

MAIN EVENTS

Western European Union meeting, Brussels (to 24 April)

EC: ECOFIN Council, Luxembourg

National Association of Licensed House Managers annual conference, Aberdeen (to 27 April)

STATISTICS

BOE: Provisional estimates of monetary aggregates (Mar)

CLSB: London and Scottish banks monthly statement (Mar)

CSO: Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (Mar)

PUBLICATIONS

HO: Interception of Communications Act 1985: Report of the Commissioner: Command Paper

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Transport; Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; Church Commissioners

Business: Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill (Lords) Consideration in Committee (1st Allotted Day)

Adjournment Debates: Government funding for social housing in Manchester, the case of the Langley overspill estate (Mr J Callaghan)

Select Committees: TELEVISIONING OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE
Subject: Review of the Television Experiment
Witnesses: BBC, Sky TV, British Satellite Broadcasting

Lords: Starred Questions
Education (Student Loans) Bill: Consideration of Commons Reasons and Amendment

Landlord and Tenant (Licensed Premises) Bill: Committee

Property Services Agency and Crown Suppliers Bill: Committee

UQ to ask HMG whether Treasury Ministers propose to discuss with the Governor of the Bank of England the recent conviction of subsidiaries of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International on money laundering charges in the United States Federal Court in Florida

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Guardian ICM survey says 62% of C2s now back Labour; 20% still loyal to Govt.

But 91% of Britain's businessmen distrust Labour's ability to run the economy, according to Independent on Sunday. But majority expect Labour to win the next election. And Harris poll reports a 6% improvement on Conservative standing.

The Govt is to reject the idea of "banding" the community charge according to people's income in its reappraisal of the new system (Times).

New report shows that losers are likely to outnumber gainers by three to one under community charge. In the politically crucial middle income groups, the proportion is 4 to 1 (Independent).

Royal Institution of Chartered surveyors say that a house sales boost is likely in areas with low community charge (Times).

Labour Party in Scotland will come under pressure this week, both from its own supporters and from the Conservatives, to produce detailed figures for its property tax (Times).

Chancellor has delivered a stark warning to ministerial colleagues that the Treasury will not fund public sector pay awards which threaten its spending targets and anti-inflationary strategy (FT).

Independent editorial attacks the unacceptable growth of credit and the money supply. If monetarism had been applied successfully, credit could not have burgeoned to its present inflationary level. A binding contract between the Bank of England, Treasury and Parliament to limit the growth of lending is an idea worth examination.

New outbreak of violence in prison - at Pucklechurch Remand Centre near Bristol where youths go on rampage.

David Waddington criticised for "sneak" visit to Strangeways.

Mail says his half glimpsed visit hardly inspires confidence the seige is going to end quickly. Whole affair has been characterised by incompetent buck passing and indecisiveness.

Mr Waddington made it clear during visit he backed the tactics being employed.

PRESS DIGEST

Home Secy comes under fire for leaving his home address and telephone number in the phone book.

New attempt at serious negotiations as Lithuanian delegation leaves for Moscow (Independent).

Yeltsin condemns blockade of Lithuania though he says Lithuania had been too quick to declare independence.

Lithuania blocks export of goods to Russia.

EC Foreign Ministers leave open the option of applying economic sanctions against the Soviet Union after giving Lithuania strong backing (FT).

Mandela reported to have called for violence to be stepped up; negotiation, he says, will not come as a result of peace.

You are likely to meet him on July 6.

Foreign and Defence Ministers of NATO and WEU will today discuss practical steps for creating a European pillar of NATO including the formation of multinational military units (FT).

NHS unions say many hospitals are so dirty since cleaning was contracted out, that they should carry a Govt health warning.

Doubts surround future of Cyclotron Trust as two patients sue over cancer treatments' distressing side-effects (Independent).

Labour Party would peg mortgage tax relief at standard rate - a germ of common sense, says Today.

Kinnock is preparing to put in hand this week the biggest overhaul in the Labour Party's policy making and organisational machinery since it was founded. Far reaching and long awaited proposals to cut the block votes of the trade unions will be accompanied by a radical plan to transfer policy formation out of the hands of the Labour conference to a new, elected 170 member council drawn from all sections of the party (Times).

Times leader looks at Kinnock's proposal for a National Policy Council within the Labour Party saying he deserves support for his new constitution on condition that he lets the country examine the purposes to which he would put his augmented power. People do not like being left to guess the policies of a party to which they entrust their votes.

PRESS DIGEST

Bill Deedes, reflecting on teachers' conferences, says while Kinnock has done more than be thought possible in removing Leftwing beliefs from Labour's shop window. But it stays stored at the back and after 10 years of Thatcherism it is a more resentful force.

Row over John MacGregor permitting a Middlesborough mother to transfer her daughter from a school with a high proportion of Pakistanis to one where children are 98% white. Today headline: "Birth of ghetto school".

NUT and Labour allege this is a move to segregation. DES says race does not come into it; parents have the right to choose their children's school.

CRE has asked John MacGregor to change the law so that parents are not free to select their child's school on the basis of race (FT).

Doug McAvoy, NUT, dismisses as "gimmicky" Labour Party plan for an Education Standards Council.

Labour Party education spokesman, Jack Straw, says they would scrap £40million a year scheme which gives 32,000 bright children opportunity to go to public schools.

Straw says teachers who strike will play into Govt's hands.

Headteachers to protest at "catastrophic" cash cuts in Bradford schools (Independent).

Rover to announce first 24 hour working in British car industry today.

Eurotunnel confident of raising extra £2billion now needed to complete its work (Independent).

Britain has 28 of the 50 best performing companies in Europe.

CBI warns that pay is outstripping productivity in manufacturing.

Company directors have given themselves highest pay rises for 10 years, averaging 11.3%.

Rail pay talks resume today - new offer expected above 8.5%.

Morning Star says Govt intends to attack the firemen's pay formula which takes no account of ability to recruit.

PRESS DIGEST

Barclays expected to charge £10 fee on credit cards.

British Telecom 60% profit margin on international calls (FT).

FT leader says GATT still matters and Ministers have less than 8 months to show themselves worthy of an inheritance they have too long taken for granted.

Star, continuing its campaign against Sellafield, quotes the Irish Health Minister in support and reports alleged harrowing tales from Dundalk.

Express calls on MPs to back embryo research in tonight's vote.

But five Roman Catholic Archbishops attack the idea.

Telegraph expects MPs to vote for a lower abortion limit to at most 24 weeks.

Guardian leader attacks the "unholy alliance" of lawyer MPs in trying to torpedo the Legal Services Bill.

Concern voiced over detention of lorry driver taking gun parts to Iraq and arrested in Greece.

MOD denies No 10 suggestions that records of Sir Hal Miller's "supergun" warnings have been traced. Sir Hal claims departments are spreading "disinformation" about him (Independent).

Miller prepared to defend MD of Walter Somers in court if necessary (FT).

One man, 39, dies in London Marathon.

Ted Heath ridicules your 'sovereign states' approach to Europe which, he says, is fed up to the back teeth with our negative approach.

But we shall take part in any EC talks on political union even though we think it is premature.

Philip Stevens says you are in the slow lane of a two speed Europe. But you will bring alternative proposals for Euro integration/European political development, based on a "constitutional" approach, to the EC council in Dublin in June (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

Mail reprints an article from Sunday Correspondent in which David Blake says missing in British politics is any large and influential body of opinion which is in tune with other EC countries about integration.

In a letter in the Times today Sir Geoffrey Howe replies to an article by Tim Congdon last week on the EMU. He says that EMU has been an aspiration, not a precisely defined goal, for many years. It remains so today, notwithstanding the Delors report. He goes on to say there is a whole span of possible options and intermediate stages from which European leaders might choose.

Britain will fiercely resist EC plan for carbon tax to combat global warming. Brussels officials say support for tax is growing, but West Germany could be against it too (Independent).

55 year old American hostage, held for 3 years, freed in Damascus. His release said to be a personal triumph for Rafsanjani. Another hostage expected to be released on Friday.

Hopes rise for release of 17 Western hostages. But Telegraph says Britons are low on the freedom list.

Attempted coup by junior officers in Nigeria foiled.

An Independent editorial says it is a good thing that the Nigerian coup appears to have failed. The plotters' plan to partition the Muslim North from the Christian South would have been disastrous, leading to serious civil strife.

Times leader says anybody who thinks that the path of constitutional change in South Africa is easy should heed events this past weekend in Nigeria. It adds that there remains a vast gulf between what the South African Govt seems likely to put on the table once real negotiations begin and the ANC's blueprint from the end of minority rule. Unless the ANC is prepared to compromise and also allow Mr Mandela to negotiate, de Klerk's flexibility may be shortlived.

Solidarity re-elect Walesa as chairman with 78% vote - boost for his presidential ambitions.

Pope sets out new vision of a less materialistic Europe - but he draws smaller-than-expected crowds in Czechoslovakia (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

EC environment Ministers promised at weekend to put together a comprehensive aid package to restore the ravaged environment of Eastern Europe (Times).

Britain protests to Russia at banning of British beef, dairy products, sheep and goats apparently because of BSE fears.

Nucleus of organised conservative opposition to Gorbachev emerges as "Russian Communist Party" holds first congress (Independent).

Denktash re-elected as president of Turkish Cyprus for fifth, and self-declared, last term (FT).

Argentina has suspended research into controversial medium range Condor II missile (FT).

Britain again rejects an appeal by the Falkland Islands for its 150-mile fishing zone to be extended to 200 miles to protect fish stocks against a huge international fishing fleet (Times).

22 people died in clashes with security forces in Xinjiang province of China, earlier this month (FT).

Organisers claim 200 million in 136 countries participated in events surrounding 20th annual Earth Day.

Egypt receiving over 600 US tanks withdrawn from Western Europe under arms reduction agreements (FT).

SCHOOLS/RACE

Mirror leader, headed "No more ghettos", says parents whose children attend schools where many children do not speak English have a legitimate worry, but it is one of language not race. The answer is to give those schools the teachers necessary to cope. What will happen to our country if our children do not meet, play and learn together?

Today calls the plan insulting and damaging. Parents should have some choice but not based on racist attitudes.

Mail leader headed "Freedom of choice must come first" says banning parents from doing what they feel to be in the best interests of their children is wrong.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Mr MacGregor receives courtesy call from Mr Yagodin, Soviet Minister of Education; Mrs Rumbold later hosts a lunch for Mr Yagodin at the British Council, London
- HO: Mr Waddington visits the Commission for Racial Equality
- SO: Mr Rifkind visits Compaq computer component factory, Erskine, Renfrewshire
- DEM: Mr Nicholls dines with Dr Cullen, Health and Safety Executive
- DES: Mr Howarth launches training project at Birmingham Heartlands
- DES: Mr Jackson addresses St Paul's School, Barnes on "Student Loans"
- DH: Mr Freeman visits Cornwall Health Authority
- DSS: Mrs Shephard meets Michael Colvin MP re residential care and nursing homes
- DTI: Mr Redwood visits Nissan European Technology Centre, Cranfield
- DTI: Mr Hogg visits Newcastle for keel laying ceremony and meeting with Tyne and Wear District Council
- DTI: Lord Trefgarne opens Single Market exhibition and conference, Norwich
- HO: Lord Ferrers opens Association of County Councils seminar on "Fire -the Time for Change"
- MAFF: Mr Curry launches North York Moors Farm Scheme; later visits Brow Well Fisheries Ltd, Hebden
- SO: Mr Lang visits John Bosco Primary School, Erskine; later addresses Post Office: Queen's Award for Export and Technological Achievements, Trades House, Glassford Street, Glasgow
- SO: Lord James Douglas-Hamilton launches Environment Week, Glasgow City Chambers, Glasgow
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DEM: Mr Howard visits Lisbon, Portugal
- HMT: Mr Major and Lord Caithness attend ECOFIN, Luxembourg
- MOD: Mr King attends Western European Union meeting, Brussels
- DTI: Mr Forth visits Florida, USA
- FCO: Mr Sainsbury visits Nicaragua and Honduras (to 28 April)
- OAL: Mr Luce visits Italy (to 26 April prov)
- ODA: Mrs Chalker addresses UN Special Session on International Economic Co-operation, New York (to 28 April)

TV AND RADIO

"World in Action". ITV (8.30 pm) Better safe than sorry - a look at contraception

"Return Ticket". Radio 4 (8.43 pm) Harvey Thomas recalls the Brighton bomb

"Every First Wednesday". Radio 4 (9.20 pm) A look at local democracy in action with Sheffield City Council

"Panorama". BBC 1 (9.30 pm) Jane Corbin looks at the future of the Red Army

"The Struggle for Democracy". ITV (11.20 pm) Patrick Watson investigates how far freedom of information is under threat

"Advice Shop". BBC 1 (11.25 pm): The elderly homeless
