

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen attends the Commonwealth Day Service at Westminster Abbey, London; later attends a reception at Lancaster House, London

The Princess Royal visits the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, at Werl, West Germany (to 14 March)

EC: Internal Market Council, Brussels

EC: ECOFIN Council, Brussels

EC: European Parliament Plenary, Strasbourg (to 17 March)

EC: Informal meeting of Culture Ministers, Toledo (to 14 March)

DSS: Local Office Computerisation Project goes live in Crosby Integrated Local Office

STATISTICS

DTI: Vehicle production (Feb)

DTI: Retail sales (Feb-prov)

DTI: Producer price index numbers (Feb)

PUBLICATIONS

DES: Elton Report on School Discipline

DSS: Government response to Social Services Committee 1987/88: Public Expenditure on Social Services

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Transport; Wales; Energy

Business: Motion on the Easter Adjournment, for three hours. Proceedings on the Consolidated Fund (No.2) Bill: All Stages

Adjournment Debates: Proposed alterations to Surrey structure plan affecting H rley (Mr G Gardiner)

Select Committees: ENERGY
Subject: Energy Policy Implications of the Greenhouse Effect
Witness: Baroness Hoper. Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy and Officials from the Department of Energy

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Welsh Office

Witness: Sir Richard Lloyd Jones, KCB, Permanent Secretary, Welsh Office

ENVIRONMENT

Subject: British Waterways Board

Witness: Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council

TELEVISIONING OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE

Witness: Assistant Serjeant at Arms

Lords: Starred Questions
Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Bill: Third Reading
Elected Authorities (Northern Ireland) Bill: Third Reading
Debate on the Report of the ECC on Compliance with Public
Procurement Directives
European Parliamentary Elections (Northern Ireland)(Amendment)
Regulations 1989: Motion for Approval
Appropriation (Northern Ireland) Order 1989: Motion for Approval

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Conservatives increase lead over Labour 41/37/9/9.

Iran fails to win prominence for Rushdie affair at Riyadh meeting of 45 Islamic countries as Prince and Princess of Wales start tour of Kuwait and UAE.

Tehran urges economic boycott against UK.

FBI given name of Syrian who it believes may be linked with Lockerbie disaster and bombing of car of wife of captain of US warship Vincennes.

Leading politicians given armed guards after discovery of IRA death list. Express says half those on list are unprotected because there are not enough police.

One of largest bombs ever planted by IRA - 1500 lbs left in stolen car at military base - defused by Army in 12 hour operation.

Delors draft report assumes EC monetary union following 1992 (FT).

Chancellor seen to be walking on tightrope in his sixth Budget tomorrow; caution tempered by surprise element. Priority is countering inflation but help for environment, elderly, low earners.

Other tips include NI cut for low paid; rise in company car tax, cut in tax on low alcoholic drinks. £10 rise in car tax according to Mail.

MORI Poll says 9 out of 10 Britons fear inflation will carry on rising at the present rate or get worse; majority expect inflation to remain above 5% until 1994 (Times).

Independent says rapid growth in jobs underpins expectations of a cautious budget tomorrow. Employment figures show half a million more people than previously estimated found work between 1983-1988.

Labour force survey shows that Britain has more people at work than ever before - jobs growth in past 2 years greater than at any time since the War. Critics of fall in unemployment confounded.

Mail says 1.5million is the new jobs target. Telegraph reports unprecedented number of men taking second jobs.

PRESS DIGEST

Today reports scandal of £6.5million Government handout to cigarette firms to modernise.

UK companies spent four times as much on overseas takeovers last year than their counterparts in any other country, according to survey of international mergers (FT).

Sam Brittan, in FT, argues that First Lord of the Treasury title is in reality less than it seems.

The Queen urges Commonwealth to think "green" in her annual Commonwealth message (Times).

Little coverage of The Hague environment conference - ignored by all the pops. Independent says it ended with weaker declaration than intended.

Guardian leads with scare story about potentially toxic pesticides bonding with cereals making them impossible to detect, destroy or wash away.

MMC widens inquiry into bid for Plessey (Independent).

Wrangle threatens £2.4billion sale of BP Minerals to RTZ (Independent).

Government expected to announce rules next week which will end British Gas's position as sole purchaser of gas from the UK sector of the North Sea (FT).

Electricity industry is extending imported coal trials as a prelude to privatisation of power stations (FT).

Low Pay Unit claims employers have decisively rejected Government plans to abolish wages councils (FT).

Colin Moynihan says it comes as a complete surprise that another MP's secretary whom he escorted to Tory Ball is a high class call girl.

MPs complain about slackness in vetting Commons employees.

Calls for Judge Pickles, who sent young mother to prison for refusing to testify because of threats, to resign or be sacked. Sun calls sentence an outrage. Mirror says Judge is a fool. Today describes the Judge as the girl's second enemy after her boyfriend.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail says it was an asinine judgement which cries out for redress.

Doctors to launch campaign against NHS reforms - posters in the surgery.

Opticians seem likely to charge £15 for eye tests from April 1 (Independent).

Michael Howard tells water companies that if they go over the top this year with price increases they will pay for it next year as the Government will be able to fix their prices.

Times survey shows water bills will increase by up to 43% and that Most of the price rises announced by the statutory water companies are caused by the need to meet EC regulations.

Plans to exclude the Chief Medical Officer from the new policy board which will run the NHS are causing dissent in the Department of Health (Independent).

Professor Alan Maynard, in World in Action TV programme tonight, suggests deaths could rise as a result of NHS reforms.

Mail says you are fighting intense pressure from lawyers' leaders to ditch radical reforms; barristers convinced they have detected first signs of wavering in Government.

Guardian says Tory Whips reject suggestions reforms are being snuffed out.

Independent says implementation of legal reforms may have to wait another year. Ministers feel it may be wise not to rush into legislation. Hopes of liberalising Sunday trading have also foundered on the impossibility of finding a widely acceptable compromise.

Times says you are resisting mounting pressure among Tory peers, law lords and other senior judges to drop or delay the controversial reforms of the legal profession.

Express says children of elderly parents living in State-run old people's homes could be made to pay part of the £200 a week cost, or State could claim money from estate.

Government takes full page adverts to inform council tenants of their right to choose a different landlord.

PRESS DIGEST

University Vice-Chancellors expected to offer lecturers a 6% pay rise in return for agreement to call off the dons' exam boycott (Times).

Hull Grammar School, saved from closure by old boys, flooded with application for places.

The Hillgate Group says schools should be free to train teachers and appoint whomever they wish (Independent). They claim education courses contain too much theory which does not help teachers cope with the hurly burly of school life.

Britain is experiencing a child care crisis with only 20 private companies providing workplace nurseries (Independent).

Littlewoods Mail Order Division is one which has made big improvements in maternity and child care arrangements in an attempt to attract women back to work.

Claims that policy submissions to Labour Party review groups show that they are prepared to accept moderate policies on defence and nationalisation.

But Scottish Labour Party votes at the weekend to stay unilateralist; it also crushes idea of anti-Tory pact.

Labour-led Coventry Council appoints £16,000 a year official to manage relations with 26 towns with which it is twinned.

John Akass, in Express, suggests you luck is running out but it could change tomorrow. But if you stopped driving yourself the nation would feel less driven.

Guardian leader says evidence of the Iron Lady cracking is ephemeral.

Tory MPs angry over French newspaper advert which shows you as bride of Mitterrand.

Supermarket chain being fleeced by blackmailers and getting cash from Halifax Building Society cashpoints.

ITV companies take full page adverts against proposals in Broadcasting White Paper as a threat to quality television; they want to retain links with Channel 4.

Labour publishes document outlining tough regulations to uphold TV standards and to control ownership of individual franchises (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

You congratulate Mary Whitehouse on 25th anniversary of her clean up TV campaign.

Case of Bristol zoo polar bears which have been driven mad, it is said, in captivity.

President Bush will present Israeli Foreign Minister Arens with a string of specific proposals today to lay foundations for Middle East peace talks (Times).

CDU loses control of Frankfurt. Neo-Nazi National Democratic Party wins a spectacular success in municipal elections in Hesse.

FT diary says that a trip to the cathedral city of Speyer and at least one wine-tasting are already on the itinerary for your visit to Ludwigshafen.

Spain's air traffic controllers sign 3 year no-strike agreement.

Telegraph leader says EC fraud must be tackled in Madrid square on.

UK set to lose out as European Space Agency seems certain to opt for a French design for its earth observation satellite instead of one by British Aerospace.

EC has suggested closer ties with EFTA after 1992 (Independent).

Lord Young's four day mission to the US is to allay American fears of Fortress Europe and to convince the US that "crowbar diplomacy" on their part will only make frictions worse (Times leader).

President Botha announces on TV he is staying on for a year; denies clinging to power.

Telegraph says Dutch Reformed Church is moving towards an historic declaration that apartheid is a sin.

Under chairmanship of former British Ambassador in Moscow, Soviet advisers meet South African academics; it shows, Mail says, Soviets have lost their rigidity.

Soviet doctors and dissidents launch association to fight continuing psychiatric abuses by the authorities (Independent).

Spain threatens to demolish properties close to sea or rivers, bringing threat to British investment in holiday homes.

PRESS DIGEST

Sudan government dissolved (FT).

Martine de Moignan becomes Britain's first world squash champion.

BUDGET

Star - Softly, softly Budget for Nigel.

Sun - It's save-ty first for Lawson in the Budget; tax cuts "would hit prices". John Smith, in Sun, says last year's Budget was foolhardy and unfair and the consequence is the trade deficit. We need a Budget for investment and fairness - not one of your ten Budgets has been fair. Sun leader says tomorrow's Budget is the most important of your 10 years. Chancellor must go on cutting taxes and raising tax thresholds. At present he is keeping far too much in his pocket that belongs in ours. His first task tomorrow is to keep the faith.

Today leader headed "Get tough on cigs, Nigel" says the health of the nation can be improved by one single act more than any other - a hefty rise on tobacco and alcohol duties. If he does not accept the challenge the Chancellor will go down in history as a coward.

Express - Lawson sees the Green light - almost certain to lower duty on unleaded petrol. Leader headed "Give us the money, Nigel" says there is little doubt what Chancellor must do with £15billion surplus - hand it back to the people to whom it belongs. Prudence would still allow room for between £3-5billion of tax cuts, with priority for cut in standard rate and raising thresholds.

Telegraph says Chancellor has been under pressure to produce "a Budget for the working poor". He has told colleagues it will be an inventive Budget.

Independent leader says of tomorrow's Budget, if the Chancellor finds himself navigating between excessive prudence and undue generosity every argument impels him towards caution. The money which he can sensibly redistribute should be aimed at raising the point at which the poor start to pay tax.

Times leader says a cautious Budget can also be a radical Budget; the biggest opportunities lie in the taxation of savings. Root and branch reform probably requires a Green Paper which would defer positive action to another year. But the Government's commitment to popular capitalism could benefit from further encouragement. The most obvious way of doing this would be to increase - perhaps temporarily - the tax appeal of Personal Equity Plans.

PRESS DIGEST

Guardian - Lawson curbs gamble instinct after you tell him to do so.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler attends lunch at Communications Group, English Garden Restaurant, London
- DH: Mr Clarke meets Mr Chuan Leekpai, the Thai Health Minister, London; later attends a dinner and discussion on Community Care at the Centre for Policy Studies; later meets Teresa Gorman MP and Ann Strutt at the Amarant Trust, London
- DOE: Mr Ridley visits Birmingham (Inner City Partnership); later opens Canalside Wharf, and attends presentation
- HO: Mr Hurd launches chair in Crime Prevention, Post Office Headquarters, London
- WO: Mr Walker addresses Welsh Water Authority Symposium, Cardiff; later addresses European League for Economic Cooperation, Cardiff and opens exhibition of paintings by pupils of Mountain Ash comprehensive school, Cardiff
- DEM: Mr Lee presents awards at reception for "Young Chef, Young Waiter of the Year", Grosvenor House, London
- DES: Mr Butcher visits Blockley Church of England Primary School, Fairford Primary School and Cotswolds Secondary School, Gloucestershire
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits Homerta Nursery School and Great Wilbraham Primary School, Cambridge; later gives lecture at the Cambridge Institute on "Initial Teacher Training"
- DES: Mr Jackson visits the London College of Furniture, Commercial Road, London
- DH: Mr Mellor attends launch of Open University Child Abuse course; later meets David Simpson of ASH
- DH: Mr Freeman visits British Medical Data Systems and Basingstoke District Hospital
- DOE: Mr Howard visits Bristol and visits Wessex Water Authority; also lunches with local editors
- DOE: Mr Trippier visits Leeds to launch Centre Gale site; later visits Sheffield to launch Attercliffe Regeneration project and Five Weirs Walk project
- DOE: Mr Choqe addresses Volume Housebuilders Study Group working dinner, London
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley addresses London School of Economics seminar on the 'Role of a Minister', London
- FCO: Mr Eggar attends seminar on "Contemporary Uruguay: Problems and Prospects", Liverpool University
- HO: Mr Hogg attends Butler Trust awards ceremony, Lambeth Palace, London
- HO: Mr Renton receives courtesy call from Dr Al-Awayi, Saudi Deputy Minister of the Interior, London

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC (cont'd))

- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington attends a tree planting ceremony for the Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied Organisation, Hyde Park, London
- OAL: Mr Luce speaks at Hong Kong government office luncheon on cultural matters, London
- SO: Lord James Douglas-Hamilton opens Revitalisation Scheme, Tulloch, Perthshire
- SO: Mr Forsyth visit Gargunnoch Primary School, Gargunnoch; later visit Allan's Primary School, Stirling
- WO: Mr Roberts launches tourism newspaper "This Week in North Bangor"

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTI: Lord Young visits Washington (to 15 March)
- DTI: Mr Clark visits Tunisia and Morocco (to 17 March)
- DTI: Mr Maude attends Internal Market Council, Brussels
- FCO: Mrs Chalker makes bilateral visit to Malta (to 16 March)
- HMT: Mr Brooke attends Economic and Finance Council, Brussels

TV AND RADIO

'The Story of Parliament': BBC 2 (15.00) is the first of an eight part documentary on Westminster and Parliament

'Same Difference': Ch4 (18.30) on the expansion of the Sheltered Placement Scheme for the disabled

'Watchdog': BBC 1 (19.30)

'World in Action': Thames (20.30)

'Panorama': BBC 1 (21.30) reports on how the NHS White Paper is being received in Nottingham and Peckham

'The Nuclear Age': Thames (22.35) examines events leading up to the signing of the INF treaty in 1987
