

May 1, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister's Statement on Informal Meeting of EC Heads of State and Government in Dublin on April 28

The Queen re-opens the Queen's House at Greenwich for the National Maritime Museum

Iron and Steel Traders Confederation annual delegates conference, Aberdeen (to 4 May)

ECGD announce move to Docklands

STATISTICS

OPCS: Mortality statistics: accidents and violence 1988

PUBLICATIONS

CBI: Industrial trends survey (April)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Health; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Control of Inflation (Local Government Bill)
Finance Bill 2nd Reading

Adjournment Debates: Housing in Stoke on Trent (Ms J Walley)

Select Committees: DEFENCE
Subject: Statement on the Defence Estimates
Witness: Rt Hon Tom King, MP,
Secretary of State for Defence

Lords: Starred Questions
Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Bill (HL):
Committee (5th Day).
Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978 (Amendment)
Order 1990: Motion for approval.

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Kinnock says Conservatives are ready to get rid of you: the only question is whether you will be pushed or dive.

Mirror say Labour is preparing for the election on the assumption you will no longer be leader.

Today reflecting my briefing, says "Maggie vows to stay at the top".

More than 30 trade union leaders launch a campaign challenging the Labour Party's approach to employment legislation by calling for the repeal of laws enforcing pre-strike ballots (Independent).

Peter Jenkins, writing in the Independent, says the Govt is in spectacular disarray with its over-mighty monarch beset by an ocean of troubles. While still possessed of majesty and dignity, you are now plainly vulnerable to events beyond your control. He goes on to review recent moves on the community charge, suggesting the impression left was one of a Govt in complete panic. He concludes that Labour does not deserve to be mocked for getting the answers to this issue basically right (two sources of local govt income: one based on property tax, the other on income). The Govt, he says, is reaping the consequences of having got it fundamentally wrong.

Philip Stephens writes that there is no consensus among Tories on your future and it is a time of reckoning for you (FT).

Express says that today you have your last chance before the local elections to calm community charge fears. Voters on Thursday should be banging the drum for your successes instead of contemplating throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

Express who prints John Banham's speech at CBI conference - on bright future explodes the myths - "we're in better shape than ever before.

Large rent rises, of more than twice the inflation rate, in two thirds of London boroughs, causing more unease than the poll tax in run-up to local elections (Independent).

Tories have high hopes of taking Sutton from the Liberal Democrats (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph leader says the appointment of PR minders to Messrs Waddington, Clarke and MacGregor is a PR blunder. The responsibility for selling policy lies primarily with Ministers though they are entitled to private advice.

John Banks, new public relations adviser to Kenneth Clarke, says there is a "yawning gap" existing between what the Govt wants to do with the health service and the public's perception of the plan (Times).

Lithuania ready to freeze its independence to get talks with Russia going. Meanwhile, Latvians demand independence.

Lithuania puts food on ration.

John Banham, CBI, says firms should not be asked to fund higher mortgages or the community charge with higher pay.

Mail leader says too many of Britain's bosses continue to award themselves over the odds increases while exhorting their own workers to show restraint in wage bargaining.

Survey says only 20% of managers take the holidays they are entitled to and some have to be sent away to relieve stress.

Barclays to raise its mortgage rate today from 14.75 to 15.7%.

Bank lending for house buying fell 10% in first quarter.

Co-op Bank raises its basic rate from 15 to 16% because of demand and high rates in money markets.

Energy finds boost North Sea's future.

Better than expected ICI profits buoy up the markets (FT).

British Gas plans to import large amounts of Norwegian gas from the mid-1990s which will put it on a collision course with the Govt who consider there is sufficient gas for Britain's needs in the UK area of the North Sea (FT).

Italians reacted with "studied politeness" to John Major's efforts to slow EMU's take off. An official quoted as saying "the British are very good at making us focus on detail" (FT).

Civil Service Commission says it has managed to raise the number of new entrants to the Civil Service in spite of an increasingly competitive employment market (FT).

PRESS DIGESTCommunity Charge

Kinnock says outright abolition is the only solution; Labour demand statement on Govt's "confusion".

Independent and Mirror suggest B Ingham has added to confusion by playing down extent of likely changes. [NB - I have not changed my line since last Friday]. Chris Patten rules out early changes (Telegraph).

Sun says Michael Portillo is to succeed David Hunt as community charge Minister.

David Hunt accuses Kinnock of planning to replace community charge with a "twin tax torture".

Andy Murphy, Class War activist who hailed Trafalgar Square rioters as heroes, reinstated by Hackney Council to avert strike in his support.

Mail leader on politics of "pot and kettle" says most people are no more attracted by Labour's roof tax than they are by the Tory poll tax. But next year's version of the charge will be somewhat fairer than this one's and that on Labour's roof tax Kinnock's indecision will be final.

Times says Labour confirms that its approach to replacing the community charge would be based on a modernised review of the rates but it could take more than two years into the life of a Labour Govt before it was brought in (Times).

Uniform business rate proving fertile campaign issue for the Labour Party in south London (Independent).

Robin Oakley in the Times, says that last week's mission around the Commons tea room on which Mark Lennox-Boyd assured worried Tory MPs that swift action on the community charge would be swift and extensive probably destroyed the last hope that Kenneth Baker could bring off a bold gamble in the local elections.

Dennis Kavanagh, Professor of Politics at Nottingham University, writing in the Times, looks at the curbs that have been put on local govt over the last decade but concludes that Labour too would curb councils.

14 local authorities given go ahead to challenge charge capping in the High Court (FT).

PRESS DIGESTEC

Sun leader says the Common Market is socialism by the back door; we have accepted it as a trading arrangement but nothing more.

Labour to call for enhanced powers for the European Parliament, as part of a policy package of European political, economic and monetary union, which will include power to initiate policy (Independent).

Independent editorial looks at the question of subsidiarity, saying the Govt has grasped the idea as a weapon against encroachments on national sovereignty by Brussels. However, your enthusiasm for the principle is selective: you rightly believe the EC's institutions should not extend their competence to areas best dealt with by national govts; but you stop well short, in wanting to take Govt back to the people, in devolving power to the regions here. But if subsidiarity is incorporated into European political union, the principle may have to be agreed down at least to the level of regions.

Telegraph says you are to be congratulated on the Dublin summit. You achieved a position that kept firmly in touch with public opinion without being unnecessarily obstructive. You have demonstrated your willingness to be involved. "Yes but" is a much stronger position than "No". The change of style may well have tried your patience but it was worth the effort.

Michael Binyon looking at European political union in the Times finds fears of Franco-German dominance and respect for the Thatcher line.

Mirror claims that our education system, short of funds, ranks among the worst in Europe.

Battle lines are being drawn for what promises to be the toughest test yet of the Govt's insistence that schools must stage a daily act of worship which is broadly Christian (Times).

Health Minister, Roger Freeman, promises a new deal for mentally ill patients forced to live on the streets because of shortages of hospital places (Independent).

Govt details timetable for revolutionising the structure of the NHS by next April (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Princess Anne claims number of nursery school places have fallen by half since 1945.

And Duke of Edinburgh attacks double dealing in City, moral standards and demands more action to save the environment.

Express: Philip blasts smelly Britain.

Today leader says Royals should stick to good deeds.

Express leader headed "So many reasons to be proud of Great Britain", says the Duke's picture of Britain was jaundiced claptrap, reflecting a privileged ignorance of the lives of ordinary people. But where did all the extra cars and overseas holidays come from? And more is being spent in real terms on health, education and social services. Yet the myths continue.

April sunniest (245 hours) for 60 years.

Today claims the fine weather is raising air pollution; no action against it by Govt would be excessive.

Mr Parkinson says quick reduction in car pollution not achievable when he opened conference on road traffic and the greenhouse effect (Independent).

Bid to set up dog registration scheme fails by 12 votes in Commons.

Court of Appeal judgments quashing permission to demolish Victorian buildings in the City of London may be challenged in the Lords by Peter Palumbo (Independent).

Sun advises public not to give any more money to Oxfam until it stops playing politics.

Independent editorial criticises Oxfam for trying to start a campaign in favour of continued sanctions against South Africa, saying such an issue is a proper task for a political party or pressure group, but not for a charity.

Lord Denning, continuing his campaign against Court of Appeal decision on Winchester 3, writes in Star that IRA are laughing at British justice.

Vandals, apparently copying Strangeways, wreck a school in Hereford.

PRESS DIGEST

Two passersby make off with two bags holding £50,000 dropped by armed raiders after attacking a Securicor van in Tottenham.

New parole system to take account of feelings of victims and families in sensitive cases.

With the Govt edging towards a late decision which should keep the Three Graces in Britain, Times leader calls for a comprehensive list to be compiled of those works of art whose export should be subject to restrictions with some never being allowed to leave the country. It also expresses concern about what will happen once we have a single European market, saying there is no reason why such listings should not be applied to works of art throughout the EC.

New survey says watching TV makes you tired, bored and hostile.

National television news reporting of Commons has increased by 80% or more since cameras were introduced, according to Hansard Society.

Residents in a Manchester street riot against BBC when they paint IRA mural in preparation for filming drama series. Before the paint had time to dry 20 youths threw yellow paint over it and kicked down scaffolding and told TV crews to go.

Star wants to know what the IBA has against John McCarthy, British hostage, for banning a second time an advertisement of his plight.

Editor of BBC "Today" programme, accepting Sony Award, hopes that in changing broadcasting climate there will be space for a programme with the integrity and independence of "Today". Norman Tebbit says this objective will come as a great relief to many listeners.

Football League to bow to Govt pressure and use transfer fees levy to finance ground improvements (Independent).

10 die when RAF Shackleton crashes on Isle of Harris.

Mirror claims driver of Iraqi gun lorry is in Greek jail because of incompetence and cowardice of British Govt.

Arab kidnappers free second American hostage in Lebanon; he says he was kept blindfold for 3 years.

PRESS DIGEST

Times says that Whitehall sources have so far given no sign that Britain is ready to talk to Damascus again, but that would change if it used its influence to help British hostages. It is prepared to open talks with Iran if Tehran first makes a goodwill gesture.

Supporters of John McCarthy criticise Govt's policy on hostages saying it was unlikely that the four Britons would be released soon. Terry Waite's brother David warns against undue optimism, but did not attack the Govt (Times).

Sir Robert Fellowes to succeed William Heseltine as Queen's private secy; Charles Anson, ex-No 10, becomes press officer at Palace.

Yeltsin in hospital in Spain with a slipped disc.

Today says you are looking for a new outfitter after Japanese took over Aquascutum. "Next" in line.

British Army divisional commanders have been told to draw up plans for removing up to 187 tanks from West Germany and the UK in preparation for the expected signing of the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty by the end of this year (Times).

Bloodbath feared as Liberian rebels drive on the country's capital (Independent).

China to lift martial law in Lhasa (FT).

ANNEX

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Howard addresses launch of Business in the Community Customised Training, London
- DEN: Mr Wakeham visits Thoresby Colliery, Nottinghamshire
- DTp: Mr Parkinson launches Transport Safety Campaign, London
- HO: Mr Waddington addresses and Lord Ferrers attends (to 2 May) Exercise Torchlight, Civil Defence College
- MAFF: Mr Gummer launches MAFF Training Exhibit; later addresses International Meat Trade Associations annual dinner, London
- SO: Mr Rifkind and Mr Lang meet Scottish Fishermen's Federation, London
- DEM: Mr Eggar attends launch of Tyneside TEC, Newcastle
- DEM: Mr Nicholls addresses Engineering Employers Sheffield Association; later visits Moorfoot and meets representatives of Sheffield TEC
- DEM: Mr Eggar attends the Tyneside TEC launch
- DEN: Mr Baldry opens EEO and Japanese External Trade Organisation seminar on Energy Efficiency and the Environment, London
- DEN: Mr Morrison addresses first of a series of regional lunches on energy efficiency
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits the Arts Educational School, Tring
- DH: Mrs Bottomley meets Hull MPs re health finance
- DH: Lady Hooper visits representatives from the Registered Nursing Homes Association
- DOE: Mr Chope visits Windsor Park for key handover
- DOE: Mr Moynihan attends Microtech Computer Service launch, Peckham; late attends London Playing Fields Society catering dinner, Savoy Hotel
- DOE: Mr Trippier and Lord Hesketh attend launch of Ordnance Survey Executive Agency, Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, Parliament Square, London
- DTI: Mr Hogg visits JCB factory, Rochester
- DTI: Mr Redwood speaks at the Baltic Futures Exchange open day, London
- DTI: Lord Trefgarne meets Irish Minister for Trade
- DTp: Mr Atkins addresses Institute of Electrical Engineers, London; later visits Road Haulage Transport Association Headquarters, Weybridge and attends RAC dinner

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

- HMT: Mr Lamont gives a speech on the Arts, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich
- HO: Mr Patten addresses Centre for Policy Studies conference on "Charities", Royal Society of Arts, London
- MAFF: Mr Maclean opens International Fast Food Show, London
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses launch of Occupational Health Service as an Executive Agency; later addresses Commonwealth Institute Symposium on New Intercultural Music, London; in the evening addresses Dulwich Picture Gallery dinner, London
- WO: Mr Roberts attends "Back to the Future" Employment Service Initiative, Cardiff
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TV AND RADIO

Local Government Election Broadcast by the Labour Party BBC Radio 4 (1.35 pm) repeated BBC 1 and 2 (9.00 pm, 10.30 pm), ITV (10.00 pm)

"Army Lives" BBC 2 (8.00 pm)

"First Tuesday" ITV (10.40 pm) The Power of Healing
