

13 April 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Princess Anne visits United States (to April 16)

EC: Internal Market Council, Luxembourg (to April 14)

DSS: Family Credit TV advertising starts

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STATISTICS

DEM: Labour market statistics: Unemployment and vacancies (Mar-prov); average earnings indices (Feb prov); employment, hours, productivity and unit wage costs; industrial disputes

HO: Probation statistics: England and Wales (1987)

OPCS: Hospital in-patient enquiry: trends 1979-85

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PUBLICATIONS

HMT: Finance Bill

MMC Report on Labour Practices in TV and Film making

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Home Office; Northern Ireland; Prime Minister

Business: Road Traffic (Driver Licensing and Information Systems) Bill (Lords): 2nd Reading, Money and Ways and Means Resolutions  
Atomic Energy Bill (Lords): 2nd Reading and Money Resolution

Adjournment Debates: British Government Policy Towards Namibia  
(Mr P Boatey)

Select Committees: COURT OF REFEREES

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: Legionnaires' Disease

Witness: Westminster City Council

Lords: Starred Questions  
Southampton Rapid Transit Bill (HL): Second Reading  
Debate on the EEC Report on Fraud against the Community  
Football Spectators Bill (HL): Report (2nd Day)

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Guardian's MARPLAN gives Conservatives 4% lead - 44/40/SLD 7/  
SDP 6.

Peter Brooke rebukes Peter Walker over his speech saying the economic recovery in Wales was because this Government had brought public spending down and borrowing under firm control (Times).

Express says he comes face to face with you for the first time today - fears speech will damage by-election chances.

Mail says Tory establishment launched by-election campaign last night with a ferocious assault on Peter Walker - Malcolm Rifkind as well as Peter Brooke disowned him.

Judges get a terrible hammering in leader columns for their threatened "strike".

Fujitsu decision to set up in north east described by FT as "one of the investment coups of the decade".

Government expects to be able to announce next week that Bosch has decided to go ahead with £100million investment in South Wales (FT).

British aerospace industry to win orders worth £2billion next week when Irish aircraft leasing company announces Airbus deal.

Paul Foot, in Mirror, highlights alleged association between Al-Fayed and Thatcher family, in previewing book on subject.

Lords agree to hear Lonrho appeal but warn firm it could be in contempt.

Edward du Cann blames a woman secretary for sending special edition of Observer to Law Lords and Mail names her.

Half ton IRA bomb in Warrenpoint kills girl shop assistant and injures 34; warning came 9 minutes after explosion.

Express leader says Gerry Adams' feigned concern and regret over the bombing is as unwanted as it is repulsive. He does not give a damn about the victims.

Independent devotes a whole page detailing IRA's growing toll of civilian deaths in its terror campaign.

PRESS DIGEST

Lockerbie air disaster investigators believe explosives were unwittingly checked on to flight by American civilian used by terrorists (Times).

Professor Bevan Moseley, head of Government's Institute of Food Research, says food poisoning is out of control in Britain on evidence of latest salmonella figures.

Employers make it clear they are not prepared to discuss abolition of NDLS with TGWU; this is said to have scuppered Ron Todd's chances of avoiding a strike. Kinnock warns Labour MPs of dangers of supporting immediate dock strike.

But Today says dockers are rallying to Todd's efforts to avoid a strike.

FT thinks it likely that TGWU general executive will tomorrow reject proposals for a strike ballot.

Ronald Rudd feature in the Times looks at the legal disaster a dock strike poses for Ron Todd saying that faced with the triumphalism of the employers, he knows very well that unless the union can change course quickly, it risks losing both the fight over the docks and all the money it owns.

Brian Sedgemore MP leads MPs who are demanding a ballot of judges before Monday's walkout to consider Green Papers; he also threatens judges with an injunction.

Patrick Minford, in Telegraph, says Chancellor is on course for a soft landing.

Militant Tube workers calling second 24 hour strike a week today.

Mirror claims you are out to smash NACODS by refusing responsibility for pit safety to be vested in colliery managers; calls it putting blood back on coal.

AEU and EETPU set to merge today.

Engineering industry union leaders considering possible industrial action as pay and conditions talks breakdown (Times).

Select Committee on Energy attacks BNFL for undertaking contracts to dispose of world's nuclear waste and should renegotiate contracts.

PRESS DIGEST

MOD believes deep sea dumping is best way to dispose of decommissioned nuclear submarines (Times).

European Parliament votes overwhelmingly, by 309 to 5, to force drastic cuts in permitted exhaust emissions by Europe's small cars (Times).

Pesticide experts to examine health allegations against apple spray next week; MAFF say public should carry on eating apples.

Guardian leader says 14 out of 15 British apples are produced without this pesticide.

Farm incomes fell 28% last year.

Beecham and SmithKline Beckman of US agree merger aimed at creating world's second biggest pharmaceuticals group (FT).

London to resume trading in tin from June after a break of three and a half years (FT).

Mirror makes further allegations of overcharging by Tesco on day its sales topped £5billion.

Sam Brittan, in FT, says economic statistics collection should have been moved outside Whitehall altogether - contracted to the private sector for a service fee or given to semi-independent organisations (FT).

Paul Channon orders new investigation into way emergency services handled King's Cross fire because of omissions in official inquiry report (Times).

Labour Party to take water and B/Telecom back into public ownership and others under State control and regulation, according to Brian Gould after document is leaked.

Sun feature on Kinnock says the age of the Kinnock TV personality cult is dead. Express says he is heading for a new showdown over omission of gas and electricity for renationalisation.

Now Cardinal Hume attacks Kinnock for calling you the "immaculate misconception".

Thousands of trade unionists gathered in London yesterday to hear Kinnock deliver a scathing attack on the Water Bill (Times).

Today leader, attacking some of Kinnock's remarks during rally, says he has water on the brain.

PRESS DIGEST

Tories are taking the battle to the enemy by deliberately making the controversial community charge the central point of their campaign for the county council elections on 4 May (Times).

Tory manifesto for the council elections hails the dawning of a golden age in local government, declaring its 10 year campaign to transform local councils "virtually complete " (Independent).

Kenneth Baker tells Select Committee that headteachers were pressing him to require teachers to undertake unpaid training in evenings and at weekends (Times).

Lord Joseph calls for overhaul of higher education, freeing universities to fix their own salaries and students' fees (Independent).

Guardian claims one in four further education lecturers faces axe 14,000 posts could be lost over next 5 years.

Mail leader welcomes news that at last Government aims to hit irresponsible univeristy authorities who do not assure free speech where it hurts by losing part of their grants.

Veterinary schools at Glasgow and Cambridge reprieved (FT).

Brighton General Hospital manager says NHS reforms will lead to higher administrative costs and could lead to the fragmentation of health care in the rush to compete for patients (Times).

Police arrest 2 men who gave references to Pan Am in respect of Sun reporter who got a job as a baggage handler and exposed alleged security weaknesses; Sun reporter also wanted and agrees to see police today.

DTI appoints inspectors to investigate the ownership of three more companies linked to Mr David Abell's Suter Group; the Mersey Docks & Harbour Company; Winchmore & Metal closures (Times).

Hundreds of home buyers left in lurch after cut price mortgage firm in Manchester goes out of business.

Child sexual abuse referrals to NSPCC increased by 24% last year but referrals of other abuse decreased (Times).

EC plan to ban sale of unpackaged potatoes brings wrath of some papers down on it.

PRESS DIGEST

Spain says it wants the Madrid European Council to tackle series of contentious issues including abolition of frontiers, monetary union, a declaration of social rights, and in initiative for third world debt. The strongest counter arguments are likely to come from Britain (Independent).

Chancellor Kohl expected to bring forward his long awaited cabinet reshuffle today to revive his flagging fortunes (Independent).

Government is likely to take more account of programme quality in awarding TV licences than envisaged in Broadcasting White Paper. Home Office will make recommendations to Cabinet committee chaired by you later this month (FT).

Duchess of York, in Yorkshire TV interview, says she is deeply hurt by people who call her a parasite.

Robert Maxwell to make a bid for a large stake in the Jerusalem Post (Times).

George Younger orders a new campaign to double the number of blacks and Asians in Britain's armed forces.

Four black Commons workers claim they have been driven out by "aggressive" and "offensive" treatment by Diane Abbott MP.

Britain's exports to South Africa increased by 13.3% in 1988 while sales to Nigeria fell 18.9%, according to London Chamber of Commerce (FT).

Claims that remains of Russian Czar and family murdered by Bolsheviks at Ekaterinburg have been discovered.

Times - Warsaw Pact invite NATO to start talks without delay for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons everywhere; leader says Warsaw Pact's talks on removing short range nuclear weapons from Europe is a birthday present that NATO could do without. It has been well-wrapped to exploit the Western dilemmas, but should be returned with a courteous letter of thanks.

Soviets offer UK an astronaut place.

Select Committee calls for more economic aid to Soviet Union to aid reform.

Mail attacks news, on top of sale of aircraft to Libya, of Soviet supply of 10 advanced bombers to Syria.

PRESS DIGEST

Barbara Bush said to be fine after thyroid gland treatment.

JUDGES

Sun says the public has the right to expect in return for great priveleges that judges display great dedication and sense of responsibility. But to defend the lawyers' cosy closed shop the judges are willing to engage in a blatant act of sabotage. They should be sacked.

Today - No group is more pampered and featherbedded than judges. Yet these men who are to take industrial action are the same who sit in judgment on trade unionists; feature headed "Squabble that gives judges a bad name".

Independent - Labour contrasts Government's rush to end dock labour scheme with "kid-glove" treatment of lawyers as courts face disruption.

Express feature - As Lord Lane heads the protest: "In the dock, judges who are now a law unto themselves". Leader says the lurid language and far-fetched claims of many of our most senior judges are undermining the credibility of their arguments. It will be a political strike next Monday. Judges are behaving no better than the dockers, both trying to protect privileges and restrictive practices. At least Ron Todd has tried to restrain his members and is giving a better example of leadership than Lord Lane.

An Independent leader says the judges are mistaken to call a meeting when they should be presiding over their courts. But is also urges Lord Mackay to ensure that the Bar does not vanish in his final proposals.

Paul Johnson feature in Mail headed "Guilty; the judges who are a law unto themselves".

Telegraph says that while it thinks there is a good case for the Government to think again about some proposals, the conduct of some lawyers and above all some senior judges has ranged from foolish to deplorable. It is saddening to see judges disporting themselves in a manner we should deplore in Ron Todd.

PRESS DIGESTLABOUR PARTY POLITICS

Times page 1 lead - Leaked document shows that a Labour Government will renationalise water and B/Telecom but have no plans for gas and electricity which could lead to a rift with the party's left-wing. The document adds that they would give priority to tighten regulations of industries privatised by the Conservatives and set up an investment bank on investment institutions and clamp down on takeovers.

YOUR TEN YEARS

Continuing his review of the Thatcher years Brian James in the Times finds estates where the right to buy has produced a generation whose streets are paved with gold.



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler guest of honour at Express Newspapers Recruitment Advertising Awards, Savoy Hotel, London
- DH: Mr Clarke attends the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries dinner, London
- HO: Mr Hurd attends 21st Century Trust, Human Rights Seminar, Worcester College
- WO: Mr Walker addresses Institute of Chartered Accountants dinner, London
- DEM: Mr Cope attends press launch of Export '89 at World Trade Centre, London
- DEM: Mr Lee addresses "Invest in Tourism and Leisure: North West" conference, Manchester
- DEM: Mr Nicholls opens new training unit in Coventry and speaks on Employment Training
- DES: Mrs Rumbold attends reception for Scholastic Publications Ltd, New Connaught Rooms, London
- DH: Mr Mellor addresses Pulse Roadshow, Manchester
- DH: Mr Freeman visits Islington Health Authority
- DOE: Lord Caithness meets delegation from British Plastics Federation Ltd on the environment
- DOE: Mr Moynihan addresses Belfry Sporting Club dinner, Birmingham, on sport
- DTp: Mr Bottomley presents Fleet News Safety awards, Hilton Hotel, London
- FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses Glasgow Industrial Conference on 1992, Glasgow
- FCO: Mr Waldegrave addresses International Institute of Strategic Studies, London on "the future of european security into the next decade"
- ODA: Mr Patten attends meeting with ACP Ambassadors to Brussels, London (prov)
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTI: Mr Clark and Mr Maude attend EC Internal Market Council, Luxembourg (to 14 April)
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DEM: Mr Fowler gives national TV and radio interviews on Labour Market Statistics
- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe interviewed by John Eidenow, BBC World Service for "The Thatcher Years" programme; later interviewed by Gordon Clough, BBC Radio 4, for "The Thatcher Years"
- DOE: Mr Howard on BBC TV's Question Time, Wales
- FCO: Mr Waldegrave interviewed by Osriti (Middle Eastern) Magazine on his experiences in the Gulf
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TV AND RADIO

"The Sharp End": Ch 4 (18.30) Employment issues

"Hard News": Ch 4 (20.00) Ray Snoddy of the Financial Times investigates the British Press

"This Week": Thames (20.30) on the abduction of children across international boundaries. Interview with Mr Eggar (FCO)

"Question Time": BBC 1 (22.15) with Michael Howard, Joan Ruddock, Alan Watkins and Phil Williams

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