

23 February 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets delegation of Northern Ireland MPs

Richmond and Pontypridd by-elections

EC: Fisheries Council, Brussels

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STATISTICS

DEN: Energy Trends (Dec)

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PUBLICATIONS

HMT: Jack report on banking services law and practice

HO: Prisons in Scotland 1987 Annual Report

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Treasury; Home Office; Prime Minister

Business: Debate on a Motion to take note of the White Paper on Developments in the European Community, January - June 1988

Motion to take note of EC Documents relating to the Prevention and Reduction of Air Pollution from Municipal Waste Incineration Plants. Details will be given in the Official Report.

Adjournment Debates: The case for a code of practice on the sale of electrical appliances with plugs (Mr D Sumbery)

Select Committees: EUROPEAN LEGISLATION  
Subject: C A P price fixing proposals  
Witness: Mr John MacGregor, MP

Lords: Starred Questions  
Elected Authorities (Northern Ireland) Bill: Committee  
Cardiff Bay Barrage Bill (HL): Second Reading  
Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Goats: Motion for Approval  
Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Farmed Deer: Motion for Approval  
Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock - Sheep: Motion for Approval

UQ to to ask HMG whether the proposals in the draft Code of Practice on industrial balloting are likely to improve industrial relations, separate legal summonses from "good practice"

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Iran's president says Rushdie's problem has no solution except in his death.

Mitterand describes threats as "absolute evil" and West German Cabinet decide to refer issue to UN Security Council.

Times looks at what trade sanctions against Iran could cost Japan, Sweden, Italy, West Germany, Canada, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand and the Netherlands; it says it may be difficult to implement a plan.

EC stand-off with Iran may benefit East, as Iran quietly opens a consulate in Shanghai (FT).

The literary lions of America emerged growling from their dens yesterday in belated defence of Salman Rushdie (Times).

Bishop of Bradford offers to co-ordinate new forum to try to repair damage to race relations in the city over book (Times).

Man arrested after petrol bomb hurled at wall of Regent's Park Mosque.

Britain's envoys return home from Tehran.

Former pop star, Cat Stevens, now a Muslim, backs Ayatollah: Rushdie must be killed, he says.

Claims that Army lost 39 minutes before reporting attack on Shrewsbury barracks to police. Mail says this "saved" the bombers.

British soldier on children's bus run shot dead near school gates in Londonderry.

Animal Rights bomb believed to have damaged Senate House at Bristol University.

Times leader looks at budgetary problems in US and West Germany saying that Nigel Lawson should aim to err on the side of caution in his Budget. He should take the long view and the Government should lend every effort to bringing down inflation so that it can face the electorate in the 1990s with a fundamentally sounder economy as well as a richer one.

PRESS DIGEST

CBI's chief economic adviser, Douglas McWilliams, says British economic growth is likely to exceed that in the rest of Europe for most of the next 10 years (FT).

Sterling falls by nearly 1.5% over past two days (FT).

US markets drop sharply following 0.6% rise in consumer price index and 0.6% rise in real earnings (FT).

Unit trust sales for January reach highest since stock market crash (FT).

Labour planning onslaught on Government's inflation record at Treasury Questions today, after an attack on Chancellor last night by John Smith who accused him of practising "the economics of the one-armed bandit" (Times).

Revealed that wife of Dr Wyatt wrote the covering note accompanying the letter from 11 paediatricians backing Dr Marietta Higgs in Cleveland sex abuse case.

Cleveland parents seek urgent meeting with David Mellor over doctor's campaign supporting paediatricians.

National survey shows 4 out of 5 GPs believe proposals to reform the medical profession will not improve services (Times).

Conservatives pictured as fighting to prevent Richmond from falling into hands of SDP.

Express leads with "Owen's surge shakes Tories" even though poll gives Conservatives 41%; SDP 25%; and SLD 21%.

Mail: Owen surge has Tories worried.

Peter Jenkins, in Independent, noting that according to the latest opinion poll the combined vote of the SDP and SLD would be enough to defeat the Conservatives at Richmond, believes that the electoral system virtually ensures that until the Labour party becomes electable once more the Conservatives will remain in power.

Sir Raymond Gower MP dies after canvassing in Pontypridd; another by-election now due in Vale of Glamorgan.

PRESS DIGEST

You should stop reacting to events with "shoot-from-the-hip" legislation says Enoch Powell. Talking to Cambridge University Conservatives he is quoted as saying the Government reacts to events that give cause for alarm or indignation with the use of haphazard legislation. His speech will be used by the Opposition as evidence that you have fulfilled the warning of Francis Pym that the Government could become an elective distatorship (Independent).

Today says Britain leads Western world as a share-owning democracy with 20% of adults having a stake in a public company ; leader describes it as the great revolution.

Householders face increased bills to pay for £4billion extra required to clean up beaches and fit meters.

Times leader says the state of many beaches is a disgrace. Holidays at home are growing more popular and the holidaymaker expects something better than was deemed acceptable 20 years ago.

Warrington Council orders destruction of Runcorn housing estate, known as Legoland, designed by one of greatest contemporary architects, because it cannot afford cost of maintenance.

Trade & Industry Select Committee will today back privatisation of Harland & Wolff and of Short Brothers (FT).

Blue Arrow Personnel Services to start child voucher scheme so that working mothers will have freedom to choose a child minder (Times).

Children could find themselves spending extra hours at school to help more women re-enter the labour market. Patrick Nicholls says care of school-age children can be a significant barrier to women returning to work. their needs are different from those of toddlers. The Department of Education is preparing a paper on "Child care facilities and school premises" (Independent).

A quality assurance scheme for British eggs, which would be tougher than proposed legislation, has been held up for nine months by the food poisoning debate (Independent).

Rail unions threatening industrial action if they don't get a double figures pay rise.

Militant teachers call for ballot on industrial action against 6% pay rise (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

CPSA votes against allowing YTS trainees into the civil service (FT).

British Midland cuts London-Dublin fares by 40% from April 28.

David Trippier believes that far too few people realise how much the Government has done for Inner Cities. In future when there is any development or regeneration in the inner cities a blue sign will be erected on the buildings or land which makes it clear the Government has made a contribution.

Mail leads with report that Britain's "soft" judges have been exposed by information released by Home Office; in 60% of cases Douglas Hogg felt judges were being too lenient over releases on licence.

Legal reform could spark constitutional crisis says the most senior family law judge, Sir Stephen Brown (Times).

British Transport Police report that more than half their officers on Tube were assaulted last year.

Mail also attacks 3-year sentences on two Underground muggers and relates them to words of judge who passed them "This violence has to be stopped ... those who commit it can expect no mercy".

Claim that acid rain has killed all the trout in a fishing lake at Balmoral.

Beechams end production of aerosols using CFCs.

Scientists testing a fridge and microwave oven after 7 people in a flat in Rotherham collapsed with a mystery illness.

EC may overturn block on imports of irradiated food according to report by food experts at Bradford University (Times).

Department of Health mount urgent investigation into fake ulcer drug which has been illicitly imported into Britain (Times).

Broadcasting Standards Council issues new rules covering sex and violence on TV. Guardian doubts whether it will make a haporth of difference.

Skegness Grammar School, which is pioneering opting out, signs a £10,000 computer equipment sponsorship and there are plenty more in pipeline (Today).

PRESS DIGEST

Guardian says Conservative and Labour councillors in Wandsworth united last night to warn they could not provide education service without more Government funds.

Six more GCHQ union members sacked; one left.

Henley Centre survey shows that the great British institutions that once shaped British life are losing their grip; we now listen to family and friends more than politicians, Church and unions.

Allegations that the Speaker used a four-letter word during exchanges in the House; Anthony Beaumont-Dark wants broadcasting procedures reviewed.

David Coleman, BBC commentator, suffers heart attack.

Lady Stevens' funeral on Monday.

Guardian says Britain has agreed to phase out mile, pint and pounds and ounces by the end of the century.

Star prints tribute to Britain by Charles Price, US Ambassador.

Sun leader says presence of Duke of Edinburgh and Foreign Secretary at Hirohito's funeral tomorrow is an outrage and insult. Mail leader hopes that Prince Philip won't bow or nod before the coffin.

British boxer, Dennis Andries, wins world light heavyweight championship at age of 39.

You unveil Vietnamese boat people deal after meeting with Hong Kong Governor (Times).

UK softens line on boat people. Sir David Wilson says Britain does not intend "at this stage" to repatriate refugees against their will. The Governor's statement was considerably milder than his comments on Hong Kong radio on Tuesday (FT).

Hong Kong Governor, Sir David Wilson, gave the impression yesterday that he had changed his mind about the forcible repatriation of Vietnamese boat people. After meeting you and Geoffrey Howe he said many factors had to be considered in dealing with the problem. The Independent assumes that at the moment you would not be pleased to be seen as a heartless persecutor of helpless refugees.

PRESS DIGEST

Soviets press for international Middle East conference;  
Shevardnadze seen as stealing march on Bush.

Guardian leads with Russians healing rift with Israel.

Pol Pot said to have voluntarily given up leadership of Khmer Rouge.

TV GUIDELINES

Today says the BBC's first reaction to the new Broadcasting Standards Council code on sex and violence is that it reflects its own guidelines. If so, there must be something wrong with the old and new code when "The Firm" which shows some of the most violence actions ever screened is to be put out.

POLITICS

Mirror claims Tories are bracing themselves for a close finish in Richmond; leader says Government deserves two black eyes in by-election today. Its incompetence is matched only by its complacency.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Mr Baker visits Lichfield Cathedral school, Staffordshire
- DH: Mr Clarke meets delegation from Royal College of Nursing, London
- HO: Mr Hurd speaks on Broadcasting White Paper at National Film Theatre, London
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor lunches with Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, London
- DES: Mr Butcher visits Nottingham Inner City Task Force; later launches the Business Connection and gives address on "The role of women in industry", Nottingham
- DH: Mr Freeman visits Bloomsbury Health Authority Advocacy Service, London
- DH: Mr Mellor attends Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust service of thanksgiving and rededication, Westminster Abbey, London
- DOE: Mr Gummer meets London Boroughs Grant Committee re the Government's response to the Widdicombe Report
- DTp: Mr Bottomley addresses Society of Community Medicine, Huddersfield
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley meets Tidy Britain Group on litter, London
- HO: Mr Patten addresses National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders conference, Leicester
- HO: Mr Renton addresses dinner of the Institute of Electrical and Radio Engineers on "Broadcasting", London
- OAL: Mr Luce speaks at presentation ceremony of the West Sussex Gazette, Young Musician of the Year competition, Worthing
- WO: Mr Grist addresses Council of the Institute of Housing annual dinner, London
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTI: Mr Clark visits Muscat
- FCO: Mr Eggar visits Costa Rica, Honduras, for San Jose V conference, and Guatemala (to 6 March)
- MAFF: Mr Thompson attends Fisheries Council, Brussels
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DH: Mr Freeman interviewed by BBC Radio for a documentary on Care in the Community (to be broadcast on local radio in March)
- DTI: Mr Maude interviewed by Radio West Midlands (personal profile)
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TV AND RADIO

- "Nature": BBC 2 (20.30). Examines planning blight in one part of London and a look at radioactivity in the Irish Sea
- "Holiday '89": BBC 1 (20.00). Includes a report on air traffic congestion
- "This Week": Thames (20.30). A Fistful of Dollars. A look at the marketing of Frank Bruno in the run up to his fight with Mike Tyson
- "Question Time": BBC 1 (22.00). With David Blunkett MP, Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, Jim Sillars MP and Judy Steel
- "The City Programme"; Thames (22.35)
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