

14 April 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen visits the Royal Star and Garter House, Richmond, Surrey

The Princess Royal attends the Volvo World Cup Finals, Tampa, Florida, USA (to April 16)

Prime Minister launches Westminster Initiative for a "Cleaner, Greener Westminster" and gives lunch in honour of Nobel Prize Winners at 10 Downing Street. In the afternoon she receives honorary vice-presidency of the NSPCC

STATISTICS

BSC/BISPA: Usable steel production (Mar)

CSO: Tax and price index (Mar)

DEM: Retail prices index (Mar)

PUBLICATIONS

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business:

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

Control of Smoke Pollution Bill: 3rd Reading (Mr Andrew Hunter)

Weights and Measures (Amendment) Bill: Committee Stage (Mr Jerry Wiggin)

Sunday Trading (Reform) Bill: 2nd Reading (Mr Steven Norris)

Adjournment Debates: **Maternity services in East Lancashire (Mr K Hargreaves)**

Lords:

Starred Questions

Debate on the Report of the European Communities Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (19th Report, 1987-88, HL Paper 99)

Debate on the Report of the Select Committee on Science and Technology on R&D in Nuclear Power (2nd Report, 1988-89, HL paper 14)

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Judges bow to pressure of public opinion and postpone their meeting on the Green Papers until a Saturday - out of court hours - when Lord Chancellor will address them.

Meanwhile Telegraph, Guardian and FT report Government is ready to make major concessions - on contingency fees, certification of advocates and multi-disciplinary practices.

Judge Pickles in Sun says most judges are infected by conservatism, complacency and conformity.

Mail leader welcomes at last some judicial wisdom. Let us trust we never hear such foolishness from the judges again.

Lord Mackay in the Times puts his legal reform proposals in context.

President Bush to visit Lockerbie to thank the townspeople for their help after the air disaster.

You snubbed Peter Walker in the House and in Cabinet yesterday (Sun) - speculation that he is on his way out.

Peter Walker to call for a stronger regional policy in broadcast tonight which was recorded before Christmas.

Michael Heseltine canvasses idea of English Development Agency like SDA and WDA.

Joe Haines, ever hopeful in the Mirror, says Peter Walker calculates that your end is in sight and has therefore thrown his hat into the ring.

TGWU meets today on recommendation from docks committee for a strike ballot amid reports dockers are rallying behind Ron Todd's policy of negotiation first.

Employers pledge not to reintroduce casual labour.

Norman Fowler warns that unemployment could rise again unless workers keep pay rises down. Higher interest rates feared as earnings rise.

Today says you have let the country step back into its bad old ways. We have blown tax cuts on foreign goods. There must be no more tax cuts until inflation is under control.

PRESS DIGEST

Joe Rogaly, in FT, says that at end of first quarter of 1989 the Government is not quite so cocksure as it was at the end of 1988. But his assessment is that, although there is a burgeoning sense that there may be something really amiss, it only adds up to a series of local difficulties. But he warns that, as complacency continues, you and the Chancellor seem unwilling to listen to arguments about those of the very poor who have become casualties of the refocussing of State aid.

Security is no longer classed as a tax perk, it emerges in Finance Bill (FT).

Rail unions reject BR's 'final' 7% pay offer.

Law Lords rule that people who deal in shares on the basis of what they know to be unpublished, price-sensitive information are guilty of insider dealing (FT).

Series of new prosecutions for insider trading to go ahead as a result of House of Lords ruling closes loophole in Company Securities (Insider Dealing) Act (Times).

Monopolies report clears broadcasting unions of restrictive working practices (Times). Meacher says report is one of the sharpest humiliations for Government since it came to power.

Civil Service Commission is to radically reformed, and possibly abolished in its present form (Times).

Threat of the £2 gallon of petrol - Shell says it needs another 10p on the price.

Today says Government must not fight against Euro Parliament's plans to cut car exhaust pollution. Express says it is a price we should be prepared to pay.

Road death toll in 1988 lowest for 34 years. Britain's drivers are safest in EC, according to Paul Channon.

Telegraph leader says transport is becoming a major political issue and the Government will have to pursue more positive policies if the issue is not to become an electoral liability.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent leader says the Roman remains found near Cannon Street station are more significant and more spectacular than anticipated and merit preservation. It calls on the Department of the Environment to pay compensation to the property developer in the absence of English Heritage's ability to do so.

Johnson Matthey, the makers of catalytic converters, criticise car makers for putting a price tag of £500 on cost of owning a "green" car when factory price for convertor is only £50 (Times).

European Commission announces voluntary deal with Federation of European Aerosol Manufacturers to cut back use of CFCs by 90% by the end of 1990 (FT).

Tesco bans apples sprayed by pesticide Alar which is said to cause cancer.

Kinnock accuses Ken Livingstone of leaking Labour policy paper on re-nationalisation. He defines a top earner - ie one who will pay 50% top tax rate - as anyone earning over £40,000.

Labour to review pledge on buying-back majority shareholding in British Telecom and the water industry. Kinnock also confirms Labour's defence policy review will recommend retaining nuclear weapons and bases while they are negotiated away (Independent).

In letter to Cardinal Hume, Kinnock apologises for calling you the "immaculate misconception".

Times leader says Kinnock in his jibes about your "immaculate misconception" and "the assumption of the blessed Margaret" went well beyond what is acceptable. His equivocal attempt yesterday to calm his critics is unlikely to succeed in doing so.

David Bailey, photographer, planning Green Party's TV election campaign.

Sharp decline in farming income, the result of political pressure to reduce subsidisation of agriculture, is driving farmers into an uneasy alliance with environmental groups as they search for ways to stay in business (Times).

George Gale, in Mail, says English Tories should invite Scotland to secede - we'd be a lot better without it.

Kenneth Clarke announces £50million to spend on 100 consultants appointed to tackle waiting lists in specific specialties (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Four hospitals in Brighton being considered as a single group for self-governing status (Times).

Vice Chancellors say plans to double university tuition fees and separate the funding of teaching and research will lead to the demise of weaker universities (Times).

Chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals says private tuition fees are no longer a taboo subject (Independent).

Lord Chilver, chairman of Universities Funding Council, suggests that in future Government funds might be channelled to universities in proportion to how much each university raises from private sources (FT).

Further education union says extra 15,000 lecturers will be needed by the middle of the next decade (Times).

Booming student enrolment in further education allays fears that thousands of lecturers' posts could be lost (Independent).

Notting Hill rapist, 32, given three life sentences for his campaign of terror. Mail says the case raises some disturbing questions about the efficiency and competence of the police.

Star has no sympathy or regrets for deaths of two armed robbers in Harrow at hands of the police. It takes some satisfaction in that armed gangs can no longer feel safe waving guns in innocent people's faces.

Sun reporter detained for 7 hours in cell by police investigating his allegations of breaches of security at Heathrow.

Ron Neil, director of BBC News & Current Affairs, to become managing director of BBC Regional Broadcasting for TV and radio (Times).

Sun leader calls for Tom King to be sacked and replaced by Ian Gow.

IRA supporters scuffle with police as a Maze escaper is extradited to Northern Ireland.

Guardian says Government lawyers have concluded that Ryan's chances of a fair trial on terrorist charges were seriously prejudiced by your remarks last year.

PRESS DIGEST

Tapes which recorded all British Transport Police messages on the night of the King's Cross fire have been wiped clean. An officer has been reprimanded (Times).

Man who tried to grab Princess of Wales in Northumberland says he wasn't trying to do her any harm.

EC agrees rules on sex and violence for satellite TV.

Delors Committee marks out route by which Community could move towards economic and monetary union. Details are not due to be released until Monday (FT).

Britain and West Germany have mainly borne the costs of the billions of pounds fraud by Dutch, French, Belgian and West German butter producers (Times).

Lord Cockfield says Britain and her EC partners are perpetuating or conniving in multi-million pound swindles against the taxpayer by failing to tackle EC budget fraud (Independent).

Independent leader says Chancellor Kohl's cabinet reshuffle is a last-ditch salvage operation. If it fails, he faces the axe. At the national level he has been found wanting and at the European level he is no match for you and President Mitterrand. He lacks the requisite qualities and the cabinet reshuffle is unlikely to make anyone think otherwise for long.

US Defence Secretary says Washington is in no hurry to update its Lance missiles in West Germany - the clearest indication to date that the US may be ready to accommodate the political problems of Chancellor Kohl and delay deployment on new missiles (Independent).

At least four NATO countries, West Germany, Belgium, Denmark and Greece, eager for talks with Warsaw Pact on missile cuts (Times).

At least 6 Palestinians killed and scores more wounded after Israeli night raid on West Bank village goes disastrously wrong (Times).

Cecil Parkinson says in Moscow that gigantic vested interests stand between Gorbachev and his goal of liberalising the social and economic life of the Soviet Union (Times).

Anthony Buck MP, Colchester North, to retire at next election.

PRESS DIGESTPETER WALKER

Sun - Thatcher snub for Walker.

Mirror - Walker will go.

Today - Maggie's sentence of doom for wet Walker.

Express - A Thatcher slap down for Walker the rebel. MPs convinced he will go in next reshuffle.

Times - Peter Walker remained defiant last night after being twice corrected by you in the Commons when you made it plain it was your policies, not his, that were working for Wales.

Telegraph - Peter Walker hits back after frosty No 10 reception. Issues press statement on Welsh economy.

FT - Downing Street indicates its anger at Peter Walker, going out of its way to make clear that he had not been asked by you to contribute to yesterday's Cabinet discussions.

YOUR TEN YEARS

In the final part of his series on the Thatcher decade Brian James in the Times looks at a nation at play and observes those for whom leisure has become a prison.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler addresses Society of Chief Personnel Officers conference, Bournemouth
- DES: Mr Baker attends lunch for Nobel Prizewinners, London
- SO: Mr Rifkind visits site of Woolwich Homes Development, Whitfield, Dundee; later attends launch of Whitfield Urban Partnership, Dundee and visits Ninewells Hospital, Dundee
- DEM: Mr Cope addresses Leeds Polytechnic's "Business in Industry Exchange" conference
- DEM: Mr Lee addresses Bury Chamber of Commerce's annual general meeting
- DES: Mr Butcher visits the Loundon School and Community College, Coventry
- DH: Mr Mellor opens "Working for Patients" seminar, Connaught Rooms, London; later attends seminar for District Health Authority Chairmen, London
- DH: Mr Freeman visits Birmingham re Census Test, Ethnic Origins Questions
- DOE: Lord Caithness addresses Suffolk Preservation Society on the environment
- DOE: Mr Gummer visits Newham Council (community charge)
- DOE: Mr Trippier attends opening and topping out ceremony, Meadowhill, Sheffield; later visits Mansfield
- DTI: Mr Maude visits Deauville Advertising Association conference
- DTp: Lord Brabazon visits Swansea to see DVLC and the coastguards
- MAFF: Mr Thompson visits Fish Fair, Glasgow
- SO: Mr Lang visits Mitsubishi Electronics Factory, Livingston, West Lothia

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe attends European Community Foreign Ministers' Informal Weekend, Granada (to 16 April)
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TV AND RADIO

"The Thatcher Factor: First Lady of the Treasury": Ch 4 (20.00) Hugo Young asks whether there has been a Thatcher economic miracle

"Any Questions": BBC Radio 4 (20.05) Gordon Brown, Alex Salmond, Sir George Young, Katharine Whitehorn
