

February 1, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visit New Zealand (to 17 February)

DTI: Single Market next steps advertising campaign begins in national press

STATISTICS

HO: The operation of the Prevention of Terrorism legislation (4th Qtr 1989)

PUBLICATIONS

HO: HM Chief Inspector of Prisons' report on HM Prison Wayland and HM Remand Centre Lord Newton

Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration: Selected cases: 2nd Report session 1989-90 (Sept to Nov 1989)

NAO: CAG Report - Regenerating the Inner Cities

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Northern Ireland; Prime Minister

Business: Until seven o'clock debate on procedure motions. Details will be given in the official report

Remaining stages of the Civil Aviation Authority (borrowing powers) Bill

The Chairman of Ways and Means has named opposed private business for consideration at seven o'clock

Adjournment Debates: First aid training for schools (Mr J Browne)

Select Committees: EUROPEAN LEGISLATION
Subject: CAP Price-Fixing proposals, 1990
Witness: Rt Hon John Selwyn Gummer, MP

COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS
Cardiff Bay Barrage Bill [Lords]
King's Cross Railways Bill

Lords: Starred Questions
Courts and Legal Services Bill (HL): Committee (5th Day)
Weights and Measures (Sale of Wine) Bill (HL): Committee

PRESS DIGESTMain News

President Bush calls for further deep cuts in troops on either side in Europe.

FT says Kremlin was notified in advance. Allies informed and gave favourable response. Your concern about too rapid reductions in western defence is met not only in the provision for additional troops in Europe outside the central front but also by the assurance that the new proposals will be negotiated "alongside" the existing CFE talks "as long as it does not interfere with them" (FT).

Times claims Bush's proposals run counter to your repeated warnings against moving towards new conventional arms talks before the existing round has been implemented. It adds that some reports in Washington suggest that Secretary Baker shares the allies' reservations.

Today says you were kept in the dark.

East Germany scrapping some of its 65 nuclear capable missiles.

Gorbachev denies reports he is to quit as Secy General of Soviet Communist Party.

Express maintains he was going to resign to secure more power by scrapping the general secy post; he is furious TV leaked the ploy. Times says candidates for the job are lining up in the wings.

Actually, big news from Moscow is the queues outside McDonald's hamburger store there. Mail wonders whether Mac can succeed where Marx failed.

FT says however that Moscow is threatening a joint venture clampdown. Growing disenchantment - could lead to stricter rules including fixing a minimum level of hard cash to be put in by Western companies.

5 killed in further riots in Kosovo.

Genscher insists that a unified Germany must remain in NATO (Times).

East German troops applying to join West German army.

Tom King to make a statement on Colin Wallace affair today.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent says that as Minister responsible for security and intelligence services, it is inevitable you will make a statement on Wallace.

Guardian devotes Page 2 to the Wallace case and leader suggests there must be substance to Paul Foot's conclusion that in the early 70s the secret state stepped beyond the line tolerable in our society.

Livingstone rebuked by the Speaker for saying in the House that you were the 'beneficiary of treason' in connection with Wallace affair.

UKAEA safety experts to check nuclear submarines (Independent).

de Klerk to hold talks today with Nelson Mandela.

FT says de Klerk is unlikely to announce Mandela release date when he opens Parliament tomorrow.

de Klerk, in important policy reversal, orders judicial enquiry into allegations of authorised killings of anti-apartheid activists (Independent).

Independent analysis of Labour's "half-baked" conversion on tax says that many taxpayers between £10,000-£30,000 would be a lot worse off. These are the people whose support Labour needs. And in a leader, while commending Labour's attempts to come to terms with the national mood and electoral realities on taxation, concludes that many people will still feel they cannot afford the luxury of a Labour government. It challenges John Smith to explain his calculations if he disputes its interpretation of his policies.

FT leader on public sector pay says it is an unavoidably vexed issue which becomes far more difficult when inflation rises out of control. With unpredictable rates of inflation cash limits are virtually unworkable. Yet a reduction in the relative pay of employees in the public sector pay is not an alternative to sound macroeconomic policy, pursued consistently over many years. Govt has failed to achieve this basis condition for success. It is wrong to expect public sector employees to pay the price for failure.

Woolwich Building Society predicts mortgage rates will fall 2% by the end of the year.

PRESS DIGEST

Over 10% of Access card holders believed to have rejected cards as £12 annual fee brought in (FT).

Ronald Butt, in the Times, says the overriding political danger ahead of the Govt is that it will either not defeat inflation decisively in the next year or that, if it does, the cost of victory will turn growth into recession and the fall in unemployment into a renewed rise.

Birmingham unveils £406 community charge saying that more than 75% of households will pay more than under rating system (Times).

Lincs. teacher marched his pupils out of class in support of ambulance workers - Sun calls him the biggest twit in the class.

Commons secretaries demanding pay rises of up to 100% (Times).

Mail says 3,000 Ford workers laid off in Belgium because of British dispute show very little solidarity with British producers. They say 10% rise is size they would not dare dream about.

BP finds a big new offshore oilfield in Poole Bay, Dorset.

Post Office to lose its letter monopoly. Meanwhile post is to be collected nationwide on Sundays.

Fresh controversy over Govt privatisation programme following sale of BR Engineering for £13.6million when it owned land worth £50million (Independent).

John Wakeham understood to have reached agreement on the complex structure of electricity supply contracts (Times).

Siemens to build £350million natural gas plant at Killingholme - the first big non-nuclear power station to be built here in over a decade (FT).

About 6,000 staff likely to get stake in employee buy out plan for West Midlands Travel, one of most profitable bus companies.

Paul Foot, in Mirror, claims cost of ending Dock Labour Scheme in redundancy has been eight times official estimate at £84million.

5 million people failed to get to work in France as 24 hour transport strike brought country grinding to a halt yesterday.

PRESS DIGEST

All party Employment Cttee calls for tax reliefs for working mothers.

Tony Newton pledges benefits for 16 and 17 year olds unable to get YTS places. He is criticised by Social Services Select Cttee over position of pregnant 16 and 17 year olds (Independent).

Claims that BSE has been caught by mice from eating brain tissue of cattle.

Govt scientific adviser declare safe three widely used fungicides which are severely restricted in US because of their cancer-inducing properties (Times).

International Energy Agency calling for steep taxes on carbon fuels and increased efforts to reduce energy wastage in order to fight atmospheric pollution (FT).

Express critical of increased spending on education over next 3 years which will hardly match inflation; Govt has failed to grasp seriousness of situation.

Demand by leftwing teachers for a one-day debate for lesbian and homosexual teachers is likely to embarrass NUT leaders who are anxious to present a more moderate image (Times).

Study commissioned by Greenpeace says that stopping global warming would be such a big task that it is impossible in practical terms (Times).

Insurance company - Western Provident - wants Kenneth Clarke to price regulate private sector of medicine which charges £2 for an aspirin; £7 for a small plaster; and £102 for a cotton wool swab.

In its Westminster diary column, the Independent reports on your summoning of small groups of Tory MPs, saying you have suddenly become accessible.

Sun says Edwina Currie will be on her way back to the top after the next election; you have told her so.

Times leader looks at David Owen's speech to the Royal United Institute for Defence Studies in which he urged withdrawal of US forces from Germany saying that although it is fashionable to deride him as a leader without a party, he still effortlessly upstages opposition leaders who have this advantage. It concludes that he remains a substantial politician.

PRESS DIGEST

Big liberalisation of civil weddings proposed in White Paper.
Telegraph welcomes jollier weddings.

DPP accuses some policemen of hindering the work of the Crown Prosecution Service as they bitterly resented its introduction (Times).

At least 9,000 mugging and burglary victims will be deprived of compensation this year because of a "streamlining" of the Govt funded Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme (Times).

Welcome for the relaxation of TV camera rules in Commons - described as warts and all TV. Express: Commons TV has been good for us.

Govt backs down over proposals that Channel 3 franchises should go to highest bidder, allowing other factors to be taken into consideration (Independent).

More than 1.6million unlicensed TVs cost those who do have them £6 a year (Times).

Church of England traditionalists to take on Bishop of Durham and seek a Synod vote on belief in fundamental miracles of Christianity.

Welsh team manager at Commonwealth Games admits he took steroid tablets as an experiment in 1973 - he was then naive.

Times says Colin Moynihan is ready to set up a new inquiry into drug taking in British sport after second Welsh weightlifter is sent home from Commonwealth Games for taking steroids.

Mail leader wants all found to have taken drugs to be banned for 5 years as a minimum.

Times leader urges the Govt to make possession of anabolic steroids a criminal offence, as in the case of Norway and Sweden. Home Office is still hesitating, despite pressure from a number of politicians - including the Minister for Sport.

Times leader on forthcoming Japanese General Election says Kaifu is unlikely to be left in office to enjoy the fruits of victory. It adds that the appointment of Shintaro Abe would set back the rejuvenation of Japanese political life, which urgently needs to develop a modern, accountable system.

PRESS DIGEST

Tanzanian police have seized 8 tonnes of smuggled ivory tusks (FT).

Namibian independence set for March 21 (FT).

COLIN WALLACE

Star - Maggie "set up by MI5 dirty trick".

Sun - Maggie fury at cover up of MI5 dirty tricks. Orders top probe.

Mirror - Thatcher: Probe the dirty tricks cover up. It says you should order a full and appropriate inquiry. Paul Foot goes on about the "Wallace fantasies that turned into facts".

Today - Thatcher conned on dirty tricks.

Express - Thatcher angry at smear cover up.

Mail - Premier demands: why was I misled?

Times - Thatcher: I was misled. Black propaganda in Ulster.

Independent p1 - MPs to demand 'dirty tricks' inquiry. Former Labour Cabinet Ministers convinced they were victims of a wider campaign in mid-1970s.

FT - PM orders inquiry over documents about "dirty tricks" campaigns by NI security forces in the early '70s.

Telegraph - Labour to demand Commons inquiry into dirty tricks.

Guardian - Thatcher "misled" about dirty tricks.

EAST-WEST

Peter Jenkins, in a commentary in the Independent, says there is now nothing to do but to get on and help bring about reunification of the two Germanys with the maximum despatch consistent with international stability, with the difficulties involved more procedural than of substance. He concludes that a united Germany is the jewel in the crown of a reunited Europe. Geopolitical misgivings are out of date and should be out of court.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent editorial comments the Romanian National Salvation Front does not represent Romania's salvation. The West should ensure the people have enough food and fuel, but do nothing which could give aid or comfort to the Front.

Independent says this is the second time Bush has sought to engineer an American arms control surprise, following his proposals on this issue last May. This time he deliberately separated his new proposal from those on cutbacks in NATO bases.

FT in Washington says Tom King urged caution on US defence reductions. Despite public expressions of solidarity, there are indications of nervousness on the British side about Congressional demands for defence cuts and on whether Bush is prepared to resist.

ANNEX

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Mr MacGregor visits the British Council, London; later, with Mr Jackson attends the Agriculture Council Food Research Council, London
- DEM: Lord Strathclyde launches the disability symbol, London
- DEM: Mr Nicholls visits Bristol's "Y" Training Services
- DES: Mrs Rumbold launches publication of "Finding out about Conservation and Development"; later addresses the UK Scientific conference "Science in the 1990's"
- DES: Mr Howarth visits Wells Cathedral School, Somerset
- DH: Lady Hooper visits the Maudsley Hospital, Addiction Research Unit, London
- DTI: Mr Forth attends launch of Paknet Data Communication Network
- DTI: Mr Hogg addresses second "Into the Mainstream" conference, Queen Elizabeth Hall
- FCO: Mr Maude addresses All Party British - Cyprus CPA Group
- HO: Mr Patten addresses Ethnic Minority Business conference, QEII Conference Centre, London
- MAFF: Mr Maclean visits Shell Research Establishment, Kent
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DH: Mr Clarke attends the World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland (to 4 February)
- DEM: Mr Eggar visits Holland
- MAFF: Mr Curry visits NTV (Horticultural Show), Bleiswijk, Holland
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DEN: Mr Wakeham interviewed for Yorkshire TV's Calendar Commentary
- DTI: Mr Redwood interviewed on the City Programme re Eastern Europe and its economic future
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TV AND RADIO

"This Week" ITV (8.30 pm)

"Question Time" BBC1 (10.00 pm)

With Robin Cook MP (Shadow Minister for Health) Pauline Perry (Director of South Bank Polytechnic) Anthony Sampson (writer) and Baroness Trumpington (Agriculture Minister)
