

April 2, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Probation Service discussion paper on independent sector

Next Steps Agency announcement

Statement on Defence Estimates 1990

EC: Foreign Affairs Council, Luxembourg (to 3 April)

EC: European Parliament Plenary, Strasbourg (to 6 April)

MAFF: Launch of Central Veterinary Laboratory and Veterinary Medicines Directorate as executive agencies

House of Commons Defence Committee visits Europe (to 6 April)

STATISTICS

HMT: CBI/FT survey of industrial trends (Mar)

CSO: Finished steel consumption and stock changes (4th Qtr final)

CSO: Retail sales (Feb - final)

CSO: Credit business (Feb)

PUBLICATIONS

HO: Equal opportunities in the fire service

HO: Discussion paper on probation service and the independent sector

MOD: Defence estimates 1990

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Social Security; Attorney General; Foreign and Commonwealth (Overseas Development Questions)

Business: Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill (Lords): 2nd Reading
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill (Lords): Procedure Motion
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill (Lords): Money Resolution
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill (Lords): Timetable Motion

Adjournment Debates: The immunisation programme (Mr J Hannam)

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Select Committees:

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Customs Account Matters

Witness: Mr J B Unwin, CB, Head of Customs and
Excise

AGRICULTURE

Subject: Public Expenditure White Paper

Witness: Rt Hon John Gummer MP, Minister of
Agriculture, Fisheries and FoodLords:

Starred Questions

Gaming (Amendment) Bill (HL): Third Reading

Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions)(Scotland) Bill (HL): Committee
(4th Day)

PRESS DIGESTMain News

A weekend of violence dominates the press this morning.

Up to 12 reported dead in Strangeways Gaol riot in Manchester, but no confirmation of this toll.

Up to 50 injured, including prison officers, in rampage, partly against sex offenders which wrecks gaol; much damage caused by fire. Allegations that some prisoners were mutilated.

Labour MP demands an inquiry; wants rethink over remand conditions.

Allegations that authorities ignored warnings of trouble.

Some claims that London street riot provoked prison explosion.

Times says the riot at Strangeways has carried widespread shock and dismay within the prison establishment which had begun to think that the service was over its crisis years. For the past 18 months there has been an almost palpable sense of optimism within the service because of falling numbers, reduced overcrowding and enhanced regimes.

Anti-community charge demonstration in Trafalgar Square ends in riot as extremists, put at 3,000 strong, attack police, loot, cause fires and wreck vehicles.

341 arrests and 68 in court today.

Reports that agitators offered £20 in pubs to anyone prepared to attack police.

Police caught in van, which thugs try to set alight, escape.

Home Secy jostled and spat at by protestors as he inspects central London damage.

Political recriminations as Labour Party urged to disown 31 MPs who advocate non-payment of charge. Ministers accused by Labour of smear campaign.

52 community charge protestors charged in Cheltenham following disturbances coinciding with Conservative Central Council.

Ministers and senior Tories braced for inner city civil unrest over community charge in wake of London riots.

PRESS DIGEST

Labour survey claims that charge will shift local tax burden from suburbs to poorer areas (Independent).

Former West Midlands Police Supt says this was one of the largest efforts by Hard Left since rioting of '81 and miners' strike.

The Govt acknowledges that an expensive rescue operation designed to ensure that community charge bills are cut next year could rule out reductions in income tax in the run-up to the general election (Times).

Tony Benn and other leftwingers to launch pressure group to revive their declining influence over Labour policy and organisation (Independent).

CBI produce gloomy report on economy with promise of higher inflation, higher unemployment and lower investment.

Order books at lowest level since 1986.

Calls for early entry into ERM by Guardian FT after weekend ECOFIN in Ireland.

EC finance ministers claim they may be winning Britain round to their view of economic and monetary union after detecting a new conciliatory tone from John Major (Times).

Guardian leader headed "Timing the U-turn" says Govt should do now what they have clearly scheduled to do later and go into the ERM.

Senior Cabinet colleagues say John Major will be able to overcome your resistance to joining the ERM when the time is right. He will have the backing of Douglas Hurd and Sir Geoffrey Howe.

FT leader on European integration says you have a Gaullist distaste for such plans and questions whether your approach can make sense in future. If you accept the inevitable you may be able to contribute to shaping the structure of a future EC constitution - if not the French, Germans and smaller states will go ahead anyway.

Kohl, in interview in FT, sets out his vision of Europe and says a future European Central Bank needs to be geared unambiguously towards the priorities of monetary stability and complete independence from govt; also calls for further steps towards political unity as a means of "binding in" a united Germany.

PRESS DIGEST

Bundesbank plan for 2 for 1 mark exchange rate provokes storm of protest in East Germany. Modrow says Kohl broke promise to offer one-for-one rate (Independent).

An Independent editorial says the Bundesbank plan for German monetary union strikes a blow for sound money. and should be greeted with relief. Kohl's error was to raise East German expectations too high, and in the next few months he may pay a political price for that duplicity. The Bundesbank plan implies growing West German discontent with the Chancellor.

Leaders of the main East German parties appear ready to form a coalition to create a common front against West German proposals to make Ostmarks worth only half the value of DM when currency union is introduced (Times).

Sun says Norman Tebbit has now ruled himself out of Tory leadership. He also says Heseltine is too old.

Norman Tebbit hails your declaration of your determination to stay in office as "music to my ears". He goes on to say that his intervention on the eve of the council had helped to re-stabilise the party by presenting the opportunity for you to kill speculation about a contest (Times).

Gorbachev sends more tanks into Lithuania to try to head off independence.

Huge Ukraine demonstrations send ominous signal to the Kremlin about gathering force of nationalism (Independent).

Merging elements of the British Army of the Rhine into multinational forces in Europe is seen in the MOD as one of the most attractive options for the future (Times).

Hundreds of small business could be driven into bankruptcy by community charge on empty houses and increased water rates (Independent).

NUR attacks plan to issue all B/Rail staff with name tags - Knapp claims it is an invitation to trouble.

USA blocks imports of European wine until they can be certified free of "illegal" fungicide.

Govt has intervened to help break a deadlock between dairy farmers and processors over the future of the industry after 1992 (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

The battle over Britain's history will continue after the long-awaited National Curriculum working party report is published later this week, with you still apparently insisting that there should be greater emphasis on the learning of facts (Times).

Forty per cent of teachers are trying to leave the profession, and a quarter suffer stress-induced anxiety or depression (Independent).

National Council for Voluntary Organisations says the Charity Commission's effectiveness in policing more than 168,000 registered charities is under threat unless the Govt introduces legislation soon to crack down on dubious fund-raising methods and financial mismanagement by trustees (Times).

Lord Chancellor expected to agree to an amendment to the Courts & Legal Services Bill which would outlaw racial discrimination against barristers by solicitors (Times).

Green Party doubles number of candidates amid optimism at local election prospects (Independent).

Govt expected to announce sweeping measures to meet criticism of its safety and review procedures for pesticides (FT).

Govt is give agency status this week to 18 departments (Independent).

You are least active PM the Commons has seen in 120 years, according to a study done by the LSE (FT).

Campaign for a special issue of Battle of Britain stamps backed by Norman Tebbit.

Mugabe claims Zimbabwean presidential election results, in which his party won 117 out of 120 seats contested, was a mandate for a one-party state (FT).

Express says Mugabe is now threatening to grab white farms.

Times leader looks at whether or not Mugabe will go for a one-party state after the elections. It says that not even his most loyal political ally could describe his election victory as famous. His winning margin was clear enough. But nearly half of the electorate stayed at home, which suggests little popular enthusiasm.

PRESS DIGEST

FT leader on Zimbabwe critical of Mugabe's desire for a one-party state and says if he chooses to ignore the lessons of post-independence Africa and eastern Europe and continue to row against the tide, there is little the outside world can do to stop him. But it should not make Mugabe's task easier by insisting on strategy that is doomed to fail.

ANC and de Klerk try to salvage reform process (Times).

Times - Johannesburg reporter says that Mandela's authority over his followers is faltering.

Pakistan fears Indian attack in early summer as troops are moved near borders (Independent).

Tiananmen Square security tightened ahead of the anniversary of last year's pro-democracy campaign (FT).

RIOT COMMENT

Star - Battle of Trafalgar Square was a disgrace to the nation. Sadly Labour leaders rush to TV to confess themselves horrified do not mean a rush to curb those MPs who are urging others to defy law. Those responsible for the damage have no intention of paying for anything - they are the usual State-supplied free traders. Every penny they cadge from the State should be cut off.

Sun leader headed "Labour has a duty to back police" says the battle of Trafalgar Square was a brutal challenge to the rule of law. The rioters came deliberately to wound and maim. It is a mercy no-one was killed. There is a strong threat to the Labour Party from Leftwing factions and all decent socialists have a clear, unavoidable duty - they must range themselves with their hearts and minds on the side of decency, order and rule of law without qualification.

Mirror says police are convinced anarchist group called Class War hijacked the demo. Leader says the riot was the worst in the heart of London for more than a century and those convicted should be severely punished. It cannot be said too often that in our democracy everybody has a duty to abide by all laws. And it is politically stupid for Labour MPs to advocate otherwise. But it says Govt's attempt to smear Labour Party won't work.

PRESS DIGEST

Today - The savagery, arson and looting were a shameful and deep disgrace. Such methods of opposing the community charge are outrageously disproportionate. Direct responsibility lies with a hard core of anarchists and militants. Ringleaders must be brought to justice. Kinnock must crack down on his dissidents. If not, he will go into the next election crippled by suspicion he leads a party not fully committed to the rule of law. And you must not ignore the peaceful demonstrations of dissent.

Express - Sir John Wheeler asks a large number of questions about financing and organisation of All Britain Anti Poll Tax Federation. Leader headed "Kinnock must act to curb troublemakers" says if he thinks he has done his duty by denouncing the riot he has done nothing of the sort. He must act against those in his own party who bear a heavy moral responsibility for what happened. Or forfeit any confidence that the Labour Party is fit to be entrusted with Britain's future.

Times says the London riot has led to an intensification of the political battle over the community charge. As ministers call on Kinnock to withdraw the whip from MPs refusing to pay the tax, Labour leaders were furious at what they saw as the Govt's attempt to smear the party and distract attention from Tory difficulties over the community charge. Leader says free speech is never more in danger than when its friends are goaded beyond control by its enemies. So let us all calm down over the undeniably shocking events in London at the weekend. While supporting people's right to lobby it says that such demonstrations that might lead to violence should at the very best be confined away from crowded streets in such open spaces as Hyde Park, where the police can adopt a more discreet presence. It adds that even after Kinnock's Gorbachev-like struggle against his hard-liners Labour is vulnerable to the taunt that it cannot hold the left in check. The Party is blighted by the corrupt and inefficient administration of many big cities under its control. The past weekend is a reminder of dark forces lurking in Labour's cupboard including a few MPs taking the party whip.

Charles Townsend, Professor of Modern History at Keele University, puts the community charge riots in a historical context in the Times under the heading "Order: a thin dividing line".

Mail leader says at the epicentre of this riot was the destructive force of many hundreds of young thugs lusting to smash the social order. Some at least of the devilry was premeditated. It does not doubt Kinnock's sincerity but he has a problem with the 30 members of the PLP who advocate non payment of the community charge.

PRESS DIGEST

Paul Johnson in Mail, under the heading "Kinnock cannot dodge the blame", says the question must be asked - to what extent is this anti-poll tax violence being slurred up by politicians themselves. Kinnock has been careful to condemn violence. But he has not said a word about the 30 MPs. There is something very weasel-like about the behaviour of Kinnock and colleagues. The Fascist left Militants who were behind the weekend riots are all active supporters of the Labour Party. One and all they want to see Kinnock in Downing Street.

Telegraph - Disturbance too great to be blamed on mass hysteria. Simon Heffer, in feature, says Saturday's would be revolutionaries have been wrong footed by your "revolution by due course of law" with its determination to make everyone take a moral stake in society. Leader wants to know who were responsible. It is difficult to escape the conclusion that political activists of the Left were involved, furious at having at last to contribute to the State. There should be enough filmed evidence to identify many of the offenders.

Guardian leader agrees with the testimony of a peaceful protestor - "a few who had absolutely nothing to do with what we were trying to do latched on to our cause ... had far too much to drink ... slight incitement by the police, and they just got completely out of hand" There is no such urgent remedy, like replacing broken windows, for the community charge itself.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Howard visits Pontypool Employment Service office for launch of Employment Service Agency
- DES: Mr MacGregor visits the Royal Society, London; later with Mrs Rumbold and Mr Jackson attends reception for History Working Group, Director's House, Kew Green
- DSS: Mr Newton launches the Information Technology Services Agency and National Contributions Unit; Mrs Shephard and Lord Henley attend
- DTI: Mr Ridley launches Radiocommunications Division as an Agency; later attends Lancaster House dinner on Quality Mark
- DTp: Mr Parkinson launches Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Swansea
- HO: Mr Waddington speaks on "Equal Opportunities in the Police Service", Holly Royde, Manchester University
- LPC: Sir Geoffrey Howe meets and hosts lunch for Donald Mazankowski, Canadian Deputy Prime Minister, London
- MAFF: Mr Gummer meets Mr Mazankowski, Canadian Deputy Prime Minister, London; later meets delegation of east european farmers, London
- MOD: Mr King hosts visit of Swiss Defence Minister, London (and 3 April)
- SO: Mr Rifkind visits Berwickshire District Council including visits to Boston Court Shelter Housing Scheme, Duns and Marine Parade, Eyemouth; then lays foundation stone for new district council housing project
- DEM: Mr Eggar visits Isle of Dogs new Employment Service office followed by regional tour
- DEN: Mr Baldry addresses the Electricity Supply Industry annual safety conference, Cambridge
- DEN: Mr Morrison makes the presentation of the 1989 Offshore Achievement awards at a dinner in Aberdeen
- DES: Mr Howarth addresses Machine Tools Technology Association '90 Industry/Schools Links exhibition, Birmingham Trade Centre; later addresses Antiquarian Booksellers Association, London
- DH: Mr Freeman makes keynote speech at Health Computing '90 conference, Brighton; later meets the National Federation of Women's Institutes re food safety
- DH: Lady Hooper meets Lord Jellicoe and Dr Rees from Medical Research Council; later meets representatives of the Sugar Bureau

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

- DOE: Mr Heathcoat-Amory addresses the Arburicultural Renewal Seminar at the University of York
- DTI: Mr Hogg addresses House of Commons reception on "Accredited Certificates"
- DTI: Lord Trefgarne lunches with Hong Kong Association
- DTp: Mr Atkins launches Driving Standards Agency, Nottingham
- FCO: Mr Sainsbury meets Mr Juan Monry, Director of Caribbean Cultural Society, London
- FCO: Mr Waldegrave meets the Canadian Defence Minister and the Swiss Defence Minister, Mr Villiger; later gives theatre supper for the Czech Foreign Minister, Mr Dienstbier
- HMT: Mr Lilley opens independent taxation stand, Waterloo Station
- HO: Mr Patten opens Volunteer link line, West Smithfield and visits ethnic minorities, Brick Lane
- MAFF: Mr Maclean launches Central Veterinary Laboratory and Veterinary Medicines Directorate Agencies, Weybridge
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses the opening of the Geffrye Museum 1950's exhibition, London
- SO: Mr Lang addresses Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce lunch
- SO: Mr Forsyth hosts reception for 50th Anniversary of Scottish Blood Transfusion Service
- SO: Lord James Douglas-Hamilton attends Royal British Legion Housing Association lunch, Edinburgh
- WO: Mr Roberts attends Barclays Bank lunch, Shrewsbury
- WO: Mr Grist launches Quality Assurance Strategy, Cardiff; later attends 40th anniversary presentation of Wales Committee of Variety Club of Great Britain, University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Mr Hurd and Mr Maude attend FAC in Luxembourg
- DTp: Mr Atkins visits Paris to study its transport system (to 5 April)
- FCO: Mrs Chalker visits European Parliament, Strasbourg (to 4 April)
- WO: Baroness Trumpington visits International Food Machinery Fair, Zaragoza, Spain (to 4 April)
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DEM: Lord Strathclyde interviewed by Restaurateur Magazine

DES: Mrs Rumbold interviewed by Open University Radio

TV AND RADIO

"World in Action" ITV (8.30 pm) 'Sting and the Indians' Programme about the rainforest foundation that Sting has set up in the Amazon

"Panorama" BBC 1 (9.30 pm) 'Falling Through the Net' - report on how the very poor survive and whether the State is doing enough to help them

"Advice Shop" BBC 1 (11.25 pm) Report on community care
