

May 16, 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Inland Revenue Staff Federation annual delegate conference, Llandudno (to 19 May)

The Institution of Professional Civil Servants annual delegate conference, Torquay (to 19 May)

Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen annual assembly of delegates Palm Court Hotel, Scarborough (to 24 April)

Prime Minister sees Dr Kissinger and Jean-Pierre Hocke (UNHCR) (photocall)

EC: Development Council, Brussels

EC: Health Council, Brussels

Warsaw Pact C-in-C visits Britain (to Thursday)

HO: Announcements of scrutiny into voluntary sector

STATISTICS

DTI/HMSO: Overseas trade figures (March)

OPCS: Congenital malformations 1987

OPCS: Registrar General's weekly return for England and Wales

OPCS: Infectious diseases (June qtr 1988)

PUBLICATIONS

HO: White Paper on Charities

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Employment; Health; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Representation (Redistribution) Bill
Opposition Day (10th allotted day)
Until about 7.00 pm
Debate on the Government's Publicity Machine on an Opposition Motion. Afterwards,
Debate on Manufacturing Industry on an Opposition Motion
Motion to take note of EC Documents on Procurement Procedures in the Water, Energy, Transport and Telecommunications Sectors. Details will be given in the Official Report.

Adjournment Debates: Relations with Lebanon (Mr C Townsend)

Select Committees: EUROPEAN LEGISLATION
Subject: Future Developments in the European Community
Witness: Lord Cockfield

MEMBERS' INTERESTS
Subject: Parliamentary Lobbying
Witnesses: 1. Lord Northfield:
Chairman, Consortium Developments
2. Rt Hon Gordon Oakes, MP

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL
Birmingham City Council No. 2

Lords: Starred Questions
Electricity Bill: Committee (2nd Day)

Parking Bill Committee

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Huge demonstration greets Mr Gorbachev on his visit to Peking; he slips into back door of Great Hall of People to avoid student crush.

US describes as "outlandish" new Soviet threat to build new nuclear weapons if NATO goes ahead with SNF modernisation (Independent).

Peter Jenkins, in Independent. after attending Berlin conference, says replacement for Lance is dead.

Dollar rises 2.5cents - pound at lowest level since October 1987 - after encouraging economic signals in USA. Intervention fails to halt dollar's rise.

Decision in community charge leaflet case expected this afternoon.

Chaos expected to London's traffic yesterday, with Tube and bus strikes, did not materialise.

BBC journalists call for resignations of chairmen and director general for their craven surrender to Government pressure by allowing the public sector pay norm of 7% (Times).

D/Employment considering unspecified ways of curbing wildcat strikes.

New Severn crossing may be privately financed, Michael Portillo hints, confirming that Green Paper on scope for privately-financed roads.

Mail gives a page to your opening of their printing plant and puts your EC remarks, extensively picked up by others, on front page under heading "We must hold the purse strings".

Lord Plumb will fuel controversy today by saying you have misunderstood the nature of Britain's EC membership.

Eric Hammond, backing Kinnoek's defence policy, says by implication that Ron Todd is "the thickest, the densest of dinosaurs". But Hammond says Kinnoek will continue to have a credibility problem until he says he would be prepared to press nuclear button.

PRESS DIGEST

Left-wing of Labour's NEC seeking emergency vote tomorrow on whether a Labour Prime Minister should be willing to press the nuclear button (Independent).

David Owen says Labour is in a far better position - "streets ahead" - than SLD to win power. Mail says Owen has set his sights on leading a moderate section of Labour Party to victory over Tories.

Benn leading alternative policy review with Labour Party next month.

Labour to risk row by refusing to shortlist black woman unilateralist for Vauxhall by-elections.

According to Telegraph some Tories are advocating Chris Patten as replacement for Peter Walker.

Government defeated on Water Bill as Lords vote to impose earlier deadline for bringing drinking water up to EC standards (Times).

Threat of nationwide dock strike receding with union leaders no longer confident of an overwhelming ballot victory (Independent).

MMC to recommend Government to cut interest rates on credit cards and to reduce the interest free period on them.

Cecil Parkinson says North Sea oil and gas will last for another 25 years; reserves going to last a lot longer than anyone dreamed.

Government refuses to intervene in British Coal/CEGB negotiations over new coal contracts.

British Coal offers to cut price by 20% to protect market against imports.

Lord Young tells brewers they have a fortnight to come up with their own plans of reducing monopolies; accused of bowing to pressure to firms which help fund Tory party.

Tesco to invest £1 billion in a 3 year development programme building 60 new shops.

PRESS DIGEST

Building work on Rose Theatre site delayed a month to give time for environmentalists to preserve it at cost of £1million. Mail leader praises Nicholas Ridley but wonders whether developers are so lacking in vision that they cannot see the commercial potential of this theatrical site.

Times leader says the drama was in the best cliffhanging tradition but was it necessary? It is critical of the Government for not taking steps earlier. It had allowed itself to appear insensitive. The Government should not be seen as a bulldozer ploughing obtusely over our cultural remains, except when restrained by overwhelming public or professional opinion.

Lords Select Committee says Government's handling of waste disposal is a "shambles"; taking unacceptable risks with public health.

Guardian claims a British plan to build a toxic waste plant in Moroccan desert has been vetoed after its revelations.

London businessmen fined £2,340 after admitting that his company felled hundreds of trees in a copse of ancient woodland in New Forest (Times).

Director of US-UK Midco consortium confirms hope to build waste processing plant in Morocco (FT).

Maxwell and Murdoch to announce a major satellite TV deal today to help ailing Sky.

FT leader says John Moore's speech on poverty makes some salient points but, taken as a whole, its political wrong-headedness is reminiscent of Lord Joseph's "cycle of deprivation" proclamation which, 15 years ago, deprived him of his chance to bid for the leadership for the Conservative Party.

BMA step up campaign against self-governing hospitals claiming consultants are being blackmailed into supporting such plans (Times).

D/Health guidelines were breached when a surgeon transplanted a kidney in a private patient - - although an NHS patient could have benefitted (Independent).

Half the beds at Atkinson Morley's neurosurgical ward have been closed because of a lack of trained staff (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Health Education Authority to lose independence and Ministers call on it to work fully within government polices (Independent).

Express leader says that according to a survey the overwhelming majority of parents are still unhappy with the quality of education; how long do Ministers want to achieve what they so glibly promised.

Police at Hillsborough 20 minutes after the first deaths thought they were facing a pitch invasion and hooliganism. QC describes heavy drinking before the match.

Counsel tells Hillsborough inquiry that police officer who ordered opening of gates acted correctly and should not be criticised.

Football Spectators Bill expected to restart its progress through Parliament in the middle of June. Police Federation chairman says all Football League clubs should voluntarily ban visiting supporters for the whole of next session as an emergency measure to curb hooliganism.

Home Office will tell schools today to keep records of all racial incidents involving pupils as part of a Government crackdown on racial violence (Times).

Nine killed when RAF helicopter crashes in Kenya bush.

Roman Catholic worker shot dead on Belfast building site and rocket fired at Sinn Fein office there.

Takeshita may stay in office in Japan if his party cannot find a successor.

Ron Brown MP says he has been invited by Libya to Beirut to help free Terry Waite and other hostages.

Star, Sun, Express tell Carlos Menem, new president of Argentina, to keep his hands off the Falklands.

Telegraph hopes that experience of office will temper Menem.

Times leader looks at Argentina's economic problems. Menem has to decide which of his conflicting electoral promises to put first: the promises to the army of increased military spending and to the poor of higher wages and more jobs; or to the businessmen that he will discipline the economy.

PRESS DIGEST

Guardian leader says the Falklands offer Menem an easy propaganda target as long as Britain continues to pretend there is nothing to discuss.

Reformers win more seats in new Soviet Parliament in Sunday's second-round election (Times).

PLO condemns Israeli proposals for elections in the occupied territories (FT).

EC

Sun - "We stay free" call by Maggie. You step up your fight to stop Britain being swallowed by United States of Europe.

Mirror - Maggie blast for Heath - Tory split widens as you rebuff Heath's criticisms. Leader says Tory Party is badly split over Europe and the Labour Party isn't - a turn up for the books. For you to say you are a European and an idealist is to stand language on its head.

Today - Maggie block on Eurotaxes. Nation's economy must continue to be run by our own Parliament.

Mail - We must hold purse strings says Maggie.

Times - You launch EC counter-attack saying you are a European idealist. Meanwhile about 30 Tory MPs draft statement to be published on Thursday calling for closer European integration and for the Conservatives to reassert themselves as the party of Europe.

Telegraph leader asks if Europe could split the Tory Party as tariff reform did nearly a century ago. Opinions are becoming polarised. You have cause to be grateful for Heath's sulphurous assault on you. But a greater sense of proportion is required on all sides. You should recognise purity of national sovereignty as beyond recall and your critics should not forget that enthusiasm for European federalism remains hard to find.

Guardian leader says Heath is right to say there is an awful lot of tosh talked about Europe - too much of it from Downing Street. But his putting the boot in automatically hands you an advantage. The choices are not hard - they are to implement what we signed for on the dotted line and to play a part as committed members of the club.

PRESS DIGEST

Guardian runs story you used the image of wartime Britain standing alone against Hitler's armies to characterise your position on future progress of the EC. The mainstream view of Backbenchers is that neither you nor Heath are addressing the important question about Britain's future in Europe.

You rebuff critics of stance on Europe, saying you remain intent on resisting a "detailed bureaucracy of standardisation and harmonisation". Tensions among Conservatives are likely to be exacerbated today when Lord Plumb delivers a speech at Chatham House (FT).

Independent leader says the Conservative manifesto for next month's European Elections will not be able to secure a draft to encompass the broad spectrum of views held by you, Ted Heath and Michael Heseltine. Ted Heath is forever fighting the last Conservative leadership battle, Michael Heseltine is preparing for the next. Neither has cause to wish you well. Backbenchers should not be persuaded to hold their tongues for it is only the pro-European elements in the Cabinet, on the backbenches and among Euro Parliament candidates who have the authority necessary to persuade you to moderate your views. It ought to take more than pious remarks from you about your European idealism to quieten your critics within the party.

BREWERS

Today says it was a big mistake for Lord Young to reprove the brewers. The British pub is nothing more than a grand device for pouring as much second rate booze as possible down captive throats.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler attends the CBI annual dinner, London
- DEN: Mr Parkinson attends AEA Technology launch; attends United Newspapers luncheon, The Savoy, London; later meets Irish Energy Minister
- DTI: Mr Newton opens Trade Work Registry, Newport
- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses City University Business School lunch on the fifth anniversary of the International Centre for Shipping, Trade and Finance, The Baltic Exchange, London; later addresses CBI annual dinner on "Realism and the European Community," Grosvenor House Hotel, London
- DES: Mr Jackson addresses the General Synod Further and Higher Education Committee in Lincoln
- DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses the Music Industries conference, Royal Hotel, Bournemouth
- DH: Mr Mellor meets John Yates re waiting lists
- DH: Mr Freeman addresses North West Herts Health Authorities businessman's breakfast meeting, London
- DOE: Mr Howard meets Ian Taylor MP re Employee Scheme Ownership Plan (water privatisation); later meets Marion Roe MP re travelling showpeople
- DOE: Mr Moynihan meets David Pickup of the Sports Council re the Disabled Review Group report
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley addresses British Aerosol Manufacturers, London
- DTI: Mr Atkins addresses Management Action Briefing, Hatfield
- HMT: Mr Lilley attends the CBI annual dinner
- HO: Mr Renton gives opening address at Trading Standards Officers symposium on the Video Recordings Act, Barbican, London
- WO: Mr Roberts attends annual CBI dinner, London
- WO: Mr Grist attends reception to celebrate first birthday of the Carers National Association, London
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses European University Institute, Florence on "Europe: The Way Forward"
- MOD: Mr Neubert visits British Army on the Rhine and Royal Air Force, Germany
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DOE: Mr Gummer on Radio Kent phone-in on Community Charge
- DTI: Mr Atkins briefs aerospace press on his visit to USA
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TV AND RADIO

'File on Four': BBC Radio 4 (19.20)

'On the Line: Newcastle Disunited': BBC 2 (19.50) John Hall tries to take over Newcastle United FC

'Split Screen': BBC 2 (20.30) problems of evidence in rape cases

'Enterprise Culture': BBC 2 (21.50) plans for a theme park divide a Wiltshire village

'A Place of Skulls: The Tragedy of Africa and Its Elephants': Thames (22.35) documentary on battle to save the elephant
