

14 March, 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen holds an Investiture at Buckingham Palace

The Duke of Edinburgh visits New York

Budget Day

EC: Transport Council, Brussels

EC: Research Council, Brussels

STATISTICS

BOE: International banking statistics (4th qtr)

DOE: Provision against homelessness: Local authorities action under the homelessness provisions of the 1985 Housing Act: England results for the 4th Qtr 1988 - supplementary tables

OPCS: Deaths from accidents and violence (Sept Qtr 1988 - registrations)

OPCS: Legal abortions (Sept Qtr 1988)

OPCS: Deaths by cause (Sept Qtr 1988 registrations)

OPCS: Key population and vital statistics for local and health authority areas (1987)

PUBLICATIONS

DSS: Chief Adjudication Officer's report

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Employment; Health; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Social Security Offices (Agencies)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer will present his Budget. When the Chancellor sits down the Question will be put on a Motion to give provisional effect to any changes in taxation and duty levels, if required

Budget Debate (1st day)

EC Documents relevant to the Budget will be shown in the Official Report

Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Bill:
Supplemental Timetable Motion (Limited to 1 hour) and
Consideration of Lords Amendments (Limited to 1 hour)

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Business (Cont'd): Opposed Private Business

British Railways Bill
Bromley London Borough Council (Crystal Palace) Bill

Adjournment Debates: Government funding in the voluntary sector in Bradford
(Mr M Madden)

Lords: Starred Questions
Football Spectators Bill (HL): Committee (3rd Day)
European Parliamentary Constituencies (England)(Miscellaneous
Changes) Order 1989: Motion for Approval
European Parliamentary Constituencies (Wales)(Miscellaneous Changes)
Order 1989: Motion for Approval
European Parliamentary Constituencies(Scotland)(Miscellaneous
Changes) Order 1989: Motion for Approval
Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986 (United States of America) Order
1989: Motion for Approval
UQ to ask HMG whether they will reconsider their policy on the issue
of British Passports to Hong Kong citizens

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Ruling National Party in South Africa calls for de Klerk to replace Botha as president.

Mixed signals for Chancellor on eve of Budget with 2.5% rise in retail sales in February, against hopes of a drop.

Share prices, however, climb back above FT 2100.

Shell raises price of 4-star petrol by 4p.

Times says Cabinet Ministers confidently expect Chancellor to cut taxes and raise Conservative morale after a couple of difficult weeks.

Bumper pay rise (variously reported of 10-14%) expected for Duke and Duchess of York under Civil List - new storm brewing, says Sun.

British firms spent £26billion buying 884 firms abroad last year - four times level of our nearest rivals, France.

Britain had a record trade deficit in building materials last year, 2.8% up on 1987, as domestic suppliers failed to keep pace with sharply rising demand, according to DoE figures (FT).

Adam Faith has two page "exclusive" interview with Chancellor's wife in Mail.

Iran set on collision course with Muslim world at Riyadh meeting as Tehran orders its delegates to push ahead with its demand for the killing of Salman Rushdie (Times).

British Moslem Action Group refused a summons at Bow Street for blasphemous libel against Satanic Verses.

You are warned by executive of 1922 Committee about pace and direction of legislation and urged to have a more considered approach giving Ministers time to keep in touch with parliamentary feeling (Times).

Guardian claims Spain's public honouring of 22 police officers for their role in keeping 3 Irish terrorists shot dead in Gibraltar under surveillance casts doubt on British evidence at inquest.

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph says Britain pulled back from confrontation with EC partners and Commission yesterday over fraud, dropped its demand for an inter-Governmental conference on it and hinted you might not press it at Madrid.

In FT interview, Marcel Mart, President of Court of Auditors, says national organisations rather than European Commission, are responsible for lion's share of growing scandal of farm subsidy fraud.

Jacques Delors, in FT interview, makes clear his undimmed ambitions to give the EC new monetary, even foreign policy, dimensions. He has his eye on 1 July 1990 as date for freeing capital movements.

Prince Charles attacks British businessmen, while speaking in Kuwait for consistently losing out to foreign competition for export businesses.

Sir John Cuckney and Sir Graham Day give their views in Times' Appointments section about whether non-executive board directors are really effective after survey shows that some chief executives starve the part-timers of information they need to do their job properly.

Toyota hints it is considering investing in a number of EC countries; but repeats that UK is "most likely host country" for proposed European car plant (FT).

Canon looks at sites in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland for new laser printer factory (FT).

Government to sell off Skillcentres; Opposition say unemployed will get a worse service at higher cost.

Pressure grows in EC for 40 ton lorries on British roads.

Law Society attacks greedy estate agents for spending more time chasing fat commissions on insurance deals than helping to buy and sell houses. Home buyers are victims of growing malpractices by estate agents and building societies.

Sir Robert Haslam, British Coal, on industry's two tough years ahead, takes issue on coal's contribution to greenhouse effect and economics of nuclear power.

Telegraph feature on the sinking feeling in the coal industry.

PRESS DIGEST

Allegations that rusks contain pesticides - babyfood makers being told to tighten up controls.

Big drop in egg sales because of salmonella scare has been reversed.

Scientists have found a virus which will attack listeria in cheese (Independent).

Sellafield top of list for nuclear dump with Government expected to give go-ahead for multi-million geological test next week (Times).

Boost for BAe's space project bid for share in £350million orbiting earth observatory (Times).

Route for final 12.5miles of M40 decided yesterday, 20 years after a feasibility study into overall scheme (Times).

Airlines urged to provide smoke hoods for passengers and fit cabin sprinklers - among 31 safety measures recommended in report on Manchester air disaster. Long delay in producing report - 3 years after the event - attacked by MPs.

London and Kent MPs are planning to object to Second Reading of King's Cross Bill today which is part of BR's Chunnel rail link (Times).

Kenneth Clarke goes on attack in GPs reform battle and is to write to all Tory MPs seeking their support (Times).

Judge Pickles says no-one can fire him or make him resign even if he makes a wrong decision; we must have firm, strong, decisive and independent judges. And opinion starts to turn in his favour.

Girl who was jailed wants Judge dismissed. And Mirror goes to town with feature interview telling Judge to read it in shame. It calls him a stupid ass and calls for clearest guidelines from Lord Chancellor to prevent a repetition.

Another judge puts a paedophile on 3 years probation after a 30 year catalogue of abuse in Birmingham.

Express on reform of legal profession says it would be unforgivable if the Government allowed itself to be frightened off by outraged baying of the Lords.

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph all in favour of Government reforming solicitors but says it should re-examine its proposals for the Bar.

Ex-policeman calls for his sex murderer son to be hanged.

Scotland Yard testing radio scrambling equipment to prevent criminals learning of surveillance operations and police raids (Times).

FT leader GP's contracts proposals believes the formula is half-baked. Family doctors, it says, are justifiably upset, not just by the proposals, but by Mr Clarke's high-handed approach. The right way to have designed a better contract for GPs would have been to set up a working party of Civil Servants, health economists and doctors.

Elton Inquiry shows that teachers have grossly exaggerated the problem of violent pupils but Express, which led the campaign, says 8,000 teachers are victims of classroom violence every week.

Kenneth Baker moved swiftly yesterday to act on recommendations of Lord Elton's Committee on school discipline, putting aside £7million for training of teachers (Times).

Telegraph reports the inquiry has angered teaching unions.

Students fear free market free-for-all in higher education after your meeting with senior vice-chancellors yesterday (Times).

Government considering a cut in abortion time limit from 28 to 24 weeks.

Disciplinary hearings involving 22 RUC officers involved in alleged "shoot to kill" operations opened in Belfast yesterday (Independent).

Sun says Tony Benn, in displaying an IRA propaganda picture of Bobby Sands in his constituency club and inviting Gorbachev to visit relatives of jailed IRA criminals is helping the cause of the IRA as much as those who pull the trigger.

IBA submits proposals to award commercial television franchises by a form of competitive tendering, implying acceptance to a significant degree of the White Paper proposal for a simple auction (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

FT carries six page survey of satellite broadcasting. From April it will publish a monthly satellite monitor to measure the public's intention to spend money on installing dish aerials.

BBC are to investigate the impact of Thatcherism in a week long series of discussions to be screened in May to coincide with your 10th anniversary (Independent).

Your interview with Chat gets a lot of coverage - you call on television soaps to make a point of keeping Britain tidy.

Sir Anthony Grant MP says legislative programme is resulting in ludicrous overwork for some Ministers and causing them to become remote from Backbenchers.

Masses of coverage for the case of the pretty Commons researcher who is something else, too.

Henry Bellingham MP withdraws pass for girl researcher who, it is alleged, is a high class call-girl - sometimes escorted by Colin Moynihan. David Shaw, MP, who employed her as a researcher, says she was introduced to him by "a reputable newspaper editor". Bellingham says he had not met girl when he allowed her apply for a pass in his name.

Express says this case raises questions of MPs' judgement.

US space shuttle Discovery and five-man crew launched without hitch.

Gorbachev to speak at Guildhall during visit - new element in programme.

UK warns Britons not to travel to Lebanon: we close consular and visa section in West Beirut.

With the radical right in Bonn confidently on the march, and the radical left winning a place in local Government, Chancellor Kohl comes under fire from his Government's coalition partners over the bad tactics and lack of leadership by the CDU (Times).

BUDGET

Today says Chancellor will put Government on target today for election winning 20p basic tax rate by treading cautiously.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail leader looks to Chancellor to be as skilful and bold in tacking against the wind as he was at making glorious headway when it blew in his favour. Credit squeeze must go on. Exempt first £2,000 of investment income from tax. Cut standard rate by 1p. Ease national insurance for low paid. Budget for savers. Encourage unleaded petrol.

Mirror - Spending spree is blow for Chancellor. Feature says Chancellor is on a tightrope.

Telegraph - Prudent Budget after rise in sales.

Independent - Budget nerves as a surge in retail sales last month has shaken hopes that high interest rates are curbing consumer spending.

JUDGE PICKLES

Star - Editor says he disagrees with his sending girl to jail but understands why he did so.

Telegraph says the Judge handled a delicate situation with an excess of Yorkshire bluntness yet the principle he enunciated was correct. Victims of crime have a duty to speak out in court. Failure to do so is a perversion of justice.

Independent leader says he is a pugnacious member of the judiciary and those who cry out for his dismissal reveal a frightening disrespect for the independence of the judiciary.

MANCHESTER AIR CRASH

Star leader says that three and a half years after the accident the report contains recommendations the most urgent of which will not be implemented for another 2 years. Travelling public deserves a swifter response from DTp. Paul Channon must explain "appalling lack of urgency".

Sun says world wars have been waged in hardly more time than needed to produce the report.

Today says even after three and a half years we have no guarantee action will be taken on key recommendations. Research is still going on to find right designs for hoods and sprinklers.

PRESS DIGEST

Times - Lessons of Manchester airport fire disaster still being learnt after more than three years, but not quickly enough for relatives of 55 killed. Leader questions delay in bringing out the report but says that fortunately many of the recommendations have been announced and, in some cases, applied already. It adds that if the lessons are learnt from this disaster it should never again be possible for passengers to die on board a stationary aircraft.

CHAT INTERVIEW

Star - "Rubbish! Maggie raps litter lout soap starts; she orders clean up".

Today - Sweep your street or face £2,000 fine, you threaten.

Mail - You call for "Neighbourhood Care" scheme to clean up country.

Telegraph - 'Tidy up your pavement' law considered by Thatcher.

Independent - You have ordered Paul Channon to privatise motorway cleaning services where local authorities neglect their litter-picking duties. In an article in "Chat" magazine you also call for a "Neighbourhood Care" scheme.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEN: Mr Parkinson addresses Pipeline Industries Guild annual dinner, Grosvenor House, London
- DEM: Mr Lee attends Chinese Federation annual dinner, London
- DES: Mr Jackson attends "Internationalisation of Higher Education" conference, Edinburgh
- DES: Mr Butcher visits City Road Drugs Rehabilitation Centre, Angel Islington, London
- DH: Mr Freeman visits Rampton Special Hospital
- DH: Mr Mellor addresses National Association of Health Authorities conference on "The NHS Review"; later presents prizes at South West Thames Regional Health Authority Clean Catering Competition 1988, Tolworth Hospital
- DOE: Mr Gummer addresses London School of Economics seminar on "The Relationship between Government and Party"
- DOE: Mr Moynihan attends farewell reception for Ambassador and Plenipotentiary of German Democratic Republic, London
- DTI: Mr Atkins visits Cambridge
- DTp: Mr Bottomley opens A47 Acle Bypass, East Anglia
- WO: Mr Roberts addresses Council of Europe Committee on Parliamentary and Public Relations, Cardiff; later makes opening speech at Micro-Electronics Education Unit, Cymru, Swansea
- WO: Mr Grist hosts dinner for Council of Europe Committee on Parliamentary and Public Relations, Cardiff
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTI: Mr Newton attends EC Research Council, Brussels
- DTI: Mr Maude visits Greece and Switzerland (to 20 March)
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- HMT: Mr Lawson gives Budget Broadcast, BBC and ITV
- HMT: Mr Major gives Budget interviews to Channel 4 News and BBC TV's Newsnight
- HMT: Mr Lamont gives Budget interviews to ITN and BBC Budget special programmes
- HMT: Mr Brooke gives Budget interview to BBC Radio 4 and BBC local radio
- HMT: Mr Lilley gives Budget interviews to TVAM and is on Capital Radio's live Budget coverage programme, with David Dimbleby
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TV AND RADIO

- 'Budget 89': BBC 1 (15.00) live coverage, with David Dimbleby
- 'Budget Special': Radio 4 (15.15) with Norman Tebbit, David Steel and Tony Blair
- 'Open Space': BBC 2 (20.00) charts the development of the Palestinian uprising and the effort to push Israel to a peaceful settlement
- 'Concerning Cancer': Ch 4 (21.00) looks at the treatment of breast cancer and women being used in trials without their consent
- 'Budget 89': BBC 1 (21.30) a statement by the Chancellor
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