

May 10, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister buys flag for Red Cross
Scottish Conservative Party conference, Aberdeen
86th Session of the Committee of Ministers, Council of Europe, Strasbourg
Parliamentary Space Committee visit Paris (to 11 May)
Meeting of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

STATISTICS

HMT: Banking sector statistics (1st Qtr)
HMT: Money Stock (1st Qtr)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Northern Ireland; Prime Minister
Business: Broadcasting Bill: Completion of Remaining Stages
Opposed Private Business
London Regional Transport (Penalty Fares) Bill
Motion to take note of EC Document relating to General Product Safety. Details will be given in the Official Report

Adjournment Debate: Aid for orphans in Romania (Mr H Malins)

Select Committees: COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL
Cardiff Bay Barrage Bill [Lords]

Lords: Starred Questions

National Health Service and Community Care Bill: Committee (7th Day)

European Parliament (Electoral Reform) Bill Report

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Heseltine calls for "urgent and considerable changes to the community charge which is either too high, unfair or both". He suggests higher payments by the better off and an obligatory election when a council wishes to exceed spending levels laid down by the Govt.

Article in Times seen as an overt bid for leadership of party. Sun claims his supporters are mounting a campaign to oust you over next 2 months by collecting 100 signatures demanding your resignation. Mail says his timing will infuriate many Backbenchers.

Robin Oakley, in Times, says Heseltine's language in condemnation of the community charge and its effects is uncompromising. In coming out ahead of the Govt's review he acknowledges that he has taken a risk in putting himself up to be shot at.

Anthony Bevins, in Independent, calls Heseltine the "leader-in-waiting" who is making a direct challenge to you.

Labour denounces Heseltine's proposals as a "rag bag of measures". It says he is lacking the courage to call for its abolition because it might damage his chances in a future leadership contest (Times).

Mail leader on "Lifting the lid on disasterville" says any Departmental door you open in Ealing council you are liable to fall over some political appointee.

Average increase in council rents may be £3 a week, higher than expected (Telegraph).

More than £100million worth of energy is wasted each year by local authorities, much of it because British Gas price structure means they can save money by burning more gas than they need (Times).

Thames TV poll tonight will reveal, according to Mirror, that 70% of voters expect Kinnock to be next Prime Minister.

Scottish Tories express guarded optimism about an electoral recovery north of the Border. Michael Forsyth hopes for 24 or 25% poll ratings by summer (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Express on Kinnock's embarrassment over John Prescott's promising to reinstate miners sacked for violence and intimidation during strike says he would be happier if he could get rid of him from Front Bench.

Today claims SDP is heading for rocks; annual conference booking for 1993 cancelled because party won't exist by then.

Telegraph says inflation will reach 9.5% tomorrow - markedly lower than feared.

Treasury demanding £1 billion cuts in defence budget, according to Independent and others, following up Evening Standard.

Downing Street indicates that you will back Tom King in resisting Treasury's call for £1 billion defence cuts until results of defence review are known (Independent).

You are to resist Treasury attempts to put a firm price on the so-called peace dividend arising from the changing atmosphere in Eastern Europe (Times).

The Independent says the "peace dividend" from defence cuts could yield a substantial political dividend to you. With a little poetic licence you could declare it as the dividend on your own steadfastness. In this way you could dish your Labour opponents before they dish you.

Washington speculation that Bush may ask NATO allies to renounce first use of nuclear weapons (Independent).

Telegraph defence writer says a nuclear free Europe makes the continent "safe" for conventional war.

Soviet Union believes that all foreign troops stationed in Europe should be withdrawn by 1995-96 as part of a new security framework for the region (Times).

Soviet military under growing attack. Communist Party newspaper quotes young Russians critical of the money wasted on terrifying military parades while the shops stand empty (FT).

Mrs Prunskiene yesterday said Lithuania would run out of oil in two weeks, according to Mirror.

Times says she left Downing Street convinced that you will not remain on the sidelines in the dispute between Moscow and Vilnius.

PRESS DIGEST

Express says you stepped in as a mediator.

Mrs Prunskiene well satisfied with her meeting with you, but she she was unclear what specific assurances she received (Independent).

Albania unveils a package of human rights reforms.

Bradford Moslem leader suggests Iran would swap Rushdie for hostages.

Iranians claim they have agreed to pay off more than £65million in debts to USA in settlement of claims arising from Islamic revolution.

Lorry drivers plan a convoy of 1,000 lorries down M1 and round M25 to Dover in protest against detention of Iraqi gun driver detained in Greece. Sun rejects law breaking by drivers but shares their anger and frustration. Foreign Secy must intervene personally.

Express says driver is being detained because Customs can't sort out conflicting documents covering load.

Row over leaking of Select Cttee Report on BAe/Rover takeover - apparently selectively. Hunt for leaker. Guardian tries to make the most of its leak - Uproar over disclosure. Its leader says that Govt has a great deal to answer for to the House, the country and Brussels.

Labour Euro MPs have called on Sir Leon Brittan to resign over his handling of Rover claiming he covered up for the British Govt (FT).

John Pienaar, of the Independent, appears before Home Affairs Select Cttee over leaks of documents on job vetting and Crown Prosecution Service (Independent).

Moderate wins general secretaryship of NALGO: Militant in third place.

National Consumer Council says credit companies should be punished for lending money too freely.

Rover warns 10,000 manual workers that it will impose 24-hour working in spite of a vote against a new shift system (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

MMC to investigate claims that UK customers are being charged more for same models of cars than on Continent. This is welcomed by Express.

Michael Howard calls on Channel Tunnel companies over safety after sixth workman dies in accident at British end.

Mirror claims B/Telecom is losing millions through use by fiddlers of a BT gadget.

Social Services Cttee say Govt may be understating the extent of poverty in Britain by using flawed and inappropriate statistics (FT).

Tribunal rules that Govt acted unlawfully by denying a widow benefit previously paid to her husband. Decision could affect up to 200,000 people (Independent).

Taxmen to assist in tracking down fathers who refuse to pay maintenance.

Kenneth Baker says fathers who walk out on families should be treated as social outcasts. Uproar from single parent groups.

Today leads sensationally with the speech saying Mr Baker said single mothers struggling to bring up children on their own are wrecking society. Leader says his attack on single parents is a disgrace. His thinking is outdated and obnoxious. A pompous and offensive prig.

Labour MPs disown Select Cttee report on teacher supply over next 10 years because it does not fully reflect the evidence given. Times leader says it is a pity that the big teaching unions should have run up a deficit in public sympathy over the past decade. Even if the Govt were to adopt all the proposals in the report it cannot give the teachers back their professional self-esteem. That they must do themselves.

Teachers' unions attack Commons report suggesting differential increases in pay - NAS/UWT says it is "irrational".

Independent editorial calls the Education Cttee report on teacher shortages mealy-mouthed and entirely lacking in the energy and radicalism needed to improve our schools. Teachers' pay should be settled not by a central bureaucracy, but between individual headteachers and members of staff. That would give schools the power to do something about shortages, instead of suffering while the central planners dither.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail leader says parents and politicians can agree that teachers should get a substantial rise. While it understands your priority to regain control of inflation we cannot for long afford to skimp on teachers.

Senior academics warn that the teaching of Russian and East European studies in British universities is seriously inadequate and could lead to domination of the field by the US, France and Germany (Times).

Leukaemia Fund claims that Cumbria and the West Country are the blackspots for the disease. Star describes Sellafield as "The Cancer Capital".

Today wants you at next election to make Kenneth Clarke vanish in a puff of smoke because he has vetoed a no-smoking rule in his office.

Half of GPs fail to join new budget scheme because of shortcomings in GPs' computing and surgery management (Times).

Chief Constable appointed by Derbyshire County in defiance of Home Office withdraws application.

Police hunting gang of sex perverts preying on youngsters says no child in Britain is safe until they are caught; three more attempted snatches revealed yesterday.

Leader of justices' clerks strongly attacks Home Office for being obsessed with control of the criminal justice system to a degree that threatens judicial independence (Times).

Methodists divided over ban on active homosexual ministers, according to a report to be debated at Methodist conference (Times).

Chris Patten says towns and villages cannot be allowed an absolute veto over development needed in the wider regional or national interest (Times).

Friends of the Earth claim US has backed down from commitment to making additional funds available to help Third World countries develop alternatives to CFCs (FT).

Star launches a front page campaign against trapping of animals for fur; it attacks an about-turn by Euro MPs in giving Canada six years to come up with alternative.

PRESS DIGEST

Kinnock says national press is inaccurate, pompous and partisan; regionals display higher journalistic values.

Soccer thugs distributing from Chester a 24-page magazine glorifying in violence and inquiry in soccer riots.

Sun says there is a simple punishment for the Bournemouth riots - deny Leeds promotion and force Football League to foot the damage bill.

Bournemouth Council to sue Leeds United and Football League for damages.

Sardinians refuse to impose drinks ban for 36 hours around England games.

Sun writer says if there is one issue on which you remain closely in tune with the instincts of the majority of British people it is Europe.

Story of Churchill telling his wife and daughter in law to kill at least one Nazi each with knife if Germans invaded Britain main news angle on last night's dinner. Picture of you with Nicholas Soames and Winston Churchill in Telegraph.

Jews to fight proposal to make Yassir Arafat freeman of Glasgow as man who is "doing more for world peace than he is given credit for".

Soviet film on Kim Philby may reveal secrets about Rudolf Hess's flight to Scotland (Independent).

Luxembourg's NATO ambassador resigns after allegations he spied for Moscow (Independent).

French Socialist Govt comes within a whisker of parliamentary defeat on no-confidence vote. They are saved only at the eleventh hour by the Communists (Independent).

8 Kuwaitis arrested after campaigning for restoration of parliament (FT).

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEN: Mr Wakeham meets Sammy Vellu, Malaysian Energy Minister
- DH: Mr Clarke meets David Sharpe of the PSNC
- DSS: Mr Newton meets voluntary groups to discuss homelessness
- HMT: Mr Major addresses Russell Partnership lunch
- LPC: Sir Geoffrey Howe attends reception for Scout Association, London; later attends Grand Day Dinner, London
- DEM: Mr Eggar addresses National Chamber of Trade lunch, QEII Conference Centre, London later addresses CBI Small Firms and Trade Association conference, Centre Point, London
- DEM: Mr Nicholls attends launch of Wearside TEC at Sunderland Football Club
- DEN: Mr Baldry visits Selby Complex
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits Crewe and Alsager College
- DES: Mr Jackson visits Staffordshire College of Agriculture, Roobaston; later visits Harper Adams Agricultural College, Shropshire for the Haymakers meeting "Agricultural education: where do we go now"
- DH: Mrs Bottomley addresses National Childrens Homes lunch; later meets Richard Alexander MP and Andrew Stewart MP re composition of boards of the new Health Authorities
- DOE: Mr Chope addresses Building Merchants Federation lunch, London; later attends official opening of "College Keep" in Southampton
- DOE: Mr Moynihan attends Footballer of the Year awards, London
- DOE: Mr Trippier addresses Binnie and Partners lunch, Savoy Hotel
- DOE: Mr Spicer visits CHAR, housing campaign for Single People
- DTI: Mr Forth meets Director General of Inmarsat re government assistant with relocation
- DTI: Mr Hogg visits DTI South West; later meets Mr Smith, Irish Research Minister
- DTI: Lord Trefgarne makes closing address at CBI/Trade Association seminar
- DTp: Mr McLaughlin opens new Britannia Airway's facilities, East Midlands Airport
- DTp: Mr Atkins launches new Urban Safety Project report
- HMT: Mr Lamont addresses Readers Digest "Britain in Focus" lunch
- HO: Lord Ferrers visits Humberside (to 11 May)
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington visits Flood Hazard Research Centre, Middlesex Polytechnic, London

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

- MAFF: Mr Curry addresses Afro-Caribbean Sugar Producers conference, London
- OAL: Mr Luce attends Churchillian luncheon at Imperial War Museum, London
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DH: Mr Clarke attends World Health Organisation annual meeting, Geneva (to 12 May)
- DEN: Mr Morrison addresses Senate Finance Committee on Agricultural and Energy; later addresses the American Petroleum Institute, Washington DC
- FCO: Mr Waldegrave visits the US (to 14 May)
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TV AND RADIO

"Public Affairs" - BBC Radio 4 (7.20 pm)
Friendships and Favours

"Business Matters" BBC 2 (7.35 pm)
Looks at stress in the workplace

"Analysis" BBC Radio 4 (8.00 pm)
Are the intellectuals rewriting history

"This Week" ITV (8.30 pm)
"Prime Minister" Kinnock

"Hypotheticals" BBC 2 (9.30 pm)
The shape of television in the nineties

"Question Time" BBC 1 (10.15 pm)
Panellists are: Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP, Detta O'Cathain, Barbican Centre, John Prescott MP, and Alan Watkins of the Observer
