

January 26, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister to open Tidy Britain Group HQ, Wigan and visit Granada Studios, Manchester

Princess of Wales visits the Salon Culinaire International de Londres Hotelympia 1990, Olympia, London

STATISTICS

CLSB: Quarterly house purchase finance statistics (4th qtr) *mt*

CSO: Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures (Dec)

CSO: Engineering sales and orders at current and constant prices (Nov)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: Private Members' Bills

Consumer Guarantees Bill: 2nd Reading: Mr Martyn Jones
Licensing (Low Alcohol Drinks) Bill: 2nd Reading:
Sir Peter Emery
Reform of the House of Lords Bill: 2nd Reading:
Mr Graham Allen

Adjournment Debates: The uniform business rate in North East Kent
(Mr R Gale)

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Death toll in storm put as high as 45; winds up to 106mph caused damage.

Ministers hold emergency meeting and decide to operate Bellwin compensation scheme.

Weathermen did warn country of risk of structural damage on this occasion but Today criticises failure to warn of intensity of storm.

Insurance bill estimated at at least £1billion; some companies publish claim forms as adverts.

Claims that this second great storm in 2 years is result of Greenhouse effect.

Armenia and Azerbaijan agree to partial ceasefire.

Sun says Foreign Secy is right to rule out cuts in Rhine Army; Europe is basking in a Soviet spring but that could easily turn into winter.

Belgian Govt suggests withdrawing its forces from NATO in Germany by end of year.

Mail and others pick up your Wall Street Journal interview; Go slowly, Maggie tells two Germanys.

Norman Tebbit raises pro-Europe hackles in Tory Party by saying a country lacking sovereign control over economic policy is not a nation but a province.

Express criticises "forked tongue" in Washington's "unctuous stance" over Vietnamese boat people.

Leon Brittan predicts imminent UK U-turn over membership of ERM.

Mail says Americans will not accept hard choices necessary to solve tragic problems of boat people and so are failing to measure up to their responsibilities as a great power.

Ford production at a standstill at Southampton and Halewood plants because of strike by craftsmen.

British Gas unions lodge double figure claim.

PRESS DIGEST

Times says that if companies believe sterling will not fall further against the mark that will do more than any number of Ministerial reminders that pay increases have to be paid for.

You attack spendthrift soccer bosses who spend millions on transfer fees instead of on safety and comfort of fans.

Mirror says you still believe a membership card scheme will come into operation.

Sun attacks BBC for "delighting in undermining the forces of justice and order" by publishing leaked police report on Wapping by Northants police "where the nearest thing to violence is a car backfiring".

Today says selectively the impression is being created that violence is all down to the police. The true blame lies with rioters.

Independent editorial says, in light of the leaks from the report into policing of the Wapping dispute, that the police are suffering as a result of an undue reliance on promotion from the ranks, and are thus badly officered.

Toyota (GB) to spend £15million on new vehicle parts warehouse and distribution centre in Leicestershire (FT).

FT editorial looks at the two recent setbacks for the Govt over insider trading. While saying that it should be recognised that anything like complete success in tackling this problem cannot be achieved, there is a case for updating and tightening appropriate legislation. In particular the Govt must consider amending the 1985 Act to provide for civil, as well as criminal, remedies.

British Veterinary Assn says farmers should get more compensation for BSE victims.

Pressure group says working mothers in Britain endure the worst child care facilities in Europe.

Peter Kellner, writing in the Independent, looks at the numbers (said to be at least 10 million) of floating voters, and analyses what is likely to make them vote either Tory or Labour. He concludes that Labour's policy review has been successful, but they still have to contend with the wide respect the electorate have for you, irrespective of their political allegiance. He says "Labour's policy review can write unilateralism out of the script, but it cannot write out Mrs Thatcher".

PRESS DIGEST

Mail leader highlights some of the mean-minded acts by Labour authorities against schools which opt out.

Govt agrees to two-tier structure for national curriculum (Independent).

BBC expected to announce today 5,000 reduction in staff to eliminate over-manning.

Home Office rejects "virtually out of hand" (Mail) Stalker's attempt to prove a Whitehall conspiracy against him.

John Prescott described as lobby lout after furious four-letter confrontation with Nicholas Bennett MP in Members' Lobby over his Customs "fine".

Ron Brown MP give notice to quit by constituency which passes vote of no confidence in him; he refuses to go.

Anthony Beaumont-Dark MP attacked by rottweiler in park.

Letter from Unionist leaders in Northern Ireland paves way for talks on devolution (FT).

Prime Minister Bhutto gives birth to a girl.

Ava Gardner dies in London, 67.

President Bush narrowly rescues his policy of keeping open contacts with Chinese Govt, as the Senate fails to override his veto of a bill allowing Chinese students to stay in the US (FT).

President Bush launches \$10billion package to combat drugs abuse in the US (FT).

Mandela stands by ANC line on nationalisation and emphasises his political loyalty "primarily" to ANC (Independent).

Guardian publishes text of document submitted by Nelson Mandela to P W Botha before their talks last year.

FOOTBALL

Star says the Taylor report - and the Govt's response - give the clubs one final chance to get their own act in order and rid Britain of soccer scum.

PRESS DIGEST

Express says flaws in membership scheme have become increasingly obvious but you will earn a loud cheer from fans when you criticise clubs for spending too much on transfers and wages and too little on customers. A levy on transfer fees makes more sense than membership cards.

George Gale, in Mail, hopes Taylor's final report is better than his interim one which whitewashed fans and put blame on police - "about the biggest load of judicial tripe dished out last year".

Telegraph leader says Taylor's repudiation of membership cards has increased the Govt's political difficulties in curbing soccer hooliganism. The card scheme was flawed.

FT - Govt's apparent abandonment of ID card scheme represents a victory for the football industry.

Guardian says the membership card scheme would have impoverished smaller clubs, infringed civil liberties and reduced crowd control. But this is not the end of the affair. Responsibility returns to where it belongs: the clubs. You were right to compare the large sums spent on transfers with the much smaller sums spent on ground improvement. Football authorities have not been acquitted but put on probation.

Times says the jubilation of those opposed to membership schemes is myopic. The case for firm measures against hooliganism is undiminished. Hooliganism is merely being contained. the national game and its supporters will be on trial throughout the year, especially during the World Cup.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DH: Mr Clarke addresses the Cambridge Union Society Harvard Debate
- DEM: Mr Howard visits Wales
- DH: Mrs Bottomley visits Bolton and the North West re community care
- DSS: Lord Henley visits Preston model office and ITSD, Lytham St Anne's
- DTI: Lord Trefgarne addresses Ipswich and Suffolk Industrial Advisory Council dinner
- FCO: Lord Brabazon attends receptions given by the Australian High Commissioner, Douglas McCellan and the Indian High Commissioner, Shri M Rasgotra
- HMT: Mr Lilley opens new Inland Revenue building, Telford
- HO: Lord Ferrers visits HM Prison, Wandsworth
- HO: Mr Waddington visits HM Young Offenders Institution, Hewell Grange
- MAFF: Mr Maclean attends seminar on Food Bill, Hull
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses opening of Frenchgate Library Information Point, Doncaster, Yorkshire
- SO: Mr Lang visits Queen Margaret College, Edinburgh
- WO: Mr Grist addresses Priority Estates Programme seminar, Cardiff; later visits Public Health Laboratory Service Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre, Cardiff Royal Infirmary
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- OAL: Mr Luce interviewed by Yorkshire TV about the new Leeds Playhouse Theatre (broadcast on 5 March)
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TV AND RADIO

"Any Questions" Radio 4(8.05pm)
With Michael Forsyth MP, Magnus Linklater, Alistair Darling and Liz Lockhead
