

November 22, 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister attends Memorial Service for those killed in Deal bombing; later attends reception given by the Conservative Medical Society, Royal College of Surgeons

The Princess of Wales attends a Gala Dinner in aid of The Aids Crisis Trust at Clivedon, Taplow, Berkshire

Water privatisation - share price announcement

Keep Warm, Keep Well campaign

Bills: NHS; Student Loans; Coal Industry

STATISTICS

DOE: Construction - new orders (Sept prov)

PUBLICATIONS

DES: MIACE/REPLAN report on 'Maturing Assets'

HMT: Autumn Statement document

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: Consideration of the Motion relating to Private Members' Time
The Debate on the Address will be continued (2nd day)
The Debate will concentrate on Industry on the Environment

Adjournment Debates: The funding of the Blackpool, Uyre and Fyle District Health Authority (Mr M Jack)

Lords: DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS - First Day

The Debate will concentrate on FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE

PRESS DIGESTMain News

The poppier pops say Commons TV is a big yawn, but that verdict is not supported by Mail and qualities.

You win a narrow points victory after a nervous opening.

Queen's Speech generally (apart from Guardian which sees Thatcherism shifting into lower gear) seen as brisk business as usual. Quality of life theme comes through strongly and omission of a promise of tax cuts widely noted.

TV critics bring out the importance of the behaviour of those - and in your case Cabinet Ministers and Kinnock's Front Benchers - sitting next to you and in camera shot.

"Colour clash" noted - how predominant colour of Tory women MPs was red.

Reports say you are certain to face a challenge for the leadership next month.

Meyer says he will stand if no-one else does, but others are talking of launching another - more substantial - candidate. Express say some fear as many as 60 Tory MPs might abstain. Many Tories predicted your star performance yesterday may yet discourage dissidents from going ahead.

Peter Jenkins, in Independent, says any leadership challenge is more likely to fizzle out than fester, and the end of Thatcherism will not be an event, but rather a gradual process, like convalescence. Referring to the televising of Parliament, he comments that your performance in the House will be a factor in reversing the fortunes of the Government, but performance of the economy will also be important.

Sterling closed yesterday at its lowest level for nearly 3 years as gloom pervades the markets because of concern over tomorrow's trade figures and your political fortunes (Independent).

Express leader headed "How the Tories face losing all" says before a month is out we shall know whether the Tories are paving the way for a fourth election victory or choosing to commit suicide. Your departure would virtually guarantee the loss of the next election no matter who took over the reins.

PRESS DIGEST

Delors outlines radical plan for a European Government that would be stronger, more effective and more accountable to European and national parliaments (Times).

Gorbachev backs reform in Czechoslovakia.

Meanwhile Jakes (Czechoslovakia); Zhivkov (Bulgaria) who is expected to be banished to internal exile; and Zaikov (hardline Moscow party chief), who is removed, in trouble.

Czech leader raises hope of power sharing but warns that he does not want anarchy and chaos and there are certain limits beyond which the Government will not go. Meanwhile in East Germany reforms may be slower than expected with Krenz saying free elections would be sometime between the end of 1990 and spring of 1991 (Times).

Independent says Bonn is to hold back aid to East Germany until reforms introduced. There is speculation that Kohl is playing for time on date for proposed German summit, as West Germans believe Krenz will not last long.

Genscher officials say in Washington that the chances of NATO's short-range missiles in Germany being replaced have been killed by events in East Germany (Times).

Genscher has called for a new dynamic in East-West arms control to keep pace with changes in Eastern Europe during visit to Washington.

Times leader discusses the US defence budget saying pressure to bring troops home from Europe is nothing new. But for Britain, the most Atlantically-minded of the NATO allies, its ability to counter such a trend appears weaker than for many years. You have the clearest view of all NATO leaders of the role of US troops in cementing the alliance and deterring the enemy. But your role in European Councils has become that of the outsider, and your influence over President Bush less than it was with his predecessor.

West Midlands managers claim some ambulance crews are ignoring 999 calls.

Ambulance unions plead with Kenneth Clarke to drop troop plan and go to arbitration.

PRESS DIGEST

Ambulancemen to ban all but accident and emergency work from midnight with no sign of a breakthrough in the increasingly bitter dispute. But Tory dominated West Berkshire Health Authority has passed motion calling for immediate negotiations "with recourse to independent arbitration". Police and army vehicles mobilised again yesterday in London (Independent).

Express feature accuses scribblers and economists of collectively trying to talk the country into a full blown recession. And it praises John Banham, CBI for attacking the "lemming tendency". Many businessmen share his view.

Eight of the world's leading chemical firms joining forces to find a substitute for CFCs (Independent).

Air France to buy 11 Airbus 340s. Pan Am to buy 40 BAe commuter airliners worth \$210million (FT).

Mail says a BA jet came within 100 feet of crash landing on a hotel in fog at Heathrow yesterday.

BAA says Prestwick may face closure if it loses its exclusive position as Scotland's international gateway (Times).

SMMT says Britain's leading exporters could move factories to Northern France unless something is done about road congestion.

BR chairman says senior management in disarray because difficulty Government is having in finding a replacement for him (Times).

TSB to reduce staff by 5,000 over next 4 years.

Domestic electricity prices to be frozen for 3 years under deal between British Coal and electricity industry.

CEGB to press ahead with application to build Hinkley C nuclear power plant, arguing that there are advantages to finishing the inquiry even though immediate construction is no longer on the cards. Independent Science Editor says sorry story of nuclear power in UK is classic illustration of inability of Government, industry and financial institutions to cope with complexities of today's high technology.

Peter Brooke says the IRA will never win, making a renewed attempt to restore faith in anti-terrorist fight (Times).

Northern Ireland Police Federation attack Mr Brooke's earlier comments saying "Careless talk cost lives".

PRESS DIGEST

In the Court of Appeal, Lord Donaldson calls Sinn Fein/IRA broadcasting ban as "half-baked" (Independent).

Experts stunned by Health Education Council closing its AIDS division and demoting its director (Times).

Buckinghamshire Tory councillors block re-introduction of grammar schools (Times).

Mirror says C4 will put on its insider trading programme after a wrangle with the IBA. Leader says IBA went too far in trying to tamper with the programme and trying - and failing - to get C4 to preface the programme by saying Cecil Parkinson had behaved according to standard Ministerial practice.

BBC planning a rented satellite sports and arts channel in the 1990s.

Editors of national newspapers meet on how to curb worst excesses of press. Agree on a general code of conduct to be published later this week.

Royal Opera House and Royal Shakespeare Company critical of Arts Council's 11% increase as it fails to meet deficit (Times).

Eight former Service chiefs, in letter to the Times, call for improvements to pre-1973 war widows' pensions.

Macfarlane trust has decided to refuse any extra Government cash in case doing so undermines a separate campaign for legally determined compensation for haemophiliacs affected (Independent).

Notts Forest soccer player admits he threatened to set a Mafia hitman on to his former agent in Munich over £4,000.

George Bush says he is ready to take military action to protect US citizens in El Salvador. One British military adviser held among those detained by rebels in hotel.

Telegraph reports that thousands of Vietnamese are living and working in harsh conditions in USSR doing jobs Russians won't do.

COMMONS TV

Star - So boring Commons gets on your box - voted a yawn. TV appraisal: It's jaw and disorder.

PRESS DIGEST

Sun - Commons TV voted big yawn. Unlikely to topple Coronation Street from the top of the ratings; Leader: Commons TV will never be a hit. The result of MPs protective rules is dull, sanitised, misleading, dishonest. Dallas without JR.

Sun also lets TV critics and fashion writers loose on Commons - one says you were masterful and another says Tories won fashion stakes, with you a knockout. But they don't think much of it as TV.

Mirror leads with "Sir Geoffrey nods off in front of Commons cameras" - thereby "upstaging" you. Pages 2&3 - It's welcome to the Neil, Maggie, Edwina and woolly sheep helmet show - no sex, just a lot of rhubarb, rhubarb. TV critic says Kinnock got going in his usual manner of auditioning for an Eisteddfod and your speech came as an enormous relief. You were brisk and bright.

Today leads with John Major stifling a yawn while you are talking, under heading "What Chancellor thought of the new show. Wake up you're on TV". One big yawn", its TV critic concludes. Political correspondent says you abandoned your abrasive style and oozed grace and modesty.

Leader says that although they have passionately supported Commons TV they have the nasty morning-after feeling that they may have backed a flop. But in the long run it must force reform.

Express says most believed Commons TV was a great turn off. Edward Pearce says you are over acting to camera, but you were steadily improving, softer, quieter and sweeter than you have been for some time.

Mail pl lead - The Maggie and Neil Show. More dynamic than many broadcasters dare hope. And far better than most politicians feared. Yours was a characteristic, gritty performance, but fine tuned for TV. Kinnock equally impressive. TV critic, Peter Paterson, says it was hardly ever boring. Kinnock seemed more at ease than you. After a nervous start you almost invited Labour MPs to interrupt and the effect contradicted the image of an authoritative steam rolling Prime Minister but also undermined the image of strength you like to convey. But on TV you were more human.

Colin Welch says you won on points.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail p2 - Maggie blueprint to build on years of success. A powerful programme of action. Pages 16&17 - Green light for '90s revolution. Leader says that against against a demoralising background the Prime Minister has done the only sensible thing, sounded the advance. It's business as usual - and no slacking on the Tory backbenches.

Times says consensus among MPs is that Kinnock won first round in the televising of Parliament. Leader says both you and Kinnock were in singularly emollient form. Seldom, if ever, has either given way to more interventions from backbenchers.

FT - Both you and Kinnock appeared to tailor your performances to suit television and were markedly more reserved than in recent clashes during Question Time (FT).

As Neil Kinnock got into his stride, flinging scornful phrases across the table, the magic of the old cockpit began to seep out of the screen straight into the sitting room (FT).

You scored by giving way gracefully to the Opposition who too late discovered your skill at massive retaliation.

FT leader says of televising the House that it showed that the fate of the Government will be decided by television - and the conduct of the next election will almost certainly be tailored to the TV cameras.

On yesterday it says you were not at your best in an immediate combative response but showed your most outstanding qualities and a smiling courtesy when delivering your address.

Independent leader says you, as usual, out-performed Mr Kinnock in yesterday's televised debate. But the performance of the economy will have the most effect on the Government's prospects, more than the legislation outlined yesterday.

Telegraph - You adopted a more relaxed and conciliatory style and gave way 13 times. Sketchwriter says stage struck MPs revel in role of star performers on box. It was not Kinnock of the Dispatch Box but Kinnock of the conference platform. This was Thatcher not of the Dispatch Box, nor of the conference platform, but of the peak rate, long distance telephone call. You also showed alarming amounts of courtesy. Clearly loving it.

Guardian political correspondent says Kinnock seemed to win the instant TV ratings war. Leader says rarely have you emerged with so vibrant with sweet reason.

PRESS DIGESTQUEEN'S SPEECH

Star p4 - Hope of greener, greater Britain. Channel 5 gets into the picture. Leader says there was plenty of stick in the new policies but not a shred of carrot. What people really want is a prosperous, booming Britain which gives us opportunities for all. That's what this Government used to be good at. Where has it all gone wrong?

Sun p2 - You are all £55 a week better off. Maggie in TV blast. It describes you as Commons TV star. Leader headed "You've never had it so good" says you did not look embattled or under challenge and you gloried in your Government's record. It is disappointed further tax cuts have been postponed - not for long, it hopes. But despite economic problems the Government, under you, is still on course for prosperity.

Mirror p2 - Tories Tough Time Ahead.

Today p4 - 2p tax sting by Maggie the charmer. That is its forecast of income tax rise. Inside pages 14&15 give extensive coverage to the Queen's Speech provisions.

Express p7 - Thatcher has her sights set on shake up and good life for all. All systems go as crusade continues.

Times p1 - Quality of life is the theme of what could be the last full Parliamentary session before a 1991 General Election. Leader says on the whole it is a programme likely to be less onerous than in most recent sessions but the most important test for the Government will be whether it can halt inflation without recession.

Robin Oakley, assessing the Government's new programme in the Times, describes it as radicalism in soft focus.

FT leads with "Thatcher softens line on EC". It suggests a Strasbourg rift may be averted as you adopted a more emollient tone in the House yesterday on negotiations with EC partners over the Social Charter and EMU. You put inflation before tax cuts as top priority - dropping the now traditional reference to tax cuts from the Speech.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent identifies key areas of controversy: the creation of an internal NHS market and overhaul of the legal profession. Elsewhere the paper comments that the Green Bill, long seen as overdue, is predestined to be seen only as a catching-up operation, and thus a disappointment to environmental groups.

Independent - You defend Britain's frequent isolation in international affairs. The theme of your speech was that this Government had turned the country round from the socialist decline of the 1970s to make the 1980s a decade of strength and pride.

Telegraph leads with quality of life issues at top of Tory agenda. Promises of tax cuts omitted from Queen's Speech. Leader headed "A heavy programme" says those who wanted an easier pace could have saved their breath. It reflects your conviction, which it shares, that a tremendous amount remains to be done to bring this country up to the mark. The heaviest responsibility rests on the Minister without a radical reform measure - the Chancellor.

Guardian p1 lead "Thatcherism shifts to low gear", signalling a retreat from the Thatcherite agenda to calmer waters of wider consumer choice and quality of life.

Guardian says the juggernaut rolls on yet the brake lights are being gently applied.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler attends Jobclub 5th Birthday celebrations, London
- DES: Mr MacGregor launches the Thameside Campus for King's College, London
- DH: Mr Clarke and Lady Hooper attend press conference on NHS Bill; Lady Hooper later attends Keep Warm/Keep Well launch, London
- DTI: Mr Ridley addresses Autocar and Motor Awards, London
- MOD: Mr King and Mr Hamilton attend Royal Marine Band Memorial Service, Canterbury Cathedral
- DEM: Mr Nicholls dines at the National Association of Port Employers
- DEM: Lord Strathclyde addresses the second round of the EC Comett Programme, QEII Conference Centre, London; later opens the National Trust Shop at British Travel Centre, London
- DES: Mr Jackson visits the London Business School
- DES: Mrs Rumbold makes keynote speech at AS level exams conference
- DH: Mrs Bottomley attends National Children's Bureau reception, House of Commons
- DH: Mr Freeman attends North Western District Health Authority Chairman's meeting; later meets Tony Lloyd MP re Trafford Health Authority; also meets Sir Peter Hordern, Sir John Nabarro and Professor Sanksen re Information Technology and St Thomas' Hospital
- DRI: Mr Hogg opens The Creation Business exhibition, Design Council
- FCO: Mr Waldegrave addresses British Lebanese Association on "The Lebanon and The Peace Process," Café Royal, London
- HMT: Lord Caithness visits HM Customs and Excise, Felixstowe
- HO: Mr Patten gives keynote speech at Playgroup Aid Campaign conference, Mermaid Theatre, London
- OAL: Mr Luce speaks at launch of British Library computerised catalogue, London
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DEM: Mr Eggar addresses Centre for European Policy Studies lunch, Brussels
- DTp: Mr Portillo attends European Conference of Ministers of Transport, Paris (to 23 November)
- HMT: Mr Lillev addresses MEP's on EMU, Strasbourg
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

HO: Mr Mellor appears on "Open Air", BBC 1

OAL: Mr Luce interviewed on Radio 3 "Third Ear" programme (prov)

TV AND RADIO

"Westminster" BBC 2 (8.15) New series First report from Houses of Parliament

"Dispatches" Ch 4 (20.30)
