

May 22, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh dine with the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms and their ladies, St James's Palace; both later give a lunch for the Commonwealth Secretary General and Mrs Ramphal

The Princess Royal addresses the National Association of Prison Visitors annual general meeting

The Princess of Wales visits Commando Training Centre, Royal Marines

Nicholas Ridley in Rome

National Union of Lock and Metal Workers annual conference, Wolverhampton

STATISTICS

DOE: Housing and Construction statistics (part 2: Dec Qtr 1989)

OPCS: Infectious diseases (March Qtr 1989)

PUBLICATIONS

MOD: House of Commons Defence Committee report on Physical Security at Military Installations

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Employment; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Drug Testing (Schools)
Opposition Day (13th Allotted Day, 1st part)
Debate entitled "Alterations and Amendments to the Poll Tax" on a Motion in the name of the Social and Liberal Democrats

OPPOSED PRIVATE BUSINESS

London Docklands Railway Bill
London Underground (Victoria) Bill
Town and Country Planning Bill (Lords): Remaining Stages and Money Resolution
(Money Resolution EXEMPTED BUSINESS for 45 Minutes)
(Consolidation Measure)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservative Areas) Bill (Lords) Remaining Stages and Money Resolution. (Money Resolution EXEMPTED BUSINESS for 45 Minutes) (Consolidation Measure).
Planning (Consequential Provisions) Bill (Lords): Remaining Stages. (Consolidation Measure)
Planning (Hazardous Substances) Bill (Lords): Remaining Stages (Consolidation Measure)

Adjournment Debates: Government funding for Supra-Regional educational initiatives (Mr C Butler)

Select Committees: FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Subject: FCO/ODA Expenditure, 1990-91
Witnesses: Sir Richard Francis, KCMG, Director General, and British Council officials

COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS
Midland Metro Bill
Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority Bill

Lords: Starred Questions
Social Security Bill: Committee
London Docklands Development Corporation (Vesting of Land)(London Borough of Southwark) Order 1989: Motion for Approval
Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986 (Designated Countries and Territories) 1990: Motion for Approval

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Labour Party tries to distance itself from Militant which it says is behind All Britain Anti Poll Tax Federation. Advises members not to support it, but MPs who back it will not be expelled.

13 members of the Labour Party accused of membership of Militant and face expulsion.

Express says this will start bloodletting in the party.

Express leader says we must now see how far Kinnock is prepared to back his actions against MPs who support Militant. Nellist and Fields should immediately disown the Anti-Poll Tax Federation or face expulsion.

Kinnock pledges to make "rich" pay higher taxes - ie those earning over £20,000.

Express says Tories believe Kinnock has committed his first major gaffe of the next election campaign by giving middle income families a cast iron tax pledge he won't make them pay more.

An Independent editorial says that Labour cannot afford to renounce the measures taken in the last decade to encourage wealth-creation. Nor will the job-destroying diversion of the minimum wage legislation help. The prerequisite of social progress, Mr Kinnock should declare, is increasing national production, not higher tax rates.

Labour launch policy document for a children's charter designed to give young people a voice on such issues as poverty, abuse and neglect (Times).

Labour accuse Malcolm Rifkind of giving up fight for Ravenscraig because he reveals contingency plans for closure. Today says the plant should be floated off to give Scotland a chance to succeed where Westminster has failed.

Times says Mr Rifkind's disclosure that he had no advance warning of Ravenscraig strip mill closure takes some of the steam out of Opposition onslaught (Times).

Mail leader says Ravenscraig must go. The last thing Scotland needs is uneconomic producers which only Govt handouts can keep afloat.

PRESS DIGEST

Guardian says Malcolm Rifkind yesterday sought to speak for Scotland but lacked the mandate to do so.

Eric Hammond calls TUC "fossils locked into a time warp".

TUC reject EETPU's overtures for a return to fold - they must renounce two single-union deals and pay £1.14million in subs due while they were expelled.

Hackney Council gave £10,000 to month-long homosexual festival - community charge £499.

Tories, in control in Brent, pledge to destroy Left leaflets advertising paid maternity leave for gays and lesbians fostering children.

Sun leader finds the air suddenly full of election talk and doesn't like it. Premature election fever could damage the country. Govt has many urgent problems and needs to concentrate on restoring the economy.

Conservatives suffer 4 defeats in Lords on social security - including on plan to withdraw housing benefit from students.

Richard Rose suggests in Guardian that if Conservatives dropped you it would have more room for manoeuvre.

Gordon Greig feature on John Wakeham - "The man who could save Maggie's skin".

Independent says Lobby reporters get the impression that Bernard Ingham was pleased at John Wakeham's appointment, but Tory MPs see it as a slight to Kenneth Baker and Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Gorbachev gets a pay rise of 160% to £48,000 - 16 times average Russian's wage.

Studied silence from the US on Soviet trade treaty underscores earlier hints that US is making the signing of such a treaty conditional on the Soviet Union ending its economic squeeze on Lithuania, and opening genuine negotiations with Baltic independence movements (Times).

Moscow poised to as much as double prices on many staple foods as part of a 3-stage economic reform programme. Main price increases will be enacted early next year, along with a new tax system (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Peter Jenkins in the Independent says that on arms and German unification, the Soviet Union is negotiating from weakness. It looks as if the extent and full meaning of their defeat in the Cold War is beginning to dawn on the Soviet policymakers. They cannot prevent German unification. Nevertheless the West has no interest in rubbing Mr Gorbachev's nose in his weakness.

With more than 3 million votes counted in the Romanian elections, Iliescu has gained 89.3% of the vote (Times).

Times editorial on Romanian elections says the country is a tinderbox and a second revolution could be ignited by the slightest political spark. If the newly elected National Salvation Front is to allay suspicions about itself it must do 3 things: introduce a broadly agreed Constitution; create a non-partisan and multi-ethnic judiciary; and commit itself to rapid economic liberalisation. The alternative to the latter is a nightmarish siege economy.

Express leader says that while the poll was seriously flawed, the consensus among international monitors seems to be that the result is an accurate reflection of feeling. Iliescu should now move swiftly to conciliate his defeated opponents.

Mail leader says it still seems incredible that in their first free election for 50 years the Romanians should return the Communists to power. They seem to have opted for the devil they know.

An Independent editorial says that Iliescu may well be the best man to rally Romanians when unemployment and inflation rise, as they will. The danger is that, like others before him in Romania, he will do so by appealing to their worst instincts. If he seeks to play the nationalist card, to whip up hostility to the Hungarian and ethnic German minorities to portray foreign businessmen as predators, and to retain and favour a large state sector, the prospects for Romania will not be good.

Guardian leader gives three cheers for Romanian democracy. The Romanian people will find out whether they have made a good choice. Why should we claim the right to second guess them?

Telegraph - The difficult process of modernisation has begun.

Czech govt seizes almost all of Communist Party's property, acquired from the State through bogus leases and "borrowing" (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Bulgarian opposition protest at election malpractices by "Communist" party (Independent).

Royal Institute of International Affairs appoints hardliner Professor Laurence Martin as its next director (Times).

Claims that a second cat has died of feline BSE; third one put down after showing symptoms.

Slaughterhouse practices to be reviewed by a cttee of experts (Times).

Labour Shadow Minister of Ag. says people would die like flies if BSE spread to humans from beef. Greatest threat to agriculture this century. Claims Govt is directly responsible for disease appearing in UK.

Telegraph writer says if we need something to worry about there are more pressing problems than BSE - like cigarettes, alcohol, drugs etc.

Times editorial comments on the change in position among EC countries over political union, and concludes this is indicative of the way the EC is a deal-making machine. Complimenting the Foreign Secy for having won new room for manoeuvre, not only with EC countries but also with you, it says domestic and international circumstances are leading towards a more constructive British role in Europe. Diplomacy has come back into its own.

Closer links between MEPs and Westminster MPs to be encouraged as part of a reform of the Commons procedures for handling European Community legislation (Times).

Unnamed Minister tells Independent that the Select Cttee system does not work. "It is incompatible with our system of govt. The cynics say it is a good way of keeping the troublemakers busy and out of the way. That is slightly over the top, but only slightly" he says.

High interest rates curbing credit boom on evidence of bank and building society borrowing - lowest for 3 years last month.

Halifax Building Society say property market is unlikely to recover until next year.

CBI say crime costs British businesses more than £5billion a year (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Building workers accept 9.7%.

BBC staff likely to reject 9.4% - fears of further blackouts.

Nuclear Electric seeking 2,500 voluntary redundancies from workforce of 14,000 over 4 years.

Another 5,000 jobs expected to be lost in pits by 1994; Robert Haslam to see Scargill today.

British Midland wins its battle with the French Govt to offer London-Paris fare £75 cheaper than rivals (Independent).

Today, commenting on B/Telecom's profits this year of £2.5 billion, says there has to be something wrong with a business that generates such huge profits and such vast numbers of complaints.

Gateway supermarkets lower retirement age for men to 60.

London Boroughs attack Cecil Parkinson's resistance to traffic pricing.

Cecil Parkinson gave strong indication yesterday that plans for a high speed rail link between London and Channel Tunnel are in jeopardy (FT).

New laws to regulate timeshare developers to be called for in proposals coming before the International Bar Assn (Times).

Hillingdon comprehensive school, which is to opt out of local authority control, is to be given an unprecedented opportunity to influence educational policy under a scheme awaiting approval from Chris Patten (Times).

You appear to withdraw your support from the Cyclotron in letter to the Trust. But they say the situation is still "open to discussion" (Independent).

Irish Energy Secy says lives of Sellafield and other nuclear plant are being extended for economic reasons with no certainty they can meet safety standards.

Guardian leads with "UN warn of global timebomb - in Britain climate change could bring severe winter storms, overrunning of coastal defences and tropical diseases in South of England.

Spain may close 30 popular tourist beaches because of pollution (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Star campaigns against slaughter of seal pups by Russians who it claims are allowing them to live on farms until they change to adult fur; it says this is sickening and stupid.

Former Arts Council Secy General, Luke Rittner, says Council will "wither on the vine" in Arts Minister's plans to devolve funding power to the regions (Times).

Big rise in burglaries and auto crime so far this year - Today says its a crime how cops do not catch the robbers.

Prison Officers Assn ban Home Office officials from their annual conference.

Police Federation leaders to decide, in light of mood of conference, whether Home Secy should speak tomorrow.

Police Fedn say they were snubbed by refusal of Complaints Authority Chairman to attend their conference (Independent).

36 Bolton Wanderers supporters admit 72 charges of violence in 1988 - some of them sentenced to jail; all banned from World Cup.

Telegraph leads with this success for police undercover tactics.

New forensic tests have made the Maguire seven convictions unsafe, inquiry is told (Times).

Northern Ireland "troubles" cost British and Irish Govts £410million a year, bank report says (Independent).

3 charged with £1million blackmail over threat to contaminate Cadbury Easter eggs.

Mirror says an MI5 officer who sexually assaulted his young daughters to have his job kept open while he serves 14-month sentence.

Chief Inspector of Prisons recommends that the practice of "slopping out" in jails should be ended before the turn of the century (times).

Greek prosecutor decides there is no case to answer for driver of Iraqi supergun parts; he could be home next week; "the driver has been a prisoner of politics" (Star).

PRESS DIGEST

Experts examining 28 "nuclear triggers" handed over by Iraqi Embassy in London who claim they were sent to them through the post.

British tourist shot dead on holiday in Caribbean by robbers in front of his wife - two months after their son drowned at home in Cornwall.

Nine tourists shot and another stabbed as Arab seeks revenge for mass murder of Arabs at weekend.

US forces take effective control of Panama's border with Colombia in moves against drug traffickers and leftwing guerrillas (Independent).

President Bush expected to announce continuation of China's preferential trading status with the US, despite continued human rights abuses (Times).

Kashmir plunged into violence, in which 27 die, after assassination of leading political and religious leader (Times).

CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

Sun - You say world will get hotter.

Today - (incredibly) says you finally woke up to the threat of global warming yesterday.

Express - Chalky soil can be a problem at Chequers.

Mail - Maggie issues new alert on global warming.

Telegraph - Front page picture of you inspecting Telegraph garden.
Inside: Greenhouse effect threatens Britian's way of life.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Howard addresses Hotel and Catering Institutional Management Association, London; later opens the Woolworth Challenge Day, Norwich
- DEN: Mr Wakeham addresses the World Energy Council dinner, London
- DES: All DES Ministers attend "The future of A Levels" discussion over dinner, with head teachers and professors; Mr MacGregor later meets the National Union of Teachers and the Assistant Master and Mistresses Association; both London
- DH: Mr Clarke visits Manchester to announce £1 million for powered wheelchairs
- DSS: Mr Newton addresses the All-Party Disablement Group, London
- DTp: Mr Parkinson addresses third European Aerospace conference; later addresses Docklands Business Club; both London
- FCO: Mr Hurd meets Dr Jan COUNOGURFKY, Czechoslovak Deputy Prime Minister, London
- HO: Mr Waddington addresses Probation Committees annual general meeting, London; later addresses British Institute of Innkeeping
- LPC: Sir Geoffrey Howe lunches with British-Chilean Chamber of Commerce, London
- WO: Mr Hunt visits Pembrokeshire College, Haverfordwest
- CO: Mr Luce opens Equal Opportunities Officers' conference and addresses launch of programme of action on equal opportunities for ethnic minorities in the civil service, London; later opens British Eminences exhibition at Sotheby's, London and attends performance of the Merry Widow opera at Sadlers Wells
- DH: Mr Dorrell opens Healthcare exhibition, NEC Birmingham; later meets Inner London chairmen on "Capital Charges"
- DH: Lady Hooper attends Regional Alcohol Misuse Co-ordination meeting and lunch, King's Fund College
- DOE: Mr Chope addresses Wellingborough Businessmen's Club
- DTI: Mr Forth launches Home Safety Hazard Dome, Gateshead; later opens Cellnet radio exchange, Newcastle
- DTI: Mr Redwood speaks at International Freedom Foundation seminar on East-West Economic Relations; later addresses CBI business opportunities conference on 'Eastern Europe', London
- DTp: Mr McLoughlin attends RNLI presentation, Royal Festival Hall
- FCO: Mr Waldegrave meets Mr Gonzalo Torrico, Bolivian Minister of Social Defence, London

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

HO: Lord Ferrers chairs Central Fire Brigades Audit Committee
HO: Mr Patten visits Spitalfields Task Force
ODA: Mr Chalker addresses South Africa Foundation, London
WO: Mr Roberts attends Investiture ceremony and reception, Japanese Embassy, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTI: Mr Ridley visits Rome (to 23 May)
DSS: Mrs Shephard addresses Belgian Senate and National Labour Council about "British Social Security", Brussels

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

FCO: Mr Hurd interviewed by Peter Dobbie, Mail on Sunday
DES: Mr Howarth interviewed by Radio 4's "In Touch" programme

TV AND RADIO

"File on Four" BBC Radio 4 (7.20 pm)

"The Television Village" Ch 4 (8.00 pm)
Looks at the unique experiment of Waddington Village Television

"Black in Blue" new series BBC1 (8.30 pm)
Desmond Wilcox looks at black and Asian recruits to the police

"Check Out", new consumer series Ch 4 (8.30 pm)
