

13 January 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets Senator Biden (photocall)

Prime Minister speaks at FPA lunch

NEDC

DHSS meets Presidents of Royal Colleges

ms

STATISTICS

DEM: Overseas travel and tourism (Oct)

PUBLICATIONS

DES: Assessment of Performance Unit 'Language Performance Review Monitoring'

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Trade and Industry; Environment; Scotland

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Medical Examination of Children at Risk
Social Security Bill: Conclusion of Remaining Stages
Income and Corporation Taxes Bill (Lords): 2nd Reading
(CONSOLIDATION MEASURE)
Motion relating to the Scottish Affairs Select Committee

Adjournment Debate: The closure of Firebeck Hospital (Mr K Barron)

Select Committees: EMPLOYMENT
Subject: Manpower Services Commission
Witness: Sir James Nunn, Chairman, Manpower Services Commission

TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE

Subject: i) European Community Finance
ii) Proposed approximation of indirect taxation

Witnesses: Rt Hon Peter Brooke MP, Paymaster General
and Mr Peter Lilley MP, Economic Secretary to the Treasury

PARLIAMENT (cont'd)
Select Committees: (cont'd)

JOINT COMMITTEE
PRIVATE BILL PROCEDURE
Witness: Lord Chairman of Committees

Lords: Starred Questions
Debate to call attention to the case for devolved government in Scotland
Debate to call attention to the growing problem of environmental pollution
UQ to ask HMG whether they will now set up a Press Standards Council similar to the Broadcasting Standards Council recently announced by the Home Secretary

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

NHS continues to dominate....

Nurses claim victory in their fight to keep special duty allowances; Government's pledge in climbdown brings peace to wards.

Mail says that after sidestepping a showdown on nurses' pay, a Cabinet split over the NHS emerged - a group of Ministers are alarmed at the way the NHS controversy is running out of control and want more money spent. You are impatient with Mr Moore who, supporters say, has rapped a few knuckles on his return.

Kinnock backs suspended Labour MP who interrupted prayers; Sun leader says that since the MP claims to be a practising Catholic his next confession should be interesting.

Liberals and SDP agree radical manifesto and to call themselves Social and Liberal Democrats; will accept Trident.

16 Tory MPs vote against Government on child benefit - claims that Government made a pledge to increase it in line with inflation rejected.

Leon Brittan, Norman Tebbit and Michael Heseltine join forces to criticise Government's plans to end automatic regional aid grants.

Gorbachev warns Soviet Union to choose between reform under him or disaster - no alternative.

UN envoy barred from Gaza refugee camp; leaders of Britain's Jewish community call for Thatcher-Shamir talks.

Today says 2 senior Ulster detectives and up to 6 junior officers are to be charged following "shoot to kill" inquiry launched by John Stalker.

Mail says a dynamic new generation of young executives is emerging to give Britain's industry a powerful new wealth creating thrust.

Captain of Zeebrugge disaster ferry likely to face criminal charges in Belgium.

Economist Intelligence Unit forecasts price cutting in car market to stimulate sales.

France blocks cheaper air fares on London-Paris route, according to Harry Goodman, tour operator.

Building workers on the Canary Wharf development to work to a Jewish contract - never on Saturdays and five extra days off for Jewish holidays.

Survey of opinion shows 87% in favour of longer drinking hours on Sunday.

Sir Ralph Halpern tells Burton shareholders group has nothing to hide from DTI investigation.

Mirror critical of Mr Justice Owen for saying 12 year old rape victim was foolish to go to home of man, 19. Judge abdicated his responsibility and if he doesn't resign he should be sacked.

Woman wins High Court damages of £23,000 because her life was made a misery by Hell's Angels who bought house next door.

Illegitimacy rate has more than doubled in 10 years.

Scottish judge regrets he made Cavendish injunction.

Poor exam results of high spending Labour education authorities revealed by Government statistics - ILEA top of spending; 86 out of 96 in exam league table.

Guardian says Government has skipped a generation in appointing an insider, Patrick Walker, to head MI5; Times also covers appointment.

Worries over England's meeting Holland in European Soccer Cup because between them they have worst hooligans on Continent.

Archbishop Runcie says he is sure Terry Waite is still alive.

Nicholas Witchell, BBC news reader, banned for drunk driving.

Express praises Foreign Secretary for telling Japan to open its markets. It is absurd Japan is allowed to close its markets to partners from whom it reaps billions and barely contributes to region's defence.

Mail says Sir Geoffrey winced when he was introduced as "Iron Lady's soft wife".

Gaddafi defends his support for IRA in its "just cause".

DTI REVAMP

Ignored by Star. Sun: Lord Young halts scandal of firms cashing in on grants to job blackspots. Selective aid introduced.

Today says scrapping of automatic regional development grants is long overdue. When jobs march back North it will be because of market forces and not because of any Government subsidies; news story features plan for 2 weeks of experience for all youngsters.

Express: Small firms target for enterprise aid.

Mail leader says Lord Young is right to push on with his plans as a matter of urgency. Competition will hot up no end with the completion of the single EC market. But increased efficiency by them will bring opportunities and rewards galore.

Telegraph: £1bn Ministry of Enterprise - its creation overshadowed by angry reaction to scrapping of RDGs; leader says the White Paper makes the culmination of the process by which Lord Young, since 1984, has been trying to fashion Whitehall cuts an instrument for achieving the enterprise culture. Most parts of it are excellent. Discretion in RDGs must be preferable to indiscriminate subsidies.

Guardian: Young unveils his Department of Enterprise; leader says the statement will guarantee a boom in investment this quarter as companies rush to register for automatic grants. It has a myopic view of Britain's decline.

Independent: Two former Cabinet Ministers, Mr Tebbit and Mr Brittan, last night cast doubt on the Government's new "Enterprise" package of aid to business, while Labour and trade unions fiercely attacked the most controversial reform - scrapping of Regional Development Grants.

Independent leader is supportive of Lord Young's strategy for the regions and says DTI has certainly taken a livelier appearance since his arrival. Vigorous, able and enthusiastic, he has managed to invest the Government's new industrial policy with conviction. The sour grapes from Tebbit and Brittan should be discarded. The changes could have been more radical, but they do fit into Lord Young's enterprise strategy as a whole.

FT P1: Industrial aid to firms or smaller companies as engine for growth. Inside page devoted to detail. Leader's verdict is that as a blueprint for the department in the 1990s it is not wholly convincing. It says one is tempted, like Walter Mondale, to ask of the White Paper's 40-odd pages: "Where's the beef?"

Times Under P1 lead "Young sets up industry for Britain in '90s" describes the DTI changes as radical shift but critics say it will open up North/South gap with Scottish and Welsh Labour MPs concerned that their countries will not be able to attract new investment; leader says in support for innovation, for instance, this new approach begs more questions than it answers. It is critical of the "appallingly low level of industrial research and development" saying the Government has shown no stomach for a national space programme.

INDUSTRY

Today leader criticises B/Airways over cost of internal shuttle flights which are to rise 5%. The Government should make it cut fares.

Independent: A new attempt to create a single 67,000-strong union for production workers in the electronic media has been launched by the Broadcasting and Entertainment Trade Alliance and ACTT. The impetus has been the increasingly tough attitude of management at TV-AM.

Times: DTI inquiry into Burton takeover looks at link with Guinness. Ralph Halpern says bids were completely proper in all respects.

Times: Foam ban excludes use in beds.

Times: CPSA prevented from appointing Militant national organiser on constitutional technicality.

Times: Citicorp make 85 staff redundant and Credit Suisse Buckmaster and Moore, 35.

FT: MoD today introduces competition into torpedo manufacture by inviting UK companies to compete for a £500m order for "Spearfish" torpedoes.

FT: Istanbul has invited tenders, by the end of February, for a £300m third bridge across the Bosphorus. You are expected to lobby hard for the contract when you visit later in the year.

NHS

Sun: Neil slates Maggie on crisis in NHS - accused you of condemning patients to pain without hope.

Today says John Moore, back at work yesterday, was told to get a move on by you.

Express leader says for the moment public anxiety over the NHS is Kinnock's most effective weapon for assailing the Government. Similarly with doctors, administrators and other vested interests. Every error, every delay, every family frustration is simply blamed on Government. Hospital management has found the perfect get out. And on TV, especially BBC, the assault on the NHS has become a nightly spectacle. But John Moore now has to justify high hopes placed in him; in another story Express says Kinnock's attack on you shocked even his own MPs.

Times: Health Service unions worry as pay threat is dropped; union leaders call for urgent meeting with John Moore.

Times: British Cardiac Society claims thousands die unnecessarily from heart disease every year because of shortage of cardiologists.

Independent: Senior Cabinet ministers and the Downing Street Policy Unit are pressing for big changes in the NHS before next election; John Moore is now under growing pressure to launch a formal review of the service.

Independent: Two studies on meningitis show that poverty, passive smoking and damp homes increase the risk of catching the disease.

NURSES

Today says robbing Peter to pay Paul is never a wise principle but its madness when they are different kinds of nurse.

FREE FOOD

Star: Maggie melts over free butter; it claims you had opposed the idea; leader also claims some credit for the Star for urging you to ensure Britain's poor got a fair share.

POLITICS

Sun leader on Lord Whitelaw's departure tells John Biffen not to worry. You should recruit a few hundred members of working men's clubs, ennoble them and send them into the Lords to create a sensible majority.

EDUCATION

Cardinal Hume, writing in Times, expresses Catholic concern at new Education Bill's attitude to religion and its likely destabilising effect on church schools.

LAW AND ORDER

Independent claims to have been told by confidential sources that on rare occasions when MI5 officers have inquired about the legal authority for otherwise illegal actions, Royal Prerogative has been given by their superiors.

MEDIA

Times: Satellite TV groups dismiss claims that it would turn out to be an expensive flop.

Times: Poor Home Office calculations cost Exchequer £19m in lost revenue from ITV last year.

FT: Three independent television companies - Central, Granada and Yorkshire - are to join up to launch an all-night national network.

SPORT

Guardian leader says nobody in this country who knows anything about the way English working class gangs behave abroad can possibly give Eurofootball authorities a credible promise that there won't be violence at matches. If there was a case for a ban in 1985 there is still one now.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DES: Mr Baker visits Notre Dame High School, London

DTP: Mr Channon lunches with Kleinwort Benson, London

MAFF: Mr Macgregor addresses Annual Dinner of the Land Agents and Agriculture Division of RKS

DEN: Mr Morrison addresses reception for Brown and Root Saipem joint venture

DES: Mr Jackson addresses the opening of the Medical Research Council Seminar on Human Fertilization and Embryology: A framework for legislation, House of Commons; later attends Commett conference dinner, Cafe Royal, London

DHSS: Lord Skelmersdale addresses CBI Conference, Manchester

DOE: Mr Trippier visits Docklands

DOE: Mrs Roe attends Thamesmead office opening

DOE: Mr Moynihan launches Primary Schools cricket project in London

HO: Lord Caithness visits Brockwell and Hewell Grange Prisons

MAFF: Mr Thompson addresses Central, Southern and County Branch of NFU, West Sussex

TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Kilroy": BBC 1 (9.20)

"Schools: Teaching CDT": Channel 4 (11.40) - series made at invitation of DES

"Daytime on Two: Lifeschool": BBC 2 (12.28) - Two year YTS

"Business Daily": Channel 4 (12.00)

"The Parliament Programme": Channel 4 (14.00)

"You and Yours": BBC Radio 4 (12.00)

"Votes for Women": ITV (14.30) - new series on current issues

"Before the Law": Channel 4 (18.30) - first of four part series on justice, which examines role of the magistrate

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.50)

"The World Tonight": BBC Radio 4 (22.30) followed by "The Financial World Tonight" then "Today in Parliament"
