

2 February 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Princess Royal visits Save the Children Fund Headquarters, London

STATISTICS

BOE: Capital issues and redemptions (Jan)

CO: Annual Abstract of Statistics

HMT: UK official reserves (Jan)

PUBLICATIONS

DOE: Local Government and Housing Bill

HO: Oxford Centre for Criminological Research report on race relations in prisons

HO: Government reply to the 4th Report from the Home Affairs Committee - Parliamentary Accountability of the Police Complaints Authority

HO: Boundary Commission for England Report

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Home Office; Northern Ireland; Prime Minister

Business: Official Secrets Bill (2nd day): Consideration in Committee

Adjournment Debates: The use by British Coal of a public relations company to canvass the opinions of miners and their facilities (Mrs G Lofthouse)

Select Committees:

COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS

1. Associated British Ports (No 2) North Killingholme Cargo Terminal

2. London Local Authorities Bill [Lords]

2 February 1989

2.

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Lords: Starred Questions:
Atomic Energy Bill (HL): Third Reading
Football Spectators Bill (HL): Second Reading
UQ to ask HMG whether the proposals in the White Paper
"Employment for the 1990s" significantly improve training employment
prospects and employment conditions

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Kinnock gets a bad press for sacking Austin Mitchell from his front bench for signing contract with Sky TV. Sun leads with "Sky falls in on Kinnock".

Mitchell says many other Labour spokesmen have written for Murdoch newspapers so why pick on him?

Sky delivers a case of champagne to Kinnock to thank him for the publicity.

Astra group is expected to buy a second TV satellite, enabling it to broadcast 32 channels to UK and Western Europe (FT).

Which? advises viewers to wait a bit before they buy their TV dishes.

Labour Party delegation gags Ron Todd after Moscow talks; Soviets suggest that instead of unilateral disarmament UK should put its deterrent into overall arms control negotiations.

Kinnock pledges to scrap community charge in meeting with Scottish TUC.

No settlement after more talks between Home Office and POA of Wandsworth dispute; POA turns away 10 prisoners from Wandsworth at Camp Hill, Isle of Wight, because they were not escorted by POA.

John Wheeler MP, in Sun, says the idea that a prison officer's job is dangerous or unpleasant is a complete myth.

Fujitsu is expected to lead a wave of Japanese semiconductor manufacturing investment in Europe with a £57million plant on Wearside. Announcement will be made in next few weeks (FT).

Institute of Fiscal Studies' "Green Budget" says Chancellor can cut taxes by £3billion next month (Independent).

Times leader discusses the problems of the Chunnel rail link saying that the people of Kent have a right to feel particularly aggrieved as two years ago Nicholas Ridley, as Transport Secretary, suggested no changes to existing rail routes would be required. It calls for those who will be affected to be generously treated.

PRESS DIGEST

NHS: Mirror leads with a "sick joke" - Buxton hospital planning to sell hip operations to private patients when it has a 6-month waiting list; it says it has spare capacity but not enough cash to use theatres.

In feature Mirror says nobody in NHS knows who, under the new regime, will pay for £285 a day treatment for kidney swap boy, aged 5.

Mail feature says Kenneth Clarke is brilliantly stage managing the presentation of the NHS review.

Mail says private health care for elderly will soon be available for £8 a month.

Consultants at Guys Hospital to meet next week to discuss becoming one of the first NHS hospitals to go "self-governing" in 1991.

Independent leader says winning over GPs will be Kenneth Clarke's chief task in selling the NHS White Paper. Doctors doubts show undue pessimism but the honour of their profession demands a positive response.

People who take out private health insurance under NHS White Paper for an elderly parent appear set to get full tax relief on their own earnings (Times).

ACAS report on London Ambulance Service says service declining as low morale leads to increasing staff turnover and absenteeism (Independent).

Independent says it has confidential reports which show MAFF knew of the salmonella epidemic a year ago but was unable to persuade egg producers of the seriousness of the problem and failed to warn public.

Water bills to rise between 7 and 13% and average of just under 10% to curb pollution and improve quality; Labour says it is fattening up the industry for privatisation.

Water privatisation hits EC snag. Brussels rejects "golden share" veto limiting foreign shareholdings in 1987 Rolls Royce privatisation, casting doubt on the legality of the Government's plans to protect Britain's privatised water companies from foreign and domestic predators (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Which? finds brands of bottled mineral water have more bacteria than tap water.

Today claims British Rail is withholding a report revealing widespread fear of violence among passengers.

Guardian says a CAA study reports a vast expansion of Heathrow and Stansted is inevitable in the '90s if airline passengers are not to be priced out of the market.

Government moving towards a compromise on Sunday trading.

Mail leads with Safeway, 24 hours after being fined several thousands of pounds for overcharging. Still getting its prices wrong and found two out of three branches involved in court case make mistakes at the buyer's expense.

Two non-TUC unions claim successes. Electricians say they have had thousands of new members and UDM is nearing vital working agreements on a new Welsh pit (Times).

NUCPS claims employers will have a free hand to under pay workers if Government scraps Wages Council.

Militant dominated Newcastle Central branch of CPSA votes 10-1 to back union's moderate leadership against militants.

Which? says many slimming aids are a rip off and a danger to health; only one way to lose weight - eat less and take more exercise.

Motoring organisations want motorway speed limits raised to 80mph to make them safer.

Home Secretary hints at the introduction of random breath tests.

Sun claims Britain is being swamped by a tide of illegal immigrants.

Investigation launched into payments by Manchester City Council to Viraj Mendis.

Councillors in Grantham have voted to deprivatise refuse and cleaning services because they were too costly.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent claims to have uncovered another covert political donation scheme. It says Charity Commission is to question several peers who are trustees of the Industrial Trust as part of investigation into donations channelled from business to right-wing trade union organisations.

Star, continuing its campaign against Prince Philip going to Hirohito's funeral, leads with the case of 'cannibal' Japanese officers who ate one of our airmen for dinner.

Burma Star's ruling council decides not to ask Duke to resign as their patron; they say they can't keep fighting war.

One more victim of East Midlands air crash dies, bringing death toll to 47.

Sun calls for "tired and worn" Tom King to be replaced by Ian Gow.

Kenneth Baker calls for new "moral revolution" in address to Church Synod; attacks Church's hankering after collectivist solutions.

Kenneth Baker's plans to expand the number of students in higher education with the use of loans and private sector finance are being strongly opposed by Treasury officials (Times).

Princess Anne attacks Third World countries which squander Western cash sent to help the poor and says they deliberately fail to solve their problems in order to keep the aid flowing.

Telegraph covers your interview with Moscow weekly.

East European diplomats also leave Kabul.

Departing American Charge d'Affaires predicts Afghan government will fall by July (Independent).

Shamir expected to visit Washington in March or April when he is expected to be asked to come up with new peace proposals. Israeli defence ministry deny report that it is trying to initiate indirect dialogue with the PLO leadership.

Oil slick threatens Antarctic ecology.

EC is expected to propose next week a common minimum tax at source on individual's unearned income on investments (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

Natan Sharansky's UN job opposed by Israeli Labour Party and his wife who does not want to live in the US (Times).

Telegraph reports deep rift between Nelson and Winnie Mandela over her refusal to dismantle her unpopular thuggish youthful guards.

American TV programme drops David Frost as anchorman because he is outdated. Mail says he's been frozen out by trash.

LABOUR PARTY - MOSCOW

Sun, commenting on the "wise" advice by a Russian general to Ron Todd to keep our deterrent until he can trade it, says Todd won't take it because he and a majority of Labour's rank and file are committed to stripping Britain of our nuclear shield.

Telegraph says Russians virtually closed off one Labour option by saying they were no longer interested in a bilateral trade off.

Times - Prospect of Labour abandoning its unilateral defence policy moved closer yesterday when Soviet leaders backed the idea of a Labour Government putting Britain's nuclear weapons into superpowers disarmament negotiations.

Independent - Soviet leaders appear indifferrent about relative merits of unilateral and multilateral disarmament in talks with visiting Labour delegation.

Telegraph says Labour's mission to Moscow coincides with an invitation to Gorbachev from Left-wingers to visit Liverpool to marvel at its post-Militant achievements in the field of socialist planning. It strongly endorses the invitation. Nothing would nudge Mr Gorbchev faster along the path to capitalism.

Guardian report says when Labour produces its new defence policy it is likely to have "Made in Russia" stamped on it.

LABOUR PARTY - SKY TV

Today (a Murdoch paper) says Kinnock's sacking of Mitchell reveals him as mean, vindictive and downright stupid.

Express attacks the pre-launch hostility to Sky and instances Kinnock's sacking of Mitchell as example of political prejudice against the station.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail reports the episode as "Kinnock in 'vendetta' sacking shambles". Labour morale plunges. Leader says Kinnock and unions who rule his roost for him can't forget or forgive the decisive defeat of the print workers at Wapping. The party's penchant for self-destruction knows no bounds.

Times page 1 - Kinnock sacks Austin Mitchell for taking job with Murdoch's Sky TV because it is incompatible with being on Labour's frontbench. Mitchell asks why Meacher and Blair are allowed to write for the Times and Norman Tebbit is scathing about Kinnock's "stupidity and hypocrisy".

LABOUR PARTY AND NHS

Sun leader asks what is Opposition policy on NHS. If they have a single, constructive, worthwhile suggestion, apart from endless subsidies, they will be happy to print them.

BUDGET

FT - Institute of Fiscal Studies believes cuts in personal income tax worth up to £3billion and a public sector debt repayment of about £14billion are likely to be main features.

Association of British Chambers of Commerce calls for 2p cut in corporation tax.

Sam Brittan suggests a consensus that there should be a "steady as she goes" Budget, but says that there would have to be £5billion of so-called tax cuts for it to be neutral.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DH: Mr Clarke attends regional conference on NHS Review, Nottingham
- DTI: Lord Young addresses Manchester Business School on the Single Market
- DEM: Mr Lee gives keynote speech and answers questions at BTA's "1992 and the Travel" Industry conference, London
- DEM: Mr Nicholls attends Advisory Committee on Women's Employment
- DH: Mr Mellor attends regional conference on NHS review, Bristol
- DSS: Lord Skelmersdale visits local office Wood Grange Park, East London
- DTp: Mr Bottomley visits Midlands to look at proposed western orbital route: later presents highways and transportation award, Waterman's Hall, St Mary-at-Hill
- FCO: Lord Glenarthur addresses Royal Society of Asian Affairs
- HO: Mr Renton makes keynote speech on "The Thinking Behind The White Paper," Adam Smith Institute conference
- MAFF: Mr Thompson attends British Wool fashion show and dinner

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DEM: Mr Cope visits Europe (to 3 February)
- DTI: Mr Atkins visits Helsinki for inward investment seminar

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DH: Mr Clarke appears on NHS Roadshow, Central TV studios, Nottingham
- DOE: Mr Ridley interviewed by Birmingham Central Television
- DEN: Mr Spicer appears on BBC TV's Question Time

TV AND RADIO

- '9-2-5': BBC 2 (20.00): Looks at job sharing in Britain with spotlight on the NHS
- 'The North Sea': BBC 2 (20.30): Fifth of six programmes on the use and misuse of the North Sea
- 'Question Time': BBC 1 (21.15): With Hartley Booth, Frank Dobson, Michael Spicer and Sue Slipman
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