

21 April 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen attends the Tercentenary Parade of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers at Powis Castle, Powys

EC: Trade Ministers seminar, Madrid (to April 22)

International Press Institute Seminar on Press Freedom

Launch of DOE Environment Awareness Week

STATISTICS

CSO: Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (Mar)

CSO: Preliminary estimate of consumers expenditure (1st qtr prov)

PUBLICATIONS

DES: HMI report on the education of physically disabled pupils

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business:

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

Right of Reply Bill: Remaining Stages. (Mr Tony Worthington)
International Parliamentary Organisations (Registration) Bill:
Committee Stage. (Mr Michael Marshall)
Lotteries Bill: 2nd Reading (Mr Roger King)

Adjournment Debates: The proposed closure of Fullerton Hospital,
Doncaster (Mr M Redmans)

Lords:

Starred Questions

Debate on the Report of the Select Committee on Science and
Technology on Agricultural and Food Research (1st Report, 1988-89,
HL Paper 13 and 4th Report, 1987-88, HL Paper 104)

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Fears of a further rise in interest rates after West Germany increases its rates; a surge in bank lending; and lost oil production. Shares lose £6billion in an hour.

Mirror expects a rise of interest rates today.

Exports of British made cars soars by 21% in 6 months to March (Times).

FT's Lex column says yesterday's bombshell from the Bundesbank has quite properly destroyed any bullish notion of lower interest rates but has created an equally dubious expectation that rates everywhere else will have to rise at once (FT).

Pops treat decision to go ahead with membership card scheme with tactical delay in remarkably low key, probably because it seems to have taken the heat out of Tory opposition.

Mail leads with "Soccer card rebels cave in" - a spectacular display of nimble footwork.

Tory MP denounced Kinnock's performance as "stupidity of an enormous magnitude.

Colin Welch, in Mail, says Kinnock was unusually rude to you and did himself no good and you no harm.

Guardian of course portrays it as a retreat.

Kinnock says you are in the position of "a Martian trying to understand cricket".

Two girls apparently portrayed on front pages as being squashed to death against fence found to be alive.

Letter from a survivor of Hillsborough, who disputes police claims of violence against them, carried on front page of Independent.

Liverpool and Everton to pull down safety fences before next home fixtures; Liverpool to replace them with safety corridor at front of terrace.

David Alton says police officer who smeared Liverpool supporters should be named (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Threats of or actual or threatened industrial unrest on Tube, in docks and among railwaymen, engineers and powerworkers brought together in one story.

Dockers to be balloted on strike action over abolition of National Dock Labour Scheme. Employers' leader says the decision is clearly political. Press think strike inevitable.

Port employers are considering legal proceedings to halt a ballot on a national strike.

Independent leader says the negligible worry which was caused yesterday by the dock leaders decision to hold a strike ballot is a sign of the times. The position of dockers is weak. Nobody thinks that by holding a strike they can force the Government to preserve the scheme.

Secret hard core of union activists - The Shepherd's Pie Group - said to be behind unofficial strikes on Tube.

Tube strike blamed on faceless intimidators (Times).

Professor at Birmingham Polytechnic claims he and his family were threatened by other lecturers trying to prevent him accepting new job because they did not like contract he had been offered (Times).

Leon Brittan reported as accusing you of narrow mindedness and creating problems in Europe where none existed over frontier controls.

Britain dangerously isolated as EC welcomes monetary union (Times).

Joe Rogaly, in FT, examines the opportunities for Labour of espousing a European policy to speak to the modern-minded and the young.

European Commission is to consider proposals for 2 new community agencies in which would be vested powers to police the food and drugs industry and to monitor the protection of the environment (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

US Defence Secretary says he hopes by 1991-1992 NATO will be ready to decide on successor to Lance missile. Times leader says NATO should try to ensure that "this year, next year, sometime" does not become "never". By playing host to more nuclear-armed allied aircraft, Britain might at least remove one of Bonn's objections - that West Germany now has more than its fair share.

Unity as NATO WPG meeting ends with US saying there is enough consensus to press ahead with developing new nuclear weapons (Independent).

Express and Mail wax eloquent against the Right of Reply Bill which is expected to be killed today. Telegraph says it would be foolish to assume that the threat of legal restriction on the press is at an end, even though Downing Street appears content to do business with the very newspapers which most offend public taste.

Government is unlikely to be ready to announce inquiry into media law today during report stage of Right of Reply Bill (FT).

Tiny Rowland may be called before law lords to explain his company's conduct in Harrods affair (Times).

PSA staff sent details of radical reorganisation which is clear prelude to privatisation (Times).

Farmers paid to end milk output may get production quotas following EC decision (Times).

Alliance & Leicester given go ahead for bid of £130million for Girobank.

Channel Tunnel may lose £4billion in first full year, according to Centre for Economic Policy Research (FT).

Government leaders in Lords embarrassed and angry when Companies Bill debate was brought to premature end because 30 peers could not be mustered for a vote (FT).

Spitting Image makers win Queen's Export award - one of 156.

Today hails as triumph for home buyers Lords judgement that they can sue building society surveyors who miss major faults in house checks.

Home buyers face increased charges for property valuations as a result (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Law Society report says racial discrimination in the legal profession must be tackled if more lawyers from ethnic minorities are to be attracted (Times).

All party committee of MPs back Government's determination to introduce local pay flexibility throughout health service (Times).

Flexible pay may increase the health service wage bill - Commons Social Services Committee warned yesterday (Independent).

FT leader on NHS review warns that fragmentation of health service and direct competition between hospitals may not raise quality and reduce costs. It argues the US, with the most competitive system, has by far the highest costs: it spends around 12% on GDP on health care compared with 8-9% in Europe.

Sale of human organs to be outlawed.

John Gummer attacked by Age Concern for claiming woolly jumpers are "the best central heating".

Army to spend extra £5million on recruitment because of shortages.

On TV John Nott reveals he thought it crazy to go to war over Falklands. But according to Al Haig it was a strategy which played a major part in restoring West's pride and self respect.

Labour pledges to create strongest environmental protection agency in Europe (Times).

Labour MP Dr Alan Williams interviewed after tearing down Tory posters in Vale of Glamorgan.

Over 150 GPs in Vale of Glamorgan tell electors not to vote Conservative at by-election because of NHS reforms (Times).

Conservative MPs are going on the offensive to sell NHS reforms (Telegraph).

G7 ministers and creditor bankers will meet in New York on May 15 to discuss US plans for cutting Third World debt.

West German firms have been linked to helping Pakistan develop nuclear weapons technology (Independent).

52 die in landslide in Georgia.

PRESS DIGEST

Sakharov elected to new Soviet Parliament.

Sun attacks £300 fines in Transvaal on two Afrikaners who beat a black worker suspected of theft, tied him to a tree and left him to die.

Huge asteroid said to have narrowly missed planet Earth and causing world's largest tragedy.

India wants us to return Koh-i-Noor diamond.

Sun has an unhelpful piece about how you "keep Queen in her place", though it says you have a deep and genuine respect for the Throne.

HILLSBOROUGH COMMENT

Star says it is quite understandable Liverpool people are incensed at police complaints about the behaviour of fans but it is useless to pretend that the allegations were never made.

Mirror says the Government takes a fortune out of football and puts back empty words and insults. It is outrageous to link membership cards and deaths of 300 fans over 40 years. It has no new proposals to help with high cost, all-seat stadiums. You ought to put more money where your mouth is.

MEMBERSHIP SCHEME

Today and Star ignore issue. Sun "I won't delay cards, vows Maggie" - you warn rebel MPs not to block your campaign to end the rising death toll.

Mirror - No hold up on ID cards.

Express - Maggie defies rebel MPs in soccer ID row - but you delay and this is likely to satisfy most Tory MPs.

Times page 1 - Your determination infuriates Kinnock but most Tories appear to be satisfied with compromise and whips are now happier.

Telegraph page 1 - Thatcher delays ID legislation.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent - Cabinet has given Tory Whips 2 weeks to beat off rebel backbenchers before pressing on with the Bill's passage through Parliament. At Question Time yesterday you argued that the Bill would provide the best vehicle for implementing any early recommendations from Lord Justice Taylor.

FT - Compromise on football Bill timing. Government moved to avert backbench rebellion by relaxing rigid parliamentary timetable.

Guardian says "So the lady is for turning after all".

ANNEX

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DOE: Mr Ridley launches Civic Trust Environment Awareness Week.
London
- DTI: Lord Young addresses 1992 Club, Ashford, Kent
- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses Stanford University Centenary dinner,
Grosvenor House Hotel, London
- HO: Mr Hurd attends Association of Chief Police Officers conference on
Drugs, Hutton
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits and addresses the Schools Examinations and
Assessment Council
- DH: Mr Mellor attends launch of DH/BSCC 'Taking Cervical Smears'
video
- DH: Mr Freeman attends Worcester Health Authority Mental Health
Symposium, University of Birmingham
- DOE: Mr Howard performs official opening of Hythe Long Sea Outfall
- DOE: Mr Trippier addresses Manchester and District Housing Association
on "housing"
- DOE: Mr Moynihan chairs Oxford University Boat Club 150th anniversary
lunch, Savoy, London
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley addresses Future of Local Government conference
- DTp: Mr Bottomley addresses the English Historic Towns Forum, Hereford
- HMT: Mr Lilley visits Cardiff local VAT office
- SO: Mr Lang addresses Rating and Valuation Association conference,
Hospitality Inn, Irvine
- SO: Lord James Douglas Hamilton performs A96 Bypass, sod cutting
ceremony, Inverurie
- WO: Mr Roberts addresses National Council for Vocational Qualifications,
Cardiff; later presents prizes for the Hewlett Packard/Heriot Watt
Computer Competition, Cardiff
- WO: Mr Grist addresses Institute of Housing, Wales Branch, Cardiff
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTI: Mr Clark attends informal meeting of Trade Ministers, Madrid (to
22 April)
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TV AND RADIO

'Hard News': Ch 4 (17.30) repeat

'The Thatcher Factor: An Englishwoman Abroad': Ch 4 (20.00) In the third programme of the series, Hugo Young looks at the Prime Minister's record on foreign affairs

'Any Questions?': BBC Radio 4 (20.05) with Peter Bottomley, Paul Foot, Jonathon Porritt and Barbara Amiel

'Law in Action': BBC Radio 4 (20.50) Legal issues
