

February 19, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Dr Crespo, Speaker to the Portuguese Parliament visits London (to 21 February)

STATISTICS

CSO: Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (Jan)

PUBLICATIONS

DES/HMI: Paper on teaching and learning in New York

HO: Crime Prevention guidance circular

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Wales; Attorney General; Foreign and Commonwealth (Overseas Development Questions)

Business: Opposition Day (8th Allotted Day, 1st Part)
Debate on the Ambulance Dispute on a Motion in the Name of the Scottish National Party

OPPOSED PRIVATE BUSINESS

City of London (Spitalfields Market) Bill
City of London (Various Powers) Bill
Motion on the Data Protection (Regulation of Financial Services etc) (Subject Access Exemption) (Amendment) Order

Adjournment Debates: Sheltered housing and concessionary television licenses (Mr P Temple-Morris)

Select Committees: PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Subject: The Royal Mint
Witness: Mr A D Garrett, Royal Mint

Lords: Starred Questions
Capital Allowances (Consolidation) Bill (HL): Report
Town and Country Planning Bill (HL) (Consolidation): Second Reading
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Bill (HL) (Consolidation): Second Reading
Planning (Hazardous Substances) Bill (HL) (Consolidation): Second Reading
Planning (Consequential Provisions) Bill (HL) (Consolidation): Second Reading

Lords: (Continued)

Food Safety Bill (HL): Third Reading
Debate to take note of the Report of the European Communities
Committee on a Community Social Charter (3rd Report, HL Paper 6)
Trade Union Act 1984 (Amendment) Bill (HL) Third Reading
Civil Aviation Authority (Borrowing Powers) Bill: Second Reading
Hill Livestock (Compensatory Allowances) (Amendment) Regulations
1990: Motion for Approval
UQ to ask HMG what further steps they are taking to meet the
transport needs of the disabled

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Japanese old guard survives scandals to win 12th successive General Election. Independent says Kaifu's future is nonetheless uncertain.

Times leader says that the Japanese voters have failed to seize the best chance offered to them since the Second World War of bringing about a reform of the country's political system.

Mirror claims there is panic in Tory ranks after MPs' weekend in constituencies over mortgages and community charge.

All party attack on community charge from the Tory heartland of Oxfordshire where critics say that the Govt has set impossible budget levels that forced local authorities to impose an unacceptably high charge (Times).

Labour Party is today exploiting the Govt's growing difficulties over the community charge by publishing a list of projected charges and comparing them to the current rates (Times).

Chris Patten will demand more money to ease community charge bills in election year and avert disaster at the polls (Independent).

Business leaders have warned of the "potentially disastrous" consequences for industry and commerce of new regulations which will force employers to deduct community charge from the wages of workers who default (FT).

Edward Heath, in an Independent interview, attacks the Govt's isolation. When everybody else is doing better than we are, to be isolated seems somewhat perverse. He says No 10 is wrong to suggest that everything in the economic garden is rosy. "They've attempted to run the economy on a dogma and you can't do it. He attacks No 10's public relations set-up as "pernicious".

Telegraph Gallup poll finds increasing number blaming inner city problems on the Govt.

House prices about to tumble again in the wake of mortgage rise (Independent).

Peter Wilmott, a Commissioner of HM Customs & Excise who is soon to be EC Director General for customs union and indirect taxation, says the Chancellor may have to hold down excise duties on petrol, drink and tobacco for a number of Budgets to help bring excise rates within the EC closer together (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

People of Europe give overwhelming approach to German unification, according to poll in Independent. British 2 to 1 in favour and strong support in Soviet Union. Poland only country where most disagree. All countries see retreat from Communism as permanent and positive.

In an attempt to calm international fears about German unification Genscher says there must be a quick recognition of Poland's existing western border (Times).

Times leader looks at the regional problems in the Soviet Union saying public gloom and resentment increase, together with the feeling that Gorbachev has lost control and that a new time of troubles is approaching. It warns that if the Soviet Govt persists in imposing a new solution from the centre, then the break-up of the Union will take place anyway, but it will be complicated and violent.

Andreotti has recanted his opposition to German unification (FT).

Guardian says Genscher and Stoltenberg are rowing over extent of NATO jurisdiction in united Germany.

Romania's Govt HQ ransacked by protesters who seized the vice President and called on president to resign; protests against former Communists in Govt.

Times fears for future of Romania's provisional Govt, though Romanian Prime Minister in Paris plays down unrest.

Army believes that the end of the Cold War may be hitting recruitment as they are 5,000 men short (Times).

de Klerk likely to meet ANC leadership within a month (times).

Times says that violence in Natal keeps the undertakers busy.

Labour Party threatens to bring back credit rationing - Mail's interpretation of John Smith's weekend broadcast - with the effect that people queue outside building societies.

Mail leader says Labour's tax maths don't add up. And while what's on offer from Labour for the '90s may appear an improvement, it is very far from new.

Barclays say interest rates will stay high until end of year.

PRESS DIGEST

Today says homeowners face a double community charge if they cannot sell their homes.

High Court bans Cardiff and South Glamorgan ambulance men from using official equipment to run service independent of controllers.

Some high ranking civil servants may get 24% pay rises, in an attempt to stop brain drain to private sector (FT).

Mail says you are considering placing a senior civil servant in Euro tunnel to keep the Govt informed of what is going on. You've already had one there during previous trouble, it says. Second EuroTunnel management shake up within 7 days coming this week.

Guardian claims to have secret memo which shows Govt knew B/Aerospace could expect £65million sweeteners - double previously known amount.

FT leader says engineering union's strike at BAe has exposed the economic necessity for Britain of better training arrangements. The reluctance of many companies to train workers has put great leverage in the hands of skilled employees. It is not surprising that they are using it.

General Motors achieved record European profits last year of £1.078billion (FT).

Oftel reports 33% rise in complaints against B/Telecom; director tells BT to reduce its charges or face further competition. Highest charges for local calls in Western world. Sun says BT must stop being greedy and be opened up to competition. But Mirror says BT was standing firm against cuts last night.

India grounds A320 Airbuses after crash.

B/Rail to seek extra funding to meet higher safety standards in Clapham aftermath (Independent).

Nuclear power station operators face huge compensation claims from local families struck by leukaemia (Times).

Jack Straw to mount attack against Ministers who fail to use State schools and spent £2million last year on private education for their children.

PRESS DIGEST

Eric Jacobs, writing in Today, says that like the Cabinet he lost his faith in State schools.

Ray Honeyford, in Mail, says ILEA will be missed by no-one when it dies on April 1. It has been massively unsuccessful.

Only one in ten ILEA pupils aged 18 took A levels in 1988 (Times).

You block plan to allow divorce after only a year's separation; but there will be a free vote after Easter - Today, who says a dead marriage will not be revived by delaying the funeral.

Crackdown on dole fiddlers saved £53million last year; some firms also prosecuted for encouraging workers to sign on while still drawing wages.

Adviser to Esther Rantzen's Childline charged with blackmailing an alleged child abuser.

Anthony Beaumont-Dark, already himself attacked by dog, calls for owners to be insured and for prison sentences for owners for actions of pets.

Home Office scheme to take fight against drugs into every classroom to be launched this week.

Law Society and Criminal Bar Assn will tell Consumer Select Cttee this week that the Crown Prosecution Service is incompetent, inefficient and causes unnecessary delays in courts (Times).

Lord Chancellor is to announce moves to lessen the domination of the highest rungs of the legal profession by white, middle-class, male barristers says the Times).

Call for inquiry into fire which broke out in rubbish at Bristol City v. Cambridge FA Cup tie which threatened 3,000 people in stand.

Police fire plastic bullets after sectarian clashes at Northern Ireland football match.

130lb IRA bomb defused last night in West Belfast (FT).

Peter Brooke indicated yesterday that a pause in the Government's meetings with Republic of Ireland might provide background for renewed talks between local politicians in Northern Ireland (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

John Stalker writes the first of two articles in Express on why police are so mistrusted.

John Birt in the Times replies to Woodrow Wyatt's attack on BBC's Today programme saying that, taken as a whole, the programme carries out its task with distinction. He claims that it is the Media Monitoring Unit and Woodrow Wyatt that seem to be out of step as the levels of appreciation recorded by audience research have never been higher.

Complaints against newspapers rose 4% last year - over a quarter were in connection with Hillsborough disaster.

Jean Rook, in Express, interviews Brian Redhead, "your least favourite interviewer". She ends up rather charmed by him.

On Panorama tonight Irish Foreign Minister says Britain broke Anglo-Irish agreement by allowing UDR to patrol unaccompanied (Independent).

Sir Bernard Braine MP, 75, bloody but unbowed after mugging in central London on Saturday after anti-abortion rally.

John Browne MP expected to stand down at next election after critical Select Cttee report on his failure to disclose commercial interests.

Ministers at odds over environment White Paper. Chris Patten and John Wakeham disagree over carbon tax, but both challenge Cecil Parkinson's road building plans. Nicholas Ridley "concerned" at Chris Patten's influence over you (Independent).

MOD sells 1,184 acres of Rainham Marshes, the largest site of special scientific interest in London, for a theme park and film studios (Times).

Rural housing shortage much greater than estimated, survey claims (Independent).

Sutton Council offering allowance to staff who use bikes instead of cars; and gets praise from Today.

Express claims dangerous pollutants are being pumped into River Rother in Yorkshire.

Guardian leader says continued British sovereignty over Falklands makes no long term sense for Britain. Their commercial future lies with South American mainland, which means Argentina.

PRESS DIGEST

Francis Maude to offer aid to Vietnam if they will allow Hong Kong Govt to send more boatpeople home (Times).

Peking adamant over Hong Kong elections - Peking official has said it will not be possible to improve colony's newly completed Basic Law before 1997 (FT).

International campaign to isolate Khmer Rouge gathers pace as Asean condemns Khmer Rouge by name for past atrocities - the first time they have done so (FT).

Sharon resigns from Israeli Cabinet to try to halt peace talks with Palestinians.

Iranian calls for death of Roger Cooper, detainee, in anti-Rushdie demonstration in Tehran.

Nicaraguan's biggest opposition rally in ten years gives boost to US-backed candidate Chamorro. But polls say she will lose (Independent).

YOUR SPEECH

Nothing in Star, Today.

Sun - Nicht to quick. Mrs T wants brake on German link up.

Mirror - Reds can stay (in East Germany) - Maggie.

Express - Prime Minister's vow to fears over German unity.

Express leader surprisingly wants you to "throttle back" in your approach to German unification. Do we really want to humiliate the Germans again by implying they still cannot be trusted to be one nation?

Mail - Maggie: beware an unseen enemy; you risk label of only world leader still talking like a hawk.

Times - You insist that US troops must continue to be stationed in a unified Germany which remains part of NATO. It adds that you are prepared to voice the thoughts others prefer to whisper and to slow down what you regard as the relentless drive led by Kohl and Genscher (Times).

Telegraph p1 lead - Thatcher warns Bonn against rush to unity. Separate story on your "plea over Soviet migrants".

PRESS DIGEST

Guardian p1 - Prime Minister voices fears of German unity.

Independent front page lead (with photo): You stress German perils whilst admitting unification inevitable. You say troops must stay, and rejecting the idea reduction in tension in Europe could lead to NATO withering away. You emphasise unification must not make either East or West Europe feel less secure.

An Independent editorial supports your comments on Soviet Jews and Israel's policy over the West Bank. You were right to back "land for peace" as the basis for a solution.

FT - You underline your deep concern at the potential threat to Western security posed by unification of Germany by insisting that NATO troops must remain indefinitely on German soil and that, for an interim period, a Soviet presence should remain in East Germany. The tone of your remarks and choice of audience appear to confirm your deep anxiety about the speed of recent events and your determination to ensure the rights of the 4 powers in Germany are respected. Your stance has led to a significant rift with Bonn and to divisions between Downing Street and the Foreign Office.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Mr MacGregor opens the IT Research Institute building at Brighton Polytechnic
- DH: Mr Clarke addresses the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee Council dinner, London
- DTI: Mr Ridley lunches with the Newspaper Society, London
- DTp: Mr Parkinson starts work on Beckton extension, Docklands
- FCO: Mr Hurd meets the Ecuadorean Foreign Minister, Mr Diego Cordovez-Zegers and the Danish Foreign Minister, Mr Uffe Ellemann-Jensen
- HO: Mr Waddington visits Newport Alcohol Project
- MAFF: Mr Gummer addresses British Independent Grocers Association luncheon, London
- SO: Mr Rifkind visits Glenrothes New Town
- DES: Mr Howarth visits the Teaching as a Career roadshow, Stoke on Trent
- DH: Mrs Bottomley addresses "Shaping the Nation's Health" conference, QEII Conference Centre, London; later gives after dinner speech at District Health Authority chairmen's seminar in Stansted Abbots, Ware
- DOE: Mr Chope addresses Brighton and Hove Chamber of Commerce re Business Rates
- DOE: Mr Moynihan attends Skol Northern League Marketing Initiative
- DTI: Mr Forth opens Alida Plc, Polythene Reclamation Plant, Amber Valley
- FCO: Mr Waldegrave meets Mr Bernd Wilz, Defence Speaker and chairman of CDUSCU faction in West Germany, and Dr Crespo, Speaker of the Portuguese Parliament
- FCO: Mr Sainsbury hosts lunch for Ecuadorean Foreign Minister, Mr Diego Cordovez-Zegers
- HO: Lord Ferrers visits South Wales Police, Bridgend
- MAFF: Mr Curry addresses Yorkshire Game conference, York; later tours Challis of York nursery and ER Johnson's nursery
- WO: Mr Grist attends Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee annual dinner, London
-

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DSS: Mrs Shephard meets Anne Armstrong of Soldier Magazine to discuss service wives
- FCO: Mrs Chalker interviewed by Mr Fery Jahal of the BBC World Service
-

TV AND RADIO

"The Brits 90" BBC1 (7.30pm)
British Record Industry Awards

"Horizon" BBC2 (8.10pm)
Looks at Human embryo research

"World in Action" ITV (8.30pm)

"Panorama" BBC1 (9.30pm)
Ulster's Regiment - a Question of Loyalty. John Weare reveals new evidence to suggest that the principal source of leaks is the UDA
