

April 3, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Charge capping Statement

The President of the Republic of India, Mr Ramaswamy Venkataram visit UK (to 6 April)

EC: Internal Market Council, Luxembourg

DES: Schools Examinations and Assessment Council press conference on Pilot Standard Attainment Tests

Training and Enterprise Councils launch

STATISTICS

HMT: UK official reserves (March)

OPCS: Legal abortions (Sept Qtr 1989)

OPCS: Cigarette smoking 1972-1988

PUBLICATIONS

DES: Working group final report on history in the national curriculum

HO: Boundary Commission report on Milton Keynes

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Defence; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Leasehold Reform (Residents' Associations)
Social Security Bill (2nd Allotted Day): Conclusion of Remaining Stages
Motion relating to the National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) Amendment Regulations

Adjournment Debates: Outpatient services in Cheshire (Mr D Koyle)

Select Committees: TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE
Subject: The 1990 Budget
Witness: The Rt Hon John Major MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL
Cardiff Bay Barrage Bill [Lords]

Lords: Starred Questions
National Health Service and Community Care Bill: Second Reading

PRESS DIGESTMain News

120 Prisoners still in control of more than half Strangeways gaol.

Extent of deaths, if any, still to be collaborated. Damage put at £5million. Times suggests £10million.

Estimates vary from 20-30 sex offenders dead, but no confirmation.

SAS said to be on standby to storm prison.

Allegations that sex offenders were tortured and mutilated. Mirror claims a policeman jailed for rape has been hanged.

Prison officers claim governor was warned of riot 24 hours in advance but no adequate preparations were made.

Meanwhile, prison officers foil an attempted break-out from top security Long Lartin prison.

Labour Party under fire for failing to condemn 30 Leftwing MPs who advocate non-payment of community charge.

Home Secy tells Kinnock: "You ought to grow up and behave like a responsible citizen".

Express leads with Labour MPs accused of whipping up anti-community charge violence after Govt was warned of a "long hot summer" unless it abandons charge. In another story it identifies a split among the 30 because of constituency pressures.

Guardian says Labour condemn as "intolerable and repellent" Home Secy's effort to link MPs opposition to paying community charge with Saturday's riot. It claims that fewer than 6 of 30 MPs advocate mass non-payment.

Member of Class War, Andy Murphy, says he has one regret about Saturday's community charge riot in London - they couldn't get to Downing Street and leave it smouldering. Police got what they deserved.

Task force of 100 police hunting rioters. Sun prints 17 pictures of them.

Sun furious that of the 68 who appeared before courts yesterday only one jailed; most fined £100 - quite pathetic, it says. There should be just one punishment - prison. Spanish tourist jailed for looting.

PRESS DIGEST

TUC goes ahead with its own protest today in Westminster Central Hall.

Chris Patten to announce councils to be charge capped today.

Corner shops lose out under rates reform - many could go to wall, says small business federation (FT).

BBC swamped with protest calls after Leftwing author Hanif Kureishi said on "Start the Week" - the riots were terrific and accused you of treating country with enormous contempt.

Community charge riots hit shares and sterling as fears about your political future revive abroad (Independent).

Independent claims underfunding will mean cuts next year in meals on wheels and other community care.

Benn and other Leftwingers accuse Labour leadership of creating "elitist" party with drifting policy (Independent).

Saddam Hussein threatens to use chemical weapons against Israel.

Lithuania crisis deadlocked as Landsbergis rejects Gorbachev's call to overturn proclamation of independence. Mood in Vilnius less confident as Soviet shows of military strength continue (Independent).

Red Army alarmed at eightfold rise in draft dodgers (FT).

EC Foreign Ministers alarmed by hardening of Soviet foreign policy attitudes that could jeopardise troops reduction talks (Independent).

Attempt to build broad-based Govt in East Germany in tatters as Social Democrats refuse to enter coalition talks with Conservative Alliance (Independent).

Bonn politicians, including Kohl, distance themselves from Bundesbank's plan for 2 for 1 Ostmark exchange as uproar grows in East Germany (Independent).

Norman Tebbit sends letter to every Tory MP saying you are wrong to seek to admit 225,000 people from Hong Kong to Britain. Calls on them to defeat Nationality Bill. Confident that 80 Tory MPs will oppose it.

PRESS DIGEST

Hugo Young in Guardian, describes Tebbit as a man out of temper with the times.

Consumer borrowing and spending falls, but still signs that economy is resilient the Govt's high interest policy (FT).

Spending on junk mail rises by 43% in a year (FT).

Foreign Secy warns EC against rushing into early talks on greater political union (Independent).

Labour Party says you are isolated in Europe and your refusal to go ahead with full membership of EMS is bad for British economy.

UK softens line on political aspects of EC monetary union (FT).

American food giant CPC International pays £157million for SmithKline Beecham's Marmite, Bovril and Ambrosia rice.

Glaxo plans majority stake in Soviet drugs factory (FT).

Ministers are preparing to give Parliament artificially low estimate of water privatisation costs (Independent).

Telephone users overcharged by £6billion a year for international calls (FT).

Major Next Steps launch yesterday - means nearly 300,000 civil servants should be working for executive agencies by the end of 1991. Picture of Chris Patten sitting on a desk on a bare site in Liverpool where new VAT centre is to be built (Times).

Mirror uses its leader to explain why it will not participate in NUM inquiry into use of funds - witnesses will not be on oath and will not be subject to cross-examination. It will be a secret inquiry, secretly conducted with secret conclusions secretly arrived at.

Labour Party says it would renegotiate substantial parts of new GP contracts.

Numbers wishing to train as GPs have dropped substantially because of uncertainty about contracts - according to Labour Party (Times).

Govt will seek to reverse £50million a year defeat on Student Loan Bill (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Mental stress found in 20% of teachers, according to UMIST survey.

Bradford head teachers press motion of no confidence in Tory council's handling of school management.

College lecturers vote to accept 8.5% rise (FT).

British groups plan stake in Polish TV channel (FT).

Cecil Parkinson an hour late for launch of vehicle licensing centre in Swansea because of traffic jam.

Internal DTp memo reveals construction industry fears that plans for private toll roads will not work (Independent).

Mail says Japanese have massacred 300 minke whales despite your personal plea.

Chief Constable Geoffrey Dear says IRA have infiltrated and are manipulating the Birmingham 6 campaign.

People losing their homes or jobs because of radioactive contamination are not entitled to compensation - High Court ruling.

Govt ready to trade away some nuclear missiles when there have been further massive cuts in US and Soviet arsenals - main interpretation of Defence White Paper.

Independent says Tom King signals peace dividend from Eastern Europe changes, hinting at "smaller but better" armed forces. Likely target for reductions in British Army of Rhine.

Mail leader on Defence White Paper says it is characteristically cautious and rightly so, the disintegration of the Soviet empire while irreversible raises as many questions as it answers. But there are signals in the WP of profound strategic shifts to come.

Telegraph says the White Paper reads like the score of an orchestral overture. The curtain has yet to rise on the main production.

Times leader commenting on the Defence White Paper says developments in Eastern Europe must mean there is at least some peace dividend on the horizon.

PRESS DIGEST

Cabinet to receive an interim report in the autumn on the options for reshaping Britain's armed forces. Aim to produce smaller forces (Times).

Today claims it is costing £3million a day because military projects overshoot budgets.

Britain suffers an earthquake 5.2 on the Richter Scale. Some structural damage but no injuries.

ITV "World in Action" loses a minute of its running time to make way for extra promotion of other ITV programmes. Editor says decision is disappointing when ITV is claiming to take its public service role seriously (Independent).

Sun urges Govt to give every 90 year old £10 to mark Queen Mother's 90th birthday.

Thousands of South African soldiers move into Natal to try to stop civil war between rival blacks.

Mandela agrees to meet de Klerk a week after postponing talks.

Sun says BBC gave the impression that history was beginning again with Mandela's release. But Mandela can't even control his own ANC. Sadly, the second coming has been postponed.

And commenting on outcome of Zimbabwean election, Sun says at a time when freedom may be born for blacks in South Africa it is being snuffed out in a black country.

PLO thanks you after condemning in Kuwaiti interview Israeli settlement of occupied territories.

Britain to continue boycott of UNESCO (Independent).

JAIL/RIOTS

Mirror says many of our jails are a disgrace, grossly overcrowded and 100 years out of date. Much of overcrowding is because we jail too many people.

Express looks to Kinnock to repudiate Labour MPs who gave encouragement to Trafalgar Square rally and thus helped it, albeit indirectly, to become a riot. But all we get are weasel words and bluster.

PRESS DIGEST

In another leader on Strangeways, Express says conditions in the prison do not quite gel as a reason for the riot. Much has improved over the whole prison system during the last 2 years. Criticism of the Govt sits ill in the mouth of Labour spokesmen who did nothing to improve matters in office.

Kenneth Minogue, writing in the Express, says what infuriates the handful of Class War supporters and similar organisations is that they cannot dent Britain's political stability.

Independent says Strangeways riot is grave setback to David Waddington's hopes for penal reform through Criminal Justice White Paper.

Today says criminals, pure and simple, without even a hint of political excuse, caused Strangeways riot. It calls for a public inquiry since when riot flared back up help was clearly inadequate.

Sir John Wheeler, former assistant prison governor, says in Mail the hallmark of a civilised society is a humane as well as effective prison system. Straight containment is now all too clearly not the answer.

Independent editorial says there is some justice in Conservative attacks on those Labour MPs who suggest resistance to the community charge. Their posturing is partly responsible for Saturday's violence. But attempts to lay all the blame on Labour are unjust. The strength of feeling against the charge can only be blamed on the Conservatives, and riots are always a rebuke on the Govt of the day.

Peter Jenkins, in Independent, says the Trafalgar Square violence was caused with deliberate intent by dedicated exponents of class violence. But the huge unpopularity of the community charge enabled the left to bring such numbers on to the streets and give the apostles of violence their chance. The art of good govt includes the avoidance of riot, and this is best achieved by retaining the consent of the governed through a tax perceived as blatantly unfair; this Govt, for the time being at least, has forfeited that consent.

Guardian leader says the able Governor of Strangeways was making tangible efforts to improve things. The riot starkly underlines these modest achievements are very contingent and highly relative.

PRESS DIGEST

An FT editorial says Britain has required an unenviable reputation for violence and thuggery in football, prisons and the streets. MPs should certainly be upholders of the law, and Labour MPs who encourage non-payment should be disowned but the Govt is on dangerous ground when it goes beyond that.

Times leader on prison pressures says the public is entitled to some account of the performance of the prison service. The Home Office approach to privatising some prisons is as archaic - indeed positively pre-Thatcherite - as its weakness in the face of prison staff militancy. Clearly more than a fresh start is needed.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Howard attends State Banquet for the President of India, Buckingham Palace
- DES: Mr MacGregor addresses the World Economic Forum, UK Round Table on "16-19 Training", Hyde Park Hotel, London
- DH: Mr Clarke meets John Moore MP to discuss Cyclotron; later meets Patrick Nicholls to discuss Teignmouth
- DSS: Mr Newton gives BP lecture, Industrial Society, London
- DTI: Mr Ridley and Lord Trefgarne meet Brian Forbes, High Commissioner of Ottawa, London
- FCO: Mr Hurd meets the Indian President on arrival for State Visit; later has talks and lunches with the Czech Foreign Minister, Mr Dienstbier
- HO: Mr Waddington addresses All-Party Penal Affairs Group on Criminal Justice White Paper; later, with Mr Patten addresses World Economic Forum, UK National Meeting on Law and Order, Hyde Park, London
- SO: Mr Rifkind meets representatives of the High Town Planning Institute, London
- WO: Mr Walker presents South Glamorgan Training Enterprise Council Development Funding Certificate, Cardiff; later addresses Single Market Financial Services seminar, Cardiff; later opens Travers Morgan's new offices, Cardiff
- DEM: Lord Strathclyde visits Plymouth and addresses Association of District Council's conference
- DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses the GCSE Board annual conference, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge
- DES: Mr Jackson addresses the Careers Research and Advisory Centre conference at Christ Church College, Oxford
- DES: Mr Howarth addresses Schools Security launch, London
- DH: Mr Freeman meets David Davies MP about Goole Maternity Unit; later addresses All-Party Disablement Group
- DH: Mrs Bottomley addresses British Association of Social Workers annual study course; later attends Guardian editorial conference and meets representatives from Parents Against Injustice
- DSS: Lord Henley meets Sir Michael McNair-Wilson MP to discuss Newbury Resettlement Unit
- DTI: Mr Forth visits Hewlett Packard laboratories, Bristol

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

- DTI: Lord Trefgarne meets Mr Kamran Inan, Minister of State for European Affairs of Turkey, London
- FCO: Mrs Sainsbury meets the Canadian High Commissioner, Mr Donald McDonald; later hosts the UK/Canadian Colloquium reception, London
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses launch of Thamesdown Art Foundation, Swindon, Wilts
- WO: Mr Roberts attends BP road safety demonstration, Neath
-

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTp: Mr Portillo visits Strasbourg for talks on European transport with MEPS and Chairman of EEC Commission on Transport (to 5 April)
- WO: Mr Grist opens External Quality Assessment Schemes trade exhibition, Cardiff; later addresses National Volunteer Association Bureaux conference, Swansea
-

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DTI: Mr Forth interviewed by Nick Nuttal, Technology Correspondent, The Times
-

TV AND RADIO

- "Advice Shop" BBC 2 (5.00 pm) Looks at the new contracts for GP's
- "Army Lives" BBC 2 (7.50 pm) New series looking at family life in the army
- "First Tuesday" ITV (10.35 pm) Issues raised by embryo research
-