

21 March 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen holds a Investiture at Buckingham Palace

The Duke of Edinburgh attends a dinner hosted by the Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland, St Johns, Newfoundland

House of Commons Defence Committee visits AWE Aldermaston

Teachers lobby Parliament about teacher shortages

Mr Mohammed Essafi, Director, United Nations Disaster Relief Office and Mr Randolph Adada, Congolese Minister for Education visit ODA

STATISTICS

OPCS: Population Trends 55 (Spring 1989)

PUBLICATIONS:

HO: Interception of Communications Annual Report 1988

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Health; Education and Science; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Empty Property and Community Aid
Water Bill (First allotted day): Progress on Remaining Stages
Motions on the Rent Officers (Additional Functions) and The
Rent Officers (Additional Functions) (Scotland) (Orders)

Adjournment Debates: The future of Community hospitals (Mr R Knapman)

Select Committees: EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS
Subjects: The Supply of Teachers
for the 1990s
Witnesses: The Royal Society, The Engineering Council,
Mathematical Association, Association for Science
Education, Joint Council for Language Associations
COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL
Avon Light Rail Transit

Lords: Starred Questions
Security Service Bill: Committee
Matrimonial and Family Proceedings) Motions
(Northern Ireland) Order 1988 } for
Matrimonial and Family Proceedings) Approval
(Northern Ireland Consequent Amendment)
Order 1988 }
Food (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 }

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Mirror accuses Paul Channon of lying - "You are a liar" is its front page lead - over briefing about Lockerbie. It says he said bomb came from Middle East; and police knew who planted it and where they were.

John Prescott claims Mr Channon was source of news.

Meanwhile, Tony Bevin in Independent, encourages Tories to break ranks against Mr Channon but while both are quoted neither is named - so much for his distaste of Lobby rules.

Dale Campbell-Savours challenges Mr Channon to sue Daily Record.

Express has a strongly defensive article of Mr Channon. He should not resign.

D/Transport warns airlines of high and continuing risks of further bomb attacks - three more radio cassette bombs may exist but Guardian says West German police deny report up to 3 other cassette devices exist.

Two senior RUC officers - Chief Superintendent and Superintendent - murdered by IRA returning to Northern Ireland after conference with Garda officers in Republic.

The most senior policemen to be killed by terrorists.

Tom King holds crisis talks with security chiefs over sectarian violence.

Chancellor "apologises" (Sun) for not cutting taxes in the Budget and promises they will be slashed in next few years. "Budget, he says, "may have been more prudent and cautious than strictly necessary".

Banks and building societies lending slowed sharply last month.

Royal Institute of Chartered surveyors says Budget is disappointing for first time buyers (Times).

All Commons researcher passes are to be vetted over Easter in wake of Pamela Bordes affair.

Mohammed Al Fayed denies he is linked with Bordes.

Telegraph says Scotland Yard cleared issue of pass to her.

PRESS DIGEST

The Speaker yesterday intervened in the call-girl affair in a thinly veiled and highly embarrassing rebuke to Britain's security services. He is said to be furious that MI5 failed to alert the House authorities to her Libyan links (Times).

East Midlands air crash inquiry shown that pilot shut down wrong engine and efforts were made to restart it immediately before crash.

AAIB interim report on Kegworth air crash shows there was high vibration and temperatures in the left engine but no problems in the right engine which the crew shut down (Times).

Kinnock's speech on market socialism virtually ignored by Star, Sun; even Mirror and Today. Express - "Kinnock risks left clash on business". Remarkably subdued coverage in qualities. Express and Mail scornful and Guardian cautious.

The SDP has disclosed proposals for a constitutional coalition to defeat the Government. It has rejected a merger with SLD in favour of a temporary combination of all parties.

Lord Young has confirmed that MPs will be asked to overturn decision to require companies to seek approval from shareholders for donations to political parties.

CAA investigates whether air traffic controllers' working hours should be restricted by law (Independent).

Kent residents devise alternative Chunnel rail link which is £1 billion cheaper and 17 minutes faster than BR's proposal (Independent).

Elders yesterday succeeded in having a High Court hearing adjourned until the first week in April to allow them time to prepare a legal case understood to be connection with its rights as warrant holder in MB Group (Times).

Gas cuts price for 12,000 industrial users (Times).

Dounreay and Sellafield to be confirmed today as two sites for investigation as nuclear waste dumps.

Des Wilson recruited by DOE as a consultant to help sell lead-free petrol (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

£2million publicity campaign being planned by D/Transport to dispel confusion over which cars can be converted to lead-free petrol (Times).

500 new jobs to be created by Hong Kong video tape makers at Hartlepool.

Norman Fowler reveals proposals to end legal immunity for closed shop.

Sun says that if Dr Tony Ridley, ex chairman of LRT, has any sense of decency he will not accept a penny of his £30,000 pay off.

Crown Prosecution Service protests over allegation in Bar Council advert attacking Green Papers that it will let criminals off the hook - Advert says "It (Government) now proposed to give more businesses to state prosecutors who will only prosecute, even though this means criminals are more likely to get off".

Joint Consultants Committee, representing doctors lobby on NHS, attacks White Paper saying it will seriously damage patient care.

£43million plan for cost finding computers in 50 NHS hospitals all of whom are willing to be involved.

Your choice of Roger Freeman as a successor to Edwina was 'masterly' says the FT. He is the right man to ensure that health authorities use financial and management services which will allow the creation of an internal market.

Peter Jenkins says NHS reform will give the Government a long, stand-up fight. Mr Clarke may succeed in forcing through the reforms in the face of medical opposition but the political war is not one which he can hope to win (Independent).

Telegraph says it is becoming increasingly difficult to distinguish between industrial methods formerly used by dockers, miners and transport workers to achieve what they wanted and the methods used by professions.

Breath tests reached record 280,000 in first nine months of last year.

Today is against mortgage subsidies to Civil Servants; instead they should be moved to the regions.

Labour survey shows teacher shortages getting worse (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Independent leader criticises the executive of the Association of University Teachers for their continued exam boycott, having won a modest but unprecedented victory against the Government in obtaining additional money.

Ban on fishing imposed within 8 miles of where canister containing pesticide has gone down in Channel.

Mappa Mundi moved to Tate for photographing so that pictures can be sold to raise money at £1,000 a copy on vellum. John Paul Getty offers £1million to help save original.

Hugo Young, in his book of your 10 years, says you threatened to take charge of Yorkshire Ripper murder hunt and had to be restrained by Lord Whitelaw.

Young, in another article in Guardian, on BAFTA giving Government two finger sign with awards says propensity of TV companies to avoid rows will nonetheless increase.

A "swindling solicitor" who, it is claimed, wrote your political speeches - and indeed was your favourite speechwriter - killed himself as investigations were about to reveal his deceit. He was Hugh Simmonds, ex-Parliamentary candidate, swindled £10million.

Former Welsh guardsman Simon Weston receives Snowdon Award Scheme special award for helping motivate other disabled young people (Times).

Britain is facing legal action in the European Court of Justice over its attempt to prevent the Spanish fishing fleet helping themselves to Britain's annual fish quota (Times).

Robert Mauthner considers the future framework of relations between the EC and EFTA. He concludes that the EC must make it clear that those who wish to share its benefits must adapt to the proven EC model.

Four EC countries sending their diplomats back to Iran - Ireland, Italy, Spain and Greece.

Boris Yeltsin brings Supreme Soviet election alive in Moscow.

Foreign Secretary condemns Israel's iron fist policy in Occupied Territories after 7 more Palestinians killed in weekend clashes.

PRESS DIGEST

Israel radio reports that the country's intelligence service has told the cabinet there is no alternative but to negotiate with the PLO (Independent).

Con Botha, National Party information officer, suggests you are in a good position to influence African states you visit at Easter to adopt a more pragmatic attitude to developments in Southern Africa.

Pretoria is looking towards according blacks a measure of political power but not to the point where it threatens white interests according to Piet Coetzer a senior member of the National Party (Times).

PAUL CHANNON/LOCKERBIE

Star editor says Paul Channon is no match for bully Prescott. He wants you to shunt Mr Channon sideways and replace him with someone who will tell Prescott "to get stuffed".

Sun - Three more Lockerbie radio bombs warning. Terrorists "planning new outrage".

Mirror has front page leader which says when Government accuses press of lying it makes a fatal mistake.

Today under heading "Lift the veil of secrecy" says the legitimate public interest is getting lost in a welter of recriminations. We need a lot more openness and candour from Mr Channon.

Express - Hunt is on for three more Lockerbie bombs.

Mail page 1 lead - Hunt for new airline bombs and elsewhere "Channon under siege on leak". Downing Street sees him as victims of a scurrilous attack on his integrity by Opposition.

Gordon Greig, in Mail, reports Mr Channon's lunch with "magic circle" of 5 Lobby reporters whom he names. They decided to sit on the story of "breakthrough" for 24 hours.

Telegraph - New bombs warning for airlines.

PRESS DIGEST

Guardian - Channon still resists call for jet statement. It says while there is no clear signals from Downing Street that you are preparing to sacrifice Mr Channon he is becoming increasingly isolated. You ignored in your Written Answer invitation to publicly support him. Leader says there is only one way to clear all this up. Mr Channon should go to House of his own volition and explain.

Times leader says Paul Channon has lost much national confidence. He has done nothing to improve his own pedestrian reputation or the current accident prone position of the Administration. There should be an independent secret inquiry. And if a statement can be made without damaging national security it should be. If the risk too great it should not be taken to save Mr Channon.

Independent - Tory MPs break ranks over Channon after it is claimed he told a lie to the Commons following Scottish Daily Record's revelation that it was he who told a group of journalists that the police knew the identity of the Lockerbie bombers. Prescott accuses him of undermining police investigations.

Independent - D/Transport statements that it was unable to issue an accurate picture of the type of bomb until the New Year came under detailed scrutiny after it is disclosed all the information was available in November.

Independent - US Congressional report strongly criticises FAA for issuing late, inaccurate and ineffectual security warnings prior to the Lockerbie bomb.

John Prescott calls on Paul Channon to sue the Scottish Daily Record as Labour continue to blame him for leaking the report that the Lockerbie bomber had been identified and to call for a Commons statement. You signal your disgust at their behaviour (Times).

LABOUR POLICIES

Express leader headed "Kinnock backs another loser for Labour" says Labour is no longer to be the party of high taxes and nationalisation. Instead it will offer to run the market economy better than the Tories. Unfortunately the new policies seem as likely as the old to run the economy on to the rocks. Market socialism is a contradiction in terms. News report says Kinnock faces a rift on "capitalism".

PRESS DIGEST

Mail leader says Kinnock's new words remind it of the old politics of genteel decline as practised under Wilson and Heath. A Kinnockian Government would be for ever fussing and intervening, second guessing, lame ducks would be subsidised and greyhounds handicapped. He should stick to jokes. They suit him better.

Telegraph - Small piece on page 4 - Kinnock's strategy to help small firms.

Independent - Kinnock declares his commitment to the market economy, arguing that the state's role should be to regulate and target aid to industry. He makes no mention of returning any natural monopolies and utilities to public ownership.

Times - A Labour government will intervene in company takeovers and protect firms that invested in long-term research and development.

Guardian small piece on page 1 - Labour must abandon grant strategy of 60s, says Kinnock. Inside - "Labour will intervene only when market forces fail", says Kinnock who gives pledge to free enterprise.

Guardian leader says Labour is close to adopting a policy which is much more attuned to the aspirations of the people whose votes it is seeking (though not the activists) than for decades. Whether this amounts to an election winning strategy is quite another matter.

FT - Labour would intervene positively to 'plug the gaps' in a market economy and make it work more productively says Kinnock in the first of a series of keynote speeches.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DTI: Lord Young addresses Anglo-Hong Kong Trust dinner, Lancaster House, London
- HO: Mr Hurd visits Tower Block Scheme, Waltham Forest
- WO: Mr Walker launches Swansea Bay Initiative, London
- DEM: Mr Lee attends lunch at 'What's happening in Britain' press launch, World Trade Centre, London
- DTI: Mr Clark receives courtesy call from new Ambassador of Ecuador
- HMT: Mr Brooke addresses Action for Neurological Diseases Group lunch on "payroll giving", House of Commons
- HMT: Mr Lamont addresses Bow Group Economic Affairs Standing Committee, London
- HO: Lord Ferrers visits Purley Police Station and Emergency Services re the rail crash
- HO: Mr Hogg launches AIDS video for prisoners, London; later addresses seminar on Community Studies Course, Prison Service College, Newbold Revel
- HO: Mr Patten addresses Community Services conference on 'National Standards in the Probation Service', Birmingham
- MAFF: Mr Thompson visits Billingsgate Market, London
- ODA: Mr Patten addresses Fontmell Group conference on "disaster relief", London; later hosts reception for ACP Ambassadors, Lancaster House, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- MOD: Mr Hamilton attends Western European Unions conference, Florence

TV AND RADIO

- 'Open Space': BBC2 (20.00) on inmates of Drake Hall open prison who were allowed to tour with a drama company
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