

MAIN EVENTS

? Statement by Richard Luce on charges for library services

The Queen and Prince Philip attend a luncheon given by the Corporation of London at Guildhall to mark the 800th Anniversary of the Mayoralty

Prime Minister meets French Prime Minister, M. Rocard, who also delivers Jean Monnet memorial lecture at Chatham House

EC: Political Committee, Madrid (to 9 February)

John MacGregor and Kenneth Clarke give evidence to Agriculture Select Committee

Anglo/Irish Intergovernmental conference, London (prov)

STATISTICS

DEM: Overseas travel and tourism (Nov '88)

DEM: Detailed analysis of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators

PUBLICATIONS

HO: Code of practice for experiments on animals

PARLIAMENT

Commons:

Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth, Trade and Industry; Environment

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Land Registry (Reform) (Mr Anthony Coombs)

Debate on a Motion to take note of the White Paper "Broadcasting in the '90's Competition, Choice and Quality" (CM 517). Details of the relevant Home Affairs Committee Reports will be given in the Official Report

Motion on the Precept Limitation (Prescribed Maximum) (Inner London Education Authority) Order.

Adjournment Debates: The continued imprisonment in West Germany of Mr Alan Rees (Rt Hon D. Davies)

Select Committees:

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Subject: Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union

Witnesses: Rt Hon Geoffrey Howe MP, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials

WELSH AFFAIRS

Subject: The Channel Tunnel

Witness: Steer, Davies and Gleave

ENERGY

Subject: UK/USSR Energy Relations

Witnesses: British Coal, Dowty Mining Equipment Ltd and John Brown plc

AGRICULTURE

Subject: Salmonella in Eggs

Witnesses: Rt Hon John MacGregor OBE MP, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mr Richard Ryder OBE MP, Parliamentary Secretary, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke MP, Secretary of State for Health

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: The work of the Commission for Racial Equality

Witness: Commission for Racial Equality

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: AIDS

Witnesses: Mr David Mellor QC MP

Minister of State and Sir Donald Acheson KBE, Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health

TRANSPORT

Subject: Roads for the Future

Witnesses: Institute for Civil Engineers (4.15 pm); County Surveyors Society (5.00 pm)

COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS

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

Lords:

Starred Questions

Debate on the problems of Sunday trading and on the legal restrictions thereon and their enforcement

UQ to ask HMG whether they are aware of the implications of the cuts in local services being imposed by the controlling Conservative group on the City of Bradford, and whether they propose to take any action

MINISTERS

- See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Edwina Currie agrees to see Select Committee today after it votes 9-1 to invite her or, if she doesn't go, to summon her through Commons vote.

Michael Howard tells private water companies to limit their price increases to 10%.

Plans for water privatisation suffers another setback as EC rules that Nicholas Ridley's attempt to evade rules on the purity of drinking water is illegal (Times).

Telegraph says pressure on water companies to think again is rising; feature says companies' announcement of 30-50% price rises wrong-footed the Government.

Privatisation of the water industry under siege as you struggled in the Commons to limit the political damage caused by charges (Independent).

Ministers put pressure on water companies to reduce price rises. Michael Howard plans to summon for talks the chairmen of any companies that continue to insist on price rises above 10% (FT).

European Commission appears to have ruled out any exemption for the UK from EC's agreed water purity rules (FT).

British Gas will today warn industrial consumers that most must expect significant tariff changes after April 1 (FT).

Economists at Morgan Grenfell say house prices need to fall by more than 20% if affordable levels relative to incomes are to be restored (FT).

Fred Olsen emerges as possible investor in management buy-out at Harland & Wolff (FT).

USA accuses Israel of human rights violations in its treatment of Palestinian uprising; this brings fears that Bush Administration will be less reliable supporters of Israel than Reagan's.

Channon to press for international air security drive at meeting of foreign aviation ministers in Montreal next week (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

You are to raise subject of EC frauds at next European heads of Government meeting. Mr Richard Cottrell MEP, says frauds could cost up to £8billion and has written to you saying no amount of extra surveillance will solve the problem (Times).

Backbench Finance Committee wants Chancellor to cut taxes in Budget.

Leith McGrindle, in Express, says the fashionable belief that Britain faces a savings crisis is largely nonsense; total national savings in Britain have changed little since 1980. Personal savings have dropped but those in corporate financial sector have jumped.

Telegraph says Chancellor looks likely to rely on high interest rates to boost savings.

Tory Backbenchers want to get rid of closed shop: more than 150 MPs sign motion saying retention is "indefensible". About time we got rid of it, says Express - a cosy conspiracy against the individual. Independent says Norman Fowler is resisting this pressure.

Plessey condemns as "outrageous" the latest plans by GEC and Siemens to control the company (Times).

Plans for sale of British Rail could be published by Government this year as Paul Channon engages three firms of consultants to examine details (Times).

Britain losing world leadership in nuclear power because Government have no coherent policy for long-term research (Independent).

Air Europe orders £100million worth of Rolls-Royce engines; airline to spend £1.6billion over 5 years to cash in on boom in long haul holiday travel.

Sir Frank Cooper, in new book, says high turnover of defence Ministers in past 40 years has damaged the management of Britain's weapons procurement programme (Times).

Major crackdown on drunk and dangerous drivers announced by Government.

Policewoman badly injured when pushed through a plate glass window last night by a gang of scuffling louts in Gloucester.

PRESS DIGEST

Express says the Government was last night celebrating the "taming" of the POA at Wandsworth.

Independent leader says Home Office gamble over Wandsworth paid off. The Wandsworth officers' intransigence diminished the Union's credibility and weakened its hand in future disputes over manning levels. Home Office has strengthened its own position with its high-risk high-profile response.

Kenneth Clarke is considering ways to limit increases in Britain's £2billion a year pharmaceuticals bill by purchasing more drugs from other parts of Europe where products are cheaper (FT).

Private developers are being asked to put up £100million towards new NHS hospital in Bromley in the first implementation of the Government's NHS reform proposals (Independent).

Government to ban the sale of human organs this year.

Sir James Scott-Hopkins MEP preparing emergency motion for European Parliament calling for investigation and possible Continent-wide ban on sale of human organs (Times).

Two firms at the centre of the case in which AIDS refuse was dumped at a landfill tip in Cheshire instead of being burned are to be prosecuted.

Greenpeace claims radioactivity around British nuclear sea bases is nine times higher than Government estimates.

Warnings go out for better maintenance of water-cooled air conditioning systems as one man dies of Legionnaires disease and 26 others have fallen ill in London (Times).

Kenneth Baker announces £123million research grant (out of total research budget of £824million) for environment.

Mail thinks Berkshire will set the pace for opting out of schools because pioneer has been made Director of Education.

David Nicholas appointed chairman and chief executive of ITN.

Granada is about to tell Government it should be allowed to run 24-hour television service to compete with satellite broadcasters (FT).

Protesters urge Nicholas Ridley to call in plans for £100million development at Royal Opera House (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Mother, 35, murdered by raiders in house near Wendover.

Rail viaduct destroyed by floods in Inverness.

Jack Ashley MP to retire at the next election.

Bjorn Borg rushed to hospital for treatment after overdose of 60 sleeping pills.

Iran's Foreign Minister has talks at FCO during enforced stop-over in London. Foreign Secretary presses him on hostages (Times).

Royal Navy's sea patrol boat Endurance damaged in collision with iceberg in Antarctic.

Soviet Union acknowledges Kabul is now virtually blockaded.

£0.5million aid to Afghanistan: an attempt to make up for apparently callous Foreign Office attitude (Independent).

FT diary has item on launch today of Bruges Group too promote discussion about Europe. It takes its name from your speech last September. Independent says "Thatcherite economics" are to be promoted in Europe by a Bruges Group of Gaullist right-wing intellectuals who are launching a campaign tonight against Delors-type European integration.

During his meeting with you yesterday Fernandez Ordenez suggested Gibraltar should become a kind of European Hong Kong as a way of solving dispute between Britain and Spain over sovereignty (Independent).

EGGS

Star page 2 - Egwina cracks and says "I'll talk".

Sun page 1 - Edwina is not polite to press: tells them to p... off, according to Sun, after deciding to give evidence. Feature on "The has beens behind witch hunt for Edwina". Petty party colleagues, dwarfed by her powerful personality, have plotted to make her stand trial.

Mirror page 2 - Edwina gives up in a fury. Four letter rage as she faces MPs.

PRESS DIGEST

Today page 1 - Edwina cracks but will not talk. Curious leader says the hounding of Mrs Currie over her remarks on salmonella in eggs is right in practice but wrong in principle. It is right the Committee has ordered her to appear before them.

Express page 1 - Edwina gives in to quiz over eggs row.

Mail page 1 - Wilting Edwina averts a crisis. But her encounter with Committee may do nothing to help answer food hygiene problem.

Telegraph page 1 - Currie bows reluctantly to ultimatum from MPs. Jock Bruce-Gardyne, on "The strange case of the reluctant Commons star" says Mrs Currie has now flouted club rules on a scale which makes her eventual return to the front bench difficult to envisage. But the Government cannot be entirely happy with the Agriculture Committee's pretensions. And he believes that if it had come to a vote on whether Mrs Currie should appear the Commons would have recognised the silly side to them.

Guardian page 1 lead - Currie will testify in eggs row after "grudging climbdown".

Times page 1 - Edwina Currie bows to overwhelming pressure and agrees to appear before Select Committee as a "personal courtesy". Her climbdown came after Committee presented her with an ultimatum - comply or face the humiliation of a Commons' motion compelling her to appear. Consensus at Westminster is that her stand has severely jeopardised her hopes of returning to Government.

Independent - Edwina Currie agrees to appear before Select Committee today.

DRIVING LAW

Mirror leader says no-one can seriously complain about the proposed toughening in the law. But there needs to be a change of habits - and for get-you-home services from pubs.

Express says Britain has the best road safety in Europe but with 5,000 killed and 300,000 injured each year it brings little comfort. The Government's crackdown is welcome.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail leads with TV traps for bad drivers - police spy cameras on busy roads and motorways. Leader says the explicit and laudable aim of Paul Channon is to reduce the casualty figures by one-third. His formula ought to produce results by increasing changes of detection and conviction.

Times - Drunk and bad drivers face tough new action. Leader under heading "Fitting the Punishment" says whether the proposals will lead to the one-third reduction in deaths and serious injury by the end of the century is far from clear, but the approach is right in principle.

Independent - Sweeping road traffic law reforms published: include new offence of dangerous driving and driving while unfit through drink or drugs. Backbench concern at stiff penalties for trivial offences.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DTI: Lord Young presents Design Council's British Insulating Calender Cable design prizes; later meets West German Parliamentary State Secretary, Dr Ludolf von Hartenberg and hosts Lancaster House dinner for Mr Kamenstev, Soviet Deputy Prime Minister
- DTP: Mr Channon, Mr Patten and Lord James Douglas Hamilton host press conference on Road and Traffic Laws White Paper, London
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor addresses Department of Agriculture, Newcastle University
- WO: Mr Walker opens Development Plastics new extension, Pontyclun; later performs stone laying ceremony for Patent Office, Tredegar Park
- DEM: Mr Lee visits Newton Abbott, Devon and opens Passage House Hotel and visits Royal National Institute of the Deaf
- DEM: Mr Cope opens branch of Lombard Natwest Credit Factoring International Ltd, Feltham, Middlesex; later opens Government Business Shop, Reading
- DES: Mr Butcher opens Legal and General Business Information Studies Unit, Kings Heath, Birmingham
- DSS: Lord Skelmersdale meets Roger Gale MP re Widows' Benefits
- DTI: Mr Atkins open Textile and Technology Exhibition, Manchester and visits companies in Bolton
- HO: Mr Hogg visits various venues in Brighton on drugs
- HO: Mr Patten launches Action Match Project and speaks on "Action in the Voluntary Sector", London
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington addresses Institute of Actuaries dinner, London
- MAFF: Mr Thompson addresses Institute of Refrigeration 89th anniversary dinner, London
- MAFF: Mr Ryder attends Safe Silage competition, The Brewery, Chiswell Street, London EC1
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses launch of Crafts Council's "Creative Eye" exhibition; later holds Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme reception, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DEN: Baroness Hooper attends Sanderstoben Energy Policy seminar, Norway (to 11 February)
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

MAFF: Mr MacGregor interviewed by Geoffrey Cannon, Guild of Food Writers

DES: Mrs Rumbold interviewed by Steve Jones, LBC Chat Show (13.15)

TV AND RADIO

"Dispatches": C4 (20.30)

"Flying Squad": Thames (21.00). New seven part documentary on the work of the Flying Squad in the Metropolitan Police
