

May 2, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets Hansard Society Award winners

Prime Minister addresses Women's International Zionist Organisation lunch to mark the centenary of Rebecca Sieff, Guildhall

First session of new Hungarian parliament

Commons Home Affairs Committee take evidence on police cooperation in the EC, London

Wales TUC annual conference, Llandudno (to 4 May)

STATISTICS

DEM: Overseas travel and tourism statistics

DEN: Advance energy statistics

HMT: Monetary statistics (March - final)

HMT: UK official reserves (April)

PUBLICATIONS

DES: National Curriculum Council: Guidance number 4

HMT: UK official reserves

HO: Police Complaints Authority report 1989

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Scotland

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Local Government (Mr Tony Banks)
Environmental Protection Bill: Completion of Remaining Stages
Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill: Consideration of Lords Amendments

Adjournment Debates: Train Services on the Bromley North Line (Mr R Sims)

Select Committees: DEFENCE
Subject: Statement on the Defence Estimates
Witnesses: Ministry of Defence officials

FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Subject: FCO/ODA Expenditure 1990-91
Witnesses: Sir Patrick Wright, KCMG, and other FCO officials

WELSH AFFAIRS
Subject: The Supply of Starter Homes in Wales
Witness: Mr Ian Grist, MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Welsh Office

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Select Committees:

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: Trade with EETA

Witness: Dr Helen Wallace of the Royal Institute
of International Affairs

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS

Subject: Science Policy and the European Dimension

Witnesses: Committee of Vice Chancellors and
Principals

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: Department of Employment's Estimates
1990-91

Witness: Department of Employment

HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Practical Police Cooperation
in the European Community

Witness: Home Office

TRANSPORT

Subject: Urban Public Transport: The
Light Rail Option

Witness: The Confederation of British Industry

Lords: Starred Questions

Debate to call attention to the Channel Tunnel and its road and rail links, and their relationship to the national interest and to the interests of all parts of the country.

UQ to ask HMG why the proposed Westminster and Chelsea Hospital, costed by the Secretary of State at £135m in December 1988, is now estimated to cost £226m, and what effects this will have on capital expenditure for the rest of the North-West Thames Health Region.

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Gorbachev jeered and booed during traditional May Day parade in Moscow.

Red Square rocked by rebellion (Mail).

Telegraph leader says the May Day celebrations marked a new level of popular exasperation with Gorbachev's half cocked reforms. It would be premature to write him off but the shouts are timely reminders of the nettles he still has to grasp to modernise his vast and ramshackle country.

Independent writes of humiliation for Gorbachev as protestors drive him from May Day parade in the most stinging affront he has suffered since taking power.

Express says this was an uncomfortable lesson in the price of liberty. The dividing line between people power and anarchy is frighteningly narrow. There is only one antidote - a system of accountable democracy.

Sun says Lenin must have been spinning in his grave fast enough to fly off into space.

Independent says it marked an unprecedented display of contempt for Gorbachev, exposing his fragility as leader. The temptation will be to savage those who are so besetting him. His problem is to decide whether to move against nationalist dissidents, radical critics or those who would restrain the pace of reform. This is his moment of truth.

Times leader says that like Boris Godunov, Gorbachev is a flawed, even tragic hero. His rule has certainly been a blessing for most of his fellow Russians, though less so for other Soviet peoples. His role in the liberation of central Europe alone is sufficient to guarantee him an honourable place in the history books. But Gorbachev also shares with Boris an inability to escape the stigma of his illegitimate claim to the throne.

May Day parade in the Ukraine turns into a demonstration for independence from Moscow (Independent).

Opposition parties in Romania are calling for elections, due on May 20, to be delayed because the National Salvation Front are monopolising the media (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

Bush will meet Lithuanian PM tomorrow, as Latvia prepares to embark on the same path towards independence as its fellow Baltic republics. White House says talks informal and do not reflect a shift in US policy (Independent).

Thatcher rallies Tories on poll tax and Europe - Telegraph headline: Simon Heffer says your demeanour was horse-frightening.

You hit home over community charge in Commons yesterday; Jack Cunningham describes your "turning it into a pre-election rally" (Mirror) as "a manifest and disgraceful abuse of the House".

Kenneth Baker, writing in Express, calls on public to cast their vote for a fairer community.

Michael Grylls, writing in Mail, says rich do pay more to local govt - from £57.20 by a student to £20,672 by £300,000 company chairman.

Scottish Tory Party publish figures showing estimates of what key professional workers would pay to councils if a local income tax were introduced (Times).

You will appoint Michael Portillo as Local Govt Minister on Friday in a small Cabinet reshuffle that will be seen as an attempt to raise Conservative morale after the local elections (Times).

Martin Jacques writing in the Times looks at how local Labour parties have changed saying they have travelled a long way since the nightmare days leading up to the last general election. Kinnockism has triumphed. The new strategy is about pragmatism and realism. Ideology is out.

Bank of England signals it would be unhappy if they followed Co-op Bank in raising base rates to 16%.

CBI warns of risk to 56,000 jobs in manufacturing in next 3 months partly because of high pay deals. Express says this is welcome evidence that John Major's medicine is working. Andrew Alexander, in Mail, says that on the whole the gloomy CBI survey is gloomy in the right way.

NCC warns that people who get behind with mortgage repayments can lose their homes after court hearings lasting just 90 seconds (FT).

Rail unions to recommend 9.3% pay rise.

PRESS DIGEST

Council of Civil Service Unions are threatening an all-out strike unless their bicycle allowance is increased by an inflation-breaking 110% - present allowance is 4.7p a mile (Times).

Telegraph City Editor says captains of industry are setting a bad example to workers over pay awards.

TV South to pay staff more if mortgage rates rise and less if they fall.

15 people at Sheffield Forgemasters and Walter Somers being questioned over Iraqi gun. Express says 4 have been arrested.

Prison officers threaten industrial action after "storming" out of talks on Strangeways riot. They claim prisoners are being sent to prisons inadequately staffed.

Spastics Society first voluntary body to pull out of the Govt's Employment Training Programme (Independent).

Govt defeated in the Lords as peers reject proposals to allow evidence in War Crimes trials in Scotland to be given by live TV link (Independent).

Kohl favours holding an all-German election at the beginning of 1991 rather than the scheduled West German election in December. The result would be an all-German parliament in place by next Spring (Independent).

Baker, US Secy of State, will use three pronged strategy to try and persuade the Soviet Union that new German state should be full member of NATO (Independent).

Tom King dampens hopes of early and substantial cuts in British military spending as a result of changes in Eastern Europe (Independnet).

Community Charge

Sun leads with a 27 year old policeman, beaten up in Trafalgar Square riots, dying in his sleep at home; cause of death not yet established.

Labour claims a secret deal with Govt kept Westminster's charge low.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail devotes 2 pages to community charge, leading with Lady Porter's pledge that Westminster's charge will not go up, "smashing Labour's claims that this charge was fixed".

Your reshuffle on Friday designed to take attention away from local election results (Today).

Michael Heseltine urges a fundamental rethink.

Guardian says you admit charge flaw; its leader says the confusion over the charge has ruined, perhaps irreparably, Conservatives reputation for competence.

EC

Express: Heffer hails Thatcher - attacks Kinnock for being "too easily conned" on Britain's swift entry into Europe.

Mail - Maggie's Eurostand praised - you win overwhelming backing for opposing stampede towards a United States of Europe to turn tables on Kinnock - with help of Labour MPs.

Tony Benn, in the Independent, argues that you need not worry about the position of the monarchy as development of the EC continues: the closer Britain moves towards European unity, the more the House of Commons loses power to the Crown.

You hint at British entry to ERM within broad bands, but rule out membership of a "locked currency" system (Independent).

Tory MPs back your cautious approach on early moves towards European political union as Ted Heath launches another strong attack on your stance (Times).

In your statement on Dublin yesterday you signalled a willingness to be more conciliatory on European Political union providing it was within clearly defined limits and promised we would offer "constructive ideas" (FT).

New brands of beer should have appeared - but in most cases not - in more than 21 pubs yesterday as the first step in the Govt's drive for more competition in the brewing industry and greater choice for the drinking public (Times).

Woman who returned to teaching to help ease shortages tells how classroom violence forced her to quit after only one term - at Holland Park comprehensive.

PRESS DIGEST

EC report says British children are worst at learning a second language.

Labour education spokesman, Jack Straw, says potential donor to Brighton City Technology College made £200,000 secret commission (Independent).

Claims that 200 auxiliary nurses at a Bristol hospital are to lose £2,000 a year through downgrading - not qualified for jobs.

National Institute for Social Work report calls for a self-regulatory body to set minimum standards for social workers (Independent).

Mirror says 1980s were worst peace-time period for housebuilding since 1918.

Natural History Museum plans to charge some school parties for the first time (Independent).

B/Telecom provide £500,000 sponsorship deal, including the largest temporary international communications network assembled in Britain for next year's World Student Games (FT).

Star prints picture of 4 year old girl's face, savaged by an Alsatian and Rottweiler in Dudley and requiring 200 stitches to shame MPs who voted against dog registration.

Today does the same - the picture that shames 275 MPs - who do we care about more - dogs or children.

Mirror leader calls on Govt to ban breeding, sale and ownership of Rottweilers, pit bull terriers, bandogs and the like which have been bred to fight and kill.

Express says Govt may not want to take responsibility for registration in a tricky political season but something remains to be done about Britain's dogs.

Times leader says the Govt has universally set its face against dog registration. After this week's horrifying incidents, there should be no further doubts. If there is to be no registration and related penalties, then dogs bred for offensive purposes should immediately be brought within the scope of the Dangerous Animal Act of 1976.

PRESS DIGEST

Commons Defence Cttee to demand stricter vetting of contract security guards patrolling military bases after bombing of Deal Barracks (Times).

Tom King says there will have to be defence cuts of £350million this year because inflation has risen faster than expected.

41 Asian refugees arrested in London after disturbances at Turkish Govt bank over shooting of civilians in a May Day rally in Istanbul.

Northern Ireland authorities say loyalist campaign for jail segregation will fail (Independent).

Sun, reviewing CV of Queen's new private secretary, says she could not have made a worse choice if she really wants to know what people are thinking.

Joe Haines, in Mirror, says the attempts to rehabilitate Colin Wallace "a paid liar (which he admits) and a convicted killer (which he denies) seems to have been taken over by Channel 4.

Kenneth Baker attacks Norman Tebbit's cricket test remarks on immigration.

Mr Ridley comes under pressure to rethink his proposals on art exports as owners of the "Three Graces" indicate they might refuse an option to sell it to a private British buyer (Independent).

Star devotes a page to attacking the IBA (Inhuman Bloody Asses) for turning down an advert of the plight of John McCarthy on political grounds.

Hostage spotlight falls on the US-Iran financial talks being held in the Hague, the only forum in which the two sides meet, but US insist meeting a strictly technical affair (Independent).

Foreign Secy tells Iran and Syria we'll talk - when they release our hostages.

Express says some sort of sense at last seems to be taking root in the Middle East. But it is pointless to expect Britain to try to hasten matters at this stage.

Sun says followers of Islam who kept American hostage blindfold for 3 years, should thank their God West is civilised; otherwise US and British bombers would be blasting their cities to Kingdom come.

PRESS DIGEST

R W Johnson, Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, writing in the Times, considers the extreme pressure on both sides as the ANC and Pretoria start talking about talks. He says that the danger is that the talks could break down before they really start because of the stance taken by both sides. But now both sides are bound to the other, knowing that if the talks fails there will, unavoidably, just have to be more talks in the future.

FT leader on hostage taking says it means a balancing act for President Bush - hostage takers have gained very little from the kidnapping of the past decade but the entire region has much to gain from an end to the crisis, whether or not Bush is accused of being too soft on Iran, Syria and Hisbollah in his attempts to resolve it.

14 Muslim militants shot dead in gun battle with Egyptian police.

India calls truce in war of words with Pakistan (Independent).

COMUNITY CHARGE PRESENTATION COMMENT

Star - Defiant Maggie hints at poll tax changes.

Sun p2 - Maggie "wastes" Neil; you floored him with a bunch of "fives" as you storm into attack.

Mirror p2 - Chants row - you spark a storm by turning PM's Question Time into a pre-election rally.

Today p14 - 70 days to save poll tax - a new law may be rushed through to cut bills by Autumn.

Express p2 - Commons uproar as local election fever grips MPs.

Independent - You are considering a £400million scheme to increase transitional relief for the poll tax by £1 a week for more than 7.5million people, senior Conservatives told. You appear to leave the door open to legislation this summer during Questions yesterday. Editorial says you still fail to comprehend, let alone accept, that the charge is unfair. Yesterday you kept your options open on changes to the poll tax. The course most widely supported by Tory MPs is probably banding, but in putting their case to you they have had an uphill struggle. If you do not now yield to them, they are likely to look for someone who will.

PRESS DIGEST

Peter Jenkins, in Independent, says your performance in the House yesterday was one of your best, but that your demeanour contrasts with the panic on Tory backbenches. He identifies Mr Major as a pole of calm in the midst of it all, saying Mr Major believes if the poll tax can be made less unpopular prospects for the economy are not as grim as frequently painted. Jenkins sees no prospect of ditching the poll tax, but for there to be some sort of poll tax relief. He questions whether the display of Ministerial resolve will succeed, but comments that for the moment it reflects the private resolve behind the public panic.

FT - While resisting pressure to say whether the govt anticipates any new poll tax legislation you appeared to rule out any significant changes aimed at relating it more clearly to what people can afford to pay. Ministers are thought to be concentrating on a further extension of benefits (FT).

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Howard visits training projects in Norfolk
- DES: Mr MacGregor attends council meeting and lunch with the Council for Industry and Higher Education, London; later visits Community Service Volunteers, London
- DTp: Mr Parkinson addresses Transport Advisory Group
- MAFF: Mr Gummer visits Sainsbury laboratory, Norwich
- WO: Mr Walker addresses Food Safety conference, Builth Wells; later addresses Welsh Agricultural Organisations Society AGM, Aberystwyth
- DES: Mr Howarth addresses press launch of Community Lines across Sandhurst Primaries (CLASP), Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst
- DH: Mrs Bottomley visits King George Hospital, Ilford
- DH: Mr Freeman visits Research Management Institute site, Huddersfield
- DH: Lady Hooper opens the Centre for research on drugs and health behaviour, Fulham
- DOE: Mr Spicer addresses National Council of Building Material Producers lunch, Hotel Intercontinental, London
- DOE: Lord Hesketh attends Prue Leith reception, Serpentine Restaurant, London
- DSS: Mrs Shephard meets Ralph Howell MP to discuss Community Charge benefit rules for couples, London
- DTI: Mr Hogg visits North Teeside
- DTI: Lord Trefgarne addresses Electronics Business Equipment Association dinner as principal guest of honour
- DTI: Mr Forth attends Ministerial Group on Energy Efficiency
- DTp: Mr McLaughlin addresses Institute of Directors on "Air Transport," Edinburgh
- DTp: Mr Atkins launches Vehicle Excise Duty campaign, London
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington addresses the Agricultural Engineers Association lunch, London
- MAFF: Mr Maclean addresses the Society of County Trading Standards Officers, London
- MOD: Mr Clark visits Swan Hunter
- OAL: Mr Luce attends performance of 'Glory' by Temba Theatre Company, Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith
- WO: Mr Grist attends lunch with President of Royal College of Surgeons, London
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DH: Mr Clarke interviewed by Peter Marsh, Financial Times

DTI: Mr Ridley interviewed by Sixth Sense Magazine

TV AND RADIO

"Yes, Mr Churchill" Radio 4 (11.47 pm)

"Words Apart" BBC 2 (6.50 pm) Looks at local authority adoption policies for black children

"Tiananmen Square: a Stage for History" BBC 2 (8.10 pm)

"Dispatches" Ch 4 (8.30 pm) The problems of obscene phone calls

"Against the State" BBC Radio 4 (8.45 pm) Brian Redhead looks at terrorism

Election Broadcast by the Conservative Party BBC 1 (9.00 pm) BBC 2 (10.30 pm) ITV (10.00 pm)

"Inside Story" BBC 1 (9.30 pm) The Race Game looks at black athletes
