

January 10, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

STATISTICS

DEM: Overseas travel and tourism (Oct)

DEN: Advance energy statistics (Nov)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth

Business: Until 7.00 pm Aviation and Maritime Security Bill: 2nd Reading and Money Resolution

OPPOSED PRIVATE BUSINESS

Associated British Ports (No 2) Bill. Motion on the Cooperative Development Agency (Winding-up and Dissolution) Order

Adjournment Debates: HMGs policy towards Cyprus (Mr M Knowles)

Select Committees:

WELSH GRAND COMMITTEE

To consider the matter of the **FUTURE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OF NORTH WALES**

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: Company Investigations

Witnesses: Mr Michael Gillard, Ms Barbara Conway, Mr Clive Wollman and Mr Christopher Hird, journalists

ENERGY

Subject: The Fast Breeder Reactor

Witness: The Central Electricity Generating Board

HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Witnesses: Mr G Angel, Mr A Cogbill - Home Office, Mr G Aitken TD - Scottish Office

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Abortion Act 1967 'Conscience' Clause

Witnesses: Officials from the Department of Health

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL

KING'S CROSS RAILWAYS BILL

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Telegraph leads with British and Irish Governments prepared to abandon Anglo-Irish Agreement provided devolution and cross-border co-operation can be agreed.

Times leads with Peter Brooke's speech urging talks on devolution. His comments reflect a general underlying sense of optimism in Ulster political circles that talks might be possible soon. The positive evidence for this has been the mounting sense of impatience with the political deadlock and the steady apparent dilution of Unionist pre-conditions for opening negotiations.

Danny Morrison, senior Sinn Fein official, charged with others with terrorist offences.

RUC denies allegations, in yesterday's Independent, that there was a leak prior to their raids on loyalist extremists (Independent).

National Council for Civil Liberties criticises expulsion of McBrearty saying it has reopened old human rights wound in Irish affairs (Independent).

No 10 make it clear there is no more money available in ambulance dispute. You call on unions to settle.

Your praise for M25 disaster ambulance men widely reported.

Tory MPs try - and fail - to end deadlock; positions appear to be hardening.

London ambulances immobilised to prevent them being used by strikers for fund raising and other purposes.

Guardian claims top salaries report will recommend a £4,000 a year pay increase for Duncan Nichol.

Ron Brown's conviction for criminal damage - which he claims as a moral victory - and the row in the House, reported in yobbish terms, dominates the front pages of the pops. Star calls Brown a "daft publicity seeker". Sun says Brown is a disgrace to the Commons. Today says that when you pay peanuts you get monkeys and that is how Parliament got Brown. Express thinks Brown is facing de-selection.

Sharp slowdown in UK economic growth foreshadowed by figures showing record gap between what companies earn and what they spend. Analysts say investment will have to fall in 1990 (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

Ministers concerned about the level of pay settlements - fears they will break 10% barrier.

Today says "We have never been better off, according to CSO statistics".

Ford to offer, it is expected, double figures today after rejection of 9.5% offer.

NALGO expected to claim 11-13%.

Production of the Airbus to be halted within next few days as a result of the strike at BAe, resulting in the likely laying off of thousands of workers in France and West Germany. BAe strike could damage reputation of Airbus after a record year for sales in 1989 (Independent).

Pound gains further ground as mark and yen deteriorate (Times).

Association of Graduate Recruiters warns that there are lean times ahead for graduates; the days when they could walk into a job in the City at a huge salary have gone (Times).

Estate agents see signs of recovery in the housing market (Times).

Shell to cut diesel price by 9p after sharp fall in spot prices but to go ahead with 5.5p rise in petrol.

Gorbachev was ill over Christmas and may even have been in hospital, possibly with back trouble, according to Lithuanian sources.

More trouble for Gorbachev in Azerbaijan where Moslem demonstrators set fire to border posts and tear down fence with Iran. Mail headline: "Gorbachev at bay".

And Lithuanian Nationalists call demo to coincide with Gorbachev's visit against wishes of Lithuanian Communist Party.

Czechoslovakia calls for withdrawal of Soviet troops.

Soviet people in panic buying of gold and jewellery as hedge against rising inflation. Government raises price by 50% in bid to stop the rush (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

Social Democrats in both East and West Germany claim DM200billion (£72billion) is needed to develop cleaner energy and provide better water and sewage systems in East Germany. Their claims are seen as indicative of the huge scale of investment needed to modernise and clean up Eastern Europe (Independent).

Radical calls for reform of Comecon from Polish, Hungarian and Czechoslovak Prime Ministers during meeting in Sofia (Independent).

All party group of MPs call on Robert Maxwell to apologise to East Germans for trying to prop up Honecker and to donate a substantial sum to help restore democracy.

Express says Albania is hanging student protestors in the streets.

Express leader says Britain should aggressively be showing Eastern Europe how to develop a market economy.

US Secretary of State Baker to visit Moscow early next month to try to remove obstacles to a US-Soviet treaty cutting long-range nuclear missiles (Times).

Prospects for Japanese investment in Eastern Europe grow as Suzuki agrees on £85million joint venture in Hungary. Could produce up to 100,000 cars a year (FT).

General Staff want to use any surplus troops arising from conventional force disarmament agreement to strengthen SAS and SBS.

Guardian claims that B/Rail has begun cutting back and deferring capital spending because of Government's new financial regime for '90s.

Michael Mates introducing Private Member's Bill allowing firms to charge interest on unpaid bills.

Government turns down Select Committee idea of resuming stamping eggs with little lion to show they are British and, by implication, free of salmonella.

PRESS DIGEST

Times leader says if Common Market eggs upset British stomachs, they deserve the worst that can happen to them - which is to remain in the shops, unbought and uneaten. Having put their domestic henhouses in order, the British are entitled to demand no less from the egg importers. And there is no better lever than a market force to make them comply. But the public has to be taught how to tell one from the other.

The interim report of the Tyrell Committee has recommended urgent research into BSE (mad cow disease); Government to implement research package costing £2.2million over 1990-91 (Independent).

Major repairs for French nuclear power stations - eighteen month programme to put right important metal components in 14 of country's newest PWRs (FT).

Wakefield Council cuts its rents for 7 weeks to avoid losing housing subsidy.

West Wiltshire Council Chief Executive suspended following privatisation of local software company (Independent).

The Conservative Council of Hereford and Worcester is to defy Government and run its own scheme to finance schools; it claims it will be unable to teach the national curriculum if it accepts the Government's ruling on school budgets (Times).

There has been significant fall in visitors since six national museums began charging for admission, report published today says. Report's publication coincides with expected recommendation, by Select Committee, that all museums charge entrance fees (Independent).

Lighting on motorways to be reviewed after M25 crash which killed 5 in fog.

Times leader discusses how new technology might be developed to improve safety. Without such a new approach it says there will be another dozen or so such crashes in fog by the end of the century. It concludes that the question is whether the community should continue to regard this frightening prospect as tolerable, or whether the time has come to design motorway madness out of the system, even if the cost of doing so is high.

Sun says Sir Robert Reid, BR, should not moan about lack of capital on railways; he has done his share to block privatisation which would liberate railways.

PRESS DIGEST

Under the heading "Labour's half-hearted step to a Bill of Rights", Julia Neuberger, founder member of Charter 88, looks at their proposals in the Times saying she finds the charter partisan and full of holes.

Mail leader says Britain's still a tip - why do we foul our own nest? It welcomes Government's legislation and Lady Porter's efforts and wants a debate on Lady Porter's idea of a plastic identity card so that names and addresses of litter louts and fine defaulters can be logged.

BBC to screen all night Commonwealth Games - first venture of its kind for them after £2million deal with New Zealand TV.

Peter Jenkins, writing in the Independent, uses the dispute over Mr Clarke's Sunday lobby briefing to review the lobby system. He concludes that there is a need for a means of circulating private intelligence, and that there is nothing reprehensible in this. However, he advocates that the daily lobby briefings should be on the record, with scope for an unattributable gloss though individual contacts. He believes the systematic use of widespread collective non-attributable briefing is wrong.

Independent editorial comments on Mr Hurd's two recent speeches which it sees as beginning to map out the future of a Europe recently transformed by events in the East. On this subject Mr Hurd is criticised for not going far enough: he should clearly spell out the Government's position on this soon - perhaps an appropriate occasion would be during his visit to East Berlin.

Times leader on Douglas Hurd's speech on Europe under the heading "Mr Hurd's Balancing Act" says a change in tone may not, however, be enough to reassure Britain's dispirited posse of MEPs who are to meet you on January 24.

Today calls for perestroika from Kaifu, Japanese Premier, by stopping slaughter of whales in Antarctic. This would be a good start in persuading Britain that Japan is not so different. Mail sends Kaifu an open letter on "slaughter shaming your land".

Express claims Japanese are slaughtering 40,000 porpoises a year for meat.

PRESS DIGEST

Brian Bridges in the Times looks at Prime Minister Kaifu's whistle stop tour of Europe saying for much of the 1980s the West European countries were seen by the Japanese as incapable of adjusting their economies to the challenge of the high technology era. But over the last couple of years that perception has changed and this has attracted increasing number of Japanese traders and, more significantly, investors.

At least 6 killed, 18 injured, in most violent of recent labour disputes in South Africa - in clashes between rival groups of workers.

Hong Kong's Executive Council rejects draft Bill of Rights, arguing that it was inadequate to protect people's future freedoms under Chinese rule. Bill now likely to be delayed for several weeks (Independent).

Cambodian Government flees capital, according to Pol Pot's guerrilla forces.

FT editorial backs a strong UN role in Cambodia - perhaps a peacekeeping force. If that idea fails, the civilised world has no sensible immediate option but to isolate Pol Pot and support Hun Sen. Pol Pot has had his turn at power and disqualified his regime for all time.

Bush backs down over tanks force for Colombia, as US appear to have shelved temporarily plans to despatch a flotilla of warships to the Colombian coast (Independent).

AMBULANCE

Star p2 - Maggie praises mercy heroes of M25 horror.

Sun p2 - That's your lot! Maggie tells 999 crews there is no more cash.

Mirror p1 - Sick! Bosses take the keys out of 999 vehicles. Two page feature trying to demonstrate Kenneth Clarke's "professional drivers" are much more than that.

Express p17 - Premier praises skill of 999 men.

Mail p1 - Motorway 999 crews praised by Maggie.

Independent - Ambulance dispute reaches new deadlock as Government stands firm and union leaders refuse to spell out concessions until negotiations begin.

PRESS DIGEST

Times - Ministers continue to take a tough line in ambulance dispute yesterday although Conservative MPs maintain that an end to the 18-week struggle was in sight.

Telegraph p2 - Tory MPs try to end deadlock.

ROW IN HOUSE

Star - Yobbo MPs in TV "riot" shame.

Sun - small piece - 'Animal' MPs in TV turmoil.

Mirror p2 - Jibes at Tory spark TV fury.

Express p4 - Uproar as MPs show their true TV colours - first full scale eruption on TV.

Mail - Camera catches Commons chaos. Colin Welch says he thinks Speaker saw visions of anarchy.

Independent - Uneasy truce in the Commons, looking suspiciously like a hasty retreat by Sir Geoffrey Howe; restores order after uproar over "smear" against Minister.

Telegraph p7 - "Jungle" uproar forces Speaker to halt sitting.

Guardian p1 - MP challenges Minister over business links. P2 - "Sleaze factor rouses MPs".

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Mr MacGregor meets Commander Saunders Watson of the History Working Group, London
- DTI: Mr Ridley attends NEDC meeting; later, with Lord Trefgarne meets Sr Ruggiero, Italian Trade Minister
- DEM: Lord Strathclyde draws winning ticket for Ciao Italia prizewinners, London
- DES: Mrs Rumbold opens Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Alford, Lincolnshire
- DES: Mr Jackson attends National Economic Development Council on Higher Education Policy, London
- DH: Mrs Bottomley attends the launch of the CHIAC computer system, Price Waterhouse, London Bridge; later attends dinner with UKCC
- DH: Mr Freeman attends Eurodiabeta press conference, St Thomas', London
- DSS: Lord Henley visits Doncaster, as part of the Inner City Task Force Initiative
- DTI: Mr Forth visits AMG Resources Recycling Plant, Hartlepool
- DTI: Mr Hogg visits Boat Show
- DTp: Mr Portillo addresses British Transport Police Federation conference
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DES: Mr MacGregor interviewed by Kathy Milton of The Scotsman
- DEM: Lord Strathclyde interviewed for European Tourism Year Lifestyle programme
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TV AND RADIO

"Q.E.D." BBC 2 (21.30) Report into Friedreich's Ataxia and the research needed to combat the disease

"Dispatches" Ch4 (20.30)
