

May 8, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Franz Vranitzky, Austrian Chancellor visits London
Inauguration Ceremony of President -elect Calderan of Costa Rica
BBC Democracy Forum - House of Commons
DTp: Road Child Safety Package launched
The Bergen conference on the Environment (to 16 May)

STATISTICS

HMT: Credit business (March)
HMT: Retail sales (March-final)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Education and Science; Prime Minister

Business:

Adjournment Debates:

Select Committees: TELEVISIONING OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE
Subject: Review of the Televising Experiment
Witnesses: At 5.00 pm Professor Jay Blumler and Dr
Bob Franklin, Parliamentary Research
Group, University of Leeds.
At 6.00 pm Rt Hon Terence Higgins, MP

Lords: Starred Questions: 20 mins
National Health Service and Community Care Bill: Committee (6th
Day).
Motor Trade (Consumer Protection) Bill (HL)

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Chancellor in Washington says economy is responding to Govt's tough policies. Inflation will fall by the end of the year.
Mail: Mortgages down in 1991, says Major.

Telegraph leads with "Major talks of interest rate cuts this year".

City forecasting 9.7% inflation on Friday.

Express says most senior Tories believe Govt is on road to recovery.

In the Independent, Peter Jenkins says you have yet to be deprived of your most previous electoral asset - a divided and enfeebled opposition. Your legemony, although more vulnerable is not yet ended. But the claim that the results vindicated the community charge risks our flimsy and patchy evidence. Last Thursday r's results suggest that, come the next general election the country's anti-Labour majority may again outweigh the dividied anti-Thatcher majority enabling you once more to divide and rule.

Woodrow Wyatt in the Times says the media's political mood has changed dramatically from last week to this. Those so recently convinced that you were a no hoper, with your continued leadership certain to hand Labour victory, are backtracking fast. Even BBC interviewers have begun to ask Labour leaders awkward questions and Ladbrokees have reduced the odds against a Tory win to evens.

Institute of Directors finds 52% of small businessmen more optimistic than 6 months ago.

But Independent says 10% becomes "going rate" for pay rises in wide range of industries as Safeways gives up to 25% and 600,000 building workers aim for near double figures.

Michael Heseltine to reveal his alternative to community charge - higher rates for well off; he will argue he is seeking to help the Govt. Lord President urges him to cool it.

Times leader, discussing Heseltine's proposal, wonders whether he can win the next election for you. Such proposals could be the key not just to his party's fate but to his own succession when you eventually step down. It does on to say that you emerged from the local elections with your previously shaky leadership looking more secure, thanks to the remarkable manipulation of govt grants to certain flagship London councils.

PRESS DIGEST

The Govt's argument that the Thatcher years have benefited the poor will be challenged tomorrow by a report which suggests that the statistics have been wrong. Times says the Institute of Fiscal Studies, carrying out a report for the Social Services Cttee, has stumbled across error in previous calculations by gov't statisticians. Leader says Ministers must, at least, be more careful how they use the trickle-down argument in future. It also places additional strain on the Govt's main response to poverty, the targeting of benefits.

London is to get EBRD as part of complex formula which will give Britain and France equal 4th place in IMF for foreseeable future (FT).

Lord President describes Kinnock as inhabiting a "thought free zone".

John Prescott says miners sacked for violence and intimidation during 1984 strike will be given their jobs back by Labour - but Kinnock says party will have nothing to do with anyone involved in violence.

TGWU offers Kinnock compromise in dispute over Labour Party plans to force strike ballots (Independent).

Professor Kenneth Minogue says Britain's Socialists should abjectly apologise. they blew it. If we are to learn from history, we must acknowledge past mistakes. Why should Socialism, such a resounding flop in the past, be any better second time around? Min

Released US hostage claims McCarthy and Keenan were ashamed to hold British nationality because Gov't has abandoned them. Gallup shows 75% think Gov't should negotiate with kidnappers. Telegraph leader says this result betrays a certain naivete.

Peter Temple-Morris calls for a new initiative, claiming support of FCO officials. Star despairs at inaction of "armchair warriors" of FCO.

Express reports renewed pressure on Gov't to restore relations with Iran and Syria.

British companies breached Iraq arms embargo again by making parts for self-propelled gun designed by Gerald Bull, Customs sources claim (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Gordon Brown to call Govt to account for continued detention in Greece of Iraqi gun driver who was refused bail yesterday. Mirror sees his detention as a threat to all international lorry drivers.

Football League blamed by police for violence at Bournemouth for refusing to change date of fixture with Leeds; treated arrogantly.

Hundreds of Leeds supporters got into Bournemouth ground with forged tickets.

David Atkinson MP wants Leeds denied promotion to Division I after Battle of Bournemouth in which 120 were arrested.

Labour leader of Leeds City Council, which own Leeds' ground, wants any council employees arrested in Bournemouth to be fired or at least disciplined. Wants private companies to follow suit.

James Lawton, Express sports writer, says denying Leeds United promotion would hurt the innocent along with the guilty. But the guilty would be truly touched. Their names would reek in the streets of their city and their sneers would be isolated in a way that has never happened before.

Home Office to examine a call from Chief Constable of Dorset for the police to be empowered to veto football fixtures they believe likely to attract violence (Times).

Colin Moynihan in Rome to try to make World Cup next month free of incident. He pleads with European football authorities to wait until after World Cup finals before making a decision on the re-entry of English clubs into European competitions.

Police Chiefs' leader accuses Independent of campaign to shake foundation of police-public confidence. He says police are sad and angry at recent articles (Independent).

times p1 - Concern express oed over more than one million people a year are being vetted by prospective employers with access to police records. Roy Hattersley says we are becoming an increasingly intrusive society in which information about individuals is too widely available.

In separate stories on p2 Times says the idea for an independent agency to be created to maintain criminal records is rapidly gaining support from Ministers who believe it would make for increased efficiency and public accountability and sets out the case of the innocent man in mistaken identity. Meanwhile former

PRESS DIGEST

permanent secy Patrick Nairne balances the public's right to know and official need for a degree of secrecy.

times leader says the debate about Europe, and in particular the occasional barbed exchanges between you and Delors, have portrayed the modern French as rabid federalists, careless of their heritage, caught up in doctrinaire permit of supranational ideals which must surely erode their national identity. So where stands the legacy of de Gaulle, the centenary of whose birgh is celebrated this week?

Scottish MPs said to be furious that they were not told Dounreay was shut down two weeks ago after a leak.

Six North Sea oil workers' unions threatening disruption over pay and safety.

Independent claims 8,000 North Sea oil workers to start working to contract in campaign for union recognition and better conditions.

Allegations (in Express) that breweries are not admitting "guest" beers to tied pubs.

Express says legislation to ban junk mail ^{would} ~~will~~ provide another tonic in the Tory revival.

Larger successor to Concorde planned to be flying by 2005.

Leeds University survey says TV broadcasting of Commons has been extensive, serious, responsible, balanced and even at times creative.

Express leader on new Archbishop of Canterbury says one of the oddest features is that the contenders must be over 60. Yet what is desperately needed is a fresh and dynamic thinking. A younger man would be a tonic for the nation.

Reed employment agency man bids to revive War on Want without the political campaigning - but former staff doubt it would work (Independent).

Today restive over our waiting for the results of a study of the effect of smoke alarms in the home when an American survey shows they cut deaths by close to half.

Controversy over plan by Brent Council to take teenagers chosen for their influence o others on tour of Holland to confront them with the realities of addiction.

PRESS DIGEST

Police searching for bogus social workers who seek to examine young children in Cheshire - 16th case in North.

Case of Cumberland man, accused of child abuse, being refused wish to see his children before he dies; Sun says that in a compassionate society there must always be a place for pity. Mail says social work should be a caring service.

An Independent feature says Libyan arms have fuelled this year's rise in IRA terrorism. But arms finds and arrests have increased, suggesting security forces have penetrated IRA with informers.

General Colin Powell, chairman US joint chiefs of staff, says US could cut its military strength by a quarter without endangering national security. The days of regarding Soviets the "evil empire" are over.

Channel 4 unlikely to screen Pakistani film showing fictional death of Salman Rushdie (Independent).

Gorbachev sends tanks rumbling through Riga after declaration of independence by Latvia. He launches a fierce attack on separatism and the "abuse" of glasnost for nationalist ends (Times).

Riga's pro-Soviet groups call strike on 15 May in protest at Latvian independence moves (Independent).

Border controls between East and West Berlin to be scrapped by July 2.

Scargill accuses Gorbachev of causing anti-Semitism and racism.

Today says that by building an airstrip in Antarctica we have put ourselves at the front of the new vandalism.

Today also claims we are at the bottom of the Euro league table for recycling.

White Paper to propose Neighbourhood Noise Watch schemes.

ANNEX

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Howard addresses Chemical Industry Association launch, London
- DES: Mr MacGregor attends launch of Road Safety Initiative, with Mr Parkinson (DTp); later with Mr Jackson visits Polytechnic and Colleges Funding Council, Metropolis House, London
- DH: Mr Clarke attends annual Florence Nightingale commemorative service, Westminster Abbey
- DOE: Mr Patten attends English Heritage conference, Bath
- DTp: Mr Parkinson attends Air Transport Users Association
- LPC: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses British-Chilean Chamber of Commerce lunch, London
- MAFF: Mr Gummer visits Royal Agricultural College, and addresses local farmers meeting; both Cirencester
- WO: Mr Hunt launches Ogwr Groundwork Trust, Bridgend; presents Busch Training Certificate's, Margam Park; visits Dineglow Ltd, Swansea and visits Cwm Gorse Business Nursery, Cwm Gorse
- DEM: Mr Eggar opens Training Centre at Pitney Bowes in Harlow
- DEM: Mr Nicholls attends launch of joint pesticides code on FEPA/COSHH Hyde Park, London
- DEM: Lord Strathclyde hosts Japanese tour operators tour of House of Lords
- DH: Mr Freeman visits Bethlem and Maudsley Hospital, London
- DOE: Mr Heathcoat-Amory visits the Cleanaway landfill site in Pitsea, Essex
- DSS: Mrs Shephard meets Rosalind Mackworth, Social Fund Commissioner; later meets Lord Joseph, Virginia Bottomley, Emily Blatch and Angela Rumbold to discuss the problems arising from the cycle of deprivation
- DTI: Mr Hogg visits Moss Side Task Force, Manchester
- DTp: Mr Atkins addresses British Retailers Association
- DTp: Mr Portillo opens North Woolwich Road Widening Scheme
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington addresses Target seminar, Reading
- MAFF: Mr MacLean launches COSSH Green Code, London
- MOD: Mr Clark attends CFS tank destruction demonstration, P+EE, Shoeburyness
- OAL: Mr Luce opens new library, Lambourn, Berks
- WO: Mr Grist attends reception to mark centenary of South Wales branch of Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, Cardiff
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ANNEX

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

MOD: Mr King attends NATO Planning Group meeting, Canada (to 10 May)

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DES: Mr Jackson attends recording for BBC Radio 4's "Forum on Democracy"

DH: Mr Freeman interviewed by Jane Feinman from G P Magazine.

DTI: Mr Redwood speaks at Forum on Democracy, BBC Radio 4
