

March 30, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh visits New York (to 1 April)

Anglo-German Summit

STATISTICS

DES: National curriculum guide 3 on cross curricular issues

HO: Control of immigration statistics (4th Qtr 1989) (prov)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS
Consumer Guarantees Bill: Remaining Stages: (Mr M Jones)
Raoul Wallenberg (Memorial) Bill: 2nd Reading: (Mr D Amess)
Performing Animals Bill: 2nd Reading: (Mr A Mitchell)

Adjournment Debates: Infant Mortality due to Neuroblastomas (Rt Hon A Morris)

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Norman Tebbit will fight Michael Heseltine for the Tory leadership if you should stand down before next election. If he cannot win leadership he will support the new Cabinet strongman, Ken Clarke.

Your Konigswinter speech gets wide coverage setting out your views for a grand alliance. Ignored by Mirror.

Foreign Affairs Committee tell you to be positive on Europe's future as there is a vast gulf between you and other Common Market leaders.

Lambeth sets £548 community charge, the second highest in the country.

Timothy Raison says attempts to charge-capping will backfire and plunge Govt into deeper political unpopularity. Independent.

Joe Haines in Mirror says the one question which hasn't been adequately answered about your community charge is why did you do it when you had been warned about its perils.

Twenty high-spending councils will be hit by a Govt crackdown next week that will slash their community charge.

Politicians divided about the scale and implications of poll tax dissent in Scotland Guardian.

Threat of Tory backbench rebellion over social security regulations linked to community charge fails to materialise in Commons last night. Guardian.

Kenneth Baker will urge the Party to hold its nerve at Cheltenham Times.

You order urgent action to stop the spread of nuclear weapons.

Foreign Secretary rules out, in the House, a break in relations with Iraq despite claims of involvement in the detonator smuggling incident of Iraq's diplomats. Guardian.

Britain believed to have been centre of long running and widespread Iraqi arms-smuggling operation, with Iraqi facing deportation thought to be head of Iraqi intelligence network in UK. Independent.

PRESS DIGEST

Mirror says you overruled Customs bosses and ordered the extradition of the Iraqi found smuggling bomb triggers through London.

You reject calls for new Birmingham Six bombers trial. Chief Constable raps Granada TV over programme.

Geoffrey Dear admits that the 4 men named in the Granada film were "very likely" to have been involved but says there was no hard evidence against them. Times.

President Bush tells Congress leaders that he would sacrifice the independence of Lithuania to give priority to the survival of Gorbachev. Express.

Tension eased slightly in Lithuania when it was announced that Red Army deserters would not be punished if they returned to their units. Times.

Bush hits back at critics with sympathetic speech on AIDS, signalling a substantial shift in attitude from the Reagan years Independent.

Pentagon planners have secretly informed service chiefs they should prepare for hard cash cuts in funding of strategic defence systems during mid 1990s, a stance contradicting US Administration's public commitments. Independent.

Nicholas Ridley refuses to allow Select Committee access to papers on the terms of sale of Rover. Guardian.

Mugabe faces poll dilemma after boycott by the voters.

Shell puts petrol up to £2.05 from Monday.

Leaders of largest college lecturers union expected to recommend rejection of 8.5% pay deal. Guardian.

Viscount Linley gives up £30,000 damages from Today newspaper.

Guardian - editorial reviews the abolition of the ILEA, saying it was essentially a nasty act of bullying hooliganism, guaranteeing that the least and the most privileged remain more entrenched in their positions than ever. It concludes, in time a new London authority will arise, and hopefully will learn from the mistakes as well as achievements of its predecessors.

PRESS DIGEST

Tower Yeomen fight proposals for Sunday opening. Times.

You say schools are failing the history test by not getting children to learn by heart the great landmarks of our history.

Govt agrees to tighten law to minimise risk of ballot rigging in trade unions after pressure from backbenches. Guardian.

Many executives have had to take a cut in pay and perks because of widespread fall in company profits.

British Telecom to cut 30,000 jobs in huge new shake-up.

British builders alarmed that the £350M contract for second Severn Bridge may go to the French. Express.

Illegitimacy increasing with 25% of babies born outside marriage in 1988 compared with 10% ten years ago. Times.

John Prescott in Commons fracas with MPs claiming he hurled abuse and waved a cutlery knife at Neil Hamilton as he and his wife go through door into Members' canteen. Express.

Mandela and Buthelezi to hold peace talks on Monday to attempt to find solution to long-standing war in Natal province.
Independent.

Mirror Mandela rules out a meeting with you during his visit to Britain.

FO has spent £3 million putting together an exhibition about life for the ordinary British family to be shown in a British Days event in the Soviet Union. Times.

Independent leader says the narrowness of Mr Hawke's election victory is an indication of widespread concern about the state of the economy, an anxiety that is justified. Adding that his failure to determinedly pursue supply-side politics because of his appeasement of the unions, it concludes if he wants a fourth term of office he should distance himself from the unions and pay less heed to their demands.

FT leader describes Hawke's record fourth successive win as a messy result from a grubby election. It goes on to discuss Australia's economic problems saying the urgent agenda for this term is as short as it is difficult: break the neck of inflation and reform the labour market.

PRESS DIGEST

Italy seeking to have draft treaty already written for IGC on EMU in December. FT.

FT leader says that with Kohl's enthusiastic endorsement behind it, the movement towards EMU, on more or less the terms set out by Delors, has obtained unstoppable momentum. There is talk of agreement in 1991 and ratification of a new treaty by the end of 1992. Politically the momentum is not merely unstoppable, even by you at your most recalcitrant, but desirable.

Times leader asks if there is anyone - bar you - who is not in favour of Britain's early entry to ERM. Any further delay will suggest that our commitment to enter when the time was right was a euphemism for indefinite postponement. A concession by you towards this limited step must be presented in such a way as to leave no doubt about our opposition to Delors stages 2 and 3. Joining the ERM is a single step. The latter stages of Delors, let alone closer political union, are a quite different question.

Your adviser, Charles Powell, tried to influence the 'Telegraph' to show greater support for you, thus undermining the non-party role of civil servants, Dalyell alleges in Commons motion.

Independent.

Timetable agreed for embryo Bill - MPs will be given a full day's debate both on embryo research and abortion time limit. Times.

Govt energy technology advisers say miniature power plants in offices and shops could generate 10% of Britain's electricity needs while reducing pollution. Independent.

A new study of global temperature trends using evidence from a network of satellites disputes claims the world is heating up. Times.

Lords defeat Govt to allow special loan repayment for disabled students.

P.R.O. archives show Hollis, alleged "fifth man", was a hard-line anti-Communist. Independent.

Efficiency Unit to consider methods of handling correspondence in departments. Times.

Senior MOD civil servants criticise Michael Mates' role as private defence industry consultant, but spokesman denies department conducting formal review. Independent.

PRESS DIGEST

Norman Tebbit to lead a rebellion of Tory MPs over Hong Kong Chinese rights of entry Bill second reading, due after Easter. Meanwhile 50,000 Chinese illegal immigrants in Macao rush to secure evidence following government amnesty. Independent.

Estonian parliament meet for session likely to take important steps towards restoring independence but in less flamboyant style than Lithuania.

Deal giving the go ahead for a British radar design for the EFA project has been held up by last minute negotiating difficulties. FT.

EC allows Govt to give British Coal £5 billion aid to smooth path towards privatisation. FT.

KONIGSWINTER SPEECH

Mail "Maggie delivers nuclear shock to Kohl". All hopes that you and Kohl would bury the hatchet at today's talks were shattered by your stern and public declaration. Leader says Kohl has been tactless over some of his pronouncements over unification, but is also critical of you for your megaphone diplomacy on nuclear weapons staying in Germany.

Express "Maggie spells out her East-West Vision". You throw down the gauntlet in call for a single code of democracy for Europe and the Soviet Union. Leader says you have boldly seized the initiative in setting out in blueprint for the future of Europe. You have challenged European colleagues to show they have sufficient vision to match your own,

Sun "Maggie in bold plan for a free Europe".

Star "My vision of one Germany by Thatcher". You spell out your vision of a united Germany's role in Europe.

Today "Troops to quit Germany". You say that German unification has led the way for a reduction in the 55,000 British soldiers stationed there.

Independent "PM agrees with Heseltine over East-West deal". The new Conservative consensus emerged in speeches to the Konigswinter Conference, however Kohl - in a speech unlikely to be entirely welcome to you - emphasised German commitment to the wider question of European union. Leader says you are repeating the

PRESS DIGEST

mistake of delaying Britain joining the European Community at its inception, with your attitude to the Delors plan for EMU. Reviewing your and Mr Heseltine's speeches to the Konigswinter Conference yesterday, it concludes you underlined your isolation on the subject, but from Heseltine's speech it is evident he would not repeat the usual British blunder.

Times P1 lead: "Thatcher sets out vision of grand alliance". Your emphasis, however, on foreign forces and nuclear weapons staying in Germany is unlikely to have pleased Kohl who made no reference to this in his own speech.

Telegraph P1 lead: "Thatcher sets Kohl terms for Germany unity. Americans must not go home". Accepting that unification would soon become reality, you laid out strict conditions for ensuring that an enlarged Germany remained firmly rooted in NATO and the Common Market and did not threaten the security and stability of the rest of Europe. Kohl joined in effort to smooth over differences with a conciliatory speech.

Guardian "Thatcher ready to reduce troops in West Germany". You say publicly for the first time that British forces will be cut in West Germany because of the changes taking place in Eastern Europe.

FT P1 lead: "Kohl says full role for UK in Europe. Thatcher adopts conciliatory attitude on issue of nuclear weapons stationed in West German territory". The ceremonial occasion was in the nature of a reconciliation, since the relationship between the two countries has been marred in recent weeks.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEN: Mr Wakeham visits the National Grid Control Centre, Leeds; later delivers Keynote address to the Kirklees and Wakefield Chamber of Commerce
- DH: Mr Clarke performs Turf-Cutting ceremony at Burton District Hospital Centre
- HO: Mr Waddington visits HM Prison Wormwood Scurbs
- SO: Mr Rifkind addresses convention of Scottish Local Authorities conference, Dunblane Hydro, Dunblane; later addresses Open College Scottish sponsorship, Club Fund dinner, Burrell Gallery, Glasgow
- DEM: Mr Eggar attends launch of Defusing the Demographic Timebomb, London
- DEM: Mr Nicholls attends Health and Safety conference, QEII Conference Centre, London
- DEN: Mr Morrison opens BP Confined Heat and Power Plant, Kidderminster
- DH: Mrs Bottomley visits Hertfordshire re Community Care
- DH: Mr Freeman visits Stockport District Health Authority
- DOE: Mr Heathcoat-Amory tours Walpole Landfill site and opens Willton Landfill site, Somerset
- DTI: Mr Hogg visits Ollerton Colliery, Nottingham
- WO: Mr Grist launches St John's Ambulance 'Three Crosses Video', Risca

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DES: Mrs Rumbold on the Johnnie Walker Chat Show programme "The Last Day of the ILEA", Greater London Radio, London
- HO: Mr Mellor appears on "Cross Question", Anglia TV

TV AND RADIO

"What the Papers Say" BBC2 (7.15 pm) With Ian Hislop of Private Eye

"Any Questions?" BBC Radio 4 With Nigel Lawson; Patricia Hewitt (Institute for Public Policy Research); David Owen and John O'Sullivan (Editor of National Review)
