

February 21, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister attends Mr Heath's 40th anniversary lunch

The Queen holds an Investiture

Independent European Programme Group meeting, Gleneagles

Announcement of 1990 Queen's Awards winners

STATISTICS

CSO: Gross domestic product (output based) (4th Qtr prelim)

DOE: Construction - revised orders (Dec)

PUBLICATIONS

HO: Metropolitan Police Fund Accounts (1988-89)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Environment

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Rape in Marriage (Offence) (Mr Harry Cohen) Until 7.00 pm

Debate on Procedure Motions, details will be given in the Official Report

Government Trading Bill: Remaining Stages

Money and Ways and Means Resolutions relating to The Enterprise and New Towns (Scotland) Bill

Ways and Means Resolution relating to the Social Security Bill

Adjournment Debates: The future of Sub-Post Offices
(Sir M McNair-Wilson)

Select Committees: DEFENCE
Subject: Trident Programme: Atomic Weapons Establishment
Witnesses: Representatives of AWE Trade Unions, Ministry of Defence

Select Committees: (Continued)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Subject: Public Expenditure White Paper: FCO and ODA Work Programmes

Witnesses: Sir Patrick Wright, KCMG, Mr D Blatherwick, OBE and Mr D Moss, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

WELSH AFFAIRS

Subject: The supply of starter homes in Wales

Witness: Housing for Wales

PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION

Subject: Reports of the Health Service Commissioner for 1989

Witnesses: Officials of the Department of Health and the Scottish Home and Health Department

ENERGY

Subject: The Cost of Nuclear Power

Witnesses: Officials from the Department of Energy

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS

Subject: Prison Education

Witnesses: Home Office officials

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Community Care

Witnesses: Age Concern; British Association of Social Workers

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: Tourism

Witness: Association of Leading Visitor Attractions

HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Crown Prosecution Service

Witnesses: Law Society; Criminal Bar Association

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Ministry of Defence: Low Flying Training

Witness: Sir Michael Quinlan, Ministry of Defence

TRANSPORT

Subject: Aircraft Cabin Safety

Witness: British Aerospace Commercial Aviation Ltd

COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS

Cardiff Bay Barrage Bill [Lords]

King's Cross Railways Bill

Lords: Starred Questions

Debate to call attention to the role of manufacturing industry in creating a sustainable balance in the economy, and to the case for policies to achieve that end

Abortion (Amendment) Bill: Committee

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Britain's determination to abandon EC sanctions against new investment in South Africa, hopes of a settlement in the ambulance dispute and the bomb which explodes in the back of an Army vehicle in Leicester are the main stories today.

Gorbachev tells Republics draft law will permit them to become independent by referendum.

Troops ordered to fire on Kosovo rioters in Yugoslavia.

Romanian Govt introduces draconian laws to outlaw spontaneous protests after nearly 2 months of near anarchy.

More than 100 MPs, including some Tories, sign Commons motion urging you not to drop sanctions after yesterday's EC meeting in Dublin.

EC sends 3-man team to South Africa on fact finding mission.

Mail and Times have very supportive leaders. Telegraph a bit wishy washy. FT wet too, Guardian places you on the periphery of events.

EC Ministers warn UK action on sanctions might lead to softening of their stance towards Libya and Syria, with Irish Foreign Minister warning this would be a dangerous precedent.

Lewisham to give Archbishop Tutu freedom of borough in May.

BMW pour £25million in further investment into Johannesburg car plant - driving gaping hole through sanctions (Sun).

Kohl goes election campaigning in East Germany before big crowd in Frankfurt.

Independent editorial attacks Kohl for shrinking from an unconditional commitment to Poland's border with Germany. His attitude is a sop to the nationalist right, which can only create anxiety among neighbours with painful memories.

Today says your cautious approach to German unification can be justified. But what cannot is the unscrupulous use of your hesitation to whip up anti-German feeling.

PRESS DIGEST

Genscher calms fears of EC including Britain - over unification. "Nothing will happen behind the backs of our European partners" he tells Dublin meeting.

Gorbachev says progress towards German unification must have the prior endorsement of tis European neighbours and include a peace pact with Germany and a treaty defining the inviolability of post-war borders (FT).

Ambulance dispute proposed settlement goes to Whitley Council tomorrow - two year deal worth 17% on rates, but costing less on pay bill, in prospect. Some papers suggest the cost of 13%; others 15%.

Mirror claims a Sheffield health centre has struck off 2,000 patients and told them to go to other doctors because of new GP contracts.

Mirror leader claims that shortly after you open a Dewsbury hospital next week lack of cash will close a quarter of its beds. It lists other alleged NHS problems and concludes you refuse to see the truth before your eyes. Faced with a starving NHS you say "Let them eat spam".

Express leader, on CPS study of BBC, says if it is true to its Thatcherite lights it will end the licence fee. The retention of just one privileged media body is now much less justified.

Scotland Yard anti-terrorist Commander warns of new IRA bombing campaign in Britain after bomb falls off underside of Army van in Leicester. Woman recruiting sergeant has lucky escape. Express says three IRA killer units are on the loose.

Keith Vaz MP claims the bomb belonged to the Army.

Bill Deedes, in Telegraph, argues that the Govt must concentrate on the decisive issues. He can think of no clearer sense of purpose than to make it plain that the broad principles by which you have governed for a decade and which have not turned out too badly and which the world now emulates will be sustained.

PRESS DIGEST

FT leader on your role in foreign policy says the world has moved on since your success in the Falklands; you have not. You have recognised the changes taking place but in so doing you have allowed your personal doubts and fears to overrule the imperatives of contemporary diplomacy. Over South African sanctions, it is arguable de Klerk deserves some kind of positive response - what is not sensible is for Britain unilaterally to decide to lift some sanctions. And with German unification - you are technically right to recall the Allies responsibility for Berlin and a German peace treaty but you have gone wrong in sending inevitably negative-sounding signals without taking sufficient account of the sensibilities of the Germans.

Peter Jenkins, in the Independent, suggests that today may mark the beginning of Edward Heath's rehabilitation. As he surveys the plight of the Govt he is entitled to a shoulder-heaving laugh, because the pendulum may be beginning to swing towards the consensual approach. When you came to power, the State was in disrepute. Now the complaint is of the State's neglect, its failure to undertake its task.

Prince Charles calls for a new deal for Eastern European countries where, he says, capitalism should take on a more humane face (Times).

Overwhelming majority of London councils will set community charges above Govt's target, Independent predicts. Several will be over £500.

Govt to work out "rate bills" in attempt to lay blame for high community charges on local councils. Tony Speller brings home Tory anxieties at Question Time.

Govt announces that 850,000 people on income support could run into community charge arrears this year (Independent).

Sun leads with family of 8 in Ipswich with community charge bill of £3,520 against rates of £499. Leader says Ipswich has set a charge 60% above Govt's estimated national average. It's time these (Labour) spendthrift wasters stopped blaming the charge for their own inability to control their budgets.

Sun feature highlights community charge winners and losers.

Fifty Tory MPs sign motion calling for education funding to be transferred from local authorities to central government.

PRESS DIGEST

Labour litter plans could mean incompetent councils being forced to privatise street cleaning and refuse collection (Independent).

Lawyer at centre of TGWU ballot rigging scandal quits as scrutineer.

Rover seeking union agreement to 24 hour car production, creating 1,000 new jobs.

Ford claims dispute which has cost £600million in lost production is almost over.

Seamen occupied British Steel's Ravenscraig plant to protest against plans to register 6 vessels overseas and hire 3rd World crews (FT).

150,000 Jaguars recalled because of brake faults.

Sock Shop shares suspended on Stock Exchange. City experts brought in to save firm.

New inward investments announced in Birmingham and Barnsley creating a total of 700 jobs.

MOD accused by Commons Defence Cttee of "at best sharp practice" over extra payments to Harland & Wolff for converting a training ship (Times).

Germans retain ban on British beef until scientists can prove there is no BSE risk to humans.

American trouble shooter hired to sort out Channel Tunnel - another crisis over.

Green groups attack Cecil Parkinson over his roads programme. Treasury said to be keen to see reduction in plans (Independent).

Today dismisses Roads Report as follows: a few trees dotted along our motorways do not make a transport policy, let alone a green one.

Express - Cecil drive to make the roads bloom with flowers.

Mail - "Flowers will bloom on Britain's green roads. Its leader says the "Greening of Cecil" has begun but sceptics will wonder how much the conversion owes to PR and how much to conviction. The real test will come in his attitude to B/Rail.

PRESS DIGEST

Greenhouse effect researchers call on superpowers to release sea ice data gathered by nuclear submarines (Independent).

John Wakeham appears to confirm reports of a cutback in £2billion programme to curb power station emissions and acid rain (Independent).

Rhodes Boyson calls for teachers to be better paid; teachers' morale, he says, has never been so low.

Avon Council claims that education in Bath was seriously damaged by grant maintained status for comprehensive school (Independent).

Express says the more university dons voice their opposition to student loans the more it worries about the standard of university teaching.

Tory peers planning to block Govt's student loans bill on grounds it could be unconstitutional and because they believe loans would depress the number of people going to college (Times).

Labour dismiss scheme for nursery quality "Kitemark" as "fairly cosmetic" (Independent).

You give Commons hint to John Browne MP that he should quit. Sun says Browne's constituents overwhelmingly demand his resignation.

Express says a retired major is threatening to stand against Browne if he does not go.

Gordon Greig feature in Mail: Why doesn't John Browne do the only honourable thing.

Times editorial says there is nothing new about the risk of conflict for MPs, and there is nothing wrong with outside interests. But Mr Browne has committed a serious breach of parliamentary rules in not disclosing his interests and the honourable course would be for him to resign. If he fails to do so his constituency party would be wise to choose another candidate.

MPs vote to allow divorcees, and those married to divorcees, to become Church of England priests.

Archbishop of Canterbury caught in crossfire over homosexual clergy report which Mail says he refuses to disown.

PRESS DIGEST

Tom King says thousands of jobs will be lost if Labour wins power; their plan for £5billion defence cuts is "criminal".

An Independent editorial accuses Lord Wyatt and others of McCarthyism in their attacks on Brian Redhead and the Today programme. It would be disgraceful if some senior Conservatives dismayed by the polls should fall back on a Red Hunt - or Redhead Hunt. Politicians in a democracy must expect robust criticism in the media.

ITN journalists, writing anonymously in Today, says many in the organisation hope Alastair Burnet will go. Camera crews, floor managers and reporters share the feeling that the audience is getting bored with him.

Wightman Cup abandoned because Britain isn't good enough to compete.

Fighting again in Hong Kong VBP camp.

Times editorial suggests the failure to reach agreement in Hanoi will impose a further delay in mandatory repatriation of boat people from Hong Kong. This should be used to reconsider a policy which reflects no honour on Britain, for example by making an effort to make voluntary repatriation work. While violations of human rights persist in Hanoi, to send people back against their will is not the hallmark of a civilised country.

Amnesty International welcomes improvements in Vietnam's human rights record, but says hundreds of political prisoners still held. Maude's talk on boat people shows little sign of breakthrough (Independent).

EC ready to cut duties on 6,700 product lines as part of multilateral tariff cutting exercise in GATT Uruguay Round (FT).

AMBULANCE DISPUTE

Star - One step away from 999 peace deal - 17% on rates; 13% on pay bill over 2 years. Leader: It has taken 25 weeks and a bill of £23million for a possible solution to be reached. The ritual dance of the British Industrial Dispute had to run its full course.

Mirror - At last! 999 peace deal on cards; 17% over 2 years.

Today - 17% pay rise deal to end ambulance row.

PRESS DIGEST

Express - Ambulance deal is close, says Clarke. Leader headed "Do a deal now on ambulances" says common sense and self interest must surely tell the crews it is time to settle.

Mail - 999 peace in sight as crews get new pay offer.

Telegraph p1 - Ambulance staff near settlement.

Independent - Two-year package worth 15% emerges from ACAS talks on ambulance leaders drop their insistence on automatic pay mechanism.

Times - End in sight at last for 999 dispute, breakthrough at talks at ACAS, with both sides optimistic a settlement can soon be reached involving offer of up to 16% over 2 years (Times).

FT - Offer to ambulance unions raises hopes of settlement thought ot include 16% over 2 years. Kenneth Clarke quoted as saying considers there is a better than 50/50 chance of working things out.

SANCTIONS

Star p2 - Britain in lone sanctions stand.

Sun p4 - We'll go it alone on trade boycott - Hurd South Africa vow.

Mirror p5 - Sanctions snub for Thatcher.

Today p4 - Maggie sparks split (in EC) on de Klerk.

Express p2 - Defiant Thatcher eases sanctions. MPs keep up the pressure as Britain lifts ban in investment.

Mail p1 - Maggie defies EC over South Africa. Leader - few firms at this moment may wish to invest more funds in South Africa. But if they choose to do so the British Govt will smile. This firm gesture of support for de Klerk is well justified. If there are issues on which your tone is out of tune with the changing times this is not one of them.

Telegraph p1 lead - Thatcher defies EC and starts to lift sanctions. Go it alone time on South Africa condemned at Dublin talks. Leader says those who hold our decision to act unilaterally is unreasonable should be warned that there are others anxious to be even more unreasonable.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent - Britain provokes EC dismay by moving to lift South African sanctions. You get a message of support from President Bush but Gerry Collins calls your policy 'disastrous'.

Times p1 lead - Britain defies EC parties on sanctions. Compromise fails to please other 11. Editorial says the Govt has taken the right decision over sanctions. It adds the outcome in Dublin is disappointing, however predictable, and despite demands sanctions should continue there is a growing perception among Govts that Pretoria will soon need a few carrots, not mostly sticks. If the country's black majority are to come into their inheritance they will require it to be prosperous and strong. It says it is in their interests as much as everyone else's that measures of this kind are taken now.

Guardian p1 lead - UK defies Europe on sanctions. Leader says it is not immediately obvious your line on sanctions will lose Conservative votes - or on German unification, Hong Kong, boat people or EMS. But together they form a lethal recipe for peripheralisation.

FT - Britain angered EC partners by announcing it would unilaterally lift voluntary ban on new investment in South Africa. Gerry Collins denounced decision as a 'dangerous precedent' for EC states to do their own thing. Tories joined Opposition in signing a motion urging you to remain in step with EC. Labour expected to press for Commons statement.

COMMUNITY CHARGE

Mirror - Maggie's poll tax war of words. Civil Servants being ordered to prepare "fictitious" rate bills.

Express - Thatcher digs in as poll tax row grows. You declare a propaganda war against big spending councils.

Mail - Maggie to expose councils that cheat on the poll tax.

Guardian - Prime Minister turns on councils as revolt grows.

Times - You launch Govt's fightback on poll tax by seeking to pin the blame firmly on local govt.

FT - You accuse local authorities of extravagant increases in spending as you supporters warn the Govt is risking political disaster over the poll tax. You appeared to acknowledge the average charge could be £370 which would take RPI above 8.0% (FT).

ANNEX

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEN: Mr Wakeham addresses and Mr Morrison attends the Institute of Petroleum annual dinner, London
- DOE: Mr Patten, Mr Trippier, Mr Spicer, Mr Chope and Lord Hesketh attend ADC reception, QEII Conference Centre, London
- DEM: Lord Strathclyde visits Chichester and addresses South East Regional Tourist Board commercial members
- DEM: Mr Nicholls meets Molly Meacher to discuss women's issues and training
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits the London Education Business Partnership; later attends Education Seminar with Primary Schools Heads, Hereford
- DES: Mr Howarth visits CBI Industry conference on Schools/Industry links, Watford
- DH: Mr Freeman visits St Thomas's Hospital Fitness Centre for Nurses, London; later meets Alzheimer's Disease Society and the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union re CAMR
- DH: Lady Hooper addresses launch of 1990 "No Smoking" day, Dartmouth House, London
- DH: Mrs Bottomley addresses one day "Youth Training in the NHS" conference, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain; later opens Stephenson Hall, Highbury Park, National Childrens Home; all London
- DOE: Mr Trippier attends Royal Society dinner
- DOE: Lord Hesketh visits Bushey Park; later attends Ecclesiastical Heritage Evening, Victoria and Albert Museum, London
- DSS: Mrs Shephard meets the Child Poverty Action Group, London
- DTI: Mr Hogg visits Portobello Trust, North Kensington Task Force, London; later dines with Electronic Components Industry Federation
- DTI: Mr Redwood attends lunch at Lloyd's Trade and Project Finance, London
- DTp: Mr McLoughlin addresses the Aerodrome Owners Association dinner, London
- DTp: Mr Atkins visits Institute of Motor Industry headquarters, Fanshaws, Hertford
- FCO: Mr Sainsbury attends reception given by the Ecuadorean Ambassador, Dr José Antonio Correa
- HMT: Lord Caithness visits Gallahers Tobacco, Manchester
- MAFF: Mr Maclean visits NFU Watercress Farm
- MAFF: Mr Curry opens Sheep in the Nineties conference, York; later tours Brow Well Fisheries Ltd, Skipton and Birchfield View Glasshouses, Harrogate

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC) (Cont'd)

OAL: Mr Luce addresses Ecclesiastical Heritage Evening, Victoria and Albert Museum, London

WO: Mr Roberts and Mr Grist attend Association of District Councils reception, QEII Conference Centre, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Mrs Chalker visits Munich (to 22 February)

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

OAL: Mr Luce interviewed by Glasgow Herald on European City of Culture

TV AND RADIO

"Dispatches" Channel 4 (8.30pm)
