

FT says Allies are entitled to ask West German Government for a clearer stand on the modernisation of short range nuclear weapons. The impression of draft given by the Federal Government can only be harmful to the unity of the Western alliance.

Sudan bans British Airways from flying over its air space after airline is accused of smuggling and illegal currency deals.

PRESS DIGEST

Iran hangs five women for prostitution.

NHS

Star page 2 - Maggie's Medicine to Save the ailing NHS. Shake up to get the health service in trim. Unions on warpath - and you go to war on waste. Leader headed "Just what the doctor ordered" thinks plan to make hospitals independent should work wonders for patients and it is absolutely right that consultants should put in a proper day's work. But the GP proposals do not look too sound.

Sun page 1 - Clarke socks it to NHS doctors. Gives patients a huge tonic. Inside - Clarke's cure for the NHS - waiting room chaos ends; clamp on fat cat docs; hospitals to be better run. Leader headed "Fancy that, the patient comes first" says the White Paper is crammed with good ideas and the most novel is that in future the patient comes first. Over the last 40 years the impression grew that he came last. Behind this wonderful tonic it detects your imagination and concern. What a great matron you would have made.

Mirror page 2 - Now every patient has a price tag. Tories want to put cash before care. Leader headed "Public health or private wealth". Some of the proposals like making appointment times, which are kept, are welcome and necessary. But that isn't reform. It's commonsense. The real effect will be to weaken the NHS and put the need for profit before the needs of the people. A recipe for retreat not reform.

Today page 1 - 5-star tonic. Hotel style NHS but surgery will still come free. Extra choice part of health revolution. Two page summary of proposals inside. Leader headed "On the road to recovery" says the Government's bold plans are right, necessary and wholly welcome. They will give medical treatment in Britain a long overdue shove towards better patient care. Cook's presentation was a fabulous caricature of the truth. Government deserves support for the deep cultural change it is trying to bring about.

Express page 1 lead - Power to the Patient. Health revolution will give value for money. Specialists in push to cut waiting lists. 300 hospitals win chance to go it alone. People come first, giving a human face to the NHS. Leader headed "Towards a healthier tomorrow" says the Government's White Paper has its heart in exactly the right place. The overriding objective is to make the NHS patient friendly. But the opponents of the proposals are finding a ready ally in the Labour Party which is becoming one of the most reactionary political parties in the Western world.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail page 1 lead - The Health Revolution - Labour declares total war to defend one of Socialism's last citizens. Maggie puts the patients first. Leader headed "Strong medicine for the National Health" says your treatment is typically brisk and businesslike. It is also politically brave to challenge, if necessary, consultants and GPs. Spare us the ritual scaremongering of Socialists who can only say "Give the NHS more money".

Telegraph page 1 lead - "Clarke seeking transformation of health service - freedom of choice planned in state-funded NHS open to all". Chorus of critics led by RCN which says White Paper amounts to a return to elite voluntary hospitals and local authority infirmaries. Two full pages of summary. Leader says the changes will be the most disconcerting the British people have had to face in a decade of Thatcherism. While not perfect, the White Paper makes sensible and constructive proposals. Mr Clarke must now call upon all his skills of presentation and public relations to generate enthusiasm for them.

Times - "Clarke Puts Patient First". Health service reform the most sweeping in its history but doctors and unions accuse Government of putting price tag on patients. NUPE says White Paper is cynical charter to dismember NHS. Two whole inside pages devoted to White Paper. Leader says this is a White Paper of hope. It feels that Mr Clarke has trodden carefully - probably too carefully in many of his proposals. He will be judged on the extent to which he can cajole GPs, consultants and hospital managements to travel boldly down the reforming road which he has opened before them.

Independent - Clarke seeks to calm Tories on NHS. Government unveils health plans and vows reforms will not harm patient care. Labour leaders convinced that the reforms will prove to be your Achilles heel. Leader says there is no doubt that drastic reforms were needed. The proposals are bold and will require courage and steady nerves to implement. The greatest load will fall on GPs who, if they have the interests of the NHS and its clients at heart, have no choice but to rise to the challenge.

Peter Jenkins, in an Independent commentary, says that Kenneth Clarke was under no illusion that the leak was little short of a disaster. Before it occurred, he had been heard saying in the Department that the battle for the reforms would be won or lost in the first three days.

PRESS DIGEST

Kenneth Clarke writes leader page piece in Telegraph on his "Blueprint for care in the 1990s" which includes "My aim is that people will look back in 40 years' time and think of these measures as being as significant in their own way as those of Nye Bevan 40 years ago. I do believe that they herald the beginning of a new and better NHS".

Guardian page 1 lead - Clarke omits detail of health shake up. Two pages of summary under heading "Agenda for change puts patients first". Unions fear privatisation. Leader devoted entirely to the NHS Review says the future of the NHS became more insecure yesterday. Two proposals - budgets for GPs and hospitals which can opt out - are unnecessary and undesirable and tax reliefs for the elderly are a dangerous wedge.

FT - Health reform plans aim for efficiency and choice. Kenneth Clarke will ask for further funds for NHS.

FT describes it as a relatively tame prescription. It asks "Is there a hidden message in the blank spaces of the NHS White Paper - is this the first step towards the gradual break up of the NHS?" By beginning to dismantle the central bureaucracy of the NHS and devolve decision-making to the points of delivery the Government is establishing a shift of emphasis on which it can build. Leader - Mr Clarke deserves credit for some modest reforms. Yet the central dilemma remains: The Government wants to cut public spending although demand for health care is certain to rise faster than incomes. This circle will not be squared by a small expansion of private medicine.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler addresses dinner of Institute of Chemical Engineers annual conference, London
- DES: Mr Baker addresses General Synod of Church of England
- DH: Mr Clarke attends regional conference on NHS Review, Birmingham; later with Mr Freeman attends BMA Council dinner; Mr Freeman later addresses Royal College of Surgeons' seminar on accident prevention
- DOE: Mr Ridley addresses Savory Milln housing conference London
- DTI: Mr Newton launches Tyne and Wear opportunity, London
- DTI: Lord Young speaks on 1992, Mayfair Intercontinental Hotel, London; later with Mr Clark, meets Mr Mitcuzuka, Japanese Minister of International Trade and Industry, Lancaster House; also attends Harrod Lecture, Westminster School
- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses all party group on Europe
- HO: Mr Hurd visits Prison Service HQ, Cleland House, London, with The Princess Royal
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor visits Gargill UK Corn Plant, London
- DEM: Mr Lee visits Hull
- DEM: Mr Nicholls attends Training and Enterprise Councils' Information Technology conference
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits the United World College of the Atlantic, South Glamorgan
- DES: Mr Jackson launches Industry Matters information pack, London
- DH: Mr Mellor attends regional conference on NHS Review, Newcastle
- DOE: Mr Trippier opens housing scheme, Bracknell
- DOE: Mr Moynihan visits Yorkshire Water Authority and attends public meeting
- DTI: Mr Maude addresses Corntail Club on completion of the single market in financial services, London
- DTI: Mr North visits IBM, Havant
- DTp: Mr Bottomley looks at pilot for wheelchair access to taxis scheme, St Thomas' Hospital, London
- HO: Mr Hogg visits HM Prison, Blundeston, Lowestoft
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington addresses ADAS/NFU cereals conference, Wye
- WO: Mr Roberts attends International Food and Drink Exhibition, Olympia
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

ODA: Mr Patten leads delegation to annual Southern African development co-ordination conference, Luanda, Angola (to 3 February)

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DOE: Mr Trippier on Channel 4's "For What it's Worth" (about new Housing Act)

TV AND RADIO

"Antenna": BBC 2 (20.10): Dame Alison Munro, former health authority Chairman investigates differences in medical practice throughout Britain
