

May 15, 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Princess Royal visits Bristol National Union of Civil and Public Servants annual delegate conference, Bournemouth (to 19 May)

National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers annual general conference, Scarborough (to 19 May)

Transport Salaried Staffs' Association ninety second annual delegate conference, Hural Hall, Southport (to 19 May)

EC: House of Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and Arts visit Paris (to 16 May)

EC: Informal Agriculture Ministers meeting, Salamanca (to 16 May)

Launch of Christian Aid Week

Hillsborough Disaster Inquiry oral hearings open, Sheffield Town Hall

STATISTICS

CBI/FT: CBI Survey of distributive trades (Apr)

PUBLICATIONS

DES: HMI Better Libraries report

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Energy; Social Security; Transport

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Mr Andrew Mitchell - Transport

Mr Michael Colvin - Air Traffic

Mr John Butterfill - Barriers to takeover bids in the European Community

Motion to take note of EC Documents on Taxation of Savings. Details will be given in the Official Report.

OPPOSED PRIVATE BUSINESS

City of London (Various Powers) Bill: 2nd Reading and Money Resolution.

Adjournment Debates: The Governments programme of research into the
sexual abuse of children (Mr G Allen)

Lords: Starred Questions
Water Bill: Committee (5th Day)

Disabled Persons (Northern Ireland) Bill: Committee

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Labour Party and SLD wooing members of SDP (11,000 members) which looks to be in its death throes.

Sun says Kinnock will have Owen back in time for the next election. Today: Ashdown makes a dramatic plea to give up and join SLD.

Complete acceptance of deterrent value of Britain's nuclear weapons expected to be contained in the Democrat's new defence policy next month (Times).

London set for a great deal of traffic chaos as buses and Tubes are hit by strike and work to rule affects Southern Regional rail services.

Express says leaders of today's strikes met in secret to plot maximum chaos.

CBI/FT survey finds renewed slowdown in retail sales growth in April and reduced expectations of a pick-up of retail sales this month (FT).

Much trouble with football fans on last full day of League season.

Nearly 300 arrested after pitch invasion by Birmingham fans at Crystal Palace; violence and damage at Toddington Motorway Service Station; wrecking at Alsager, Portsmouth, Tewkesbury - where fans gatecrashed a wedding reception, and on a Southampton-Bournemouth train.

Chairman of Football Supporters Association says no-one has learned anything from Hillsborough; fears that this has set back hopes of a return to Europe.

Colin Moynihan says the deplorable scenes reinforce the Government's determination to press ahead with legislation. John Carlisle MP says the weekend's scenes have reinforced the Government's determination to clean up soccer.

Public inquiry into Hillsborough disaster opens today.

Touts charging £225 for £12 cup final tickets on Saturday.

Nearly 15,000 students stage major revolt in Peking on eve of Gorbachev's historic visit.

PRESS DIGEST

Shevardnadze threatens to abrogate last Treaty if West modernises SNF; Washington dismisses it as a tactical ploy.

West German determination to force NATO into negotiations on short range nuclear weapons reinforced by 24 hour visit to Bonn by Shevardnadze (Times).

James Baker accuses Moscow of engaging in public relations exercises aimed at breaking NATO's resolve (Times).

Ted Heath accuses you of talking "absolute rubbish" about Britain being swallowed up by Euro superstate - an attempt to mislead public.

Norman Fowler, on same TV programme, says Heath went completely over the top.

All this seen as a damaging Tory split over future of EC.

Guardian says that according to a Treasury memorandum to MPs you will not be able to stop initial moves to introduce European economic and monetary union.

Times says Conservative Party's deep and increasingly bitter split over future of EC widened dangerously last night as Edward Heath delivered strong attack on you.

Heseltine putting down a leadership marker.

And Mail says Sir Alan Walters is ready to inflame the arguments about the ERM and to joining to which he is fiercely opposed.

Express reports biggest Government shakeup of Civil Service in 100 years beginning this week with formation of executive agencies in DSS and dispersal of staff outside London.

Bernard Ingham facing unprecedented loss of Whitehall PR staff as they go outside for more money (Times).

Post Office may remove £200million-a-year letter business from B/Rail as their Users' Council estimates only 72.2% of first class letters are delivered the next day (Times).

Beer barons heading for a major victory over Government over threatened sell off of 22,000 pubs; but Express says if Lord Young gives in, he will undermine the credibility of the MMC and Government's commitments to competition.

PRESS DIGEST

FT's Lex believes political pressures on Lord Young are such that it is hard to believe he will be able to resist amending the report's recommendations.

Highly confidential report calls for fundamental reforms of the International Stock Exchange's structure and dealing systems (Times).

Scargill fails to persuade his own supporters to fight closure of Yorkshire colliery because of redundancy pay.

Consumers' Association calls for Government to force company pension schemes to increase pensions by at least 5% a year, or by the rise in the RPI (FT).

Electrician Union's strike free agreement with Sun Valley Foods most controversial yet, ruling out any possibility of early return to TUC (Times).

Local TGWU members start negotiations with port employers throughout country (Times).

Guardian claims to have been passed secret plan by a British backed consortium to build the largest toxic waste plant in Moroccan Sahara. It claims King Hassan has been misled about the project.

Survey of businessmen shows that in their view shabby cities and overcrowded roads and railways are slowing down the country's progress.

Tough MOT test for vehicles is being planned to meet new European standards on exhaust emissions (Times).

Bill Deedes, in Telegraph, says precious few of our effective politicians in the last century have been universally loved and it is wholly to your advantage that some detest you.

Britons most houseproud in world, according to Today, and spend over £billion on cleaning.

National Association of Solicitors Property Centres warns Government that planned legal reforms on conveyancing will expose housebuyers to the "predators of the market place " (Times).

Institute of Housing report claims areas with greatest housing need frequently get least investment in new council homes (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

Sky TV says it could end its first year with only half its forecast one million subscribers.

Price Waterhouse study for the Home Office urges radical reorganisation of national radio and television broadcasting transmission, including sale of assets to the private sector (FT).

Government White Paper to announce tough new curbs on charities commission.

Ken Clarke has backed down over plans to exclude the Chief Medical Officer from the new Policy Board designed to run the NHS, but the Chief Nursing Officer will still be excluded (Independent).

University pay dispute close to solution as further disruption is threatened in polytechnics and colleges (Times).

Pickets composed of theatre stars trying to stop filling in of Rose Theatre prior to development above it.

Low Pay Unit claims the number of people caught in poverty trap has increased sixfold in last 10 years.

Keith Waterhouse in Mail, drawing on experience of his poor childhood, believes much of the poverty in Britain today is that of the variety of the Bullock family who lived nearby: Mrs Bullock couldn't cope.

Kenneth Baker receives two bomb threat letters.

Bribery investigations continue into B/Rail. A Vice Chairman of B/Rail, Derek Fowler, denies being interviewed by police (Independent).

NACRO says intermediate treatment centres working successfully for juveniles (Independent).

Mail dispatch from woman reporter sent to work on Underground with British Transport Police - there is a sense of terrible rage and impotence within the transport police at the amount of crime on Tube and British Rail.

Robert Swan becomes first Briton to walk to both ends of the earth.

Calls growing for ban on ivory trading to save elephant from extinction.

PRESS DIGEST

Former Bristol airline pilot, 74, taken hostage in Beirut. West German relief worker kidnapped in South Lebanon 10 days ago freed yesterday.

Menem, Peronist, wins Argentine presidential election and brings new threat to Falklands.

Bush aims to oust Noriega this week, according to Guardian.

UN and South African officials meet today to certify that the Namibian independence plan is back on course (Independent).

Israeli government approves Shamir peace plan for West Bank and Gaza Strip, the main feature of which would be elections to choose a Palestinian leader to negotiate a settlement (FT).

Prince Charles, on American TV, says he feels like a prisoner trapped by royal tradition. He promises to continue to speak out on the environment despite claims by critics that he is a crank (Times).

FOOTBALL TROUBLE

Star - Footbrawl yobbos wreck Eurodreams. Back page - A month after Hillsborough soccer shames itself again. Soccer top brass run for cover and refuse to comment.

Sun leads with "Soccer yobs beat up groom". 30 wreck wedding reception - invasion of wedding reception in Tewkesbury by Bristol Rovers fans. Elsewhere terrified soccer fans trampled by yobs in weekend soccer riot. Birmingham fans even attacked supporters who help to carry 11 stretcher cases at Crystal Palace to ambulances. Leader says even the terrible lesson of the Hillsborough dead has had no effect on the country's soccer thugs. yet the game's authorities have rejected the Government's idea for identity cards. They have only a few weeks to find another answer. If they fail, it might be better if we stop playing soccer altogether.

Mirror - Soccer thugs run riot at motorway cafe. Champagne fans in "relegation party" rampage. Back page - crazed Birmingham supporters tried to beat up their own players in another day of shame for soccer - under headline "This Birmingham scum couldn't give a damn about Hillsborough".

PRESS DIGEST

Today - Soccer back on its knees as thugs riot. Leader says that like ghouls dancing on the graves of the Hillsborough dead the soccer louts were out and about on their hooligan business. If anyone needed proof that the Government's plans for football identity cards were necessary, Saturday provided it; in fact, it showed ID cards can be only a first step. Violence must be eliminated from the whole culture of football. A crash programme of action must be in place before next season begins. If not 1989/90 season should be cancelled.

Express - Palace riot so close so tragedy. Fans speak of their escape from death. Leader says the trouble was profoundly shocking and a reminder that hooliganism haunts the game. The Palace pitch invasion should silence opponents of Government's soccer identity card scheme. All those who misbehaved would find themselves barred. It is hard to think of a more effective deterrent.

Mail - Weekend soccer violence left MPs furious and football chiefs reeling in disbelief.

Telegraph - More hooligan tribal ritualism hastens soccer's downward spiral.

Guardian, like Telegraph, on soccer pages, reports "After Selhurst (Crystal Palace) survival is the sole concern. The one positive thing about the crowd violence across the Football League on Saturday is that it should force those running the game to face up to the side effects of Hillsborough sooner rather than later. Unless they do, the professional game could be less than a season away from being finished as a mass spectator sport in this country.

Times - Tory MPs review call for soccer ID cards after outbursts of violence all over England with more than 250 arrests in at least 10 separate incidents.

Independent - Football Spectators Bill likely to proceed with fresh impetus after Saturday's wave of violence.

SDP

Trevor Kavanagh, in Sun, writes feature on "How Owen could put Kinnock in power". Tories face a real battle to hold on to power.

PRESS DIGEST

Mirror - Doc's guerillas feel the punch; but Owen denies SDP has run out of cash. Sarcastic leader has Owen telling Cartwright and Barnes he is going back to his old profession: horsetrading. Feature says the Doc's on the rocks and admits that perhaps he should not have left the Labour Party.

Today leader says Owen has achieved almost all he aimed for when he set up the SDP because he played an essential role in Britain's recovery by keeping Labour out of power. If he does not find a berth in a Tory Government he should find one in another.

Express feature says the man who set out to break the mould of British politics will have been broken by the British political system - and arrogance.

Mail - Vultures swoop on remains of SDP dream. Leader headed "Sad spectacle of the stag at bay" says as a national party the SDP is finished. The members and the money are not there. Owen has become the archetypal lost leader. Many Tories would welcome him in their party. The Socialists have made it clear they will only have him back, if at all, as a patient on his knees.

Telegraph - Opposition votes over ailing SDP. Leader says a cynic might feel it was acknowledgement of the SDP's declining membership, more than any move rightwards by the Labour Party that prompted Owen's conciliatory remarks about Kinnock 10 days ago. But the SLD need the qualities of an Owen to lick them into shape. The centre parties will affect the result of the next election but their present condition suggests it will be because of what they can do for other parties and not what they can do for themselves.

Guardian - Owen leads guerrilla band into retreat. But rejects SDP has collapsed; Leader says the most likely outcome is that the SDP has opted for slow rather than sudden death. Owen's whole approach has been based on the belief that the electorate has more to gain from a broad range of choices than from SDP/SLD judge and nudge. The fatal weakness of that argument is that though it fits very well with PR its the wrong approach for first past the post.

Independent - David Owen aims for PR pact with Labour as his SD Party scales down its campaigning role. Leader seeking to write an obituary for the SDP - says it may yet come to be seen as the spur which made Labour electable.

PRESS DIGEST

Times - David Owen gives defiant pledge to keep SDP going as his political rivals try to woo his disaffected members. Leader says since the former Alliance parties were fractured after the last election, Dr Owen's rump SDP and the new Democrats have fought each other harder than they have fought the two big parties in by-elections. The SDP in particular has tested itself virtually to destruction.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Mr Baker attends appointment of the Principal of Bradford City Technology College
- SO: Mr Rifkind launches Wester Hailes Urban Partnership Strategy Initiative, Wester Hailes, Edinburgh
- WO: Mr Walker addresses CBI Seminar on Training and Enterprise Councils, Cardiff
- DEM: Mr Cope opens High-Tec exhibition in Reading
- DEM: Mr Lee addresses the Roads for Tourism conference in London
- DEN: Mr Morrison attends the Queen Mother's opening of ESSO/Shell, Tern Field, Aberdeen
- DES: Mr Butcher visits St Saviours School, Ealing
- DES: Mr Jackson visits Rycotewood College, Oxfordshire
- DH: Mr Freeman visits Resource Management Pilot Scheme, Guy's Hospital, London; later meets Jamaican Health Minister, London
- DH: Mr Mellor meets FPC Chairmen; later meets Lady Phillips and Christopher Pall re Incest Crisis Line
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley lunches with National Society for Clean Air; later presents environmental awards to Dust Control Environment Group; later addresses Rating and Valuation Association on "Local Government"
- DOE: Mr Gummer visits Chester (regional 'listening' visit)
- DOE: Mr Chope visits Westminster Gymnasium, PSA, Norman Shaw Building, London
- DTI: Mr Atkins visits Mercury Communications, Preston

- MOD: Mr Hamilton meets General Rusov, Czechoslovakian Deputy Defence Minister
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts reception, Glasgow
- ODA: Mr Patten takes part in Christian Aid Week

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DH: Mr Clarke attends EC Health Ministers' Meeting, Brussels
- DTI: Lord Young visits Cannes Film Festival (to 16 May)
- FCO: Mrs Chalker visits Rome and Florence (to 17 May)
- ODA: Mr Patten attends Development Council in Brussels (to 16 May)

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DEM: Mr Fowler lunches with Joe Rogaly and Phillip Stephens of The
Financial Times

TV AND RADIO

'The Cook Report': Thames (19.00) investigates crooks and bungling bureaucrats

'Horizon: Crash': BBC 2 (20.10) bureaucratic muddle prevents action to cut road
deaths

'World in Action': Thames (20.30)

'Panorama: Football - Safe in their Hands?': BBC 1 (21.30) should the
Government intervene in the running of the game?
