

April 4, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh attend Service of Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey to mark the 150th Anniversary of King's College Hospital

Prime Minister has talks with President Venkataraman of India followed by lunch in his honour at Mo 10

National Economic Development Council

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STATISTICS

DEM: Detailed analysis of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators

DEN: Advance energy statistics (Feb)

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PUBLICATIONS

HO: Board of visitors report on HM Prison Aldington

HO: Scrutiny report on government funding of the voluntary sector

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Poll Tax (Abolition) Mr John Hughes  
Consideration of any Lords Amendments that may be received to the Education (Student Loans) Bill

Adjournment Debates: Lakeside Health Centre (Mr D Evennett)

Select Committees:

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Subject: The Status of the Two German States

Witnesses: Rt Hon Douglas Hurd MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and FCO officials

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: Trade with EFTA

Witnesses: DTI officials

ENERGY

Subject: Mining Subsidence

Witnesses: British Coal Corporation (at 11 am);  
Department of Energy (at 12 noon)



PARLIAMENT

(Select Cttees Cont'd)

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Revenue Account Matters

Witness: Sir Anthony Battishill, KCB, Inland  
Revenue Chairman

## SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Community Care

Witnesses: Mr Ian Grist MP, Parliamentary Under-  
Secretary of State, Welsh Office; Association of  
County Councils

## COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL

Cardiff Bay Barrage Bill [Lords]

Lords:

Starred Questions

Debate to call attention to the social, financial and environmental  
problems facing the inhabitants of our citiesUQ to ask HMG what measures they plan to take during  
International Literacy Year in order to reduce the number of  
children who leave school without adequate skills in reading, writing  
or spelling



PRESS DIGESTMain News

Labour and Left react angrily to capping of 20 Labour controlled councils. "A fix" cries Bryan Gould. Council leaders warn of "disastrous" effect on services.

AMA says capping will be final nail in the community charge coffin as Labour councils agree to meet tomorrow to consider a joint strategy against cuts (Times). But Times reports that excessive spending by local authorities lies at the heart of yesterday's capping announcement.

Councils threaten to go to court over capping which will help 4million people.

Independent says Chris Patten threatens annual elections to stop overspending by County Councils. Charge capping wins firm support from Tory backbenchers.

Sun reports hundreds of calls in response to its invitation to identify 17 Trafalgar Square rioters.

Andy Murphy, Class War, to be questioned by Hackney Council, after glorying in London violence.

You will save £1,500 in community charge.

Police outnumber TUC community charge demonstrators yesterday - event passes off peacefully.

But Norman Willis is barracked when he condemns Saturday's violence.

Lothian Regional Council is to be taken to court by its own community charge registration officer because the council has refused to double his staff (Times).

All 15 Tory borough councillors in Barrow in Furness pass a vote of no confidence in Cecil Franks MP after a dispute about the community charge (Times).

Labour MPs complain at Speaker's calling of hard-left members during community charge debate, saying it gives a distorted picture of the party (Independent).

Peregrine Worsthorne, in Telegraph, wants to know why not one single steward on Saturday got hurt.



PRESS DIGEST

Express claims Animal Liberation Front and Class war are inextricably bound together.

Express reports Tory MPs accusing prison officers of stirring up trouble over Strangeways.

One prisoner, injured in Sunday's riot, dies in hospital.

Allegations that six sex offenders were hanged with sheets.

Was the noose and the threatening of a prisoner also with a knife a stunt to buy time by prisoners to put off storming of jail by police?

9 prison officers injured in trying to recover control of building.

David Cook QC, past chairman of the Criminal Bar Assn says the Lord Chief Justice should give a lead to judges to cut their use of custody or there will be no impact of prison overcrowding, which is the worst in Europe (Times).

Heseltine will back Govt over Hong Kong Bill, due for publication today, against Tebbit. Sir Peter Hordern says Tebbit is behaving in an unnecessary, improper and unhelpful way.

Express begins a series about Heseltine - "The man who would be king (but premier will do).

Hong Kong Nationality Bill will give heads of colony's firms unprecedented powers to allot British passports to valued employees (Independent).

Peter Jenkins, in the Independent, asks what Norman Tebbit is up to. His intervention last week could not have been intended to help you. He looks like a man putting down each way bets - if the game is opening up he wishes to be a player. Do we have here the shimmer of a dream - some would say nightmare-ticket - Heseltine-Tebbit? He thinks it probable that you will lead the Tories into the next election - but he is no longer quite sure.

Telegraph leader describes Hong Kong Bill as an honourable measure. Our retreat from the country's last imperial obligation should be conducted with dignity.

Chancellor forecasts 5% inflation by middle of next year after a bumpy ride.



PRESS DIGEST

FT says Chancellor believes falling inflation in the period to mid-1991 would allow the Govt to cut interest rates although there are signs that demand was slowing it is not yet clear when it would be safe and secure to cut rates.

You will have no veto on Cabinet decision when to join ERM, John Major tells Commons Cttee (Independent).

New York and Tokyo Stock Exchange stage full blown rally.

House prices inching up again in the South East.

President of Methodist Conference accuses Govt of worsening the plight of the poor.

Guardian alleges that NHS reforms are to be tested in a handful of demonstration districts and quotes deputy Chief Executive of NHS management board in support.

Soviets agree to Lithuanian independence, with stiff conditions. But Gorbachev closes border with Poland as part of squeeze on Lithuania.

FT says Lithuania is ready to offer concessions to Russia. A compromise package would include a six month suspension of the republic's independence and a referendum.

The Social Democrats in East Germany performed yet another somersault yesterday and announced that they were, after all, prepared to enter coalition negotiations with the Conservative Alliance for Germany (Times).

Hungary Democratic Forum's Antall, in Independent interview, denies that his party is anti-semitic and says he would like to belong to European Democratic Union like the British Conservatives.

Czechoslovakia has proposed a new pan-European security structure which would take over the functions of NATO and the Warsaw Pact (FT).



PRESS DIGEST

FT leader on German Economic Monetary Union says if East German liabilities and assets were converted at 1:1 much of East German industry would go bankrupt, closely followed by the financial system. The proposed conversion of sums up to 2000 marks at 1:1 and above that at 2:1 would cost much less. The challenge for Bonn is to impose the economically sensible solution even though it will make East Germans temporarily poor and uncomfortably competitive.

Study claims two thirds of British bosses are ignorant of fierce competition which they face from Europe in 1992.

British Coal reports record productivity last year.

Britain signs £2.6billion logging deal with Siberia in return for computers and farming expertise.

Nearly 10% increase in passengers carried by European airlines in February compared with last year (FT).

Channel rail link needs £1billion state aid according to Euro rail link consortium (FT).

London Buses impose total ban on drink during duty.

Water privatisation cost each consumer £174 according to consultants report which identified hidden subsidies of £3.3billion.

Application for National Front to register as a limited company referred to Nicholas Ridley.

Today calls on Govt to take lead against racket which keeps cost of international telephone calls artificially high.

Publication of report by history curriculum group brings disagreement with you over understanding, as they describe it, versus parrot learning.

Express says that if the group had their way millions would leave school not only illiterate and innumerate but also historically rootless.



PRESS DIGEST

Robert Skidelsky, Professor of International Studies at Warwick University and director of the History Curriculum Association, writing in the Times under the heading "Make them learn the landmarks", finds the report on history teaching an advance but still biased against knowledge. He adds that the three month consultation period will be vital for building on its strengths and correcting its weaknesses.

Telegraph leader says the report does little to put right the interim report's inadequate emphasis on factual knowledge.

Sun says it has little sympathy for teachers over reports that they are turning to drink and drugs because of stress. They have the shortest hours and longest holidays of any group of workers and should set an example to their pupils - not weakness.

Today says it is far too easy for inexperienced or unscrupulous people to start up a charity. Charity Commissioners must be given far more powers.

Crown Prosecution Service clerk suspended in bribery case  
(Independent).

Sheffield Wednesday to remove fences from Hillsborough.

Police killers in Ireland will face at least 30 years in jail under legislation to abolish the death penalty (FT).

Bishop of Durham calls for end to link between Church of England and State - a vestige of the Middle ages and it must go.

Sun regrets Archbishop of York, having said he won't stand for Canterbury, now says he will. He is cold, pompous and self-righteous like Runcie, only worse.

Bishop of London to announce early retirement in May  
(Independent).

Robert Maxwell says he has had a 2 hour meeting with Gorbachev to discuss scientific and technical co-operation.

Mandela has welcomed strong new security measures to stem unrest but has condemned South African police for bias against the ANC  
(FT).

Bomb scare at Gatwick yesterday forced President Venkataraman to drive to London and cancel welcome procession through Westminster  
(FT).



PRESS DIGEST

President of India tells the Queen and you that sanctions against South African should continue until apartheid is dismantled (Times).

Sikh extremists kill 32 in bomb explosion in the Punjab (FT).

Times leader says the entire world community, East and West, must state unequivocally that it regards the development of chemical nuclear weapons by Iraq as intolerable. It must make that clear before the chorus of Arab adulation persuades Saddam Hussein that terror is the key to the leadership of the Arab world he has sought for so long.

Tension between Israel and Arab states at levels not seen since the 1982 Lebanon war as Israel launches its second spy satellite (Times).

China poised to pass Basic Law for Hong Kong (Times).

China has ordered an urgent report on Hong Kong's proposed airport and container port developments because it is concerned about the political and financial implications of the massive projects which will not come into use until 1997 (FT).

UK to cut forces in Gibraltar from next year. They will be reorganised under a unified command with RAF and Navy personnel. New Commander British Forces, Gibraltar will be a Rear Admiral (FT).

CAPPING

Star p2 - Dunces capped! Poll tax spendthrifts get their come-uppance.

Sun p2 - Lower poll tax joy for millions. Lefties get a pounding.

Mirror p2 - Fix! Patten picks on Labour over poll tax cap. Leader says the charge was always a political tax and never was there more proof of that than yesterday. It is a blatant attempt to blame Labour councillors for a rotten Tory tax.

Today p1 - Up to £99 off the poll tax. Maggie cuts her own by £86, but misses 31million other people.



PRESS DIGEST

Express p2 - Maggie pollaxes the 20 biggest spenders. You begin your fight back. Leader headed "The cap that fits Labour" says naturally enough Gould, spokesman for the party of high taxation, is upset the Govt has ridden to the rescue of 4million. Govt's action is simply further evidence that when it comes to profligacy and wanton disregard of ratepayers' money Labour councils are in a league of their own.

Mail p1 - "Patten says Labour's poll tax big spenders". Govt to rescue of £4million. Page 2 "Maggie's blazing poll tax row with Kinnock - I fight extremists - you need them" he says. Leader says its reaction to the use of "this clumsy statutory instrument" is one of modified rapture. It conflicts with the principle of accountability and it is bureaucratic and costly but it will help 4million and that can't be bad.

Times p1 lead - "Tory Councils go free of poll tax cap. Labour anger at Patten fix". The announcement was preceded by one of the most bitter clashes seen in the Commons between you and Kinnock.

Times leader under heading "Capping without a cause" is critical of the Govt's action saying with capping the community charge reached its nadir. The essence of the tax was that it would place councils spending decisions under the glare of local democratic accountability. Now the very councils whose proclaimed extravagance underpinned this argument are to be relieved of that accountability. It concludes that capping decision is a sign of panic. You have offered your opponents another free ride on the electoral roundabout.

Telegraph p1 - Poll tax bills cut as high spending is charge capped.

Guardian p1 lead - Tory Councils escape capping. Leader headed "Running repairs to the poll tax" contrasts the cap with the concept of political accountability.

Independent editorial says the Govt's noble talk about local democracy is humbug. By statistical sleight of hand, Chris Patten has avoided capping a single Tory council. The Govt's real aim in the community charge has been to restrict spending by rigging local democracy. But this panicky attempt to cook the books will not resolve the crisis. Nothing illustrates the idiocy of the community charge better than its ability to make rates look attractive.

FT p1 lead - Patten caps 20 local authorities. There is almost certain to be a legal challenge to the decision (FT).



PRESS DIGESTPRISONS/RIOTS

Star - Govt is spending far more on new jails and upgrading than any of its predecessors. However much is done there will always be powder keg situations. At Strangeways there was a catalogue of errors, including ignoring a warning of trouble. There was only one way to deal with the riot - send in the SAS.

Sun - Four days have passed since the Battle of Trafalgar and still Kinnock has not denounced 30 Labour MPs. His silence is easily explained - he dare not speak let alone act. Labour is still dominated by Left. If he tried to expel the 30 he himself would be kicked out.



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Mr MacGregor attends a banquet in honour of the Indian President, Guildhall, London; later addresses the Engineering Employer's Federation Management Board, London; also visits London Docklands Development Corporation
- DH: Mr Clarke meets Members of the Royal Colleges and the BMA to discuss clinical standards, Hannibal House; later attends 150th anniversary of the Foundation of Kings College Hospital, Westminster Abbey, London
- DSS: Mr Newton meets the Association of County Councils; later meets the National Association of Citizen Advice Bureaux
- DTI: Mr Ridley chairs NEDC meeting
- DTp: Mr Parkinson addresses Civil Air Traffic Control conference, London
- FCO: Mr Hurd meets the Ethiopian Foreign Minister, Tesafaye Dinka; later meets the Indian President at Buckingham Palace
- LPC: Sir Geoffrey Howe attends Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate 150th anniversary of the founding of King's College Hospital and its Clinical Medical School, Westminster Abbey; later calls on President of India, London
- MAFF: Mr Gummer visits Kew Gardens, London; later attends Fishmonger's Company dinner, London
- DEM: Lord Strathclyde visits Lincoln (to 5 April)
- DEN: Mr Morrison attends regular Oilco Meeting, Offshore Supplies Office Alhambra House, Glasgow; in the evening makes Scottish Development Awards presentation, Kings College, Aberdeen
- DES: Mrs Rumbold presents prizes at Highworth School, Ashford, Kent
- DH: Mrs Bottomley meets the ACC re Community Care, London; later meets the Home-Start Consultancy for the Under Fives; also visits Landmark re AIDS, and later visits Lambeth Brook Advisory Centre
- DH: Mr Freeman addresses the Society of Registration Officers annual conference; Cardiff
- DH: Lady Hooper addresses Alcohol Related Problems conference, Liverpool
- DTI: Mr Forth visits BT Research Labs, Martlesham
- DTI: Mr Redwood attends reception at BBC World Service
- FCO: Mr Maude meets Mr Kamran Inan, Minister of State for European Affairs of Turkey
- FCO: Mrs Chalker meets the Ethiopian Foreign Minister, Tesafaye Dinka
- FCO: Lord Brabazon attends a dinner in honour of the President of India, hosted by the Corporation of London
- MAFF: Mr Maclean opens Muck South West, Shepton Mallet



ANNEX

- MAFF: Mr Curry visits Hilliers Nursery, Small Tree Production Union, propagation unit, Winchester; later opens and addresses Hampshire Grain Ltd
- OAL: Mr Luce holds Business Sponsorship of the Arts Incentive Scheme reception, London
- SO: Mr Lang meets Archie Kirkwood MP to discuss British Steel; later meets Scottish Local Authorities and new towns to discuss Scottish Enterprise
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTI: Mr Redwood visits Internal Market Council, Luxembourg
- DTp: Mr Portillo visits Strasbourg for talks on European Transport
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TV AND RADIO

- "Dispatches" Ch 4 (8.30 pm) Report from South Africa
- "Rough Justice" BBC 1 (9.30 pm) Investigates the case of Sammy Davies who was convicted of rape
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