

May 17, 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Commons Statement on DSS agency status

Select Committee report on televising Commons published

Judicial Review of Access to Broadcasting Regulations (Northern Ireland)

Prime Minister's interview with Daily Mail

Prime Minister meets Dr Ernst Albrecht, Minister-President of Lower Saxony (photocall)

The Queen attends a concert at St James's Palace to mark the 25th anniversary of the Council of Christians and Jews

The Duke of Edinburgh presents the Churchill Award to Ronald Reagan at a dinner in Los Angeles

Local Government Elections in Northern Ireland

STATISTICS

CSO: Index of output of the production industries (Mar)

HMT/CSO: Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (Apr)

PUBLICATIONS

DES: HMI report on work based learning colleges of further education

HMT: Minute in reply to 6th to 11th PAC reports

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Trade and Industry; Environment; Scotland

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Defamation
Employment Bill: Progress on Remaining Stages
Motion to take note of EC Documents on Control of Concentrations. Details will be given in the Official Report.

Adjournment Debates: Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (Mr R Davies)

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Select Committees:

DEFENCE

Subject: The Statement on the Defence: Estimates 1989
 Witnesses: The Rt Hon George Younger, TD
 Secretary of State for Defence, Sir Michael Quinlin,
 KCB, Permanent Under-Secretary, Ministry of Defence

TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE SUB-COMTEE

Subject: Developments in the Government's
 'Next Steps' Programme
 Witnesses: Chief Executive, Companies House (11.00 am)
 Chief Executive, Vehicle Inspectorate (11.45 am)

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: Part-time employment
 Witnesses: Manchester Diocese Board for
 Social Responsibility

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: The Crown Prosecution Service
 Witness: A. Green, QC, Director of Public Prosecutions

TRANSPORT

Subject: Roads for the Future
 Witnesses: Transport 2000 (4.15);
 Association of County Councils (5.00)

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Resourcing the NHS: The Government's White
 Paper; Working for Patients
 Witnesses: The Association of Community Health Councils
 of England and Wales;
 The College of Health and the Patients' Association

PROCEDURE

Subject: The Scrutiny of European Legislation
 Witness: Rt Hon John Wakeham MP,
 Lord President of the Council and
 Leader of the House of Commons

COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS

Opposed Bills:

1. Birmingham City Council No.2
2. Bromley London Borough Council
 (Crystal Palace)

Unopposed Bills

1. Midland Metro
2. New Southgate Cemetery and
 Crematorium Bill

Lords:

Starred Questions

Debate on the Report of the Joint Committee on Private Bill
 Procedure (HL Paper 97, Session 1987-88)

Debate on the Scottish Home and Health Department consultation
 paper "The Legal Profession in Scotland"

River Tees Barrage and Crossing Bill (HL): Second Reading

UQ on what steps HMG intend to take to implement the Code of
 Practice on the sale of wine by the glass in licensed premises

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Guardian reports a steady 3% Conservative lead over Labour at end of April in its average of polls, at same point in 1983 Labour had 2 point lead.

Chinese student demonstrations and hunger strike overshadows Sino-Soviet reconciliation.

Gorbachev offers to demilitarise border with China.

Chinese challenge to leaders grows amid calls for greater democracy (Independent).

Britain outvoted 11-1 on cigarette packet warnings in EC.

115 Tory Backbenchers sign Commons motion supporting your position against undue interference by EC in British affairs.

Meanwhile Ted Heath denounces your "authoritarianism" and "dictatorship" over Europe. But Foreign Secretary rejects his criticisms and proclaims UK contribution to EC over last 10 years.

Lord Cockfield says sterling will be left to mercy of international speculators unless Britain joins ERM.

Ministers have non-socialist majorities. European Commission will today issue its "social charger" of workers' rights (FT).

Bertie Denham gets a lot of publicity he could do without - though it is quite friendly - over the Lords ambush on the Water Bill and EC standards while he was the the threatre.

Times - Nicholas Ridley says Lords defeat forcing a 1993 deadline on improving drinking water could wreck the planned £7billion sale of the industry. Leader says Governemnt would be ill-advised to reverse amendment describing it as a minor political embarrassment. The Government would do much to rescue water privatisation from public disfavour, to improve its environmental credentials and to resolve its embarrassing differences with the EC by deciding to live with the amendment. It would also mean resigning itself to a one-off investment programme to compensate for years of neglect by successive Governments.

Flexible polyurethane industry in UK says it will phase out the use of CFCs, with total elimination by 1992 (FT).

Today forecasts fall in inflation on Friday.

PRESS DIGEST

Tentative signs of a pick up in the UK manufacturing growth are revealed in a survey by the Association of British Chambers of Commerce (FT).

Britain should be able to export its way out of its current account balance of payments deficit by 1992, according to Barclays Bank (FT).

Government wins court battle with Greenwich Council over community charge leaflet.

Mail says this is a reminder of how meticulous the Government must be in publicity about controversial affairs. But the same principle applies to local authorities and some Labour Councils have used ratepayers' money to put out grossly misleading statements on the community charge.

Pay deal agreed for university lecturers which seems likely to end 4-month dispute.

Electricity supply industry to offer 9% on Friday to avert a strike (Sun).

Study says managers have got it wrong in believing that pay is the prime factor in recruiting and retaining employees (Times).

Families face a bill of £75 to bring water supplies up to Euro health standards, according to Today.

Guardian says Michael Meacher has turned the Labour policy clock back too far on pre-strike ballots, sympathetic action and legal liability of trade unions.

Professor Bernard Crick under the heading "A reform too far for Kinnock" in the Times, regrets Labour's timid approach to constitutional change.

Guardian says poll shows that nearly half Tory voters and 58% of privatisation investors believe water privatisation will lead to a worse service.

Minorco bid for Consgold collapses after US judge refuses to lift injunction preventing Minorco from completing its offer.

FT's Lex says there is something very disturbing about the way that a major UK takeover battle can be decided by the whim of a New York judge.

PRESS DIGEST

Boeing called on to make improvements to design of new Jumbos being delivered to Europe.

BAA and B/Rail reconsidering rail link between Paddington and Heathrow after Lords Committee rejects proposals (Times).

UKAEH Chairman claims 2,000 jobs will go there over next few years as government cuts its nuclear power R&D programme (Independent).

Martin Sorrell, advertising man, becomes second largest communications man in world after his WPP group acquires American Ogilvy Group.

Barristers' clerks accuse Lord Chancellor of ill-founded criticism against them in his legal reform Green Paper (Times).

Political donations provisions to be removed from the Companies Bill after Conservative MPs signalled their intention to scrap the provision, added in the Lords, in a Commons technical motion yesterday (Independent).

New drug which dissolves blood clots could cut Britain's death toll from heart attacks by almost half.

Mirror claims newly qualified nurses doing the same job as staff nurses are, being cheated out of £50 a week "because of health service cuts"

Summer barbecues cause up to 30,000 food poisoning cases a year.

Oil seed rape blamed for new type of hayfever (Independent).

Public opinion poll by football authorities discovers 53% are in favour of national membership cards.

Home Secretary to clean up exploitation by unscrupulous charities.

Times leader on Charities White Paper says there can be little doubt that the present arrangements for supervising the system are such as to encourage carelessness, or worse, in handling publicly donated money, and where there is carelessness sooner or later there is bound to be downright dishonesty.

British Guardian Angels make their first appearance on the Underground.

PRESS DIGEST

Police Federation chairman says volunteer groups such as the Guardian Angels and Scotland Yard's proposed Blue Angel unit were nothing more than dangerous gimmicks hiding police shortages (Times).

Police Federation Conference calls for formation of national police reserve (Independent).

Mail protests over request to coloured children at Rochdale School to report anti-racist remarks by white pupils whose names are entered in a register and parents are then called in for a ticking off.

An Immigration Appeal Tribunal finding that Tamils who had been returned to face persecution in Sri Lanka has been kept secret for a month because of the danger to the lives of the Tamils. Ministers are refusing to abide by the findings and will challenge the Tamils' right to seek political asylum in the High Court today (Independent).

Sun wants to know how much showbiz millionaires are contributing to save Rose Theatre.

Sky TV will be able to reach another 50,000 homes through Maxwell's cable operation. But Walt Disney Corp pulls out of a deal with Sky withdrawing its films from Sky programmes.

John Tusa claims Whitehall has changed the rules of engagement between broadcasters and Ministers: broadcasters are being pinned down by Government press officers on the rules of engagement! (Independent).

Father Ryan ordered by Palatine Brothers to pull out of Euro election campaign in Irish Republic.

Police foil plot by 6th formers to sell GCE exam papers on black market; 7 students arrested in Sutton Coldfield.

Today wants you to enhance your green image by stopping ivory trade through Hong Kong.

Concern over the number of Kurds coming here as refugees from Turkey.

PRESS DIGEST

At least 16 countries in the Middle East, Asia and Latin America either possess or are developing ballistic missiles, and at least six of them are believed to have the capability of manufacturing nuclear warheads, according to Jane's Strategic Weapon Systems (FT).

Kohl's moves to demand negotiations on SNF and Cabinet reshuffle have failed to improve his standing in the polls (Independent).

Leader of Sunni Moslems among 21 killed in car bomb explosion in Beirut.

Three West Germans kidnapped in Lebanon yesterday.

Mr Gorbachev says he has cut all arms aid to the left-wing Government in Nicaragua in response to the shift in White House policy (Times).

Helen Suzman retiring after 36 years as MP in South Africa.

Telegraph says De Klerk's plans to meet you and President Bush this summer.

Namibian talks deadlocked as concern grows over continuing presence of SWAPO guerrillas (Times).

Coup attempt in Ethiopia foiled while Mengister is out of the country.

EC

Star - Clarke defeated in Euro tar war.

Sun page 2 - Maggie court war on Euro meddlers. Fury as they threaten our laws.

Mirror page 1 - Thatcher crushed by EC over smoking dangers.

Today page 7 - Fuming Maggie beaten on cigarette warnings. Leader says Government has its full support in its efforts to stop the EC from getting too big for its boots. But that is no reason why the Government should be seen at its most dogged in opposing measures that are worthwhile in themselves simply because they originate in Europe.

PRESS DIGEST

Express page 2 - Thatcher's war cry after smoking snub. Leader says you are in danger of turning Europe into an obsession. While your first duty is to defend the British national interest to uphold the sovereignty of Parliament you should not regard every measure coming out of Brussels as the work of the devil. You should accept cigarette labelling and water improvement amendment.

Mail page 2 - Maggie fumes at cigarettes "law".

Telegraph leads with "Thatcher ready to tackle EC on sovereignty". Britain isolated in Brussels vote to impose warning on cigarettes. You are preparing for a confrontation with EC over its interference in British affairs.

FT - UK may challenge EC powers as ministers appear increasingly determined to force the issue of the Commission's competence. Leader argues that the likelihood of the Community turning into a socialist superstate is very remote, and the British Government would not lack allies in the struggle to prevent it. You would do a better service to Britain as well as the Community if you used your didactic powers to remind the British public of certain relevant facts, such as:

- the Commission employs a much smaller staff than most British Government departments;
- it is an executive body, not a legislative one;
- any decision involving a major inroad on national sovereignty has to be taken unanimously;
- both the Commission and the Council of Ministers have non-Socialist majorities.

Times - Ted Heath renews his attack on you as the split in the Conservative ranks widens over Europe. He accuses you on TV of dictatorship and authoritarianism. Lord Plumb also takes issue with you on virtually every aspect of the EC.

Independent - Government split on EC grows. Last night Sir Geoffrey Howe appeared to contradict you. Edward Heath said you were attempting to break up the Community. You said we had to prevent the EC becoming too bureaucratic; Sir Geoffrey said there had to be 'give and take'.

Independent - Ken Clarke overruled on tobacco legislation despite his view that there was no need for the community to legislate in such detail.

PRESS DIGESTSINO-SOVIET SUMMIT

Sun says we should not be deceived by the glad handing in Peking. Divisions between Moscow and Peking run deeper than the Volga.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DH: Mr Clarke, Mr Mellor and Mr Freeman attend Regional Health Authority chairmen's meeting, Winchester
- DOE: Mr Ridley addresses British Property Federation annual lunch, Hilton Hotel, London
- HMT: Mr Major addresses the Overseas Womens Club lunch, London
- HO: Mr Hurd addresses Police Federation central conference, Blackpool
- WO: Mr Walker opens PA Personnel Services new offices, Cardiff; later opens Phillips and Bucks Centre, Cardiff; opens Business Wales 1989 exhibition, Cardiff; visits New Japanese Centre, University of Wales College, Cardiff; also opens Pensord Press factory, Blackwood
- DEM: Mr Cope launches London Business School Centre for Enterprise, London
- DEM: Mr Nicholls addresses the Royal College of Nursing in London
- DES: Mr Butcher visits Hadrian Primary School and Hedworthfield Comprehensive School, South Tyneside
- DOE: Mr Moynihan meets British Mountaineering Council re the Water Bill - access
- DOE: Mr Chope opens buildings, Derby
- DOE: Mr Tripper conducts topping out ceremony at Harbour Exchange, Isle of Dogs, London
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley visits AGM Resources water disposal plant, Rural Development Areas and lunches with North East Councils Association, Hartlepool
- DOE: Mr Gummer visits Arun (regional 'listening' visit)
- DTI: Mr Atkins visits companies in Preston and Blackpool
- DTp: Mr Bottomly attends sod cutting ceremony for A1/M1 link contract near Wellingborough
- HMT: Mr Lilley visits Courage Brewery, Reading, Berks
- HO: Lord Ferrers visits South Glamorgan Fire Service, Cardiff
- MAFF: Mr Thompson attends European Poultry Fair, Stoneleigh
- MOD: Mr Hamilton hosts lunch for General Luscher, Commander in Chief Warsaw Pact, London
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses the opening of The Industrial Society's: The Challenge of Managing the Arts in the 1990's conference, London
- ODA: Mr Patten addresses Westminster Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, London; later hosts reception for IDA9 Deputies, Lancaster House, London
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTI: Lord Young visits Japan (to 24 May)

FCO: Lord Glenarthur visits Sri Lanka and South Korea (to 26 May)

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DOE: Mr Ridley interviewed by Geography Review on the environment; later interviewed by Hazel Duffy of Financial Times re planning in London

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe takes part in Brian Hayes' phone-in, IRN

HMT: Mr Lawson appears on BBC TV's Wogan programme, with Sue Lawley

TV AND RADIO

'Dispatches': Ch 4 (20.30)

'Inside Story: Subway': BBC 1 (21.30) fighting crime on the London Underground
