

February 9, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Mr Sudhoff, PUS to Foreign Ministry, Federal Republic of Germany, visits London

STATISTICS

BOE: Capital issues and redemptions (Jan)

DES: International comparisons of 16-18 year olds: Statistical bulletin

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business:

Private

Member's Bills:

Computer Misuse Bill: 2nd Reading: Mr Michael Colvin
Abolition of Warrant Sales (Scotland) Bill: 2nd Reading:
Mrs M Ewing
British Racing Commission Bill: 2nd Reading: Mr A Meale
Protection of Badger Setts Bill: 2nd Reading: Mr Tony
Banks

Adjournment Debates: The planned closure of the Cassel Hospital (Mr J Hanley)

Lords:

Starred Questions
Coal Industry Bill: Second Reading
Motor Trade (Consumer Protection) Bill: Second Reading

PRESS DIGESTMain News

US issue its gravest ever warning over possible terror attacks in Western Europe on Sunday, the 11th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

Politburo to be abolished says Moscow as Gorbachev moves to control bureaucracy.

Riot police hurl tear gas at black school children demonstrating against rebel South African cricket tour.

Long forgotten article in West German constitution allows East German states to declare accession to west after March 18 election. Officials in Bonn say West Germans could face enormous embarrassment (Telegraph).

Nursery tax relief predicted to encourage mothers back to work.

World Bank resumes partial lending to China (FT).

Bishops divide over call for ban but Lords vote for human embryo experiments (Telegraph).

Monopolies Commission understood to have cleared oil companies of price fixing at petrol stations (FT).

Mail leads with the scandalous delays in 100,000 victims of violent crime still waiting for compensation as queue grows at 50,000 a year. Leader suggests that the scheme should be privatised.

Kinnock accuses you in West Berlin of preferring the Cold War to the changes taking place in Eastern Europe (Mirror).

Bitter battle in Labour Party leads to scrapping plan to announce new local income tax to replace community charge.

Joe Haines writing in the Mirror under the heading "Conspiracy theory is a non-starter" says the hysteria about MI5 and dirty tricks is getting out of hand again adding that he is certain there was not an MI5 plot to bring down the Wilson Govt.

Sir Robin Butler to face questions about Wallace in front of Treasury Select Committee on March 7 (Independent).

10,000 jobs at risk as question mark is put against £1 billion tank order.

PRESS DIGEST

Prince of Wales' plan for volunteer army of 100,000 young people runs into trouble with voluntary groups (Telegraph).

Times editorial compliments the Prince of Wales' initiative on a "community army" of youth saying he is not engaged in formation of either "Thatcher's or Kinnock's Children" but of good citizens, an entirely proper role for a prince.

RUC deny that fire in offices used by Stevens inquiry into police/Loyalist links was started maliciously. Report expected at end of March.

Royal Shakespeare Company close two London theatres to avert £4million crisis.

Ambulance union leaders to make last desperate bid next week to win six month dispute by urging all ambulancemen to stop answering 999 calls.

Ambulancemen's leaders head off a rift as London shop stewards resist call for local deal (Telegraph).

Sir John Stokes warns you over election fears (Mail).

Battle of the sexes breaks out as Scouts decide to let girls join.

Fury over too high rises sends top bosses pay sliding giving them 14th place instead of 9th in world rankings in terms of purchasing power (Mail).

British Telecom swamped by protests after revealing it is making almost £7.5million a day. Star leader describes profits as obscene - the unacceptable face of privatisation.

Express leader describes the news that water bills could rise by as much as 70% over next three years as a horrendous shock and urges David Trippier to act now to secure a better deal.

David Mellor promises to consider toughening TV 'quality' rules (Guardian).

10,000 police planning massive demonstration over community charge (Sun).

Arthur Scargill's domination of NUM threatened by vice-presidential vote this spring (Telegraph).

PRESS DIGEST

Today says that working mothers are set for a massive boost with free nurseries for children while at the office with firms getting tax breaks for providing creches or nanny vouchers. These pledges head list of Tory promises in forthcoming general election battle as party strategists believe the four million women aged between 25-34 are the crucial group to win over.

Express says that tax relief for working mothers looked on the way last night with the first step towards help in paying for nursery care to come in next month's Budget. You order Govt agencies and Depts to find out what kind of care women want.

John MacGregor and Michael Howard press Chancellor to offer mothers with young children a major tax cut to help with child care costs and encourage them back to work (Mail).

Six Cabinet ministers urge Chancellor to give child-care tax allowance to help mothers return to work (Telegraph).

You sidestep pledge on child benefits, declining to confirm payments would continue beyond next election (Guardian).

Guardian editorial says a profound rethink on child benefit is underway deep in Whitehall, saying the CPS plan would place Britain out of step with the rest of Europe. It adds that Ministers judged the issue better in 1979 when reaffirming the importance of child benefit.

John Smith forces Bryan Gould to scrap his announcement today to unveil alternative plan to community charge. Smith said to have been appalled when he saw the plan (Sun).

Today says that more than 20 million people will pay a tax just to have a roof over their heads if Kinnock comes to power.

Higher community charges in prospect as county councils plan budgets 7% above Govt targets (Telegraph).

Derbyshire Council gives £145million factory site to Toyota for nothing. But EC to investigate land deal (Telegraph).

Express leader says latest figures show that the Govt's faith in small businesses has not been misplaced. But whether the same can be said about small businesses' faith in the Govt is another matter. It adds that Ministers must rethink the strategy for fostering small businesses if they do not want to stand accused of killing the goose that lays the golden eggs.

PRESS DIGEST

MPs debating Green Bill suggest firms should have hefty fines for packing products in layers of unnecessary wrapping (Today).

Environmentalists urge you to fill leadership vacuum as Bush refuses to commit US to climate control programme (Telegraph).

Guardian editorial says that despite poor opinion polls, the Tory condition is far from fatal. The need therefore, for a Labour alternative which breeds positive hopes of progress rather than a simple hankering for rescue from Conservative management is more urgent now than ever.

Building Society sources say one in ten are behind with their mortgage payments (Express).

Today says more teenagers than ever before are heading to the North for cut-price degrees.

Universities offer to run students loan scheme saying their doing so could save money (Times).

LWT survey shows that 9 out of 10 youngsters would rather watch TV adverts than children's programmes.

Angela Rumbold says Govt considering proposals for primary school teachers to stay with one class through its progression through school (Times).

Today says that poor quality unleaded petrol is damaging car engines with British petrol companies being accused of selling poorest quality fuel in Europe.

Credit blacklist companies are facing a ban on the use of information which can wrongly brand borrowers as bad debtors (Express).

Guardian editorial is critical of the attitude of the US and HMG towards considering arms reductions. It says what is at issue is the whole spirit in which the old Western frontier approaches the new East.

Bank of England quarterly bulletin urges Chancellor to resist calls to cut taxes and lower interest rates (Express).

The 2p piece could be next coin taken out of circulation as big banks say there are too many small-value coins (Mail).

PRESS DIGEST

Sun leader says after Jessie Jackson and Bernie Grant have visited South Africa they should go to New York as the black citizens of Harlem have a shorter life expectancy than the black citizens of Soweto.

Court cases should be televised, Bar Council says (Times).

Former Guinness director must repay £5.2million, Law Lords decide unanimously (Times).

Sweden releases clothing of terrorist suspected of involvement in Lockerbie air disaster to Scottish police (Times).

66 feared dead in Turkish mine disaster (Guardian).

Scotland Yard pay out more than £500,000 in damages to complainants in 1989 (Times).

Most people do not know how to manage their money, says Gallup survey. Many muddle through thinking they are worth more than they are (Telegraph).

New floods alert as Britain mops up.

EC preparing detailed plans for receiving East Germany into Common Market, says Commissioner Bangemann. Other EC countries would be forced to share financial burden of improving East Germany economy, he warns (Telegraph).

In FT interview, Genscher delivers passionate appeal for German unity to stabilise Europe. Indicates interest in becoming Foreign Minister of united Germany.

You appear to soften your stance on German unity in answer to Commons questions (Independent).

Prospect of German reunification intensifies need for Britain to play more positive role in creating a more integrated EC, says Michael Heseltine (FT).

Times leader says Genscher's proposals to at least commend his willingness to talk openly about the subject. Failure by other NATO thinkers to similarly voice their thoughts would simply allow advocates of German neutrality to portray NATO as a dinosaur incapable of change.

French Foreign Minister tells Independent that German unification holds no fears for his country.

PRESS DIGEST

Times editorial previews the Polish Prime Minister's visit here next week saying he will seek your support for Poland's "big bang" transition to a free market. In saying that he deserves the most sympathetic of hearings, the paper advocates writing down by the West of Poland's existing debts, despite the precedent this could set for Latin American debtors.

White extremists in South Africa vow to assassinate Mandela as soon as he is released from prison (Mirror).

Frontline states sceptical about South African reforms (Guardian).

Telegraph editorial sympathises with Hong Kong, but says it could not condone refusal of first asylum to boat people. What is needed in the longer term is a change of heart in Washington to support forcible repatriation.

Ortega heading for Nicaraguan election victory (Times).

Menem's credibility wanes as inflation hits 79% in a month and currency loses 20% in a day (Telegraph).

Nicaraguan opposition ask Britain to help monitor general elections (Telegraph).

SOVIET UNION

Mail - Vadim Medvedev sat bewildered in Commons yesterday watching a clash between you and Hattersley.

Mail - Russia's march to democracy boosts hopes for a major nuclear arms pact between the superpowers.

Sun leader says it will take years for genuine opposition parties to emerge in Russia and when they do, it forecasts Boris Yeltsin will be the first anti-Communist president.

Mirror says there were no cheering crowds, fireworks or street parties in Moscow to celebrate the end of Communism's monopoly rule as the fact hasn't yet sunk in.

Times - Soviet Union confirms to US Secretary of State Baker that it would not link progress in START talks with US Star Wars programme.

Times - NATO tables revised arms cuts in offer to Eastern bloc at CFE talks.

PRESS DIGEST

Times - USSR baulks at Czech deadline on withdrawal of Soviet troops, with talks near deadlock (Times).

Soviet party in disarray after plenum with the possibility of radicals leaving the party (Guadian).

Signs of political rebellion spread across Soviet Union despite Gorbachev reforms (Independent).

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DH: Mr Clarke gives opening address at Strategy for Nursing seminar, QEII Conference Centre, London; later opens the new PPP National Sales Offices, Nottingham
- MAFF: Mr Gummer meets regional panel, NFU, CLA, Preston; later visits Hunterpack near Preston and Ryecroft Foods, Ashton under Lyme; also meets the NFU, Rossendale
- DEM: Mr Eggar visits the South East
- DH: Lady Hooper visits Boots Pharmaceutical Centre, Nottingham; later visits Langham Nursing Home, Oakham, Notts
- DH: Mrs Bottomley visits Birmingham Community Care Special Action Project
- DTI: Lord Trefgarne visits JCB, Rochester
- DTI: Mr Hogg visits Marconi Space Systems, Portsmouth
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DEM: Mr Howard interviewed by David Frost of TV AM
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TV AND RADIO

"Clean Slate" BBC2 (5.00pm) City Technology Colleges Are they "beacons of excellence" or "expensive white elephants"

"Public Eye" CH4 (8.00pm)

"Any Questions" BBC Radio 4 (8.05pm): Repeated at 1.10pm on 10 Feb with Simon Jenkins journalist, Peter Mandelson Labour Party's Director of Communication and David Hunt MP, Minister of State for the Environment
