

April 18, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Houses of Parliament resume

Government Response to Select Committee Report on UNESCO

Prime Minister sees Swiss Finance Minister, Dr Stitch and Mr Lusser
Belgium Foreign Minister, Mr Eyskens visits London

NEDO Public Procurement conference, QEII Conference Centre, London (and 19 April)

STATISTICS

CSO/DEM: Index of output of the production industries and unit wage costs (Feb)

CSO: Retail sales (Mar-prov)

DOE: Housing and construction statistics part one number 40 (Dec Qtr 1989)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Trade and Industry

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: National Lottery (Mr Ken Hargreaves)
Courts and Legal Services Bill (Lords): 2nd Reading

Adjournment Debates: Compensations for Vaccine damaged children (Mr A Burt)

Select Committees:

Lords: Starred Questions
Debate to call attention to the problems affecting the tenant farmer
Debate to call attention to the forestry industry in the United Kingdom
UQ to ask HMG what proposals they have to prevent the exploitation of tourists and of the public by ticket touts

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Lithuania urges America to support them against Soviet threat to cut energy supplies. USA waits to see what Soviets do.

Bush says US will make appropriate responses if threat implemented, contrasting starkly with his Administration's formerly muted criticism.

Today says we should call Gorbachev's bluff by supplying Lithuania.

Teachers get a hammering in editorials for threatening national strike over local redundancies. NAS/UWT to vote today after NUT conference rejects executive advice against action. Today says one million children have been targetted.

NUT also votes by a big majority to explore ways of banning tests for 7, 11 and 14 year olds.

Charge capped councils expected to challenge in the courts the education cuts (Independent).

FT leader on the curriculum says your criticisms of your own policy are largely sound. The Govt should not abandon its curriculum but it needs to find a more flexible means of pursuing national educational goals.

Kinnock comes in for critical attention over his alleged black power salute at Mandela concert. He denies it was such a salute; says he was simply expressing jubiliation. Press and Tory MPs have a go at him.

Sun feature: Short fuse Kinnock always puts his foot in it. Sir Cyril Smith calls it childish conduct. Express political editor: "Fatal flaws of the eternal boyo" - the perpetual student activist.

Express leader headed "Mandela must deliver more than cliches" says the ANC has yet to prove its good faith. There can be no question of your going to South Africa until it does.

You make it clear you will go to South Africa as and when you decide; your objective will be to speed the end of apartheid. Mirror describes this as a snub to Mandela. Independent says NO 10, stung by Mandela's comments at Wembley, says he should get his own house in order before offering advice to you.

PRESS DIGEST

de Klerk rejects concept of outright majority rule in South Africa. Times - Power sharing only alternative to apartheid. Simplistic majority rule would lead to the suppression of minorities.

33 die in Zulu clashes in Natal.

Viewers condemn BBC for coverage of Mandela concert accusing it of misleading public and political indoctrination.

Guardian leader says de Klerk showed yesterday that nothing is going to be given away free in negotiations. Mandela will need his tactical skills in the coming clash at the negotiating table.

Telegraph leader says that of more importance than the Wembley jamboree is how Mandela is going to use his megastar status back home. His refusal to see you is an indication of the constraints on him.

FT leader on Mandela questions the value of our unilateral action in lifting the sanctions on new British investment in the Republic. Pretoria's appreciation is doubtful; the damage to relations with most South African blacks is plain. Any future moves should be taken in concert with EC and Bush. Which may seem unfair to de Klerk who has taken bolder and more radical steps than any of his predecessors. The ANC could improve the climate by suspending the nearly dormant guerilla campaign and dropping the rhetoric of the armed struggle. International goodwill will eventually be eroded if the ANC comes to be seen as disorganised, obdurate, and unreasonable.

Jesse Jackson under fire for taking up case of three men jailed for murder of PC Blakelock in Broadwater Farm riot.

Express leads with story headed "Mind your own business Jackson"; its leader says Jackson obviously believes the road to the White House runs through Broadwater Farm. Hence his impudent and irresponsible support for campaign to free PC Blakelock's killers.

Mail leader says that on the principle that nothing succeeds like excess, Jackson compared the release of Mandela to the resurrection. But what is intolerable is that in search of publicity in this country he should choose indecently to intrude into a brutal crime which is none of his business.

Walter Somers fears it may have supplied Iraq with a recoil mechanism for big gun. Express "The doomsday gun con".

PRESS DIGEST

Independent says Customs & Excise are under intense political pressure not to prosecute the two British companies involved in the "Iraqi Supergun" affair, to avoid details of the extent of Govt involvement in the deal according to Whitehall sources.

Labour Party runs full page adverts trying to identify the Tories as the party who conned the nation in 1979.

Meanwhile, R W Johnson, Fellow of Magdalen, says what looms most clearly from Labour policies at the moment is a return to the '60s, a prices and incomes Keynesianism tempered by Civil Service rule and the politics of Box and Cox.

Seven prisoners still holding out at Strangeways reported to be weak. Sun says Governor should send in the Army.

Lawyer claims that at least five prisoners were murdered during the riot and that bodies have been incinerated.

Bail hostels and accommodation for recently released prisoners may be privatised while probation officers concentrate on other work, under Home Office proposals (Times).

Tory Party whips will today embark on a final attempt to limit the size of the expected backbench rebellion over Hong Kong passports (Times).

Cream of US business world praise John Smith and Labour's economic ideas (Mirror).

Kinnock to visit Washington possibly as early as July to build on improved relations between the Bush administration and the Labour Party (Times). Leader discusses the relationship between Bush and Labour Party saying the domestic policies of an ally are not the business of the US, except to the extent that they affect its external relations. The Americans, however, will want to know more about Labour's true state of mind on NATO, the British contribution to it and its attitude to the nuclear umbrella. They will not find much by combing Labour's policy documents and statements.

Independent editorial says President Bush's remarks, that he would be happy to meet Kinnock should not be taken as an endorsement of Labour's economic policies, rather that the perception in the US is that Labour no longer represents a unilateralist threat. Going on to analyse Labour's tax politics, and referring back to their analysis of this in February, the paper concludes a more detailed examination might raise rather than resolve doubts.

PRESS DIGEST

Labour Party planning to limit employers' use of the courts to frustrate strike action by trade unions (Times).

Guardian previews Labour Party campaigning document on "flagship policies" - economy, opportunities, environment, democracy and arms.

FCO and European Commission to launch a recruitment drive to persuade British graduates and job seekers that working in the Commission can be a worthwhile career (Independent).

Honda will build new car for Europe in UK after Rover deal (Times).

Inflation fear resurfaces in the markets after Easter break. Concern not only about UK where inflation due to peak this summer but also about US where inflation is running at 8.5% (FT).

French inflation up slightly to 0.3% (FT).

Airbus to deliver its 500th aircraft today - Mail leads with this news under heading "Triumph in the air".

Treasury to be asked to approve plans by CAA to spend extra £400million on new capital projects over next decade as part of European efforts to end delays and congestion in the skies (Times).

Gateway supermarket now offers paternity leave to men as part of competitive pay and conditions fight in retail trade.

British and Commonwealth brought to brink of collapse by disastrous losses at a computer leasing subsidiary.

Guardian says London Ambulance service is to be effectively privatised.

Michael Portillo seems to rule out any prospect of a govt subsidy for the Channel Tunnel high speed rail link (Times).

The full Eurotunnel board will consider this week new estimates of costs for completing the Channel Tunnel (Times).

Guardian claims EC is ready to help finance London/Channel rail link.

PRESS DIGEST

Dismay among environmentalists at President Bush's remarks at White House conference on global change on the need for a better scientific basis before costly measures proceed.

Times says significant differences between the US and European countries about how to tackle the greenhouse effect emerged again yesterday when President Bush opened his conference.

Star, continuing its campaign against Sellafield, reports a plan to fly nuclear waste from Japan to UK. Sellafield transport director accuses Star of ignoring Press Council's call on it to be accurate, fair and balanced.

Mail pictures Kenneth Baker doing his turn as a dustman in Westminster as part of local election campaign.

BMA poll shows that public opposition to Govt's health service reforms has reached new heights with 77% disapproving, 6% more than similar poll in January (Times).

Warnings that Neurofen, popular painkiller, could damage kidneys.

Chicago scientists claim a specific gene may be responsible for alcoholism in some individuals. It was found in 77% of 35 alcoholics who died but was not present in 72% of a sample of non-alcoholics (FT).

Church of Scotland Committee criticises the Govt's social policies, saying those most in need often cannot get the help they need (Independent).

BBC expects to receive an unexpected bonus worth £10million a year due to an apparent change of heart by the Govt over the licence fee (Times).

Jill Morrell, girlfriend of John McCarthy, hostage in Lebanon, calls for Govt action to free him; time Govt was more flexible.

Ronald Butt writing in the Times under the heading "Germans find a substitute for abandoned patriotism" reports on the reason underlying Kohl's concern for closer European integration.

One third of Yugoslav companies are on the brink of bankruptcy (FT).

Law officers in USA order 173 banks in 23 States to give details of accounts into which £240million of drug profits are believed to have been deposited.

PRESS DIGEST

Belgians obsessed with identifying a UFO of which there have been more than 800 sightings since December. Air Force flying reconnaissance missions (FT).

Two Canadian airforce jets collided over Karlsruhe yesterday killing one pilot and badly injuring another. Crash likely to fuel controversy about foreign forces on West German territory (FT).

TEACHERS

Star p2 - Teachers ticked off for banning tests. Harry Greenway says it will hurt children. Another story prints a picture of a woman Militant pledged to inflict strikes on children.

Star leader says NUT is a bunch of chumps. Its leaders have lost control of Leftwing loonies who could not give a damn about the pupils. They care only about disruption and power.

Sun p2 - Teachers at war over school strikes vote. Action could be illegal. Leader headed "The NUT-cases" says that as well as harming children they are on course for personal disaster. When will they ever learn?

Mirror p2 - No Sir! Union bosses defy strike vote. Leader says teachers have a stack of genuine grievances but they will lose support of parents and public if they listen to Militants. And a national strike would cost teachers' jobs.

Today p4 - Class war boast of Miss Militant - featuring Anita Dickinson, Militant supporter, who teaches handicapped children in Ealing. Leader says the sight of the NUT activists getting their dander up is enough to make any parent feel sick. Genuinely concerned teachers must realise that unions are no longer the best means of influencing the education system.

Express p2 1 & 2 - War as teachers plit over school strike call. Put pupils first says MacGregor. Inside feature on "Truth about Reds in our classrooms".

Mail p1 - Threat of classroom war after victory for militants. Leader headed "Lesson in how not to lead a union" says the irresponsibility of the majority of conference delegates is exceeded only by the ineptitude of Doug McAvoy, general secretary. The conduct of Britain's largest teaching union is worse than that of the most unruly class. Children deserve better.

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph p1 lead - Schools strike vote rejected by NUT leadership. Leader says given the chance the NUT executive would like to stay in business with this Govt and make deals with it. It knows strikes are futile.

Independent p1 - Teachers' leaders disown national strikes vote. Editorial says the NUT vote was morally wrong and tactically disastrous, and that the conference showed the NUT is an obstacle to raising the standards in British schools. It concludes that it is hard to avoid the suspicion that delegates must secretly have intended to promote private education by discrediting the state system.

Times p1 - NUT leaders defy strike vote. NUT thrown into confusion as conference votes in favour of national strikes to support redundant teachers, a decision its president immediately rules illegal.

Guardian p1 lead - NUT rules out illegal strikes. Leader says few professions would want to be judged by their annual conference. Rarely have teachers had more genuine grounds for grievance. Yet a national strike would be unsupported by mass membership, financially, unsustainable and illegal.

FT p1 - Defiant NUT members vote for strikes.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Howard launches Devon and Cornwall Training and Enterprise Council, Plymouth
- DTI: Mr Ridley meets Lords Gowrie and Carrington about export review procedure, London
- LPC: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses NEDO Public Procurement conference, London
- DEM: Mr Eggar chairs NEDO Public Procurement conference, London; later attends European Public Purchasing conference, London
- DES: Mr Jackson addresses Course Four European conference delegation of students from High Education Institutes in North West European Countries, House of Commons
- DH: Mr Freeman visits Dartford District Health Authority and District Headquarters. Darenth Park; later with Robert Key meets the doctors from SARUM 89, London
- DH: Mrs Bottomley visits West Midlands re-launch of United Midlands College for Nursing and Midwifery, Wolverhampton
- DOE: Mr Heathcoat-Amory lunches with the Country Landowners Association
- DSS: Lord Henley meets Lord Westbury and a small delegation from the Council of Care for the Elderly to discuss income support levels for nursing homes
- DTI: Mr Forth speaks at IIR Industrial Recycling conference, London
- DTI: Mr Hogg and Mr Redwood attend Ministers Meeting Europe, FCO, London
- DTp: Mr Portillo visits British Steel, Workington
- DTp: Mr McLoughlin guest of honour at British Maritime Equipment Council lunch, London
- HMT: Lord Caithness addresses NEDO Public Procurement conference, London
- OAL: Mr Luce attends concert by BBC Symphony Orchestra, Royal Festival Hall
- WO: Mr Roberts presents Live Wire Cymru Business Start-up Competition awards, Bangor
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