

March 27, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen holds an Investiture

ACP/EC: Council of Ministers, Suva (to 29 March)

National Union of Journalists annual delegates meeting, Loughborough (to 30 March)

DEM/ Launch of credits for 16-19 year olds
DES:

DTP: Statement on London Assessment Studies and Traffic in London

PUBLICATIONS

DES: National Curriculum Council newsletter No 3

OPCS: Population trends No 59: Spring 1990

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Education and Science; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Medical Services for Women (Dawn Primarolo)
Motion on the Easter Adjournment, for three hours
Proceedings on the Consolidated Fund (No 2) Bill: All Stages

Adjournment Debates: Loss of M V Marine (Mr N Trotter)

Select Committees: TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE
Subject: The 1990 Budget
Witness: HM Treasury officials

COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS
Cardiff Bay Barrage Bill [Lords]
King's Cross Railways Bill

Lords: Starred Questions
Strathclyde Regional Council Order Confirmation Bill: Third Reading
Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions)(Scotland) Bill (HL): Committee (2nd Day)
Industrial Training (Northern Ireland) Order 1990: Motion for Approval
Transport (Amendment)(Northern Ireland) Order 1990: Motion for Approval

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Nigel Lawson criticises delay in joining ERM - the whole of the Govt's commitment against inflation is at risk.

Michael Heseltine says that no-one will strive harder to secure a fourth term and that he believes you will lead party into next election and will win.

His statement seen as a response to call by Lord President for him to show his support for Govt.

All this seen as piling on the turmoil in Tory Party. And it brings lectures about the need for loyalty in editorials.

Up to 40 Tory MPs either abstain or vote against Govt on community charge transitional relief. Two defeats for Student Loans Bill in Lords.

Community Charge

Nurses in conference jeer Virginia Bottomley over charge and inability of newly qualified nurses to get jobs. Sun advocates cutting nurses' community charge. Today says you must listen to nurses.

Mirror claims that some seriously ill hospital patients will face double charges - on homes being empty for over a certain time.

Hammersmith and Fulham Council to appeal to House of Lords over ruling on interest swap transactions (Independent).

A Times editorial says the new local finance system could squeeze the funds available for community care. A policy of care in the community will be a cruel joke if not properly administered and funded, with cardboard cities substituting for Victorian asylums. The Govt should soften the impact on those for whom the community has to care by protecting from budget cuts the services on which they depend.

Mail reports Humberside Council is paying 150 cleaners £110 a week for doing nothing - they are refusing to change jobs because deal with Labour authority bars compulsory redundancy. Govt to investigate direct services organisation.

European Commission finance experts call for rules to control govt spending as part of Economic and Monetary Union treaty (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

White House calls on Kremlin to exercise restraint in Lithuania; overnight Soviet troops raid psychiatric hospitals in search of deserters.

Express sees Russia stepping back from brink; force ruled out.

A Times editorial sees the ghost of Uncle Joe Stalin stalking the Kremlin and haunting some corridors in Whitehall. You, who last week used President Havel's visit to exorcise the spirit of Munich, can dispose of this demon too. You should leave Gorbachev in no doubt that his claims to moral superiority over his predecessors depends on his treatment of Lithuania.

Today calls on Lithuania to learn that democracy is about negotiation and compromise.

Hungary votes for Rightwing and moderate parties to form Govt; only 3% vote Communist.

Independent editorial looks at the Hungarian elections, concluding that the country has moved, if less clearly than East Germany, towards the political centre. Adding that the country will need a broad Govt to gain maximum support for the painful measures the transition to market economy will require, the paper concludes they will need as much courage, imagination and forbearance to achieve this as in achieving their freedom.

Polish govt offers aid to help Soviet Jews emigrate to Israel (Times).

You upset Kohl with your Der Spiegel remark that you heard him say at Strasbourg he would not recognise Polish border. Claims he has issued countless guarantees and did not say what you alleged he said. Mail: Relations plunge to new low.

Rush to unification blamed as Kohl's party loses local elections in West Germany (Times).

Charges of treason and conspiracy against Honecker are dropped (Times).

East German Opposition leader Boehme quits over rumours that he worked for Stasi secret police.

Rumours of a large Middle Eastern sale of gold for sterling helped boost the pound and sent gold prices tumbling (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

Left tightens grip on TGWU, strengthening majority by one to 22-17, after first election last month was scrapped because of alleged ballot rigging. Sun alleges some members never received ballot papers for re-run. Today - Kinnock defeat in vote for Left. Mail: Left haunts Kinnock.

Mail says despite all the rose petals there is still something rotten in the state of the Labour movement - the TGWU. Its second ballot is a disgrace in that only 20% bothered to vote. Labour is still lashed to the decaying carcass of a prehistoric monster.

NAS/UWT decide by 62% vote to strike for a day on April 4 over pay. John MacGregor condemns their threat.

Frank Dobson claims 130 companies are being paid £100 million to advise the Govt and electricity industry on privatisation (FT).

Planning applications down 10% (FT).

YTS agents attack cuts of 22% on training grants (FT).

Govt to trim its £2billion programme to install clean-up technology at coal-fired power stations after the electricity industry is privatised (Independent).

London United Investments ordered by DTI to stop a subsidiary taking on new insurance business.

Labour has said returning water to public ownership would be a high priority if they win at the next election (FT).

Perrier returns at 10p a bottle dearer; Sun finds restaurants sticking with British mineral waters. Today leads with Le Rip Off.

EC says there is on threat to British sausage under its rules after Mail takes 3lbs to Brussels for sampling.

End of lay chickens infected with salmonella can be put in pies and soups; salmonella would be dealt with in cooking - in line with EC practice.

Plans to put a Briton in space in financial trouble.

Workers from 9 Scottish companies are to refurbish the Izmailova Hotel in Moscow at a cost of £135million in preparation for Moscow's anticipated tourist boom.

PRESS DIGEST

Case of toddler choked to death when his sister's pram collapses. Caught in framework.

Another Mirror NHS allegation - patients are dying because of a cash crisis in intensive care units.

Guardian finds first teacher to face redundancy on cost grounds under policy of self management is in Kenneth Baker's constituency.

Govt to legislate to ensure it has powers to make social security officers stick to fixed budgets for the Social Fund (Independent).

London roads plans to be scrapped by D/Transport (Times).

Chief Constable of Surrey claims spending controls and "grossly unfair" housing allowances mean police cannot guarantee safety of people.

Court rules three Wapping officers should face trial (Independent).

Police investigate children's charity that uses emotive telephone sales techniques (Times).

Independent editorial is critical of Benn's suggestion that Granada should not broadcast the names of the first men they alleged are responsible for the Birmingham pub bombings. While concluding that Granada's behaviour is both dangerous and unsatisfactory, this may be the price that has to be paid when people start to lose faith in the police and the administration of justice.

Telegraph leader on Chris Mullin's book to be published tomorrow, on Birmingham 6, says Mullin's antics are a reminder of the murky forces that still lurk behind the bland shop window of the Labour Party.

BBC broadcasts apology to Shell for accusing them of fixing prices and profiteering.

Runcie succession is an "open book" with the factions undecided (Independent).

Ladbroke's make Archbishop Eames 2-1 favourite to succeed Archbishop Runcie.

PRESS DIGEST

Archbishop of York says See of Canterbury needs a younger man.

Bishop of Oxford announces he will seek High Court ruling to force Church Commissioners to pursue an ethical investment policy.

Lord Linley sues Today for libel - denies he behaved like an arrogant, beer swilling hooligan in a pub.

Mail gossip column withdraws suggestion that Paul Channon was in Venice with "young, dusky beauty".

British Library accuses Treasury of reneging on agreement to fund more of some services to Yorkshire (Times).

Eight killed and hundreds injured in clashes between South African police and demonstrations against high rents and segregation near Johannesburg. Claims that protesting children were shot in back.

Express feature on Mugabe - "the man who killed democracy" in connection with Zimbabwe election tomorrow.

Zimbabwe's Registrar-General vows elections will be fair (Independent).

Express reports rumour that Bob Hawke is suffering from prostrate cancer.

POLITICS

Star p2 - Lawson lashes Major Budget.

Sun p1 - Lawson puts boot in on Major. Tory MPs open mouthed at his criticism. Sun leader asks what should be done with Heseltine. He was given the task of curbing local govt spending and failed. Then he flounced out of the Cabinet on a totally unimportant issue. With the Govt in trouble over the community charge his helpful contribution has been to confide he has always disliked it. He would be a disastrous choice as Tory Chairman who is supposed to promote the interests of the party; he has spent his entire career promoting Heseltine!

Mirror p2 - Lawson blast piles on agony for Tories. Leader headed "Howe's howler" says his calling on Heseltine to voice his full support for you was like a sheep pleading with a lion to become a vegetarian. The vested interest is showing.

PRESS DIGEST

Today p2 - Nigel kicks Maggie while she is down. Leader headed "Tarzan out on a limb" says you are being stalked not only by Kinnock but by Heseltine. Yesterday in response to Lord President's call for support he squirmed. You should call his bluff by offering him a party job.

Times - Nigel Lawson adds to pressure on you by calling for faster progress to ERM entry. Mr Heseltine's emergency as favourite to succeed you strengthens your resolve to stay on until the election. "She will never hand the party over to Michael" says a Cabinet source.

Express p1 - Commons vote boosts Thatcher - which sweeps up all yesterday's political news. Leader headed "Rebels need lesson in Tory loyalty" says Lawson's comments are anything but helpful and there is no reason for him to be parading his well known ERM enthusiasm. Loyalty used to be Tories' greatest political asset. Lawson expected Backbenchers to support his policies when he was calling the shots. He is not alone. Heseltine is also in need of reminder about traditional Tory loyalty. His response to Lord President's call will do nothing to stop speculation he has his eyes prematurely on your crown.

Mail p1 lead - Lawson turns up the heat. Warning for Maggie over Market money. Dismayed Tory MPs wonder why he chose this moment to stir it up. Leader headed "Hasn't he done enough damage?" says like the ghost of monetary gluttony past, the full, not to say, inflated, figure of Lawson rises from Backbenches to lecture the Govt on economic virtue. Did he not do enough damage by his own obsessive attempt to shadow the D-Mark without gratuitously intervening in the Budget debate? To be blunt, the Rt Hon Member for Blaby should not blab.

Telegraph p1 lead - Lawson raises temperature over inflation. Calls into question strategy for economic recovery. Heseltine's endorsement less than ringing.

Guardian p1 lead - Lawson adds to Tory woes.

FT - Lawson warns that continuing delay on joining ERM is putting the Govt's entire anti-inflationary strategy at risk.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent - Lawson adds to your troubles, with his intervention in the House in support of early entry into the ERM, seen as intensifying the challenge to your authority. Heseltine's backing for you fails to quell the turmoil in the party about your leadership and the unpopularity of the Govt's policies.

Peter Jenkins, in the Independent, looks at Heseltine's perceived challenge against your leadership. Saying his only strategy is to stand aloof while you destroy yourself, which you have been doing lately with brilliant aplomb. He concludes the one issue he could conceivably challenge you on is the community charge if he could find an alternative. He concludes a great political duel has begun, with both protagonists understanding this is a fight to the death.

Robin Oakley, in the Times, says Thatcherites are in a minority among Tories and do not dominate the party's infrastructure.

FT leader on the irony of your claim that inflation is unacceptably high yet home ownership is not high enough. You have turned us into a nation of borrowers. What the gov't has yet to acknowledge adequately the adverse impact of high rates of home ownership on labour mobility. The housing market still has the capacity to generate recurring accidents for British monetary policy. Your failure to confront that fact may ultimately hasten your departure.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Howard attends Institute of Training and Development Human Resource Development conference, Barbican, London
- DH: Mr Clarke meets the medical lobby, House of Commons; later unveils a plaque at Mount Vernon Hospital, Hillingdon
- DOE: Mr Patten addresses Coopers and Lybrand's "Conference to the Environment", Glazier's Hall
- DSS: Mr Newton opens Kent House Residential Care Home
- DTp: Mr Parkinson visits Luton Airport to open hanger extension and name a Boeing 767
- SO: Lord Sanderson attends Scottish Food Exhibition, Glasgow; launches Grocer of the Year Award, Glasgow
- FCO: Mr Hurd meets Mr Chau Pong, Vietnamese Ambassador; later has talks and lunch with Mr Van Der Broek, Dutch Foreign Minister
- DEN: Mr Morrison speaks to offshore Abandonment conference, Aberdeen
- LPC: Sir Geoffrey Howe lunches with Robert Fleming and Co, London
- DES: Mrs Rumbold attends launch of Video "A Week, A World, A Way" on farms for city children, London
- DH: Mrs Bottomley meets the National Care Homes Association, London; later meets the Royal Society to discuss the Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill, London; later attends the NCB/ACC/AMA Exploration in Child Care conference, London
- DH: Mr Freeman meets Lord Mottistone and members of the National Schizophrenia Fellowship
- DH: Lady Hooper meets Neville Trotter MP and David Hanson re Resolve (drug abuse); later meets Mr Nyamdawa, Mongolian Health Minister, London
- DOE: Mr Chope visits Stoke and Newcastle-Under-Lyme re housing
- DOE: Mr Spicer visits Housing Campaign for Single People, London
- DOE: Mr Moynihan visits quarries in Leicestershire
- DOE: Mr Heathcoat-Amory addresses ADC Assembly on "Environmental Protection"

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

- DOE: Lord Hesketh visits Bushey Park
- DSS: Lord Henley meets Jack Ashley MP to discuss vaccine damage payments
- DTI: Mr Forth addresses Computer Audit conference, Birmingham
- DTI: Mr Hogg speaks at Defence Technology Enterprises dinner, Hilton Hotel, London
- FCO: Mrs Chalker meets World Wildlife Fund, Godalming; later meets Dr Abdelmomene, Deputy Director General, World Health Organisation; both London
- HO: Lord Ferrers addresses Home Secretary's Advisory Council on Race Relations on "Police Matters"; later visits BBC Television Centre
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses sponsorship lunch for Richmond Theatre, Surrey
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Mr Maude visits Bonn
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DEM: Mr Eggar interviewed by Lisa Wood of the Financial Times on TEC's
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