

PRIME MINISTER

10 February 1989

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister photographed with children for 'Mail on Sunday'

The Duke and Duchess of York attend British film premiere of Slipstream Odean, Leicester Square

Lord Chancellor visits USA (to February 14)

House of Commons EC Legislation Select Committee visit Paris (to February 12)

High Court hears applications for injunctions against British Telecom on "Chatlines"

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STATISTICS

BSC/BISPA: Usable steel production (Jan)

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PUBLICATIONS

DOH: Government Response to the Social Services Committee on the Future of the NHS

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

National Identity Card Bill: 2nd Reading. (Mr Ralph Howell)

Hearing Aid Council (Amendment) Bill: 2nd Reading. (Mr Ieuan W Jones)

Alcohol Abuse (Scotland) Bill: 2nd Reading. (Mr James Hood)

Adjournment Debates: The East London traffic assessment studies (Mr B Sedgemore)

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Kinnock believed to be dropping unilateralist stance for multilateral talks. Brings fury in Left. Express thinks he has been "mugged by reality".

But will Kinnock stick to his new line?, wonders the media.

Government bans mineral hydrocarbon food additive.

John MacGregor told to eat more eggs for his ulcer.

Sainsbury issue warning about mercury in Cornish butter - shoppers asked to return all packets.

Mirror alleges a series of cover-ups about food poisoning over recent months - according to leaked papers produced by Robin Cook.

Plan to scrap an independent committee from inquiring into food risks blocked by Ministers. Guardian says inquiry was blocked by Treasury because its recommendations might cost too much.

Bank of England calls for tough Budget and for Chancellor to keep interest rates high for several more months.

FT's Lex column, on Bank of England bulletin, says it is a thinly disguised message to the Chancellor to keep pressure on interest rates for another three to six months, or until it becomes clear that demand really is slowing.

Trust assets flow out of UK amid fears that Government is about to remove tax advantages of setting up an offshore trust (FT).

Flight International claims British investigators are almost certain crossed wires played no part in the East Midlands crash last month (Independent).

Leon Brittan expected to call for British membership of EMS, according to Independent.

Queen's fleet of cars goes lead-free next week as Motability's lead free campaign opens. Queen to attend drive past to launch campaign on Monday. Mail claims credit for it all.

GMC may investigate Arabic newspaper advertisement offering kidney transplants at National Kidney Centre (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Brian Clough, Notts Forest manager, fined record £5,000 by FA and banned from touch line for a season for bringing game into disrepute for cuffing fans who invaded pitch. Far too severe (Sun). Rough justice but still justice (Today).

Public opinion survey finds 57% in favour of identity cards.

Times leader urges that a voluntary ID scheme be given more study and debate, adding that today's second reading debate on a Private Member's Bill is a good opportunity for this to begin.

Oil firms have made 125 bids for exploration licences in latest round of North Sea allocations.

£2.5million out of court settlement agreed in compensation to 25 survivors and relatives of victims of explosion at Lancashire water plant which killed 16.

Italian bank offering 10% mortgages.

ECGD's loss for 1986-87 tops £1billion (FT).

Consumers to get £5 a day if new water supply companies fail to deliver (Times).

Water companies implementing their threat to raise charges by between 30% and 50% from April 1 will have their accounts scrutinised by a firm of accountants appointed by the Government (FT).

European Commission is initiating fresh legal action against Britain for alleged breaches of drinking water standards (Independent).

UKAEA likely to be privatised in 5 or 6 years its chairman said last night (Independent).

Lecturers may get 6% rise without more Treasury money if vice-chancellors use cash reserves (Times).

Lord Chancellor to face hundreds of lawyers at Times conference on legal green papers (Times).

Survey shows £1billion needed to improve street lighting (Times).

Rate rises are feared as Knowsley Borough Council are ordered to pay Ford motor company £1million rebate after an appeal (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Cheltenham and district health authority is inviting businesses so sponsor hospitals, wards and teams of doctors and nurses (FT).

Heroin addiction spreading among suburban middle class (Independent).

You are boycotting young Tories' conference because of feuding between different factions.

Tory backbenchers expected to rebel over Official Secrets Bill guillotine measures on Monday (Independent).

Ferdy Mount, in Telegraph, thinks that the collapse of triumphal Unionism in Northern Ireland is matched by a more gradual but irreversible erosion of Catholic triumphalism in the south and that old Ireland is on its way out.

£2billion order for European Fighter Aircraft's radar system looks increasingly likely to go to consortium led by Ferranti (FT).

Basil de Ferranti left more than £16million.

James Baker to be pressed by British Government to ease restrictions on export of hi-tech goods to Soviet bloc.

Bush freezes defence spending but allows more on welfare and environmental programmes.

CIA director claims Iran, Syria and Iraq are stockpiling chemical arms (Times).

Michael Manley wins Jamaica general election, ousting Seaga after 8 years.

Afghans meet in Rawalpindi to select new leaders.

South African police to investigate disappearance of black teenager abducted by Winnie Mandela's bodyguards.

EGGS AND MICROBES

Star page 2 - Maggie's war on killer bugs. Leader says there is something profoundly rotten about our food industry and those who are supposed to control it.

Sun page 2 - New health alert as food oil is banned.

PRESS DIGEST

Mirror pages 2 & 3 - devotes two pages to ask "What the hell is going on with our food?", and claims Government cover up. Leader headed "Tell us the truth" says Messrs MacGregor and Clarke are failing in their duty to warn the public and have delayed, dithered and disagreed with each other - a new leaflet is like teaching granny to suck eggs.

Express page 2 - Thatcher acts over fear of poison food. Leader whacks egg farmers for their treatment of Edwina Currie and Richard Ryder. It says such conceit would be laughable had the Tory Party not shown a lamentable tendency to jump smartly to the farming lobby.

Mail page 2 - Maggie orders action over food scares. Leader headed "This crisis of confidence in the safety of our food" says the public remain totally confused over the threat to health. An education campaign is something but not enough. The public want the truth and action; not soothing syrup.

Telegraph page 1 lead - Health hazard warnings to be issued on food. Nearly half Cabinet taken up yesterday discussing this subject.

Guardian page 1 - Egg inquiry blocked by Treasury. Leader says the prevarications and confusion can't go on. Action is needed now on an array of fronts, including removing responsibility for food hygiene and safety from MAFF.

Times page 1 - Robin Cook claims that leaked minutes show MAFF and DOH Ministers conspired with the egg industry to play down the rise of outbreaks of salmonella.

Independent page 1 - Food poison report puts Government on defensive.

Independent - You announce leaflet campaign to advise the public on food safety as alarm grows over salmonella report that there could be 2 million cases of infection a year.

FT - Egg Producers Association claims sales of eggs are a third lower than last year.

FT - John Major is understood to have advised you against setting up a new independent committee to review improvements in food hygiene.

PRESS DIGESTPOLITICS

Independent - Labour policies will be geared to the centre ground voter in the next election and to appeal to those who voted SDP in the past. Policy includes dumping "shibboleths" including in defence and disarmament.

Independent - Cabinet Ministers claim the controversy over Edwina Currie's book has ruined her chances of an early return to Government.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Mr Baker is guest speaker at the Newspaper Conference annual luncheon, International Press Centre, London
- DTI: Lord Young visits South East
- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses William and Mary Tercentenary dinner, London
- HO: Mr Hurd visits Surrey Probation Service, Guildford
- DEM: Mr Cope tours West Midlands and meets Employment Training and Youth Training Scheme providers and trainees, Stafford; later addresses Wolverhampton Chamber of Commerce, dinner
- DEM: Mr Lee delivers keynote address at "Flexible Training for Tourism in Lancashire" conference, Lancs
- DES: Mr Jackson addresses Commonwealth Institute on "Studies of the Commonwealth in British Higher Education", London
- DES: Mr Butcher visits Michelin Tyres school/industry links seminar in Birmingham
- DOE: Lord Caithness visits Halifax Building Society, Halifax
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley visits Nottingham
- DTI: Mr Atkins visits Leyland Bus Company, Lancashire
- WO: Mr Grist addresses National Association for Care and Resettlement of Offenders seminar on youth crime prevention, Bridgend
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- LCD: Lord Mackay visits America (to February 14)
- DH: Mr Mellor visits Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (to 17 February)
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DTI: Lord Young interviewed on BBC Today Programme 'A Day in Brussels'; later appears on BBC's "Any Questions"
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TV AND RADIO

"Analysis": Radio 4 (11.00). "The Next Nuclear Generation". Asks whether the Electricity Bill will save the nuclear industry from stagnation or decline

"On Trial": C4 (20.00). Final programme in the series, looks at the state of the English legal system

"Any Questions": BBC Radio 4 (20.05) with Lord Young of Graffham, Lord Jenkins, Marjorie Mowlam MP and Sally O'Sullivan, Editor of "She" magazine

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