

12 April 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister gives interview to Radio Marsden

The Princess of Wales attends national premier of film
"Burning Secret", Cannon Cinema, London

DTI announce Japanese investment in North East

Lonrho appeal ruling

STATISTICS

BOE: Quarterly analysis of bank advances (Feb)

PUBLICATIONS

HO: Metropolitan Police Fund Estimates (1989-90)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth; Trade and Industry; Environment

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Abolition of Welsh County Council
(Creation of Unitary Local Authorities) (Mr Nicholas Bennett)
Debate on a Government Motion on the Fennell Report on the
Investigation into the King's Cross Underground Fire
Motions relating to the National Health Service Regulations.
Details will be given in the Official Report

Adjournment Debates: The effects on unemployment of unauthorised
subsidisation of industry by European member states
(Mr T Hayes)

Select Committees: PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION
Subject: Reports of the Health Service Commissioner for
1987-88
Witnesses: Officials of the Department of Health, Scottish
Home and Health Department and Welsh Office

WELSH AFFAIRS

Subject: The Channel Tunnel: Implications for Wales
Witness: British Rail

Select Committees (Cont'd)

AGRICULTURE

Subject: Land-Use and Forestry

Witnesses: Council for the Protection of Rural England/Council for the Protection of Rural Wales; Worldwide Fund for Nature; Institute of Chartered Foresters

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: Financial Services and the Single European Market

Witnesses: Mr Michael Butt, Chairman and Chief Executive, Eagle Star Insurance, Mr Joe Palmer, Chief Executive, Legal and General

DEFENCE

Subject: Decommissioning of Nuclear Submarines

Witnesses: UK NIREX Ltd; Ministry of Defence

ENERGY

Subject: Energy Policy Implications of the Greenhouse Effect

Witness: United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS

Subject: The Supply of Teachers for the 1990s

Witnesses: Rt Hon Kenneth Baker MP, Secretary of State for Education and Science and officials from the Department

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: The Employment Effects of Urban Development Corporations

Witnesses: Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, Rt Hon John Cope, Minister of State for Employment

HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Expenditure and Estimates

Witness: Home Office

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Resourcing the NHS: The Government's White Paper: Working for Patients

Witness: Dr R Gruer; National Association of Health Authorities

Select Committees (Cont'd)

TRANSPORT

Subject: Roads for the Future

Witnesses: Middlesex Polytechnic (4.15) Oxford Polytechnic
(4.45) Railway Conversion Campaign (5.15)

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS

Unopposed

1. Hythe Marina Village (Southampton) Wavescreen
2. Penzance Albert Pier Extension
3. Wesleyan Assurance Society

Lords:

Starred Questions

Debate to call attention to the problems of higher education

Schizophrenia After-Care Bill (HL) (L Mottistone): Second Reading

UQ to ask HMG whether in view of the increasing number of stray dogs and the abolition of the dog licence, they will introduce a national scheme of dog registration

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Ron Todd and TGWU officials at odds with TGWU docks committee over ballot for strike - he wants talks with employers but doesn't get his way. Union Executive meets on Friday to consider strike ballot call.

Mirror says Todd told officials yesterday he would not support a strike.

You set up a Cabinet Committee to monitor situation and plan tactics.

Judges are to hold a meeting in protest against Government's proposed reforms in court time on Monday; Terry Dicks MP says "It's madness".

Mail leader says the action confirms they are no better than the unions. Why couldn't they meet outside court hours? They will lose the respect of ordinary citizens.

Conservatives angry at Peter Walker's speech. Sir William Clark MP says he must decide whether he wants to stay in the Cabinet. Express says he faces the sack.

Sun feature says Mr Walker makes it clear privately that he would not mind at all if you sacked him; it is even more astonishing you have not done so. Sun leader says he sits in Cabinet as a reminder of the bad old days.

Guardian says Kinnock did not raise issue because he felt there were enough loyalist quotes in speech for you to back him.

Vale of Glamorgan writ expected to be moved today.

Christopher Hawkins MP, High Peak, 51, to stand down at next election on medical advice.

Tony Banks MP, in House Magazine, canvasses "violent overthrow of Society" as alternative to fundamental change in despairing about achieving socialism through Parliamentary system.

All party report tells fellow MPs to clean up their hooligan act before cameras are admitted to House. Today says the sooner television gets into the House and exposes offenders the better. Mail says if things have got a bit out of hand lately it is because the Speaker, nice chap, is not firm enough.

PRESS DIGEST

Express, referring to Duke of Norfolk's rebuke of Kinnock in Times for describing you as the "immaculate misconception", says Kinnock should be more careful - such references are not merely vulgar but profoundly offensive to Catholics.

500 arrested in Georgia crisis.

Foreign Secretary sharply criticises Britain's European allies for substituting wishful thinking and rhetoric for the realities of meeting security requirements in a powerful plea for greater European defence co-operation (Independent).

Peter Jenkins, in the Independent, says there is a growing expectation that before too long the Treasury may mount a new bid to change your mind about British membership of the EMS exchange rate mechanism. He sees this as the best means of heading off EC moves towards economic and monetary union.

Delors Committee meeting in Basle tries to reconcile deep-seated differences between The Twelve over moves towards economic and monetary union (FT).

Fujitsu to announce new £90million plant for North East today.

Toyota to set up £700million car plant in Derbyshire.

Bosch invited by Peter Walker to set up car components plant at Llantrissant.

UK car manufacturers halve jobs since 1979 but lift productivity by 66% over last 8 years (Times).

DAF to transfer additional truck production from Holland to its Leyland plant in North West England (FT).

Law lords will decide today whether Lonrho is guilty of contempt. Meanwhile, controversy surrounds disagreement among SFO lawyers over whether investigation should continue. Scotland Yard detectives stranded in Cairo awaiting vital legal documentation from the Egyptian authorities (Times).

Paul Channon says (in Adam Smith Institute Report) handing over the railway infrastructure to a national track authority would allow competition in train services (FT).

Parliamentary space committee set up to broaden debate about Britain's role in space and to promote scientific research (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Abbey National savers and borrowers vote to become a public company by 90% majority.

US Environmental Protection Agency to ban chemical used for spraying apples because it may cause cancer - Guardian wants to know what MAFF is doing.

Health Ministers considering concessions over NHS White Paper though none shifts the principle that money should follow the patient in a market of competing public and private hospitals (Independent).

West Midlands Regional Health Authority discloses plans to reorganise Birmingham's health services which involve the closure of 18 hospitals and the loss of thousands of beds (Independent). Mirror says the Health Authority is to spend £90,000 promoting the change despite shortage of beds for sick children.

Four leading Oxford hospitals are likely to be put forward as a single unit for self-governing status (Times).

BBC makes 'final' 7% pay offer to staff who want 16% - fears of a blackout.

You hint in Commons that British press should put its house in order - or run the risk of being forced to.

Home Office ministers are being forced to rethink their opposition to right of privacy and right of reply Bills. Tim Renton is understood to be proposing a wide review by an independent committee of libel and slander laws (Times).

Euro Court rules that price fixing deals between airlines are illegal. Today suggests fares will be cut by 20%.

Government produces a child care charter for mothers (Express).

Judgment reserved for three weeks in Spycatcher hearing (Independent).

Douglas Hurd urges the police to recruit more Special Constables to help fight street crime.

14% rise in number of registered drug addicts:

PRESS DIGEST

Your 10 Years: Joe Haines, in Mirror, continues his attempt to rubbish them by examining the Sara Keays affair and your treatment of Heseltine.

Environmental pressure group, Ark, predicts greenhouse effect will put Hull, Grimsby, Glasgow, Portsmouth and Belfast under water by 2050.

UEFA readmits English football clubs for the 1990-91 season, provided British Government supports this and subject to behaviour of supporters at World Cup next year. Mirror says Colin Moynihan should be working for England's return instead of carping.

Some concern that the decision leaves Mr Moynihan in a position to veto English clubs' return.

16 arrested after investigation into organised violence among Bolton soccer fans.

More speculation about Princess Anne's marriage; she gives Equerry job as trustee of her private charity (Mirror).

Star says Pamela Bordes helped win Tornado contract for Saudi Arabia.

Gorbachev invites Pope to Russia.

Barbara Bush to undergo radioactive iodine therapy for a diseased gland.

DOCKS

Independent - Unions split over docks strike ballot. Todd denies his declaration that action would be unlawful was prompted by considerations for the electoral chances of Labour and Kinnock's possible discomfiture.

Times - Dockworkers' leaders disregard Ron Todd's advice and vote to proceed with national strike ballot. Committee of senior ministers formed by you to respond to any strike met at Downing Street yesterday. British companies have been engaged in secret talks with Irish port authorities as part of plans to overcome a national dock strike.

PETER WALKER

Today - "Walker escapes wrath of Maggie" - because of Vale of Glamorgan by-election. But he is living on borrowed time.

PRESS DIGEST

Express feature says he has handed you the perfect 10th anniversary present - his head. The licensed court jester stopped being funny yesterday.

Independent leader says Peter Walker is right to underline the importance of public sector investment, but it says what is good for the finite problems of Wales will not necessarily work for Britain as a whole. Diverting companies to target areas is ultimately a waste of public money.

Telegraph - Walker hopes to answer critics with a new jobs deal. Feature suggests he has set himself on collision course with you by saying free market forces would not clear away slag heaps. Leader shows some sympathy with Mr Walker's view, as they translate it, that it is somehow blasphemous to intrude on the operation of market forces. What is needed is not necessarily massive spending but evidence that someone is thinking about the overall shape of the garden.

Guardian leader wonders why a Minister with such comprehensive objections to the drift of Government policy stays within the ranks. He is trying to play things both ways. Resignation not speeches would shake the Government.

Times - Thatcher anger puts Walker's future in doubt.

SOCCER

Star says the maniacal minority must not be allowed to ruin chances of English clubs returning to UEFA. This is why the Government's legislation must work.

Independent leader says UEFA is wrong to give the Government, in effect, a veto over the re-admission of British clubs to European football. It provides indirect authority to force through the ill-thought out national membership scheme. Responsive government would abandon the scheme while retaining the provision to restrict the movement of flying hooligans.

COMMUNITY CARE

FT leader looks at the need for a policy on community care. It calls on the Government to accept the recommendation of the Griffiths Report and set about ensuring that local authorities discharge their responsibilities as efficiently as possible. Kenneth Clarke cannot ignore the issue much longer.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DTI: Mr Newton makes inward investment announcement
- DTp: Mr Channon launches Pedestrian Safety Initiatives. London: later addresses the Railfreight annual dinner, London
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor visits Wye College and Withersdone College, Kent: also lays formation stone for Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Kent and visits Research Laboratory Plant Biotech, Kent
- MOD: Mr Younger hosts MOD 25th Anniversary Defence Council dinner, Lancaster House
- DEM: Mr Nicholls addresses National Council for Voluntary Organisations on "Employment Training", London
- DES: Mr Jackson visits the University of Bath
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits schools in Cornwall LEA
- DES: Mr Butcher visits Schools in Bradford and Leeds areas
- DH: Mr Mellor meets delegations re Norwich II District General Hospital and the Children Bill: later addresses the Institute of Economic Affairs Health Unit luncheon, London
- DH: Mr Freeman attends the Health Computing '89 conference, Harrogate
- DOE: Mr Gummer visits Croydon Council (community charge)
- DOE: Mr Trippier visits Sefton Borough Council, Liverpool
- DOE: Mr Howard visits Anglian Water Authority, Huntingdon
- DTI: Mr Atkins addresses Mobile Radio Users Association conference, Oxford
- DTI: Mr Clark makes company visits in Yorkshire
- HMT: Mr Lilley addresses the Westminster Industrial Brief
- HO: Mr Hogg visits Her Majesty's Prison, Ford, Sussex
- HO: Mr Patten addresses the Electrical Contractors Association lunch, Olympia
- HO: Lord Ferrers visits the Isle of Man (to 13 April)
- ODA: Mr Patten attends Crown Agents dinner, London
- SO: Mr Forsyth holds news conference on NHS White Paper: General Practitioners' Contracts, New St Andrew's House, Edinburgh: later addresses meeting of GPs on NHS White Paper, Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh
- WO: Mr Roberts addresses National Institute of Adult Education, Swansea: later opens Tabor Chapel, Merthyr Tydfil and attends Cardiff 2000 dinner, Cardiff
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DSS: Lord Skelmersdale attends Council of Europe meeting in Lugano (to
14 April)

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DEM: Mr Nicholls interviewed by Roland Rudd of The Times on womens
issues, London

HMT: Mr Lilley interviewed by Italian TV on UK economy

TV AND RADIO

"The Thatcher Decade: The First Target": BBC Radio 4 (16.05) repeat

"Hong Kong: The Countdown": BBC 2 (19.20) Simon Winchester looks at the
uncertainties surrounding the transition to 1997

"Dispatches": Ch 4 (20.30)
