

June 19, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

- Prime Minister meets Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh, Sudan and Somalia
  - Ministerial Group on women's issues
  - ACOST report on developments in biotechnology
  - Mentally disordered offenders 1987-88
  - OPCS monitor, abortions, 1989
  - NSPCC publish child abuse figures
  - Office of Water Services first annual report
  - Treasury response to TCSC on international debt
  - Commons: Questions: MOD; Prime Minister  
Debate: Defence Estimates (concludes); EC scrutiny on organic food
  - Lords: Debate: Environment Protection Bill Cttee
  - Lord Chancellor dines with judges at Mansion House
  - Chancellor's dinner for Attali, EBRD
  - Home Secy addresses Assn of Civil Defence Officers
  - Foreign Secy meets Crown Prince of Morocco
  - John Wakeham opens one millionth insulated home (Pilkington)
  - Chris Patten at Country House Award; meets Arts Council
  - David Hunt at health promotion breakfast; visits Welsh firms
  - Michael Howard visits Italy
  - Virginia Bottomley at Women's National Cancer Control AGM
  - Richard Luce addresses Arts Incentive Funding Awards reception
  - John MacGregor interviewed by CBS
  - C4 looks at Waddington, Lancs, Cable TV village
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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Kinnock says 14 out of 15 taxpayers won't have to pay more under Labour. Kenneth Baker says this is "totally implausible".

Mirror describes it as an "often tetchy" interview with David Dimbleby.

Gordon Greig describes it as "raw and corrosive".

Mail headline: Kinnock falls into tax trap - talks himself into a corner with a promise he could find impossible to keep.

Elsewhere, Mail produces figures showing cost to individuals of putting Kinnock in No 10.

Coverage of your JY programme interview focusses on tougher action against high spending councils and possibility of a referendum linked to capping.

Defence budget cut by £600million - mainly Tornados; but not just a response to lower tension - also forced by inflation.

Times p1 lead says this is the first indication of the direction the Govt is taking in its review of defence needs after the upheaval in Eastern Europe. Leader says that on defence strategy there should be no place for romanticism in ministerial thinking. It calls for greater flexibility and concludes that the team handling the review includes some of the defence ministry's most forward-looking and free-thinking civil servants. What Mr King and the Cabinet need is a document that lays out precisely a short list of recommendations, radical enough to effect a genuine transformation of the armed services in the 1990s.

Telegraph on Service leaks thick and fast says the full weight of service bureaucracies will be deployed to bring about minimal change. It is incumbent on Ministers to show a sense of direction for the future and to treat self serving lobbying with the caution it merits.

Consultation paper on direction of MOD's thinking on the Defence Review to be circulated among Ministers before the end of month (FT).

GEC Ferranti to cut 550 jobs in Edinburgh defence systems factory.

PRESS DIGEST

James Guerrin, the man at the heart of the Ferranti arms contracts scandal, has been ordered to repay \$189million to the company (FT).

Express says Ministers must ensure the peace dividend is transferred directly into taxpayers' pocket.

Independent editorial says that as long as the Soviet Union, or its Russian core, remains essentially an undemocratic and mighty military power, democratic Europe must retain the ability to deter aggression from the East, however remote the possibility may now seem. The poorer and more chaotic the Soviet Union becomes, the more tempted a desperate government, embittered by failure and overwhelmed by circumstance, might be to bully or blackmail prosperous European democracies.

Police on Continent get fourth IRA gang member.

Times leader says the IRA is Europe's most dangerous indigenous terrorist gang and the arrests on the Dutch-Belgian border are a significant reward for the enhancement of co-operation between the EC's anti-terrorist forces over the past few years.

Two Americans and Irishman found guilty in Boston of plotting to send arms to IRA.

Irish Govt rejects criticism over Donna Maguire extradition case (Times).

Star says Donna Maguire was running wild thanks to Irish "justice". How can anyone believe Dublin is sincere in its avowed determination to stop the bombing?

Sun says we have come to expect Dublin to harbour and glamorise IRA murderers. But USA is little better - New York's Mayor having named a street corner after IRA terrorist.

Today says it is only because politicians like Haughey haven't the guts to close gaps in the law which let terrorists like Donna Maguire walk away; Britain and Ireland could make a similar deal to that of the Schengen group allowing police and armed forces to cross border to make arrests.

Mail leader says Europe's judges and politicians - especially in Ireland - must demonstrate that, when it comes to dealing with terror, justice itself knows no boundary.

PRESS DIGEST

Senior British policemen to urge setting-up of European police council to aid co-operation in face of growing terrorism and Schengen agreement to abolish border checks (Independent).

EC refuse to sign trade deal with Romania because of Govt's treatment of protesters.

Three leaders of anti-Communist protests in Romania arrested in police swoops yesterday. Union of Free Romanians claim miners killed 21 during weekend rampage.

Mirror thinks there is greater hope in Bulgaria than in Romania notwithstanding their electing the Socialist - and former Communist - party.

George Schopflin, lecturer on East European politics at the LSE, writing in the Times under the heading "Might mob rule spread to Romania's neighbours?", sees economic advance as the key to the consolidation of East European democracy.

Air fares could plummet after EC transport ministers agree a sweeping package of measures to open air routes to the full blast of competition (Times).

Legal & General offer career women 25% pay rise if they return to work after having a baby.

W H Smith offer their staff 43% to stop them joining supermarkets.

Lord Rayner gets 46% (£200,000) pay rise for steering Marks & Spencer to record profits.

John Egan (ex-Jaguar) becomes chief executive of BAA.

Walkout at Jaguar costs £5million a day in lost production.

Independent editorial welcomes the robust and sensible free-market views of Nicholas Ridley on the car trade with Japan. The EC should tell Japan "Open your doors. Make it impossible for us to deny you access to the EC car market".

First and second class stamps to go up 2p to 22p and 17p from September 17.

Express says it hasn't noticed a 12% improvement in service. There is no mystery about the Royal Mail's behaviour: it is a monopoly.

PRESS DIGEST

Today objects. No other business in Britain could get away with these increases because none is so cushioned as Post Office. You should end the monopoly.

An image of Britain paralysed by traffic jams, scorned by its continental counterparts and isolated economically on the edge of Europe outlined by John Banham (Times).

Proposals to build a fifth terminal at Heathrow may be scrapped after the Transport Dept's refusal to meet all but a small proportion of the cost (Times).

Today says you are determined MCA theme and film park should come here.

Assn of University Teachers says quality of teaching at universities will decline sharply unless Govt increases funding to meet expected rises in student numbers (Times).

Mail says a 14 year old cricketer has been banned from a trial with a Manchester area side because his school became self governing. Leader says this isn't cricket. Those adults who take such decisions are infantile.

District Auditor rules NE Derbyshire council was wrong to use a council newspaper for party propaganda purposes - it attacked you and community charge.

Peter Jenkins, in Independent, says that local referendums would provide a figleaf of democracy as the Govt moves, essentially, towards asserting central control over local expenditure. Local democracy has never been high on the list of this Govt's concerns, all the talk of accountability notwithstanding. The party managers are fearful of another parliamentary rumpus if there is more community charge legislation, and doubt whether the referendum idea would even reach the statute book.

Guardian says English local authorities are to submit bids for £5billion more spending to drive average community charge above £500.

Tories in Lambeth accuse hard Left councillors of obstructing correction of community charge to engineer a confrontation with Govt.

PRESS DIGEST

Woodrow Wyatt, in the Times, looks at the findings of community charge in the Local Govt Chronicle which he says received scant coverage in those upmarket newspapers which have a lofty disdain for the charge. It is councils suffering from software failure and incompetence that are in trouble. Plymouth, with a 50% collection rate, sent out 18% of its bills only in the week ending 9 June. Sheffield, with a strike in its benefit section, has a large rebates backlog. Generally, the trend seems to be that collection and refusal to pay are no more than under the old rates system, often better. Letters of complaint about the charge have almost vanished and the new system is settling down remarkably quickly. He adds that by the next election the new system will be so embedded that the upheaval in it proposed by Labour, supported by influential voices, will be extremely unpopular.

Mirror alleges 7 student nurses in Truro have been told there are no jobs for them, just as they are about to take their final exams, because of NHS cuts.

No 10 Policy Unit privately canvassed London boroughs on postponing the community care changes, behind the back of Kenneth Clarke (Independent).

House prices to fall by up to 5% over next 6 months, according to Phillips & Drew.

Environmental groups attack Govt for refusing to join EC move to ban wall of death driftnet fishing without scientific tests.

Michael Heseltine will take Govt to task over two key areas of its environment policy, reform of the National Conservancy Council and the fight against global warming, when he addresses the Tory Reform Group this evening (Times).

Picture of you in the Times at home in Islington under the heading "Home energy plan points to £1.8billion a year savings target".

Labour demands more help for wind power firms (Times).

Mirror says MAFF has secretly been ordered a clean up of abattoirs because of BSE.

Crystal Palace fan, 40, who led trouble outside World Cup game between England and Holland twice tried to become a Labour MP - Hove ('83) and S. Thanet ('87).

Sun praises Scots fans for their behaviour as 14 English fans given suspended jail sentences in Sardinia and ordered to leave.

PRESS DIGEST

Sardinia police chief denies brutality at World Cup.

Assn to Metropolitan Authorities says curbs on local authority spending will raise council house rents by up to 25% (Times).

Independent reports a cool reception from Govt's homeless hostels plan from rough sleepers and campaign groups (Independent).

Sun says many living in cardboard boxes have decided begging is an easier way to earn a living than an honest day's work. It is prepared to bet that within a few months of putting them into hostels they will be back with begging bowls.

Times leader discusses the young homeless saying the alarm and pity of the populace has at last communicated itself to the Govt. It adds that concentrating on the capital first might prove to have been a miscalculation, for one result could be to make London a more attractive place to the homeless. It calls for a more fundamental attack on the complex phenomenon as merely to move "cardboard cities" indoors will not be enough.

Peace returns to ITN; Alastair Burnet regrets his letter to an MP criticising reluctance to privatise ITN was made public.

Express says, however, ITN told him to keep quiet or go.

Express says Edwina Currie was booed by Wogan audience for suggesting Prince Charles spent a day talking to plants.

Telegraph hopes that before she returns she has learned to put a sock in it.

P A J Waddington, Director of Criminal Justice Studies at Reading University, in the Times, argues against proposals to institute an officer class for the police. He says that a divorce between subordinates with street knowledge and supervisors without it would further extend the already wide and damaging gulf between the ranks.

Sir Frederick Lawton, former Appeal judge, backs a judicious amalgam of the old and new system of staffing top jobs in police. The criticism that army officers would have no understanding of the role of the police in society is ill-founded.

You and Mandela spoke for the first time on telephone on Sunday (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Independent says there is some confusion as to who called whom.

Hugo Young says Labour should say that foreign money and not a foreign embargo would help avenge a century of penal servitude.

Threat of cancellation of Mandela concert in New York; thousands of tickets unsold at 57,000 seat Yankee Stadium.

Fears that Gaddafi may be building a second chemical warfare plant.

Newsweek claims up to 9 US troops were killed by their own side and 200 similarly wounded during invasion of Panama.

Civil War officially declared in part of Sri Lanka as thousands of refugees flee the front line (Independent).

Shamir invites Syria for peace talks in move to appease US critics (Independent).

Fears that Liberia fighting is to resume as peace talks between Govt and rebels are suspended (Independent).

KINNOCK'S BROADCAST

Star - No pay bonanza from Labour warns Kinnock. Bad news for unions. No automatic pot of gold at foot of rainbow.

Sun - 93% of you won't pay any more tax if I'm Premier; Kinnock promises boom. Mortgages will tumble and millions of public sector workers will close pay gap with other workers. It says his claims make nonsense of his pledges.

Mirror - I won't put up taxes, pledges Neil.

Today - You won't feel the change, says Neil.

Times says Kinnock insists that under a future Labour Govt social and economic improvements would depend on improved industrial performance (Times).

Express - Kinnock's tax riddle. He became the incredible "No ma" last night with a promise of no tax rises for 14 out of 15 people. At a stroke he increased the number who will pay no more more from John Smith's 80% to 93%. Another hole in the credibility of Labour's plans.

Mail leads with Kinnock walking into tax trap.

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph puts interview deep inside alongside an account of yours  
- Kinnock offsets tax rise with bigger benefits.

Guardian - Kinnock gives 'no higher taxes' pledge.

YOUR BROADCAST

Star - Maggie blitz on big spending councils.

Sun - Give votes referendum veto on tax loonies. And "Maggie raps  
U-turn Ted".

Mirror - Poll tax cruncher to cap high spending councils.

Today - £100 off poll tax and sack for big spenders - major  
shake-up as you promise Jimmy Young "we shall get it right".

Times - You signal your readiness to use more councils capped over  
the size of their community charges.

Express - You intend to fight like a tiger to win the next  
election.

Telegraph - Europe will not abolish the pound., And under story  
headed "local poll tax vote and wider capping urged by Thatcher".

Guardian - Prime Minister bullish in monetary union fight.

FT - You balk at prospect of single currency for Europe.

FT - You pledged to take on increasingly hard line on charge  
capping high spending authorities and hinted at help for 2-home  
owners in JY prog interview.