

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister sees President Jawara of The Gambia and hosts a reception for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh attend a reception at St James's Palace given by the Church Urban Fund

The Prince and Princess of Wales give a lunch for His Highness Shaikh Sa'ad al Abdullal al Salim al Sabah, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait, London

TUC Women's Conference, Blackpool (to 16 March)

National No Smoking Day

DTI: Signing of Memorandum of Understanding for Common Air Interface Standard for Telepoint (prov)

HO: Announcement on Section 11 Grants - Government Response to Security Report

HO: "Police-Link" National Casualty Bureau Exercise, Warwickshire

STATISTICS

OPCS: Mortality statistics: perinatal and infant 1987

PUBLICATIONS

Committee of Public Accounts - 4th Report:- Locate in Scotland

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Trade and Industry

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: London Local Government (Mr Simon Hughes)

National Health Service and Community Care Bill: Progress on Remaining Stages.

Adjournment Debates: The Anglo/Irish Agreement in the light of the Irish Republic's Supreme Court judgement in the case McGimpsey vs Ireland (Mr K Maginnis)

Select Committees: ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Pollution of Beaches
Witnesses: Marine Conservation Society; Mr Patrick Gowen, Norfolk Friends of the Earth

AGRICULTURE

Subject: Fish Farming in the UK
Witnesses: Universtiy of Stirling, Institute of Agriculture; Natural Environment Research Council

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS

Subject: Science Policy and the European Dimension
Witnesses: Department of Education and Science officials

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: The Work of the Health and Safety Commission and Executive
 Witnesses: The Health and Safety Commission and Executive

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Fleet Maintenance
 Witnesses: Sir Michael Quinlan and Vice Admiral J Slater, Ministry of Defence

PROCEDURE

Subject: The Work of the Select Committee System
 Witnesses: 4.30pm: Professor George Jones, 5.10pm: Professor Peter Hennessy, 5.50pm: Professor Gavin Drewy and Dr Phillip Giddings

JOINT COMMITTEE

CONSOLIDATION ETC. BILLS

Subject: Town & Country Planning Bills
 Witnesses: Mrs Maggie Leates

COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS

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

Lords:

Starred Questions

Debate to call attention to the gap between rich and poor in society and to the case for a social security system that meets the problems arising therefrom

Debate to call attention to the 39th Annual Reports of the Law Society and the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Legal Aid
 London Local Authorities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (HL) Second Reading

PRESS DIGESTMain News

National No Smoking Day.

New MORI poll puts Labour 17 points ahead. Lab 51/Con 34/
SLD 5/ Green 5.

Anglo-Irish relations plunge to a new low when Dublin Supreme Court refuses to extradite 2 IRA Maze escapers because they might be maltreated in prison on their return. This has serious implications for efforts to extradite another 17 terrorists.

No 10 describes the court decision as "grossly offensive and unjustified". Will only encourage terrorism.

Media generally outraged at this effective tearing up of extradition treaty (Mirror).

Mail says Anglo/Irish agreement may be dead in all but name and that any trust that remained between you and Haughey has been destroyed.

Purpose of Anglo-Irish Agreement under question.

Same Irish Judge who sent a robber to Birmingham instead of jail, gives a thug whose stabbed victim required a 14-pint blood transfusion three weeks to leave Ireland and start a new life in London.

Gerry Adams' brother sent to trial on terrorist charges (Independent).

Two more police officers, taking the total to eight, are being investigated over the Guildford 4 convictions (Independent).

Birmingham 6 win support in the US as respected Congressman vows to step up American pressure on the Govt until the men are released (Independent).

British and Irish fail to agree on Ulster talks on the question of drawing Unionist and other N.I. parties into political dialogue. While Mr Brooke is guardedly optimistic, the Irish believe the price demanded by Unionists would harm the Anglo-Irish agreement (Independent).

Mandela calls for intensification of sanctions against South Africa and hints that he might snub your invitation when he visits London next month (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

A Soweto mob beheaded a man and delivered it to the local police station in one of 15 killings. Police arrested more than 500 people for looting and arson (FT).

Invisibles plunge £713 million into red - first time since records began. Blamed partly on insurance payments abroad. Independent says for probably the first time since the Napoleonic Wars. The news shook economists in the City. The implication is that the structure of Britain's trade is even worse than imagined and will take longer to correct. Telegraph partly blames the cost of our staying in the EC.

Express says homebuyers are cutting back on luxuries to meet high interest rates, including holidays.

EC discussion paper on monetary union - to be presented to Finance Ministers on March 31 in Dublin - contains significant departures from the Delors' report. Debated by the European Commission yesterday, it allows Delors to jettison a provision imposed by Karl Otto Pohl who had insisted that only binding limits on budget deficits could provide sufficient monetary discipline on the 12. The new papers describes this as "difficult politically and technically" and only urges co-ordination of medium term strategies (FT).

Govt loses vote on support for elderly in homes - first reverse in Commons for 4 years; will consider further how to help elderly.

George Gale, in Mail, on Mid-Staffs by-election - the extraordinary battle where the Tories are threatened by a blue rinsed Labour puppet. Judging by her performance she is not prepared to put her election at risk by clinging on to any policies at all or saying anything substantial about anything whatsoever. In close on 40 years of covering by-elections, Gale says he does not recall a candidate so feeble. Her election will stand testimony to the gullibility of voters.

Telegraph says Labour in Mid Staffs is playing like a football team huddled around their own goal, desperate for the final whistle.

You tell your critics community charge the "fairest ever" charge for local authorities; high interest rates are working, and talk of plots against you were "bunkum and balderdash" (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Your allies in Fleet Street rally against your critics by urging Conservative MPs to stop speculating about changing the Party leadership (Independent).

Peter Jenkins, in Independent, looks at Tory leadership, saying the question is an obvious one which does not have to be discussed with malice or conspiratorial intent. You are by no means immune to your public reputation. He concludes that if by the autumn the polls suggest someone else could win (and thus avoid a Labour victory) but you could not, you would bear an onerous responsibility if you put yourself before party and country. In those circumstances he wonders if you really would.

Bruce Kent, CND Chairman, in the running to be Labour candidate in Oxford (Independent).

Writing in the Times under the heading "No return to stifling socialism", Kenneth Baker argues that Britain must not retreat into a system that cripples individual incentive and enterprise.

Soviet Parliament confers new powers on Gorbachev: executive president. Communist Party's monopoly on power ended.

Times describes the changes in the Soviet Union as laying the foundations for one of the biggest shifts in the Soviet political structure since the 1920s, allowing real power at the centre to move away from the Communist Party leadership to a constitutionally accountable head of state.

Estonians select parcel of prominent intellectuals, artists and former dissidents to lead them to independence (Independent).

Gorbachev dismisses Lithuanians restoration of independence as illegal and rejects requests for formal negotiations (Independent).

Express says overheated talk about you isolating yourself and the country over German unification looks increasingly foolish after German decision to resolve all external issues before unification is finalised.

Hundreds of thousands of East Germany's small savers are to get strong DM at a one-for-one exchange rate for their almost worthless Ostmarks (Times).

Ambulance men vote 81-19% to accept pay settlement. Return to work on Friday, but they say they will never give up demand for pay formula.

PRESS DIGEST

Farm workers awarded 9% pay increase. They wanted 43% to offset community charge (Times).

Guardian says C&AG investigation into defence reveals overspending on development of new weapons has reached nearly £2billion.

Credit card users may soon be charged up to 5% for convenience - or inconvenience, as the case may be.

Training vouchers win Cabinet backing (Telegraph).

FT leader on training considers Labour's policy and finds it wanting: Labour is right to argue for much greater investment in "human capital" but it has yet to confront the Exchequer costs of this laudable policy.

Home Office drops idea of our joining standard EC time until after election (Telegraph).

Today says new figures show that more people now travel by domestic airlines than on B/Rail.

BR expected to offer 7.7% in opening pay negotiations: threat of rail trouble this summer.

Independent editorial, looking at the conclusions reached by the Central Transport Consultative Cttee on B/Rail, says Govt has made two mistakes in its dealings with B/Rail: delaying privatisation in the belief BR needed first to achieve unsubsidised profit; and that this simplistic commercial imperative was in the best interests of BR. It concludes that, as in the '70s, these subsidies could be translated into "contracts" whereby Govt bought services on uneconomic lines. Such a procedure would be equally viable if BR were privatised.

Saatchi brothers take pay cuts of £200,000 each to reduce salaries to £437,500 each to help firm, £58.5million in red last year, over bad patch.

European Parliament set to vote today for a complete ban on all cigarette advertising, a sweeping measure that will draw fierce opposition from British Govt (Times).

Norman Tebbit calls Kinnock "a prattling political pygmy" with no chance of winning the next election. He is "inadequate and unstable".

PRESS DIGEST

Mirror claims that research for Labour PPB this evening shows blue collar workers are turning their backs on you. It will coin a new slogan "Labour: people who can, not people who con".

Community charge

MORI poll shows 75% disapprove of community charge.

Community charge protestors clashed with police last night in Bath and Bury St Edmonds.

Sun says 31 Labour MPs refusing to pay charge will defy Kinnock.

Express says Kinnock continues to avoid explaining what Labour will do about the charge.

Telegraph publishes league of shame for overspenders.

Now publicans join in the scare tactics: unified business rate may put 20p on a pint.

Van driver sacked for refusing to deliver community charge forms.

You call on public to join fight against perverted child abusers.

Police say hundreds of British and Dutch football hooligans are planning a campaign of violence against each other at World Cup in Italy.

Mirror, desperate over Sun spot the ball game to boost circulation, says game could damage soccer safety by draining cash from sport.

RSPCA gets riot style gear to deal with vicious dogs (Times).

Times leader says something unusual happened in the House of Commons yesterday: there was cross-party support for Mr Luce's proposals for devolving the funding of the arts. In a political atmosphere in which even the possible hanging of a British journalist can create party sniping, such agreement made a welcome change.

Neil Kinnock has won substantial damages from the News of the World and the Sun who claimed he queue jumped to take his family to Corfu (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

Allan Roberts, Labour MP for Bootle, suffering from cancer.

Bereavement damages could be increased from the present minimum level of £3,500 to £10,000 as a result of review plans announced by Lord Chancellor (Times).

Iraq

King Hussein says he has pleaded with Iraq for life of Observer journalist. Hussein refuses to act under pressure.

Sun runs 10 evil facts about the beasts of Iraq and 10 evil facts about the beast (Saddam Hussein) who runs them.

Israeli coalition crashes in bitter dispute over US plan for talks with Palestinians; 11 Labour members walk out and later resign.

Independent editorial says that the collapse of the Israeli coalition looks like a damaging blow to hopes of progress on peace talks. In the short term, an election, where Labour should be in a stronger position than usual, would lead to polarisation and further damage the cause of peace. While the Israelis have good reason to look constantly to their past, so too do the Palestinians. There is still a chance to take steps towards a more peaceful future, but it may not be that much longer.

Times leader says after stumbling towards a peace settlement for the past year, Israel's Govt yesterday finally tripped over itself and collapsed. Its immediate future remains uncertain, and that of the Middle East peace plan which it devised last spring looks more clouded than ever.

After 30 minute meeting with Sir Geoffrey Howe, Menem says he would soon visit Britain (Independent).

Govt mystified after President Menem is quoted as saying he had been invited to visit Britain (Times).

Bush lifts economic sanctions against Nicaragua and sets Congress two-week timetable to legislate US £300million of aid (Independent).

The Tamil Tigers ready to take control of north and east Sri Lanka as soon as Indian troops leave (Independent).

Turkish security forces killed 14 alleged terrorists in a clash outside a village in a south-eastern province (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

Haiti swears in its first woman president.

IRISH PROBLEM

Star p1 lead - Sick! Maggie fury as Irish free "frightened" IRA gunmen. Terrorists' glee. Leader says in Ireland justice is not seen to be done; it is done for. It looks as if Irish authorities are terrified of offending the IRA.

Sun p1 - Maggie IRA fury. Leader: for half a century Britain has been the victim of Irish blarney over the menace of the IRA and blarney is spelled "hypocrisy". It hopes "the precious air of Irish freedom poisons" the two released.

Mirror p1 - Fury as IRA jail-busters go free. Leader on "spurious victory" says the Supreme Court effectively tore up Anglo/Irish extradition treaty and handed IRA a victory. Excuse will be quoted as a precedent by every terrorist. The Supreme Court didn't dispense justice - it handed down loaded guns.

Today p2 - Bandit country. These IRA jailbreakers left one warder dead, four stabbed, two shot and 13 beaten senseless. Yesterday a Dublin court set them free because they might suffer ill-treatment. Leader headed "Broken trust" says court's decision plainly stated that they did not trust police, prison officers and other lawmen in Ulster. If this continues the biggest losers will be the whole of Ireland.

Express p4 - Thatcher's anger as Maze pair are freed. Leader headed "Time to stop this raw deal" says the Irish Chief Justice seems to be conducting a one man campaign to discredit Anglo-Irish agreement. An extraordinary ruling even by Irish standards. When will British Govt demand more from the Anglo/Irish Agreement?

Mail p1 lead - Justice Dublin style. Irish pact in danger as judges free terror men. Anglo/Irish Agreement in shreds. Leader says trust between the Irish and British has been sabotaged. The judgment is "a real stinker". It is hard to exaggerate the corrosive effect of the "Supreme unwisdom" demonstrated by the Supreme Court. Extradition is rendered a sick joke.

Times p1 lead - Anger as Irish judges free two terrorists. The decision, which came as a shock in London and Belfast, immediately sparked a serious political row which was threatening to damage recent warm relations between Britain and the Republic.

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph p1 lead - Anger as Dublin judges free two IRA terrorists. Decision "offensive and insulting". Leader headed "Irish insult" says this latest manifestation of recurring strains is a blow to Anglo-Irish relations and to the struggle against terrorism. Those relations can never achieve harmony until the question about which many Irishmen have been deceiving themselves for all too long is honourably settled - namely in whose interests can it be for men and women committed to murder and destruction to run free?

FT p1 - Irish court rejects extradition of fugitives. Judgment that they risked being maltreated in a Belfast prison was described as "grossly offensive" by Downing Street.

Guardian p1 - anger as Dublin frees Maze escapers.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DSS: Mr Newton visits Lytham St Annes
- HO: Mr Waddington addresses the Royal College of Defence Studies on the "Maintenance of Stability in a Democratic Society", London
- DEM: Mr Nicholls addresses ET conference, London
- DEM: Lord Strathclyde visits a Sheltered Placement of Spafax TV and ASSET, London; later attends BTA board dinner at Brooks, St James', London
- DEM: Mr Eggar visits Durham and Newcastle (departmental tour)
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits Wandsworth Local Education Authority
- DES: Mr Jackson present prizes to students of the Vehicle Design department at the Royal College of Art, London; later visits Department of Psychiatry at Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School, London
- DES: Mr Howarth addresses National Association of Non-Maintained Schools for the Physically Handicapped conference, Castle Priory College, Oxfordshire; later attends Baverstock Grant Maintained School prize giving
- DH: Mrs Bottomley visits Parkside and Ealing Health Authorities to perform topping out ceremony at Ealing Hospital and open Jefferies Wing, St Mary's Hospital, London
- DOE: Mr Trippier visits Nature Conservancy Council Headquarters
- DSS: Mrs Shephard meets the Association of Directors of Social Workers to discuss Social Security provisions for young people
- DTI: Mr Redwood addresses Financial Times conference on Competition Mergers, Acquisitions and Alliances in Europe, London
- DTp: Mr Atkins opens the Guild of Experienced Motorists new headquarters, Forest Row, Sussex; later attends Institute of Highways Transportation dinner
- HO: Lord Ferrers visits Durham Police
- OAL: Mr Luce speaks at opening of "Arts Without Frontiers" Arts Council conference, Glasgow
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DH: Lady Hooper attends Plenary Session of European Parliament, Strasbourg (to 15 March)
- DTI: Mr Redwood visits USA (to 16 March)
- MAFF: Mr Curry visits European Parliament, Strasbourg
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DES: Mr MacGregor interviewed by Tony Austin of the Liverpool Daily Post and on "You and Yours", BBC Radio 4 about the Open University

TV AND RADIO

"Family Matters" BBC 1 (7.35pm) Report on how working mothers cope with looking after their children; includes interview with Mrs Rumbold (DES)

"Dispatches" Ch 4 (8.30pm) Looks at the case of a man involved in surveillance work in Northern Ireland and London (not involving Colin Wallace)

"Age to Age" BBC Radio 4 (8.15pm) Repeat of Saturday's programme

"Labour Party Political Broadcast" BBC 1 (9.00pm); ITV (10.00pm); BBC 2 (10.30pm)
