

19 April 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Glasgow rail crash inquiry opens

Nuclear Planning Group Ministerial Meeting, Brussels (to April 20)

Paul Channon launches Pedestrian Safety Campaign

The Princess Royal visits Nottinghamshire

NPG meeting, Brussels

House of Commons Defence Committee take oral evidence on Trident programme (AWE Aldermaston facility)

Franco-German Summit, Paris

Interview with Reader's Digest published

STATISTICS

OPCS: Birth statistics 1987

WO: Index of production and construction for Wales (4th Qtr)

PUBLICATIONS

CO: Civil Service Commission annual report (prov)

PAY

DES: Draft of the next edition of the teachers pay and conditions document

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Trade and Industry; Environment; Scotland

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Leasehold Reform (Common Hold) (Mr Dudley Fishburn)
Opposition Day (8th allotted day)
Debate entitled "Investing in the Future - the Next Decade" on a Social and Liberal Democratic Party Motion
Debate entitled "Care in the Community - the Next Decade" on a Social and Liberal Democratic Party Motion

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Adjournment Debates: The closure of Barnborough colliery (Mr T Patchett)

Select Committees: ENVIRONMENT
Subject: British Waterways Board
Witness: British Waterways Board

AGRICULTURE
Subject: Land-Use and Forestry
Witnesses: National Farmers' Unions; Farmers' Union of Wales; Country Landowners' Association; Scottish Landowners' Federation

ENERGY
Subject: Energy Policy implications of the Greenhouse Effect
Witnesses: Association for the Conservation of Energy; Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, and the World Wide Fund for Nature

STANDING ORDER COMMITTEE
Subject: London Regional Transport (No 2) Bill

EMPLOYMENT
Subject: "Employment for the 1990s" White Paper and the work of the Department of Employment Group
Witnesses: Rt Hon Norman Fowler, MP, Secretary of State, Department of Employment, Rt Hon John Cope, MP, Minister of State, Department of Employment

HOME AFFAIRS
Subject: Expenditure and Estimates
Witnesses: Home Office, Lord Chancellor's Department

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Subject: Locate in Scotland
Witnesses: J A Scott, Secretary, Industry Department for Scotland; I S Robertson, Chief Executive, Scottish Development Agency

TRANSPORT
Subject: Roads for the Future
Witnesses: East Coast Motorway (4.15); Bank of America (5.00)

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS
Unopposed

1. London Regional Transport (Penalty Fares) (Lords)
2. British Railways (Penalty Fares) (Lords)
3. Avon Light Rail Transit (Lords)

Lords: Starred Questions
Debate on the importance of preserving the unity of the Western Alliance
UQ to ask HMG what steps they are taking to strengthen the social fabric of Welsh-speaking communities

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Boy of 14 becomes 95th Hillsborough victim.

Police allege that drunken fans picked the pockets of Hillsborough disaster victims and kicked, punched and urinated on them during the police operation.

Press turns venomously on football authorities for deciding to go ahead with FA Cup competition.

Papers report signs that the Government may be weakening on Football Bill after remarks by Lord President in the House.

Lord Justice Taylor says soccer grounds should be made safe for start of next season.

Independent - A group of parliamentary private secretaries have threatened to resign unless the football spectators bid is put on ice. Meanwhile, John Wakeham hinted yesterday that debate on the Bill may be suspended for a few weeks longer than expected.

UEFA chief apologises for "beasts" jibe.

Home Secretary being pressed within Government to order police and licensing authorities to begin limiting number of spectators on terraces (Times).

Government is taking action to buy off Tory opponents to Spectators' Bill with John Wakeham guaranteeing that there would be opportunity to inject into the Bill interim measures called for by Lord Justice Taylor (Times).

Times claims that police chief called for delay to kick-off is denied by Sheffield Wednesday club, FA officials and the referee.

Lawyers issue writs alleging negligence against Sheffield Wednesday and South Yorkshire police on behalf of 9 survivors.

Liverpool City Council offers to pay for funerals of victims.

National Dock strike looms closer after talks with employers break down after 6 hours; ballot expected to be given go ahead this week.

All-out strike threatened on Tube after another 24 hour stoppage tomorrow.

PRESS DIGEST

Coverage of Luxembourg linked with visit to Russia next year and your talks on Lebanon.

Times - You urge Moscow to intercede with Syria to stop fighting in Lebanon. Your intervention formed part of an intense diplomatic effort involving many countries to bring about a ceasefire. Leader says if anything can be done about Lebanon, it has to be done in conjunction with other powers. The most obvious instrument is the UN Security Council, whose members are probably closer now than for many years. Two others are the EC and the Arab League.

Mitterrand appeals to Britain, US, Soviet Union, Spain and several Arab countries to join concerted effort to halt fighting in the Lebanon. US, however, promptly rejects the idea of becoming more actively involved (FT).

You are to visit Soviet Union next year "to build on spirit of glasnost".

Telegraph has picture of you with Grand Duke and Ryzhkov.

Independent picture of you in Luxembourg for 150th celebrations. The locals stayed away but leaders from the countries who signed the Treaty of London in 1839 turned up. Also coverage of your speech at the CSCE Information Forum - in defence of your record on freedom of the press.

Today and Sun portray visit as your beating the Queen to Russia.

Mail: Flag waving coup for Maggie with a second visit to Russia.

Lord Cockfield says our attitude to national sovereignty over monetary union is the "attribute of the caveman". To block progress towards a Euro currency would be a "fraud on the Treaty of Rome".

CBI gives cautious welcome to moves towards a single Euro currency.

Pohl welcomes Delors proposals (FT).

Times says forthright rebuff of Delors package means that once again Britain has thrown cold water over a grand design for European integration. Once again the stage is set for a British veto, prolonged confrontation with Community partners and familiar recriminations over Britain's lack of commitment to Europe.

PRESS DIGEST

£14billion debt repayment in last financial year - PSDR outturns.

John Edmonds, general secretary of GMB, says fall in number of school leavers is a "time-bomb" ticking away at the heart of the Government's economic policies and presents unions with their best chance for 10 years (Times).

CBI report to be published in June will urge industry to stop recruiting school leavers except as part of structured education and training programmes (Times).

West Germans' success in winning round NATO to their position on modernisation of short-range nuclear missiles mean that Britain's hardline stance has to some extent been eroded (Times).

Lonrho to answer contempt charges at special Lords hearing on May 15.

Britain will face prosecution in the European Court if it fails to produce within two months a more rapid programme to bring water quality up to EC standards (Times).

Objections from EC may force Water Bill amendment. Ministers consider changes to a key clause which, as it stands, would give the Government authority to grant privatised water companies exemption from prosecution for failing to meet EC water purity standards (FT).

Labour promises a £12billion crash programme to clean up water when it comes to power (Times).

British Aerospace and Rolls-Royce win £754million share of £9billion order for 300 jets announced by Irish leasing company.

British Airways launching a bid for a substantial slice of Sabena, Belgian airline in trouble.

Toyota announce £700million investment in car plant in Derby.

Independent leader says the decision by Toyota to build a £700million car plant is extremely encouraging. The investment has not been won by offering bribes - no subsidy is being paid. Nor is Toyota's decision unexpected. Such investments are the free market's equivalent of regional policy. In some ways the most heartening aspect of Toyota's decision is the confidence it reflects in the ability of British workers.

PRESS DIGEST

FT says Toyota delays decision about location of related engine plant. Feature asserts that the investment signals the start in earnest of the battle for domination of the European car market in the 1990s and highlights the vacuum in policy-making in the EC.

Guardian says to the extent that indigenous UK car firms don't seem much good at making cars the arrival of the Japanese should perhaps be doubly welcome.

Italy refuses to lift curb on UK-built Nissan cars (FT).

Mail backs consumer council in querying why some foreign cars cost half as much again in Britain as in USA; it also welcomes efforts of OFT to raise £50 cheque guarantee limited on plastic cards.

Gas explosion rocks Cormorant Alpha platform; 150 evacuated.

Allegations that fire inspectors found death traps in 10 Tube stations a year after King's Cross disaster.

CEGB plans nuclear reactor on Anglesey (Independent).

You give what is described as a "final warning" to press at opening of London Information Forum.

You hit out at 'distortion' of media and intrusion into private lives of friends of politicians - in both Reader's Digest article and London Information Forum speech (FT).

BBC staff vote to stage a series of strikes over pay rises starting on Monday after 7% 'final' offer. Star, recording some of the programmes we shall miss, asks "Who said all strikes were bad?".

Sun salutes public spirit of two BBC journalists in giving evidence at mob murder trial in Northern Ireland notwithstanding threats to their lives.

Big pay increases for Central and TV-AM executives to stop them joining satellite TV.

MPs believe Government Whips are acting to ensure the Right of Reply Bill will be defeated on Friday (Independent).

US Congressional inquiry has revealed that large numbers of American diplomats cancelled their seats on Pan Am flights in the week before Lockerbie (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Adnan Khashoggi arrested in Switzerland on racketeering charges.

Keith Best has won his appeal not to be disbarred by the Bar Council (Independent).

Labour's soft left pressing Kinnock to accept compromise over nuclear defence aimed at avoiding damaging split when policy is unveiled next month (Times).

Chris Patten, in a Tory Reform Group lecture, says Conservatives must establish firmly in the minds of the electorate that their economic and social policies help everyone if the party is to stay in power.

Where is the missing Cabinet in the Vale of Glamorgan by election? Only Peter Walker is booked to appear in the constituency this week (Independent).

Your Reader's Digest interview, published at last, used by a number of papers - along the lines that you are planning to stay in office until you find a "young pretender" to take over.

Express says you are preparing to axe "dead wood" from your Cabinet - including Foreign Secretary, Welsh Secretary, Paul Channon and Lord President. Tipped for promotion are Chris Patten, Michael Howard and Michael Portillo.

Mail says you warned the Cabinet old guard they must make way for young Turks.

Times carries extracts from your Reader's Digest interview about press intrusion into private lives and that you will use summer reshuffle to promote some of the younger loyalist backbenchers to Ministers.

You hint, in Reader's Digest interview, that you might yet vie for Lord Liverpool's record of 15 years as Prime Minister (Independent).

Peter Jenkins discusses the reopening of the Westland affair by the Defence Committee (Independent).

HILLSBOROUGH

Star says the truth about the disaster comes down to money. If the stadium had been all-seater 95 tragic deaths could have been avoided. The cost: £495,000. Sheffield Wednesday paid £550,000 for one player.

PRESS DIGEST

Sun says football should be ashamed today for their indecent haste in deciding to go ahead with FA Cup competition.

Mirror says the FA and Football League ought to have declared a week's mourning for soccer, postponed all fixtures, extended the season if necessary and cancelled the Cup Final. For what they have done to football, Millichip, Kelly and council should resign.

Today says that to call the people who run English soccer insensitive, as Liverpool did yesterday, is a remarkably restrained use of language. They are crass, brutal, vain buffoons. If they had had any intelligence or feeling they would not have begun to talk about soccer yet. In fact they would have resigned. But if they were like that Hillsborough would not have happened.

Express, under heading "The fans are not blameless" asks have we become so wearily used to loutish lack of self-discipline that we can no longer recognise it for what it is? Why were fans late in turning up. Could it have anything to do with tanking up before the kick off? It is not for those who turned up without tickets in the confident expectation of being able to trick or force their way into the ground to lay the blame for the carnage at the feet of others.

Telegraph leader says it must now be abundantly clear to all but the politically entrenched that after Hillsborough the Government's controversial Football Spectators' Bill should be suspended - the sooner the better for the Government.

EC

Sun says Britain joined the EC solely as a trading partnership. The country has no desire to bury her identity in some supra-national state. Yet this is precisely what the Eurocrats are trying to create.

YOUR TEN YEARS

David Owen, in the Times, looks at "The Thatcher Decade" saying love her or loathe her, you evoke many of the same deep feelings that Churchill, Lloyd George and Attlee all aroused in their time. What you fail to understand is that conviction, compromise and consensus are characteristics that allowed Lloyd George, Churchill and Attlee to serve in coalition governments and contribute to their being great Prime Ministers.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler and Mr Nicholls (prov) address "Look after your heart" campaign workplace conference, Royal College of Physicians, London
- DEN: Mr Parkinson addresses Kleinwort Benson's International Fund Managers conference; later addresses Grand Emanuel dinner for Lord Major, Mansion House, London
- DTI: Lord Young meets Dr Bangemann, EC Single Market Commissioner and, later, the Prime Minister of Thailand
- DTp: Mr Channon launches new pedestrian safety measures, London
- HO: Mr Hurd addresses Parliamentary Press Gallery lunch, London
- DEM: Mr Cope launches BISON computerised information exchange, London
- DEN: Baroness Hooper opens Ebury Bridge Substation
- DES: Mr Jackson addresses IPCS Science Group conference, Westminster
- DH: Mr Mellor gives closing address at "Look after your heart" campaign workplace conference, Royal College of Physicians, London
- DOE: Mr Howard addresses National Association Rural Trust planning seminar, Coventry
- DOE: Mr Gummer visits the Isle of Wight and meets local councils re Community Charge
- DOE: Lord Caithness has working lunch with East Midlands Electricity on environmental standards on power generation
- DOE: Mr Moynihan visits Severn Trent Water Authority and West Midlands Regional Council for Sport and Recreation, Stoke on Trent
- DOE: Mr Trippier and Lord Hesketh visit Docklands and open various regeneration projects; Lord Hesketh later meets Inland Waterway Advisory Council
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley addresses Refrigeration Industry representatives, with Peter Thurnham MP; later visits Plymouth and addresses North Sea Task Force on marine environment
- DOE: Mr Chope visits Dartford and meets Consultative Committee on the Channel Tunnel

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC) (Cont'd)

- DSS: Lord Skelmersdale visits Newbury ILO and Newbury Resettlement Unit
- DTI: Mr Maude presents Innovation for Business Awards, Industrial Society, London; later opens Smaller Companies Exhibition with Shearson Lehman Hutton, London
- HO: Mr Hogg visits Wellingborough Young Offenders Institution, Northants
- MAFF: Mr Thompson visits Animal Health Trust, Newmarket
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington addresses UKF/Kemira Fertilisers joint conference, Cirencester
- MOD: Mr Neubert visits RAF Upper Heyford
- WO: Mr Roberts opens new Ffilm Cymru offices, Cardiff

TV AND RADIO

- 'The Thatcher Decade: The Most Important Man': BBC Radio 4 (16.05) repeat
- 'Dispatches': Ch 4 (20.30)
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