

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen holds an Investiture at Buckingham Palace

The Princess Royal visits New Zealand (to March 6)

William Waldegrave visits Israel (to March 8)

STATISTICS

DTp: New motor vehicle registrations (Jan '89)

OPCS: Census newsletter (No.8)

OPCS: Infectious diseases (March Qtr 1988)

OPCS: Mortality surveillance (1968 - 1985)

OPCS: Longitudinal study: Women's migration: Marriage, fertility and divorce (1971-1988)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Education and Science; Defence; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Installation of Smoke Detectors. (Mr Alistair Burt)
Debate of the Royal Navy on a Motion for the Adjournment

Adjournment Debates: The use of pesticides for wood treatment in domestic buildings (Mr M Jones)

Select Committees: MEMBERS' INTERESTS
Subject: Parliamentary lobbying
Witness: GEC

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS

Associated British Ports (No 2)
North Killingholme Cargo Terminal

Lords: Starred Questions
Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Bill: Committee
Heathrow Express Railway Bill (HL): Second Reading

PRESS DIGESTMain News

£6billion wiped off value of shares by jumpy Stock Exchange in advance of trade figures tomorrow.

With relative weakness of pound, concern lest interest rates may have to rise further.

Andrew Alexander sees investors coming back to earth after optimism about interest rates.

Shares fall £5.5billion as pound weakens and markets fear interest rate rise (Times). Leader calls for tight monetary and cautious fiscal policy in Budget. Given that, 13% interest rates are probably high enough.

Speculation that UK interest rates will have to rise again intensifies as pound falls sharply despite four bouts of intervention by Bank of England. Lex sympathises with market unease, suggesting that trade figures apart, what is happening is an international phenomenon with sterling at the mercy of tightening by others (FT).

NIESR quarterly review calls on Chancellor to avoid big tax concessions in the Budget and instead map out a tight fiscal policy for some years ahead (FT). It also predicts a sharp slowdown in economic growth.

GATT announces that volume of world trade in goods grew by 8.5% last year, compared with 5.5% rise of 1987 (FT).

British Moslem leaders pledge to steer clear of violence - to seek legal redress ... but

Government declines to extend blasphemy to other religions.

Demonstrators in Moscow urge Ayatollah to call of death order.

You thank European allies for support during Paris summit; Express says you warned Moslems living in Britain to live within the law.

Express reports Mullahs' claim that 10,000 dissidents in Iranian jails have been executed in last 6 months.

PRESS DIGEST

Moscow uses Rushdie row to boost Iran links. On his visit to Tehran, Shevardnadze is reported to have told his hosts: "We have come to the conclusion that it is a must to acknowledge others' beliefs and respect them". Times letters page includes one from Roald Dahl which criticises Rushdie as a dangerous opportunist who must have been aware of the violent feelings his book would stir up and is guilty of sensationalism to reach the top of the best seller list.

Owen takes Ashdown offer of an electoral pact at slow pace and several papers say he administered snub to SLD leader; Ashdown wins backing of SLD party hierarchy for talks.

John Grant, SDP, describes offer as a poisoned chalice.

Hammersmith & Fulham Council's financial problems revealed by Independent. It says that Whitehall will not comment on Hammersmith & Fulham's financial problems until the council has explained its position.

Guardian leads with possibility of cash cards replacing pension books and benefit Giro cheques under DSS plans.

Adam Smith Institute proposes single tier local authorities with paid councillors working through local cabinets (FT).

Smiths Industries wins £100million order for navigation system for US tank.

4 Marconi managers, including general, arrested in connection with fraud inquiries related to Government contracts.

National Institute of Economic and Social Research calls for sweeping changes in training of engineers (Times).

FT leader says Shorts' special position in Northern Ireland can be overestimated and certainly should not be used as an excuse for insulating the company from commercial realities. Lex argues that size of Government bribe to would-be bidders will have to be all the greater if the company is to avoid being split up.

Tube drivers want extra £100 a week and £23,000 back pay to operate trains without guard.

Jaguar offers 9,000 production workers an extra 50p a week not to strike.

PRESS DIGEST

Sainsbury to create 10,000 jobs in 38 new stores over next 12 months.

Lucas to create 600 jobs in Ystradynglais with £20million order to provide Rover parts.

British Telecom is being forced to refund millions of pounds a year to customers who have been overcharged, according to firms which specialise in bill-chasing (Times).

Labour produces letters claimed to confirm that water companies intend to press ahead with 50% price rises (Times).

Mail says water privatisation is a PR disaster for Government; it will get the blame for cost of cleaning up consequences of past neglect. Instead it pocketing proceeds of sale, Government should plough it back into improvements.

Home Office to launch nationwide debate on whether we should fall into line with EC on summer-time.

Elderly woman, forced to stand 5 hours from Cheltenham to Newcastle upon Tyne in crowded train gets £25 fare refunded. Today wants it to be a precedent.

Man who stole BR sandwich ordered to see a psychiatrist by magistrate who doubted his sanity - and had to spend 24 days in prison.

Mirror exposes landlord said to be raking in £100,000 a year at expense of ratepayers and homeless accommodation is lodging houses.

BSE report goes quietly but Today says Government is dragging its feet again.

Sun finds listeria in Harrods' cheese.

Express reports Government caught up in a new row over salmonella in chickens and eggs - funds for development of method of immunising chickens not available.

Independent asks why Britain is backing a scheme to give 100 EC scientists up to £950 a week to do nothing.

Mail reports survey claiming worries about food safety have caused a quarter of housewives to avoid eggs and 10% have cut down on ready prepared meats.

PRESS DIGEST

Bill to ban trade in human organs will be introduced in two months, Ministers hope (Times).

Green Party wants Chancellor to put £1 on a gallon of petrol and double car tax to slow down global warming.

Green Party claims the ozone layer conference is addressing the wrong issue. Government should be looking at the broader issue of global climatic change (Times).

Peter Bottomley under all party pressure to cut drink/drive alcohol limit.

National Association of Head Teachers says that with growth of other faiths Government's requirement that morning prayers should be of a "broadly Christian character" is a formula for "chaos and mayhem"

Express leader notes the success of Lake District village school in winning gold star from inspectors for its educational standards.

Mark Douglas-Home writes that the Scottish Office is considering allowing thousands of tenants to buy their homes for the same outlay as their rent.

Warrington's decision to give management of 4,200 homes to housing associations without a tenants' ballot leads to criticism of the Government's housing policy says Independent.

Home Office Select Committee wants courts to have power to order genetic fingerprinting of all violent criminals as a deterrent.

IRA semtex recovered from drained reservoir in North London - almost certain it came from Clapham bomb factory.

IRA bomb kills retired police inspector in Belfast.

Telegraph says disciplinary hearings on 20 "shoot to kill" RUC officers are to be heard in two weeks.

Express expects a storm of protest over violent scenes in "Flying Squad" film to be screened by Thames tomorrow.

BBC gets complaints for screening "The Firm", a savage play about soccer hooliganism; Colin Moynihan says glorifying hooliganism was "unhelpful".

PRESS DIGEST

BBC in trouble for paying a jailbird £3,500, which he used to go on a spree, as a fee for helping with a film about his life. He was on run from prison sentence. Teddy Taylor MP raises issue with Home Secretary.

Home Affairs Committee claims Forensic Science Service is under-funded, overworked and suffering from rock-bottom morale.

38 suspected illegal immigrants arrested yesterday in raid on cut price clothing factory in East End.

William Rees Mogg looks at lessons for Britain in America's soaring murder rates and predicts that crime will be more important in the next general election.

MPs agree to have an independent company to produce Commons TV signal.

David Frost gets £2.5million pay-off from American TV only 2 months into his contract.

Prince Charles skis again in Klosters - ignores avalanche warnings.

1,000 demonstrators fight running battle with police as President Bush arrives in Korea.

Sun takes Teddy Kennedy, "of Chappaquiddick", to task for opposing confirmation of John Tower.

Times valedictory to Charles Price says there is general agreement that the Anglo-American special relationship might have become less special but for his skills.

Fragile consensus over EC common fisheries policy is about to be threatened by a bitter quota poaching row involving Britain, Spain and the European Commission (FT).

BSE

Star page 7 - Tough moves on cow killer bug. Government acts quickly.

Mirror page 2 - Safety move over baby foods.

Today page 1 - Families face a 10-year wait to see if they have BSE from eating meat products.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail page 2 - Baby food alert over cattle disease fears.

Times - Danger of cattle ailment in humans is 'remote'.

Telegraph back page - Baby Food ban to avert risk of cattle madness.

ANGLO/FRENCH SUMMIT

Star, Sun, Mirror and Today ignore it.

Express has tiny piece which says you and Mitterrand agreed that West Germany should decide whether to modernise SNF.

Mail subsumes summit in Rushdie affair report.

Times picture on page 9, under headline "Summit bonhomie and Camembert". You and M Mitterrand were at pains to emphasise how much each side benefits from the regular encounters.

FT page 2 - Thatcher and Mitterrand fail to bridge differences over NATO nuclear missile, and picture.

Independent - You thanked President Mitterrand for a splendid response to the Rushdie affair and raised the import of British Nissan cars. Picture on front page.

Telegraph - You fail to persuade Mitterrand to lift restriction on Nissan cars or to back your stand on updating NATO weapons.

Guardian - Thatcher threatens the Hague ozone talks boycott.

POLITICS

Star leader headed "A study in arrogance" says Ashdown must be feeling under the weather. His peace offer received with insultingly curt reply from Owen.

Sun - Owen's snub for Paddy poll pact.

Mirror - Push off, Paddy! Owen snubs pact.

Today - Paddy warned over SDP deal - runs into row with party chiefs.

PRESS DIGEST

Express - Owen snubs truce call from Ashdown. Leader says Owen is not going to get a grand coalition; Kinnock is not in that business. It notes David Marguanel says that if the voters think a pact is merely an opportunistic trick to win seats it would fail.

Mail - Ashdown gets backing from his party hierarchy for talks with Owen.

Independent leader says Paddy Ashdown showed a lack of tactical sense in offering a by-election deal to SDP.

David Owen, in an article, argues for a period of 'quiet deliberation on the potential benefits of electoral pacts and constitutional coalition'.

Telegraph - Fevered centre parties are urged to cool it by Owen.

Guardian - SLD chiefs reject revised pact plan - Ashdown wins backing for by-election pacts (not general elections) but not for bypassing Owen; Leader thinks recent events may actually have reinforced your position.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler addresses, and Mr Cope, Mr Lee and Mr Nicholls attend Training and Enterprise Councils dinner, Lancaster House, London; Mr Lee also attends launch of Tourism and Training Initiative, London
- DTI: Lord Young addresses Institute of Directors, Royal Albert Hall, London; also addresses Institute of Chartered Accountants, London
- DTI: Mr Newton addresses Bovis on "Urban Regeneration"; also addresses BIC Community Affairs Forum on "Business in the Community", London
- DTp: Mr Channon visits the BBC to see Radio Data System in action, London
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor speaks at the official opening of Foss Barrier, York
- DH: Mr Mellor attends British Postgraduates Medical Foundation presentation, London
- DH: Mr Freeman visits Hammersmith and Queen Charlotte's Hospital to see computer system, London
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley attends launch of Colonel Saunders Awards, Tidy Britain Group, London
- DOE: Lord Caithness meets MPs on housing, London
- DOE: Mr Gummer meets Salvation Army re community charge, London
- DTI: Mr Forth addresses Design Fair exhibition and conference, Brighton
- DTI: Mr Clarke meets Mr Pirinski, Bulgarian First Deputy Minister of Exterior and Economic Relations re corrosion control
- DTp: Lord Brabazon visits the Port of Dundee; later addresses the Aerospace Corrosion Control conference, Gleneagles
- FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses conference on South Africa organised by British Council of Churches, Church House, Westminster, London
- ODA: Mr Patten addresses Kings College, Cambridge, on "The Environment"
- SO: Lord Sanderson addresses Confederation of British Industry seminar on "1992", Gleneagles Hotel, Auchterarder, Perthshire
- WO: Mr Roberts addresses, and Mr Grist attends St David's Day lunch, House of Lords
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Mr Waldegrave visits Jordan, Israel and the Occupied Territories (to 8 March)
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DTI: Lord Young interviewed by US Journal of Commerce on GATT
- HMT: Mr Lawson gives general interview to BBC for broadcast on Budget Day
- DH: Mr Freeman interviewed by Pass Magazine
- DOE: Lord Caithness interviewed on BBC 2's Education Programme (to be broadcast on 3 April)
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TV AND RADIO

- 'The Open Learning Business': C4 (13.00)
- 'Open Space': BBC2 (20.00). Looks at work of Art Circus, Yorkshire
- 'The Radio 4 Debates': R4 (20.00). Students from Birmingham University debate that "the freedom of the British media is being seriously and unnecessarily eroded"
- 'Concerning Cancer: The Enemy Within': C4 (21.00). Follows last 12 months of writer John Morgan
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