

March 7, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister attends John Heddle's Memorial Service, Crypt, House of Commons; attends Newspaper Society Lunch; and later sees President Vassiliou of Cyprus

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh attend a concert at the Barbican in aid of the Aldeburgh Appeal; later both visit the exhibition "Landscapes from a High Latitude", on Icelandic Art, London

North Sea conference, The Hague (to March 8)

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STATISTICS

DEM: Overseas travel and tourism (Dec)

DEM: Detailed analysis of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators

DEN: Advance energy statistics (Jan)

DOE: Housing starts and completions (Jan)

DOE: House renovations (4th qtr)

HO: Community service orders statistics

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Blasphemy (Mr Bob Cryer)  
Debate on the First Report Session 1989-90 of the Select Committee on Members' Interests (HC 135)  
Votes are expected at 10.00 pm

Adjournment Debates: The administration of the Tax System (Mr T Smith)

Select Committees: TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
Subject: British Aerospace/Rover  
Witnesses: Sir Anthony Battishill, Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue and Inland Revenue officials

DEFENCE  
Subject: The Procurement of Rapier Field Standard C  
Witnesses: Ministry of Defence

ENERGY  
Subject: The Cost of Nuclear Power  
Witnesses: North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board at 11.00am  
South of Scotland Electricity Board at 11.30 am

PARLIAMENT (Continued)Select Committees: STANDING ORDERS

## EMPLOYMENT

Subject: The work of the Employment Department Group  
 Witness: Mr Michael Howard, MP  
 Secretary of State for Employment and Mr Tim Eggar MP,  
 Minister of State for Employment

## HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Crown Prosecution Service  
 Witnesses: Home Office; Lord Chancellor's Department

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Property Services Agency:  
 District Works Offices  
 Witness: Mr A P Brown, Property Services Agency

## SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Community Care  
 Witnesses: MENCAP, MIND, National Schizophrenia  
 Fellowship and VOICES; Carers National Association,  
 Contact a Family and the Alzheimers Disease Society

## TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE

Subject: Civil Service Pay and Conditions of Service Code  
 Witnesses: Sir Robin Butler, KCB, CVO,  
 Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service

## PROCEDURE

Subject: The Working of the Select Committee System  
 Witnesses: Andrew Bennett MP;  
 Tony Marlow MP

## JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONSOLIDATION ETC BILLS

Subject: Town and Country Planning Bills  
 Witnesses: Mrs Maggie Leaves (the Office of  
 Parliamentary Counsel); Mrs J A H G Cochrane

## COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS

Cardiff Bay Barrage Bill [Lords]  
 King's Cross Railways Bill

Lords: Starred Questions  
 Short Debate to call attention to the work of the Citizens' Advice  
 Bureaux and the problems they face  
 Short Debate to call attention to the pressures on the staff of the  
 National Health Service  
 Abortion (Amendment) Bill: Third Reading

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Labour embarrassed by demos - some violent - around the country against community charge. Sun: Leftie thugs lead mob attacks on town halls. Express: Poll tax mob rule. Mail: Return of Rent-a-Mob - return of Grunwick, Wapping.

Worst scenes at Bristol where some 20 arrested and 5 police injured.

Mirror puts toll at 46 arrests; 5 injured policemen.

Other demos at House of Lords (nude girl, drunk), Reading, Norwich, Exeter, Dover, Wokingham, Derwentside, Weston Super Mare, Gillingham, Worcester, Birmingham, Maidenhead, Bradford. Today says there were 13 riots.

Queen, Prince Charles and Princess Anne to pay their own estate workers' charges.

Liverpool councillors run up £4,000 bill on sexy chatlines.

You say high community charges are a rip off (Today). Labour are high spenders.

Mail says the organisation co-ordinating community charge protests is dominated by Militant supporters.

With the evidence emerging of Militant involvement in orchestrating the demonstrations, the Labour Party moved swiftly last night to denounce violence, recognising that it would divert attention from the Govt's problems over the tax (Times).

In a separate story under the heading "How the disruption is organised" a Times investigation reports that Militant, the hard-Left Trotskyite group, have come to dominate the 1,500 branches of the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation, provoking confrontation with police.

Independent says spiralling costs for small businesses in your constituency - business rate, community charge, interest rates - cause Tory voters to warn of possible desertion to Labour.

Kohl climbs down over Polish border and reparations. He did so to save coalition. Express: He says mistakes have been made on all sides - "including by me".

PRESS DIGEST

Independent describes it as a humiliating defeat for Kohl. Gorbachev gives strongest warning yet of Soviet hostility to NATO membership for unified Germany.

Times leader says that having damaged his own and his country's good name by his mishandling of the German-Polish border question, Chancellor Kohl has for the moment yielded to wiser counsel from inside his party. This was a defeat, but not a rout for Kohl. It concludes that tone-deaf to diplomatic harmonies as he is, Kohl was never likely to resolve the discord between Bonn and Warsaw over the border. Yet his duty to his country demands nothing less.

Mail feature describes Kohl as the loose cannon on Europe's deck.

Peregrine Worsthorne, in Telegraph, says everyone is now coming round to your view about the dangers of a united Germany. Even the French are summoning up the courage to say so publicly. It would be nice to think that those who criticised you for your stance would now withdraw.

Poland demands £175billion compensation for 13million Poles who suffered under Nazis.

Britain's Ambassador to Paris delivers a strong plea for closer co-operation between Britain and France in areas of vital mutual concern (Times).

Russia opens door to private ownership of land and property.

Lithuania plans to declare independence on Monday unless Gorbachev guarantees their right to self-determination (FT).

Army coup led by Defence Minister collapses in Afghanistan.

But skirmishes continue in Kabul despite Afghan govt claims that coup has failed according to Independent.

Mandela gives strong hint that ANC would be prepared to give constitutional guarantees to whites in South Africa to appease their fears that they would be overwhelmed by the country's black majority (Times).

South African Defence Minister Malan stares political ruin in the face as it becomes clear he was either incompetent or involved in death squads (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

De Beers to move its overseas interests to a Swiss registered company in a move apparently intended as a hedge against nationalisation in South Africa (FT).

Anti-Apartheid movement tell Douglas Hurd that Britain's policy to South Africa could "abort" the prospect of a negotiated end to apartheid (FT).

With the Govt under continuing attack over the economy and the community charge, Michael Heseltine rallies Conservative MPs with a Commons speech attacking Labour's alternative policies (Times).

General Motors to site a new Euro engine plant at Ellesmere Port, according to reports from Geneva Motor Show - will create 400 jobs.

Nissan in an outspoken attack has warned the EC against attempts to maintain barriers against Japanese cars (FT).

FT leader on EC car battles, says the growing interdependence of international markets and the global expansion of industry may not reduce the immediate political pressures on Brussels to prolong restrictions on Japanese cars after 1992. But the EC needs to recognise clearly that the main victory of such policies are likely to be those interests which they ostensibly set out to protect.

Sales of new cars down almost 12% (FT).

More than 10% of families ran into arrears of debt last year.

Data Protection Registrar to investigate attempts by councils to compel householders to give names and addresses of people buying their homes (Independent).

Halifax reports small rise of 0.3% in house prices nationally (FT).

Kinnock calls for a public inquiry into Scargill affair.

Miners' leaders tell Scargill he will have to use his own money - and not the NUM's - to finance any libel action. Some want him suspended while inquiry goes ahead.

Commons Motion urges Attorney General to refer allegations to DPP.

Mirror, which continues to pursue the issue, says if Scargill is telling the truth the rest are lying.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail says if Scargill is innocent he must either sue or set up a genuinely independent inquiry. Kinnock is delighted to distance himself now but neither he nor his party had the guts to defeat him 5 years ago. It took a woman of high spirit and democratic will to transform him.

Independent says Scargill will need all his persuasive talents to win over vital NUM executive meeting on Friday on the Libyan affair.

Telegraph says the allegations throw into question the way the NUM conducts its financial affairs.

Guardian calls for an independent inquiry - an outside inquiry which commands confidence.

BAe works at Preston reject 37-hour week - accepted by two other plans.

Prestwick Airport's monopoly in Scotland has been ended (FT).

Sun, commenting on the first breaches of a picket line at Ford, Halewood, says this marks the end of an era.

John Wakeham attacked for announcing state aid for Nuclear Electric in planted Commons answer without mentioning £2.3billion figure (Independent).

Air traffic controllers to have working day limited to 10 hours (Times).

Director-General of Design Council says managers are more obsessed with price than with design and quality and this is causing us to lose sales and to import.

Dutch Transport Minister says our North Sea clean-up measures are too little and too late.

Three Sellafield workers who blame nuclear plant for their daughters' leukaemia begin legal actions for compensation.

Claims that owners of new houses will be charged between six and sixteen times as much for connection to water mains after privatisation.

Serious fall in number of maths and science teachers blamed on low pay (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Sir Run Run Shaw, wealthy Hong Kong businessman, has given Oxford University £10million to set up an Institute of Chinese Studies (FT).

New cross-breed of savage dog being developed for underworld, it is said.

Govt climbs down over plan to allow police to seize TV programmes before they have been shown (Express).

York street sealed off after young airman raises alarm over possibility of bomb under his car.

Legal battle to prosecute Wapping police ends as appeal to Lords is blocked ( Independent).

Study says tiny minority of black youths commit crimes in Brixton. Activities lead to innocent blacks being regarded with distrust by police and public (Independent).

Anthropologist claims that cocaine and cannabis can be a revitalising force for society and should be legalised (Independent).

At least half the police forces in England and Wales expected to begin cautioning rather than charging first-time offenders in possession of illegal drugs says Times.

Ivor Stanbrook MP blames working mothers for crime, divorce, vandalism and child battering. Today says he is wildly and outrageously wrong. Harriet Harman says he has cast a slur on every working woman.

Hopes rising for tax help for working mothers in Budget.

Richard Luce plans to limit role of Arts Council and give more power to the regions (Independent).

Labour MPs want John Browne to be suspended for 60 days.

Express wants John Browne suspended to the end of the Session.

Independent says John Browne's fate should not be left to the Wnchester Conservative Association. If his offences were calculated, and he remained unaware of the reasons why his behaviour was subversive of essential standards, he should be expelled from the House.

PRESS DIGEST

Guardian says those who believe the case against Browne is proved should vote solidly for 3 months' suspension and uphold the integrity of the Register.

Mail notes in a Church of England newspaper which attracted a large response 96% said homosexual practice was against God's law; 96% that gay couples should not be blessed; and 94% that practising homosexuals should not be ordained.

Allen Lee says Hong Kong should be allowed to push boat people back out to sea if it is faced with another huge influx this year (Independent).

Shamir given 24 hours to accept American peace plan or lose coalition.

Under the heading "UNESCO Unrepentant" Times leader looks at the reasons why Britain will not rejoin. Wisdom of that stance has been amply borne out, since the promises for reform within UNESCO have not been kept.



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DH: Mr Clarke meets the Home Secretary and Constituents re the closure of Ribchester Hospital, London
- DSS: Mr Newton meets representatives of the TUC to discuss disability benefits, London
- DTp: Mr Parkinson addresses London International Freight Forum
- FCO: Mr Hurd meets the Indian Foreign Minister, Mr Inder K Gujral, London
- LPC: Sir Geoffrey Howe lunches with the Portman Group, London
- WO: Mr Walker launches British Urban Development Towry Vale Project, Lancaster House, London
- DEM: Lord Strathclyde visits Devon for tour of Dartington Crystal Factory and a prospective visitors centre at Great Torrington
- DEM: Mr Nicholls addresses Alcohol Concern, London
- DES: Mr Howarth opens Independent Schools Headquarters and County High School; both Saffron Walden
- DH: Mrs Bottomley attends launch of Project 2000, University of Essex
- DH: Lady Hooper meets representatives from Medical Aid for Palestinians, London
- DOE: Mr Trippier lunches with County Landowners Association
- DOE: Mr Chope visits Hampton Court
- DOE: Mr Heathcoat-Amory addresses IWEM lunch, London; later with Lord Hesketh attends Glastonbury Abbey Development Trust reception
- DSS: Lord Henley visits the Royal Star in Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen
- DTI: Mr Hogg chairs and addresses evening lecture "Franchising in the 90s", London
- DTp: Mr McLoughlin addresses Greenwich Forum on "Maritime Dimension of 1992"
- DTp: Mr Portillo visits Dartford-Thurrock Crossing

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- HO: Mr Patten visits Probation Centre, Farnham, Surrey
- HO: Lord Ferrers visits Greater Manchester Fire Service
- MAFF: Mr Maclean and Mr Curry visit Central Veterinary Laboratory and Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Weybridge
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses launch of Aldeburgh Festival Proms, Ipswich; later addresses Eastern Region Arts Groups, Ipswich; later addresses Glastonbury Abbey Development Trust reception, London
- WO: Mr Roberts makes Keynote address to Flexible Learning conference, Newport
- WO: Mr Grist addresses Lord Mayor's dinner, Cardiff
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DOE: Mr Patten attends North Sea Conference, The Hague (to 8 March)
- MAFF: Mr Gummer visits Feria de Barcelona Trade Fair, Barcelona
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DES: Mr MacGregor interviewed by Jeremy Sutcliffe, Times Educational Supplement
- FCO: Mr Hurd interviewed by Julia Langdon and David Wastell of the Sunday Telegraph
- DES: Mrs Rumbold filmed by the BBC for a documentary on women "Move over Darling"
- DSS: Mrs Shephard interviewed by Janet Street-Porter for a documentary on women "Move over Darling"
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TV AND RADIO

"Despatches" Ch 4 (8.30pm)

Conservative Party Political Broadcast BBC 1 (9.00pm); ITV (10.00pm) and BBC 2 (10.30pm)

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