

June 29, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

- You see Sonny Ramphal; host lunch for NATO's Secretary-General; and visit Grocers Hall to view your portrait
 - EC Research Council, Luxembourg
 - Housing and construction stats (Q1)
 - International comparisons, transport stats 1970-87
 - ? Royal Assent, NHS Bill; Food Safety Bill
 - Commons: Private Members Motions: Disabled
 - Lords: Debate: 2nd Rdg, Hong Kong Bill
 - Chancellor speaks in Southend
 - Lord Chancellor visits Uxbridge and Willesden County Courts
 - Norman Lamont addresses Portcullis Club
 - Malcolm Rifkind chairs World Business Forum, Edinburgh
 - Nicholas Ridley at Engineering Employers' seminar, Birmingham
 - John MacGregor speaks at King's College Fellows dinner
 - Kenneth Clarke opens Pilgrim Hospital, Lincs; interviewed by Radio Notts.
 - Tom King visits HMS Sultan, Portsmouth
 - David Hunt visits Aberdare exhib; opens offices, Cardiff
 - Michael Portillo at Assn of District Councils conf, Harrogate
 - BBC Radio 4 Any Questions? with Tony Newton, George Robertson, Auberon Waugh and Sheila McKechnie (Shelter)
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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Times - Britain accepts Rover subsidy edict. In a flurry of letters last night, Kinnock repeats his challenge to you to reveal how much you knew at the time of the sweeteners to BAe. At the same time Brown & Carlile both write to Nicholas Ridley demanding that he reveal the legal advice given to Lord Young.

A defiant Nicholas Ridley flings down new challenge to EC chiefs saying the £33.4million they want repaid should be nearer £22million Mail.

Sun - You rap Kinnock in House over Rover deal. Editorial says both the Labour Party and the EC Commission throw money at problems, yet criticise the Govt over Rover. If ever there was a decision in the national interest, this was. More than 190,000 jobs have been safeguarded and most importantly, the taxpayer will never have to fork out another penny on Rover.

Tory backbenchers accuse Labour of muckraking and denigrating a deal which secured a prosperous future for Rover and saved 190,000 car jobs Express.

An Independent editorial attacks the arrogant, grudging way in which Nicholas Ridley accepts the EC verdict on Rover. Yet those who can bring themselves to say "I made a mistake ... no excuses" usually benefit. Ministerial responsibility entails the ability to apologise without equivocation.

You are rattled as you refuse again and again to say what you knew about the Rover scandal Mirror.

Telegraph feature looks at Leon Brittan's tough stance as an EC Commissioner saying that some think he is now gathering too much power.

Prince of Wales kept in hospital after breaking arm in two places while playing polo Times.

Today - You are to unveil today at the Grocers Hall a portrait painted of you by Michael Noakes.

Labour pledge to dismantle Govt's key health reforms, but say it will keep many elements Times.

PRESS DIGEST

Secret data collected by a cross-section of nine local education authorities shows that tests on 350,000 seven year olds reveal the biggest drop in reading standards for more than 40 years

Telegraph.

Telegraph - Attack on Cecil Parkinson over his handling of nuclear power fails to elicit a defence from you in the Commons yesterday. Leader says you may have to consider sooner than you might wish whether you can afford to respect Mr Parkinson's dignity, and maintain your own loyalty to him, when vital political issues are at stake.

Express editorial says Cecil Parkinson did a power of good in the nuclear row. For years, under successive administrations, Parliament and public were misled about the real costs of nuclear generation. It is to Mr Parkinson's credit that it was he who insisted on publishing the figures.

Former Ministers warn current Cabinet of penalty of being 'yes' men when it comes to implementing your policies. "Cecil didn't do his homework". We say "He was too anxious to deliver the policy. Patten and Clarke have got to be strong enough to say 'no' if they don't think they can deliver everything she wants" Independent.

Mirror feature looks at Cecil Parkinson and Lord Young, two Tory courtiers who fell from grace. Like many a racecourse favourite, Cecil couldn't stand the pace. David Young was your creation. You found him, promoted him, elevated him to the peerage - and dumped him.

Sun - Car theft leads to big surge in crime, but number of sex offences falls. You reject suggestions police morale is poor and say Britain still a much safer place to live.

Times leader says that the worse than useless crime figures reinforce a false impression of the true state of community behaviour in Britain and should never be published without the clearest health warning.

Mail says that despite the disturbing crime figures, Britain suffers less than many European countries, and far less than America. Leader describes Hattersley's reaction to the crime figures as beneath contempt.

Police throughout Britain ready to declare war on violent begging
Express.

PRESS DIGEST

OECD says Eastern Europe risks being asset-stripped by western investors rather than receiving the long-term investment it needs Times.

Govt's high interest policy is on course to bring down inflation and close trade gap according to OECD Mail.

Under the heading that you are cast adrift in the Brussels tide, Joe Rogaly, writing in the FT, says we have only the option of making the best of the fact that Germany and France will run the EC until the end of the century. Until we have someone in Downing Street willing and capable to conduct EC debates on a proper level, we have little chance of influencing the enterprise and none of breaking up the two-man management team.

You forge alliance with Tony Benn and Peter Shore on EC trends Guardian.

You are urged to reply to Wallace's claim that a civil servant attempted to smear Charles Haughey with IRA connections Independent.

Brian Griffiths and other senior Govt advisers at seminar on family, reflecting importance you attach to the subject Independent.

According to EC figures Britons are the second worst - next to Holland - in Europe for taking time off work sick Mail.

FT - Malcolm Rifkind orders investigation into Scottish steel industry after declaring information so far provided not sufficient to justify closing Ravenscraig.

FT - European Court orders West Germany to suspend proposed lorry tax.

Times leader discussing "ring fencing" of govt grants to pay for community care of the mentally ill says councillors have rightly complained against the constant intervention in their affairs by Whitehall under you. But now they have a chance to prove that, without intervention, they can do well by the most disadvantaged members of the community.

PRESS DIGEST

Govt has retreated from plans to take sweeping new legislative powers to curb local authority spending as a way of holding down poll tax bills next year, as you are persuaded universal capping legislation would be unworkable. Cabinet Cttee concerned resigned to increasing the grant to local authorities by between £2billion and £2.5billion and to providing additional transitional relief FT.

Assn of District Councils says substantial increases in the community charge are inevitable next year if Ministers give way to mounting pressure to curb business rate rises in order to protect industry Times.

Today - Magistrates in Warrington adjourn cases against poll tax non-payers after 300 people besiege court.

Mirror accuses Kenneth Clarke of not telling the truth when he denies that GPs are dumping patients to save money. Leader says Clarke must go as he lied about the NHS reforms and the Mirror's evidence of GPs abandoning patients in cost-cutting exercise. If he cares to repeat his lies outside the House of Commons, we will sue him.

Britain faces threat of prosecution in EC courts because more than 100 beaches fail to meet EC standards Times.

Sun - Most of those English soccer fans deported from Italy had criminal records.

Today - Environmental Investigation Agency warns dolphins could be virtually extinct in 10 years time.

President Bush ducks for cover as tax storm blows up Times.

FT - Mr Brooke's manoeuvres aimed at bringing Northern Ireland constitutional political parties to negotiating table suffer setback after his meeting with Irish Foreign Ministers.

FCO suffering alarming manpower and budgetary problems as the opening up of Eastern Europe and rapid political change elsewhere in the world forces it to redeploy staff at a time of recruitment difficulties.

Today - NUR general secy predicts up to 20,000 jobs could go, and fares rise 50% if BR is privatised.

FT - Mitsui in £90 million plan to build Docklands apartments.

PRESS DIGEST

Attempt by lottery agents in West Germany to take Britain to court for banning sale of their tickets in this country will be firmly resisted Telegraph.

16 million drivers face exhaust gas MOT check next year Mail.

Mandela's praise for Cuba brings a snub by Miami when he arrives there Times.

More than 20,000 Communist party members in Moscow have applied to quit the party Times.

FT editorial reviews the forthcoming battle between left and right wings of the Soviet Communist Party, and the West's thinking on how to support the rightwing tendency. It concludes little can be done: the pent-up forces must slug it out. But the comforting thought is that there is nowhere for the left to go in the world. This is the last empire breaking up.

FT - Saudi Arabian plans to buy more than £1 billion worth of tornado aircraft are in serious doubt.

FT - Japan and the US conclude an unprecedented pact on economic reforms to open markets, promote growth and "enhance the quality of life" of their citizens.