





PRESS DIGESTMain News

Independent reports that Conservative critics of community charge have been told by No 10 sources that you want to introduce important changes to the tax, with legislation to be published by end of July. Options being mooted by your private office include central Whitehall determination of all community charge bills. BBC names Mark Lennox-Boyd as the source.

Latest NOP poll gives Labour 54%; Conservatives 29%; Lib/Dem 7%; Green 4% and SDP 3%.

Home Secy says jail rioters in future will face mutiny charges.

He launches a blistering defence of his softly, softly approach to Strangeways riots.

Controversy over siege continues with new claim that the governor had been ordered by Whitehall to call of a bid to re-seize the prison only three minutes before it was to be launched.

France and West Germany will confront you in Dublin tomorrow with their plans for swift progress towards European unity. Kohl and Mitterrand are to press tomorrow for a conference to discuss both political and economic union (Times).

Reported hostage deal between Gaddafi and the Belgian Prime Minister casts another storm cloud over tomorrow's EC summit (Mail).

NATO to scrap its arsenal of short-range nuclear weapons and also expected to withdraw at least 2,400 nuclear artillery shells from Europe (Express).

You are to make a personal appeal to the Greek Prime Minister to release the lorry driver held in Greece in connection with the Iraqi big gun.

Mirror leader hopes the Americans inquiry into the Iraqi supergun affair will drag from the British Govt the full truth about its knowledge and involvement. Because our own MPs can't.

Two more Govt departments enmeshed in the Iraqi gun affair when NIO letter referring to FCO concern about activities of SRC disclosed by Labour party (Telegraph).



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Cabinet warned to prepare for the roughest period the Govt has yet faced, with more bad economic and political news to come, with senior Ministers believing the Govt faces a nerve-testing 3 weeks which include local govt elections, and the RPI for April. Ministers are concerned that renewed speculation of a challenge to your leadership could follow a bad showing after the local govt elections (Telegraph).

Chancellor gives local authorities clear warning that the Govt will not allow spiralling local govt spending to swell the general level of public expenditure; stressing it is essential to retain firm control over public expenditure (FT).

Fund managers of the biggest financial institutions in the city warn that billions of pounds would pour out of Britain if Labour won next election, facing an immediate economic crisis (Mail).

Sun says that Kinnock plans to drop Hattersley and Kaufman if he wins next general election. He wants Labour warhorse Healey to make a sensational comeback to offset his own inexperience.

You defend civil servants in your Private Office in reply to Dalyell question. Mr Black issues a statement saying there was no substance to Dalyell's allegations, which cast an outrageous slur on Mr Powell (Telegraph).

Commons Select Cttee says police should have power to impose on-the-spot penalties on young vandals and thieves to stop their cases clogging the courts.

An Independent editorial calls for "subversion" to be defined more narrowly following the Harman/Hewitt case. There should be more adequate oversight of security services, with a Cttee of Privy Counsellors to supervise operation of the Act.

British and Irish govts have formally agreed they are prepared to replace the 1985 Anglo/Irish accord with an agreement involving the Northern Ireland constitutional parties (ie excluding Sinn Fein). Another round of Anglo/Irish talks to be held within the next two weeks, before Mr Brooke talks to main NI party leaders (Telegraph).

African-born convicted drug smuggler to stand as Labour candidate in local elections in Hackney (Mail).

Vauxhall Motors to export cars to Europe again after a gap of 11 years.



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Bristol University research physicists find strong link between cancers such as leukemia and radon (FT).

Teachers win back right to negotiate pay and conditions, after long campaign of classroom disruption.

The richest areas may cream off the best teachers under a new pay structure announced by John MacGregor (Today).

Chairman of ACAS warns rising prices and renewed confidence among union leaders could pose problems later this year in pay negotiations (Telegraph).

Today features the £30million refurbishment of the Foreign Office "Empire of the Vanities" saying that taxpayers money is being spent in the kind of extravagant luxury not seen since the fall of Ceausescu of Romania.

Leaders of the solicitors profession in England and Wales vote to reject Legal Aid Board proposals on "franchising" (Telegraph).

Joe Haines in Mirror, backs Betty Boothroyd as next Speaker. She has everything in her favour except your approval. She is popular. She is experienced. She is the Labour Party's preferred choice and is liked by most Tories.

Britain can no longer claim to be a truly Christian society following Parliament's "appalling" decisions on abortion, says Cardinal Hume (Telegraph).

More signs that Govt is reconsidering cyclotron funding as Health Ministers look at report on US trials (Independent).

Feud at ITN as to whether Julia Somerville or Trevor McDonald take over from Alastair Burnet.

Colin Moynihan increasingly concerned about threat of violence at World Cup, fearing Italian authorities will not be able to enforce drinking ban around England's matches (Guardian).

Reggie Kray offered £500,000 by TV company for first interview after his release.

Landsbergis repeats offer of two-year delay on Lithuanian independence and offers further concession on conscription (FT).

Mitterrand and Kohl have urged Lithuania temporarily to suspend its declaration of independence to ease talks with Moscow (Times).



PRESS DIGEST

Mandela has given assurances that the ANC would nationalise key sectors of the economy only after thorough research and would listen carefully to advice against it (Times).

FCO says it won't accept Argentine decision declaring the Falklands part of a new Argentine province (FT).

Vietnam puts brakes on reform in communist party (Guardian).

White House threatens to punish Iraq if it does not mend its ways over chemical and other weapons (Guardian).

EC SUMMIT

John Ellison, writing in the Express under the heading "Watch Maggie woo and win the Eurocrats", says the Dublin Summit will mark a new approach by you. The day promises to mark a decisive move towards a new and essentially pragmatic British approach, concentrating on the realities of creating a wider Europe for the 21st century - ahead of the fads of the political idealists.

Sun leader says as far as Britain is concerned Haughey's appeal for European unity should kill the idea stone dead. Who wants to hold hands with a country that gives sanctuary to murderers.

Mitterrand and Kohl to press for firm decision on timetable to negotiate European unity in Dublin (FT).

In a marked contrast to your approach at earlier EC summits, you are prepared to take part in political union talks in Dublin - on condition others spell out what they want to achieve. Meanwhile Delors gives unexpected support for the British low-key approach to European political union (Telegraph).

Ferdinand Mount, writing in the Telegraph, argues that it is time for you to listen and be positive in Dublin. As there is to be a special conference on European political unity anyway, we would be wiser to embrace the prospect with enthusiasm and spell out exactly what we mean and what we want.

Telegraph leader says there are signs you understand the political dividends to be won from lonely Eurobattles have their limits, and EC partners detect a new spirit of co-operation and it is clearly your intention to keep this spirit alive in Dublin. While you are right to argue the EC has plenty on its plate already, you should not refuse to read the menu for other courses. It is important you strike the right note in Dublin.



PRESS DIGEST

France and Germany will confront you tomorrow with their plan for swift progress towards political union. It had been understood the subject would be raised informally but France and Germany are said to be intent to get the issue on the agenda so that a formal decision on setting a date for an IGC can be taken (Times).

Times leader on Europe in advance of tomorrow's meeting says this is a time of upheaval in European diplomacy. The air above Brussels is thick with kites and the ground is thick with scissors. Britain's interest is to have hands on both. This involves you in no sacrifice, indeed greater union, with all its imprecisions, offers you a chance to make your reservations effective. The chief concession demanded of you is style of statesmanship. You must offer that now.

STRANGWAYS

Mail - "Strangeways: Never again. Waddington to bring in 10-year mutiny sentence".

Mail leader discusses how far the media, and particularly TV, should go in showing scenes like the Strangeways riot. It rules out censorship adding that the most important lesson is that the upholders of law, order, decency and a free, democratic society must be just as astute in using the media as those who want to destroy it. In this respect the Home Secy has an awful lot to learn.

Express - "Now jail rioters will face mutiny charges".

Express leader says that Lord Justice Woolf should spend some time pondering the considerable merits of privatisation as a way forward for the prison system.

Sun - "Named! Jails Boss who Banned Siege Attack". Prisons chief Brian Eames, deputy director of prison service, was revealed last night as the man who gave order NOT to storm Strangeways.

Telegraph - "Jail mutiny to carry 10-year sentence". Home Secy forcefully rejects criticism of the tactics used during the 25 days of disturbances.

Today leader is critical of politicians and prison officer leaders jumping to heap blame for the rooftop rebellion describing it as totally inexcusable. The only people to blame are the men who rioted.



PRESS DIGEST

Star blames bungling Christopher Train, director-general of prisons, for the riot fiasco saying he left the major decisions to his deputy Brian Eames. Leader asks what has happened to David Waddington's promise to be a tough guy. He let thugs rampage at Strangeways for 25 days and now the Home Office has dropped its ban on Martin Galvin, boss of Noraid and the IRA's chief American fund-raiser.

Mirror - "Tories dodge blame in riot prison storm". Home Secy passes buck to top Home Office official over not re-taking prison earlier.

Times - The decision not to take Strangeways by storm was taken jointly by the Home Secy and Brian Eames, the DDG of the Prison Service, it emerged last night. Home Secy accepted Eames' advice that it would be too risky.



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- HMT: Mr Major, as Master of the Mint, delivers speech at the Verdict of the Trial of the Pyx, Goldsmiths Hall, London
- SO: Mr Rifkind performs Sod-cutting ceremony, M74 Millbank - Abington
- DEM: Mr Eggar attends launch of Teeside TEC
- DEN: Mr Baldry addresses Friends of the Earth at Oxford University
- DES: Mr Howarth visits three schools in West Yorkshire
- DH: Lady Hooper addresses the Dental Laboratories Association dinner
- DSS: Lord Henley meets War Pensions Committee Chairmen, Edinburgh
- DTI: Mr Hogg addresses Institute of Directors breakfast, East Midlands
- DTI: Mr Redwood visits Triton plc, Nuneaton; later addresses 1992 seminar, Bucks, Berks and Oxon Professional Council
- MAFF: Lady Trumpington visits Moorland Society, North Yorkshire
- SO: Mr Forsyth visits North of Scotland Blood Transfusion Centre, Inverness
- WO: Mrs Roberts visits Ysgol Pendular and Ysgol Llanrug
- WO: Mr Grist addresses British Paedodontic Society dinner, Dyffryn Conference Centre
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DEM: Mr Howard interviewed on Barbara Sturgeon's live phone-in programme, BBC Radio Kent
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TV AND RADIO

"Edward Heath - More Than Meets the Eye". BBC 1 (1.50 pm)

"Public Eye - Medical Care in Prison". BBC 2 (8.00 pm)

"Any Question?" BBC Radio 4 (8.05 pm) With Theresa Gorman MP, Sarah Harrison, Chris Smith MP, and Des Wilson

Party Political Broadcast - Social Democrats. BBC 1 (9.00 pm) ITV (10.00 pm) BBC 2 (10.30 pm)

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