

3 February 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister addresses Newspaper Press Fund lunch in Glasgow

The Princess Royal visits HMS Osprey, Portland, Dorset

G7 Meeting in Washington

STATISTICS

DOE: Housing starts and completions (Dec)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS
Right of Reply Bill: 2nd Reading.
Indecent Displays (Newspapers and Workplaces) Bill: 2nd Reading
(Ms Clare Short)
Fuel and Energy Provision Bill: 2nd Reading (Mr John Hughes)

Adjournment Debates: The implications for pig farmers of rural housing
developments (Mr B Wells)

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

P W Botha resigns as National Party leader; Education Minister de Klerk succeeds. He is expected to become President. Tutu forecasts a grim immediate future. Telegraph says de Klerk does not promise to be any more zealous a reformer than Botha.

"Secret" talks held by SDLP, DUP, OUP and Alliance in Germany - but seem to have been only contacts without any breakthrough. Telegraph leads with claim that the leak about the talks has damaged a deal.

Ted Heath alleges No 10 press office is "corrupt".

Independent says it is a widespread Westminster and Whitehall view that you use your press office as a source of leaks calculated to undermine dissident ministers - and bolster your own personal standing.

Some suggestion that prison officers are to go on all out strike. Express leads with an exposure of sustained industrial action at Wandsworth - in the last 5 months warders there have taken industrial action on all but 24 days.

Police question Scottish radio reporter over his allegation that Lockerbie crash was caused by bomb in CIA man's luggage (Independent).

Co-op bank is offered Girobank at a price close to its net asset value of £100million (FT).

Fujitsu's plans to invest here seen as another example of the Japanese economic invasion of Britain gathering pace in the run up to 1992.

Tim Renton says public opinion is shifting in favour of Sunday trading.

Furious political row breaks out over Lord Young's decision to allow Minorco to remount its bid for ConsGold (Times).

Independent expects Government to scrap Wages Councils this year.

Conservative MPs put strong pressure on Chancellor to scrap earnings rule for pensioners (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

Norman Fowler indicates he would consult the Council of Managerial Professional staff - set up by the electricians union as an alternative to the TUC for professional and managerial bodies - before appointing union representatives to public bodies.

You are to rush through new laws to prevent the sale of human spare parts.

European Investment Bank overhauls World Bank as largest institutional borrower on international capital markets, following a 30% surge in its own lendings last year (FT).

Express leader, on suggestion that markedly higher air fares are in the offing to damp down demand, says this seems incredible. The answer is simple - another runway in London region.

Mail features scandal at NatWest bank which Economist exposed last week.

Edwina Currie to write book in which it is understood she intends to discuss in some detail the salmonella-in-eggs affair (Times).

MPs demand the ending of telephone chat lines because teenage addicts are running up massive bills. Mail says it is an utterly inessential side line on which plug should be pulled.

Sun, in declaration against Privacy Bill, says it naturally respects everyone's right to a degree of privacy. But prominent men and women cannot expect the same anonymity as ordinary people.

Times leader says Tony Worthington's Right of Reply Bill is a very reasonable one but legislation is not the answer. It suggests other newspapers should follow the Times' strict self-imposed standards of quickly correcting inaccuracies of fact.

Local Government reform - Bill to end jobs for the boys in local government and to require officials to act as whistle blowers - gets publicity. Mail leader welcomes end of jobs for boys. Independent reports an outcry for Labour leaders accusing Government of infringing civil liberties. Leader says the manner in which Mr Ridley has chosen to impose his purpose is broad and arbitrary. The powers proposed should be severely circumscribed during the Bill's passage through Parliament.

PRESS DIGEST

Guardian leader says nine years ago the Bill would have been as serious embarrassment to you. It is a measure of how far the squeeze on the poor and the increase in central controls have gone that there was not even the slightest blush yesterday.

Mirror warns that big rent rises are being forced by LAs by Governemnt - up to £20 a week.

The ILEA win first round to prevent two south London schools becoming CTCs as High Court uphold their right to dismiss two Conservative Governors (Times).

Three policemen and five private detectives given suspended jail sentences for conspiring to get information fromm police computer.

And now Austin Mitchell falls out with Norman Tebbit because of his remarks about Kinnock for sacking him.

Express cartoon compares Muslims burning Satanic Verses with Kinnock burning Sky TV; and leader says just when Kinnock should have been concentrating on NHS review he stuck a red nose on Opposition's face by sacking Mitchell. No wonder Labour consistently trails in polls.

Mail feature, referring to Kinnock's dismissal of Mitchell, says once again the politics of envy emerged to strike a self inflicted blow. All the signs are that they are strangling Labour Party.

Telegraph leader headed "Kinnock's own goal" says the Opposition seems more and more determined to sabotage its own reputation. By demanding Mitchell's resignation Kinnock has reinforced doubts about his jdugment. How many more such follies can he perpetrate before he convinces his party he is a liability they cannot afford?

Church of England's Synod says moral standards will fall as minds are poisoned by a mass of new TV channels. Express leader says their concern is surely misplaced.

Archbishop of Canterbury says the BBC is facing death by a thousand cuts under the Government's plan to change the shape of broadcasting; measure to guarantee at least 24 black members to General Synod narrowly defeated because of revolt by lay members (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

BBC World Service journalists refusing to operate new technology systems until issues of health, safety and pay have been determined (Times).

Saatchi & Saatchi win Soviet contract to channel Western commercials to Russian radio and television.

Thames TV threatens to transfer to satellite transmission unless Government modifies plans for auctioning television licences (FT).

Wendy Henry, ex News of the World editor, becomes Editor of the People.

Bush's Secretary for Defence, John Tower, faces further investigation into his personal behaviour before Senate will confirm him in post.

Supreme commander of Warsaw Pact replaced by general who is thought to share the views of Mr Gorbachev and to enjoy his total confidence.

Izvestia critical of Sakharov for suggesting Gorbachev might be deposed. The papers defence of the President follows a month in which the Soviet leader's public statements have sounded particularly defensive and rumours have been circulating in Moscow that his position was threatened, reports the Times.

Labour's defence team returns to London today with the outlines of a new policy to replace its unpopular unilateralist stance (Times).

NHS

Joe Rogaly, in weekly column, describes NHS White Paper as your great health gamble. He believes that, on its form so far, it is a fair bet that Labour will make a bosh of its attack. The Government has scooped in the chips on many less likely looking hands (FT).

POLITICS

Independent - Inland Revenue considering investigating the Industrial Trust which is already the subject of a Charity Commission enquiry. Chancellor and Douglas Hurd to face Labour questions over the Trust's donations to right-wing trade union groups.

PRESS DIGESTSOUTH AFRICA

Independent - One of the reasons you chose not to include South Africa in your forthcoming African tour is because Botha is no longer felt capable of taking important decisions. You will be keen to meet his successor, and Malawi could provide a venue. Now that the pressure for sanctions is off, you may feel you have enough space to take a new initiative in Southern Africa.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Mr Baker visits Stebon School, Limehouse and Mulberry School, Stepney
- DH: Mr Clarke attends regional conference on NHS Review, Manchester
- DTI: Mr Newton visits Topenpress Company, Cambridge
- DTp: Mr Channon addresses Chinese New Year conference, Cafe Royal, London
- HO: Mr Hurd addresses Chartered Institute of Bankers dinner, London
- SO: Mr Rifkind, Lord James Douglas-Hamilton and Mr Forsyth attend Newspaper Press Fund lunch, Glasgow
- DH: Mr Freeman attends regional conference on NHS Review, Leeds
- DOE: Lord Caithness visits Self-build project, Plymouth
- DOE: Mr Howard speaks on housing in rural areas, North Yorkshire
- DSS: Lord Skelmersdale visits Thames Ditton and Hinckley Wood headquarters buildings
- DTI: Mr Maude visits Top Express, Cambridge
- DTp: Mr Bottomley opens the Merton relief road, Colliers Wood
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington meets Mr Greenidge, Guyanan Minister of Finance
- WO: Mr Roberts visits Glyn Corrwg School; later visits Afan Teachers Centre, Port Talbot and Cwm Tawe School, Pontardawe
- WO: Mr Grist opens Gorseinon Hospital, West Glamorgan
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DH: Mr Clarke appears on NHS Roadshow, Granada Studios, Manchester
- DH: Mr Mellor takes part in BBC Radio 4's "Any Questions?"
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TV AND RADIO

- 'Analysis': Radio 4 (11.00): 'What Enemy, Which Weapons' review of defence policy
- 'On Trial': C4 (20.00): A look at why people are turning to the courts for protection against action by public bodies
- 'Any Questions?' BBC Radio 4 (20.05) with David Mellor, Harriet Harman, Charles Kennedy and Rebecca Maltby
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