

January 31, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Princess of Wales attends a concert at the Royal Festival Hall, London

PUBLICATIONS

OPCS: White Paper on Births/Deaths registration: proposals for change

HMT: Reply to 34th, 35th and 37th - 41st PAC Reports 1988-89

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Scotland

Business: Opposition Day (5th allotted day). Until about seven o'clock there will be debate entitled "The European Community and Developments in Eastern Europe". Afterwards there will be a debate entitled "Small businesses and the self-employed", both debates will arise on motions in the name of the Social and Liberal Democrats

Adjournment Debates: Standard spending assessment for Cumbria
(Mr E Martlew)

Select Committees: ENVIRONMENT
Subject: Pollution of Beaches
Witnesses: Lancashire County Council; North West Water Ltd

WELSH AFFAIRS
Subject: Toxic Waste Disposal in Wales
Witness: MAX Recovery (Holding) Ltd

AGRICULTURE
Subject: Fish Farming in the UK
Witnesses: Crown Estate Commissioners; Natural Environment Research Council

TRADE AND INDUSTRY
Subject: Company Investigations
Witnesses: Securities and Investments Board

DEFENCE
Subject: Physical Security of Military Installations
Witnesses: Ministry of Defence officials

ENERGY
Subject: The Fast Breeder Reactor
Witness: Mr Walter Patterson

PARLIAMENT (Continued)**EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS****Subject: Prison Education****Witness: National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders; National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education****EMPLOYMENT****Subject: Tourism****Witnesses: Countryside Commission; Association of District Councils (at 5.15 pm approx)****HOME AFFAIRS****Subject: The Crown Prosecution Service****Witness: Mr Allan Green, QC, Director of Public Prosecutions****PUBLIC ACCOUNTS****Subject: TV License Evasion****Witness: Sir Clive Whitmore, Home Office****SOCIAL SERVICES****Subject: Social Security****Witness: Rt Hon Tony Newton, OBE, MP, Secretary of State for Social Security****TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE****Subject: International Debt Strategy****Witnesses: HM Treasury officials****COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL****King's Cross Railways Bill**Lords:**Starred Questions****Debate to call attention to the importance of education and training for the success of the economy and society****UQ to ask HMG whether they will reduce the quantity and improve the quality of legislation**

American TV report that Gorbachev is to distance himself from Communist Party resigning as general secy, but not as Russian president, greeted with scepticism.

Gorbachev apparently accepts inevitability of German reunification but he warns all parties must act responsibly taking account of views of the four allied powers (Independent). Mail says you should take your cue from this and stop treating German reunification like an unexploded bomb.

Soviet newspaper accuses troops of brutality in àzerbaijan (Independent).

Bush likely to propose tonight further cuts in US/Soviet Union troops below the levels under discussion at CFE. Eagleburger briefed you on Monday (FT).

Dutch threatening to break NATO ranks by planning to save £700million in defence cuts by 1995 in anticipation of deeper arms cuts post CFE (FT).

At least 6 killed yesterday in further clashes in Kosovo, Yugoslavia.

Warning of civil war in Romania unless tomorrow's round-table talks slacken the grip of former Communists on the interim National Salvation Front Govt (Times).

Romanian National Salvation Front splits into two groups, one to govern the country and one to participate in elections (Independent).

Court rules Honecker should be freed from detention centre; too ill to be kept there.

Times says you are heading an informal group of several senior Cabinet Ministers engaged in studying the options for a new military strategy for Britain and NATO alliance.

Sun commenting on US withdrawals from England, says we are at the dawn of a new age of freedom and peace in the world. There could not be a better time to say "Thanks Yanks".

First community charge to be set - in Kent - is £8 below Govt's average at £270.

CBI fears a recession and rising unemployment in latest trends survey.

Telegraph - Public servants face struggle over pay claims.

Row looming over public sector pay uses as tomorrow's Cabinet look set to endorse pay rises for them which could exceed offer to ambulancemen (FT).

Express says Govt is bracing itself for a tough new battle over pay - cutting back pay review body reports.

Mail - Maggie ready to hold down top pay rises.

Cabinet preparing to take a tough line tomorrow on public sector pay awards which are expected to be staged (Times).

Business confidence at lowest level of 9 years (FT).

Public spending to rise by £5.15 billion next year compared with plans set out a year ago. Extra money will go to NHS, roads, colleges and homeless. Times leader says that the extra expenditure will clearly make it more difficult to achieve the prudent fiscal policy which is needed to buttress monetary policy and bring down inflation. Though a Conservative Govt can never hope - nor should it attempt - to trump Labour by promising higher public spending, its favoured programmes are for the most part well chosen and should help to soothe public demands.

Independent editorial says that spending on education, announced by the Treasury yesterday, means a cut, in real terms, in the budget over the next 3 years. It is critical of Govt policy and says three things now need to be done: increase teachers' pay dramatically; rapidly increase the proportion of 16-18 year olds in full-time education; and increase the availability of higher education from its present pathetic level of 14%.

Value of residential property market fell by 25% last year because of slump in sales (Times).

Edwina Currie says women have employers over the barrel; they will need them as employees and they will be forced to provide nurseries.

Opposition demand a statement on the Colin Wallace affair after yesterday's Written Answers clarifying some aspects of case. Admission of dirty tricks disinformation.

Britain's nuclear submarine fleet being checked for faults after discovery on one of them.

Independent says that 9 of the Royal Navy's nuclear submarines may be suffering from cracking in their nuclear reactor cooling circuits, a fault that may be impossible to repair. Identifying the first fault as having been found in HMS Warspite, the paper suggests these faults could affect the operational role of nuclear submarines.

Trouble continues in Bloemfontain over English cricketers tour; 60 demonstrators in hospital after clashes with police; 45 arrested bringing total of 100 in two days.

Police in South Africa ignore de Klerk's plea to avoid strong arm tactics (Independent).

Western countries beginning to hold out carrot of lifting sanctions to encourage South African Govt to talk to ANC.

Ambulance dispute rallies in major cities in support of ambulance men. Roger Poole says the day was a "stunning success"; Kenneth Clarke describes it as "pointless". Star says the cost of yesterday's stoppage was much greater than that involved in settling dispute.

Waterloo hit by unofficial strike today by drivers protesting over sacking of colleague for fiddling a time sheet.

Following the conviction of an electrician for manslaughter after he wrongly wired up a central heating system killing a man Times leader warns that many a jobbing tradesman will have to rethink his attitude now that the criminal law has been extended into areas which most people had assumed were beyond its reach.

Govt advisers looking at why there has been a decrease in radioactive waste disposal since costs charged for disposal have risen ten-fold (Independent).

Studies back early use of AIDS drug by HIV positive patients (Independent).

World's first successful heart surgery on baby in mother's womb (Independent).

Express highlights report that Lambeth has the highest illegitimate birth rate in England and Wales - 48.4% - compared with lowest, Richmond, Yorkshire -10.2%. It says it would be nice to be reassured that the State benefits system and housing and welfare concessions are not encouraging girls to have babies before husbands.

Kenneth Baker in a fierce attack on the permissive society says fathers who walk out on their families should be treated as social outcasts (Times).

FT leader on church, state and poverty says the Church has every right to question the morality of Govt economic policy. But it would do so more effectively if it displayed a better understanding of the philosophical rationale behind the enterprise culture.

Letter from Ian Brady telling how Myra Hindley killed victim printed in full in Star; it says Hindley insisted in killing one girl herself.

Mirror leader, by Maxwell, says Brady's letter should be the last word from him, from Hindley and from Longford, her apologist.

Representatives from police bodies complain to MPs that "case after case" is being lost through mishandling by the Crown Prosecution Service (Times).

British Airways suing two Canadian students for £30,000 damages after a bomb hoax to delay their flight when their car broke down on way to the airport.

Andrew Neil awarded £1,000 damages and Sunday Times token 60p, in libel action against Sunday Telegraph over Pamella Bordes; Sunday Telegraph faces £200,000 costs. Sun commenting on revelations in trial, wonders whether the poor editor of a tabloid newspaper can afford to be associating with people like these three "quality" editors.

£276 million development of Royal Opera House to go ahead (FT).

19 seamen feared drowned as Greek cargo ship mysteriously lost sheltering off Isle of Wight.

EC to give £650,000 from disaster fund to help meet cost of UK storm damage.

Soccer

Today says Hattersley wants to apply the same ruinous rule to the business of soccer as Labour does with every other clapped out industry - prop it up with Govt money.

Mail feature on luxurious stadiums in North America; the longer we leave building them the greater the expense and the heavier the shame.

Ministers insist during debate that football clubs must pay for all-seating stadia (Independent).

British weightlifters likely to be suspended from international competition after a Welsh gold medallist is stripped of his success following failure of drug test; another Welsh medallist suspected of drug taking.

Express says Foreign Secy's plea to USA to offer passports to Hong Kong citizens to help sustain colony has fallen on deaf ears.

Under the heading "Hurd's damaging inaction" Gerald Kaufman in the Times lists further failures to stand up to Peking over Hong Kong.

Senate votes 98-0 for legislation which includes a series of trade sanctions against China (Independent).

Judge orders President Reagan to hand over diary extracts related to Iran-Contra scandal (Independent).

Pakistan accuses India of troop build-up on border (Independent).

Liberal Democrats in Japan expected to discard Mr Kaifu immediately after winning the General Election Times.

EAST-WEST

Mail leader says German reunification is unstoppable. It suggests you should take your cue from Gorbachev. You must stop treating German reunification as if it were an unexploded bomb. It is not a monstrous device to be defused but a massive challenge to which we must respond positively and with goodwill.

Times leader says no-one should be surprised at Gorbachev's seemingly abrupt admission over reunification. It is likely that he will not let East Germany, the chief factor in Soviet military strategy, slip out of his grasp, except at a price.

Independent editorial looks at German reunification in light of Gorbachev's acceptance that this is inevitable, saying that there is now a rush to resolve the issue before the country implodes. If, as seems inevitable, the March elections lead to government with a mandate to push reunification through quickly, the security issues which such a development raises will have to be tackled immediately.

Peter Jenkins, in Independent, wonders why peace is so costly. People, he says, will not expect the state of unusual military footing in the West over the last 40 years to last. They will demand, at the very least, a reassessment of true defence needs in light of the diminished threat.

Times - US envoy says that NATO will accept American defence cuts, but gives a veiled warning that those countries paying less per head than the US for defence would come under strong pressure to carry a larger share of the NATO budget. He also warns countries against cutting spending and forces unilaterally before conclusion of CFE (Times).

Henry Stanhope, writing in the Times under the heading "What role now for the Army?", foresees big cuts - including an almost total rundown in Germany - as Soviet forces leave Eastern Europe.

FT leader on German reunification says the progressive integration of the West and East German economic systems, involving inevitably some common institutions such as the Central Bank, would lay the groundwork for a fuller unification of the country at a later date. But it need not lead, in the short term, to the agonising reappraisal of alliances which the Soviet Union and most of Bonn's western allies at present so much fear.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Mr MacGregor announces £370,000 grant for the Royal Ballet School
- MAFF: Mr Gummer visits Leatherhead Food Research Association
- WO: Mr Walker hosts lunch for Japanese journalists, London
- DEM: Mr Eggar gives opening speech to launch of Business Growth Training Seminar, IPM Conference, Olympia; later opens Micro Tech Training Centre, Southgate
- DEM: Mr Nicholls visits the Channel Tunnel
- DEN: Mr Morrison attends Ministerial Group on Energy Efficiency
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits Oakham School, Leicestershire
- DES: Mr Jackson visits the Wimbledon School of Art
- DES: Mr Howarth addresses Berkshire Secondary Heads Associates
- DH: Mrs Bottomley visits Youth Treatment Centre, Brentwood
- DH: Mr Freeman visits Kings Fund Centre
- DH: Lady Hooper meets Miss Ashton and Miss Balfour from Royal College of Midwives
- DTI: Mr Hogg visits National Defence Industries Council; later visits North Peckham Task Force
- DTI: Lord Trefgarne addresses the Fellow's Company seminar on "Ministerial Life and Department Management"
- DTp: Mr Portillo awards Minister of State Cup for best line to Great Northern Line
- DTp: Mr Atkins visits A27 in West Sussex
- FCO: Lord Brabazon attends dinner given by Korean Ambassador, Jay Hee Oh
- HO: Mr Mellor makes keynote speech at Broadcast Europe 1990 conference, Inn on the Park Hotel, London
- MAFF: Mr Maclean addresses AGM of WFU, London
- OAL: Mr Luce opens new Balham Library, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Mr Waldegrave visits Brussels (to 1 February)

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DEM: Mr Eggar interviewed by TVS on Pay and the Minimum Wage; later interviewed by "Takehome Drinks"
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TV AND RADIO

"QED" BBC1 (9.30 pm)

The House That Bob Built. Looks at UK home design and asks if we live in the worst insulated houses in Northern Europe
