

March 1, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Prime Minister will see the President of the European Parliament

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visit the Welsh Guards at Pirbright on St David's Day

The Prince of Wales visits Nigeria and Cameroon

EC: Informal Meeting of Social Affairs Ministers, Dublin (to 2 March)

HO: Official Secrets Act comes into force

PUBLICATIONS

BOE: London sterling certificates of deposit (Jan)

BOE: Bill turnover statistics (Jan)

BOE: Monthly statistics (including bank and building society balance sheets)

BOE: Sterling commercial paper (Jan)

DEN: Energy Trends (Dec)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Northern Ireland; Prime Minister

Business: Debate on Welsh Affairs on a Motion for the Adjournment

Adjournment Debates: The fostering of coloured children by white parents
(Mr A Coombes)

Select Committees: FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Subject: UNESCO
Witness: Professor Federico Mayor,
UNESCO

EUROPEAN LEGISLATION
Subject: Commission Programme for 1990
Witness: Hon Francis Maude

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL
King's Cross Railways Bill

Lords: Starred Questions
Contracts Applicable Law Bill (HL): Report
Courts and Legal Services Bill (HL): Report (3rd Day)
Gaming (Amendment) Bill (HL) : Committee

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Telegraph leads with average community charge £100 over target as Tory councils defy Govt.

Eighteen members of ruling Tory group on West Oxfordshire District Council resign to declare themselves Independents over community charge of £412.

Police called to demos at St Albans, Manchester and Taunton councils.

Conservative politicians in the English shires and Westminster putting on their bravest faces as figures show average poll tax payment will be £360, with only 3 of 39 county councils setting budgets below Govt figures (Independent).

Mirror says you were 'reeling' over the news; Duke of Westminster, it adds, will save £9,800; you and DT will get a rebate of £39 each.

Chris Patten admits community charge will increase inflation. Mail says by 0.75%.

Express thinks Govt threat to cap charges is concentrating council minds if Brent's dramatically lower charge is evidence.

Independent quotes a Backbencher as saying as pressure on divided Tories mounts that Party's prospects are "worse than in the dark days of Heath", what with community charge, trade deficit, and revolt over plans for Hong Kong immigration.

Express interview finds Kenneth Baker not depressed and ready to fight every round.

Ronald Butt, in the Times, under the heading "Proof that no woman is an island" contends that you, like many another leader after a run of hard won victories, have become flawed with hubris.

Kohl gives way over Poland, and tells his Cabinet he favours a joint confirmation of respect for Poland's western border by West and East Germany (Independent).

Soviet farmers win privatisation - they will be free to choose between collectivism and doing their own thing.

Bush has 40 minute telephone call with Gorbachev.

PRESS DIGEST

East German army falling apart as soldiers desert by the thousand - shrunk from 173,000 to 90,000.

Times leader looks at the remarkable flowering of new newspapers and journals in Central and Eastern Europe - 400 in Hungary since May 1988 and 600 in Poland since last August as there is a tremendous hunger for news. But many of them are struggling on shoestring budgets, lacking both the equipment and the management skills needed to survive in what are becoming highly competitive markets.

Leon Brittan in the Times outlines the positive EC response to German reunification saying that setting the terms in the context of European security is vital. But along with that is the question of the political and economic relationship. It is here that the EC is crucial. He adds that there is no reason why the Germany process should cause us either to delay or accelerate our own work on EMU, including early British membership of the ERM of the EMS.

France, Italy, Holland, Canada and Singapore said to be ready to issue passports to Hong Kong people to help maintain confidence in colony. Express calls it an historic deal.

Mail leader notes USA is missing from the list. It should internationalise the issue and undermine Backbench carping. It means that out of a tight spot Govt has created welcome room for manoeuvre.

Meanwhile you make it clear that you are ready to take on Tory opponents to resettlement plans in Britain (Times).

Today says that if Norman Tebbit and 80 other Tory MPs carry on with their opposition to Hong Kong Bill they will cause panic in the colony. He must think again.

Commonwealth leaders conferring with Mandela in Zambia have insisted that sanctions be maintained against South Africa until apartheid is effectively buried (Times).

Mandela says South African Govt not ready for talks and he refuses to offer any concessions to de Klerk (Independent).

Prince and Princess of Wales to visit North Wales Coast today. Threat to coast eases.

Five slightly injured when train hits tree across line at Gypsy Hill, London.

PRESS DIGEST

Labour Party tries to take shine off your inner cities initiative by saying extra £500million spending is not new money.

City shrugs off £1.9billion trade deficit - but, according to Mirror, starts a Tory panic. And according to Guardian casts doubt in anti-inflation campaign. Surprise surge on diamond imports caused rise (Express) - trend is good.

Revived calls for lightening of squeeze in Budget - or puts paid to any hopes of a cut in interest rates then.

Independent editorial previews Mr Major's budget saying his immediate task will be to manage the next stage of Britain's economic development. It adds that his task will also be to balance the need to foster adjustment with the need to sustain the growth of productive capacity. If the January deficit represents past policy failures on the import side, it also points to the need to encourage industry to help the country export its way out of trouble.

Congress says US manufacturing is in deep trouble and will continue to decline without Govt support (FT).

Guardian leads with virtual certainty of Chancellor giving working mothers a new deal in Budget.

Ford to re-open Halewood on Monday in spite of continuing strike by craftsmen and electricians - maintenance will be done by managers and foremen.

Electricity contractors offer employees 15%.

Frank Dobson, Labour spokesman, says electricity industry is to be sold for £9billion less than it is worth - £11billion instead of £20billion.

Airbus to demand £70million from strike-hit BAe (Times).

Royal Mail announces £25million package of local supplements giving increases of up to 7% to attract recruits and retain staff (Independent).

John Butcher confident of taking over chair at Texas Instruments Ltd from Lord Peyton (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Sir Alastair Burnet's battle to ensure control of ITN passes to shareholders outside ITV wins Govt backing, with Home Office confirming key clauses in the Bill governing ITN's future will not be watered down (Independent).

Millions of patients, Today says, are being deterred from going to the dentist because of check up fees.

Doctors say cuts at Maudsley Hospital would lead to suicidal patients being on streets and abused children being sent back to their homes (Times).

Consumers' Assn claims trains are dirtier, more are arriving late and are more overcrowded than 4 years ago; it calls for commuters to be allowed to sue BR for bad service.

And it alleges that some estate agents are conmen, fraudsters and cheats.

Select Cttee calls for more Govt money on transport, more traffic wardens and tougher action against traffic offenders.

Times says Select Cttee calls on Govt to abandon its opposition to integrated transport planning and cater for an expected explosion of traffic when Channel Tunnel opens.

Today claims water rate-payers will have to find £450 each to clean up North Sea.

Water industry argues EC Commission proposals for controlling sewage disposal will be expensive but bring no real environmental or health benefits (Independent).

Universities forced to shed staff for financial and not academic reasons, Public Accounts Committee told by Universities Funding Council (Independent).

Leicester University students invite Gerry Adams to address them - only a few days after IRA bomb in city.

Yorkshire police issue photofit picture of man seen near Halifax bomb attack.

French newspaper 'Liberation' says DC10 blown up over the Sahara last Sept with loss of 171 lives was as a result of French Govt's refusal to honour debt to Shias incurred to secure release of French hostages in the Lebanon (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Mirror claims both Kinnock and Ashdown demand Govt action after its "shock issue" yesterday over the state of education.

Ethnic groups in Bedford up in arms because a road safety expert urged black children to wear bright clothing at night.

Chairman of Magistrates Assn blames Crown Prosecution Service for a big increase in delays in the courts (Times).

Govt's Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency head suspended over his claims for expenses and allowances (Independent).

Tory MPs set to rebel to increase State benefits to 100,000 elderly in residential and nursing homes.

Mail gives 3 pages to Ladies Day at Downing Street; it says B Ingham fell asleep.

Labour Party executive votes 23-2 to allow Leith to replace Ron Brown MP.

Senior civil servants warn Commons Cttee that tradition of impartiality threatened under code of professional conduct (Independent).

Further criticism of libel laws in Mirror, Today, Express after Tessa Sanderson wins £30,000 libel damages against Sunday Mirror and People.

Investigators now believe elimination by Pan Am of a key safety procedure at Frankfurt airport gave terrorists the opportunity to smuggle a bomb on the plane which crashed at Lockerbie (Independent).

Moslem militia claim Britain has held secret talks over release of 4 British hostages in Beirut (Express).

Greville Wynne, British spy, dies 71.

Israel predicts a huge exodus of Soviet Jews, with 250,000 expected to arrive in 1990 (Independent).

Sandinistas declare unilateral ceasefire in war with Contras (Times).

New Nicaraguan President, Mrs Chamorro, calls for demobilisation of Contra guerrillas (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Bush administration claiming credit, retrospectively, for creating conditions which allowed Mrs Chamorro to win election (Independent).

Gandhi's party crumbles again, this time in Indian state elections (Times).

Kaifu sows seeds of his own downfall by insisting on a say in choosing his new cabinet - usually the prerogative of his party's grandees (Times).

Cambodia peace talks in Jakarta collapse without any agreement, leaving no hope for an early end to the fighting inside the country (Independent).

INNER CITIES

Star - Cities get £4billion from Maggie - a record.

Sun - £4billion for ghettos.

Mirror reports a double snub - Mayor and Labour MP stay away from opening of Dewsbury hospital; you are "rapped over cities 'con' - Bryan Gould says it isn't new money.

Today - Inner City crusade - you pledge £4billion for rebuilding.

Express - £4billion bost for inner cities.

Independent - Inner cities' £500million found by "bending" other programmes. Editorial looks at the Govt's inner cities programme. While saying that it is arguably right to divert funds away from more prosperous areas, the programme has failed in its essentially political aim because it has been overshadowed by the impact of other policies such as high interest rates, inflation and poll tax.

Times - You mark second anniversary of Govt's inner-city programme by announcing extra £500million of funding. Picture of your meeting two year old patient at Dewsbury Hospital.

Independent - David Hunt says additional £500million for inner city programme found by "bending" other programmes. He makes clear Govt planning to maintain its momentum of inner city campaign, as you lead presentation of Govt's updated inner city programme in visit to Bradford (plus picture).

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph - Tory pledge on inner cities a "cruel deception" according to Labour. Picture of you at museum. Leader says much has been achieved since you launched the campaign in 1987 but there are no grounds for complacency.

Guardian leader says your version of the Govt's programme has as much substance as the air created by the photographic museum's trick cameras.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DTI: Mr Ridley attends launch of Patents Agency as an Executive Agency, Cardiff
- FCO: Mr Hurd hosts lunch for the President of the European Parliament, Senor Enrique Baron, London
- LPC: Sir Geoffrey Howe meets Senor Enrique Baron, London
- WO: Mr Walker hosts and Mr Roberts and Mr Grist attend St David's Day lunch, London
- DEM: Lord Strathclyde attends presentation of the 1990 award at British Institute of Innkeepers
- DEN: Mr Baldry visits the National Grid Control Centre, Sumner Street, London
- DH: Mrs Bottomley meets the General Medical Services Committee re dispensing, London
- DH: Mr Freeman meets Peter Rost MP re Medicines Control Agency fees, London
- DOE: Mr Hunt addresses Merseyside Branch of RICS annual dinner, Liverpool
- DOE: Mr Chope opens Oxford House Housing Association Scheme, London; later presents 1989 "Williams Memorial" award, Royal Institute of British Architects; later addresses Institute of Housing
- DOE: Mr Moynihan attends Sport Aid Foundation annual dinner
- DOE: Lord Hesketh addresses symposium on Waste Management Research, Solihull, West Midlands
- DTP: Mr Atkins opens A1 Newcastle/Western bypass
- MAFF: Mr Maclean visits University of East Anglia, Norwich; later visits MAFF food science laboratory
- OAL: Mr Luce visits Glasgow (to 2 March) and hosts dinner for EC Culture Minister (1 March); also addresses official opening ceremony of Glasgow European City of Culture 1990 (2 March)
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DSS: Mr Newton gives an interview on disability benefits to Calendar Commentary, Yorkshire TV
- DH: Mrs Bottomley interviewed by Toni Turner, Nursing Times
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TV AND RADIO

"This Week" ITV (8.30pm)

"40 Minutes" BBC 2 (9.30pm)

A look behind the doors of a Conservative Party selection committee

"Question Time" BBC1 (10.00pm)

With Sir Norman Fowler MP, Frank Field MP, Sue Stapely (Head of Law Society Parliamentary Unit), and Michael White (Guardian)
