

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

EC: General Affairs Ministers (informal meeting) Brussels (to 2 February)

Kings Cross Fire Inquiry opens

Commission on Human Rights, Geneva (to 11 March)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Transport; Wales; Energy

Business: Consideration of a Timetable Motion on the Education (Reform) Bill, for three hours

Farm Land and Rural Development Bill (Lords): 2nd Reading and Money Resolution.

Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency Bill: Remaining Stages.

Adjournment Debate: Delays in local authority search enquiries (Mr J Heddle)

Select Committees: PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Subject: Community Care
Witness: Mr M J Partridge CB,
Second Permanent Secretary, DHSS

Lords: Starred Questions
Local Government Bill: Committee (3rd day)
Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Bill: Committee (on Re-commitment)

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

Ford workers call off strike with management and unions professing themselves satisfied with 3-year deal which will introduce Japanese-style working practices.

Meanwhile, NACODS strike for 24 hours today and some nurses are due out on Wednesday.

Today forecasts more trouble with teachers because advisory group is recommending only 4%.

Ferry seamen called out on strike from tomorrow in protest against Isle of Man redundancies.

SDB breaks in two and in open warfare after part of it votes overwhelmingly in favour of merger with Liberals. Owen pledges to fight to the death for his group. Paddy Ashdown sends CND message of support.

Professor Richard Rose, in Telegraph, says merger is good news for Conservatives in their hopes for a fourth term.

Chesterfield to endorse Benn's challenge to Kinnock on St Valentine's Day. Kinnock tells Left to shut up.

John Stalker, in memoirs published by Express claims his inquiry was sabotaged from the start and RUC Chief Constable was hostile to it.

Mail leader wants to know why, if some RUC officers conspired to pervert the course of justice, they are not to be prosecuted. Disquiet is not confined to Dublin and Sinn Fein.

Missing newspaper boy found dead, buried under leaves, 40 miles from his home in West Midlands; man charged with murder. Local Rector says society is sick.

Police capture one of two helicopter jailbreakers in raid on Chelsea flat; man and woman also arrested.

Angry Brigade claim responsibility for fire which damages Epping court.

John Wheeler MP claims that gaol for up to 80% of prisoners in England and Wales is unnecessary.

Growing pessimism on prospects for special EC Summit next week; Telegraph leader urges you to play for time in Brussels but if you are to have a chance of cutting agricultural production you should be prepared to surrender our rebate.

Greville Janner MP demanding Government tell all about Mail on Sunday allegations that RACAL sold radio equipment to PLO with Government approval.

Amerada Hess's new oilfield discovery in North Sea.

New hope for cancer cure - anti-body "bullets" based on human cells.

Survivors of Bradford City fire receiving payouts up to £40,000 from insurance.

Police want new test for motorway "learners".

Derek Hatton says he has a lot of respect for you - only wishes someone like you were leading Labour Party.

Waldheim to be "tried" by Austrian TV on June 23, witnesses to be brought from England; document produced in Yugoslavia purports to show he sought deportation of 4000 civilians.

1,200 Britons a day said to be applying to emigrate to Australia.

Peace breaking out between Greece and Turkey after meeting of Prime Ministers in Davos.

Mail says KGB is being purged for corruption and abuse of power.

3000 Poles protest in Gdansk over price increases

UNIONS

Sun leader says like the Bourbons, the unions are showing the same lack of reality. But Britain is different from 10 years ago. Today we have a Prime Minister who will never be blackmailed and tough laws against industrial wreckers.

Mirror feature says all the workers threatening strike have been driven to industrial action under a Government preaching ever tougher management.

Today says RCN has issued a pamphlet advising nurses how to treat infiltrators who try to bully them into striking; and UDM urging British Coal to give them the right to supervise safety to overcome NACODS' strike.

Express leader says it is odd that when times are bad and dole queues longest there is scarcely a cheep out of our militant trades unionists. But give them a boom and they are back to their old ways. Industry and Government must stand firm if the cornerstone of our economy is not to be eroded by blind militancy.

Telegraph leader says that if the NU Seamen strikes it faces sequestration of its assets. And with the exception of the NHS none of the other strikes in prospect would damage anyone more than strikers themselves.

Times: Ministers dismiss suggestions we are heading for another winter of discontent; senior Conservative MPs say economic recovery would be jeopardised. Your message to strikers is that they are putting their own jobs at risk.

Times: CBI says factory pay rises ease to 5.5%.

Independent: Last minute Ford agreement seen as pace-setter for motor industry. Meanwhile attempts under way to head off gathering industrial storm with national strikes still threatened by health staff, seamen and pit disputes. Days lost through stoppages show steady increase since last August; leader assesses the reasons - less threat of unemployment, pay increases ahead of inflation, union membership rising again, less public antipathy - but concludes that industrial relations are not about to return to the practices of 1978-79.

NHS

Express, referring to your 14 point lead in MORI poll, says Government believes it is beginning to turn the tide in the health debate with increasing support for your views that people are ready for wholesale reform.

Today, reporting that Frank Field MP is in trouble with his constituency for saying nice, complimentary things about Edwina Currie, says there is only one way to stop this knockdown style of politics - televise the House. Hooligans may then begin to act like grown ups.

Express says a major campaign to spotlight the health hazards of leisure and pleasure may soon be launched. Government will try to make people aware of their duty to take care of themselves and so reduce NHS spending; leader says you may never have greater opportunity, or greater public support, for radical reforms in health.

Paul Johnson, in Mail, says that by turning the difficulties in the NHS into a phoney crisis, Kinnock has played straight into your hands because you have always wanted to reform the NHS.

Telegraph devotes a page to Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy report on differences in NHS efficiency.

Times: Doctor in British Medical Journal says nurses have an unanswerable claim for higher salaries when their pay is compared with that of similar occupational groups.

Times: BUPA calls on Chancellor for tax relief for elderly who buy health care.

Independent: BMA in strong attack on Government. They say hospital services have been deliberately run down during a period of economic well-being.

Independent: Sir Roy Griffiths to propose that community care of the old, mentally ill and handicapped be concentrated in the hands of local authorities.

Independent: John Moore faces key test of determination over proposals to build new £100m teaching hospital in Central London releasing £16m per year for health care in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

FT: BMA calls for an "urgent injection of funds" and its executive council will debate financial problems on Wednesday.

SDP/LIBS

Today says merger will not be a triumph at all. In the polls they are back at 12% to where they started. If anything is to be saved from the wreckage it lies with SDPers who have stuck with Owen.

Mail leader says that like most divorces that of the SDP is sad. As so often there is another woman behind the bust up - in this case you. One thing unites mergerites: they would do almost anything to get you out. But Owen respects much of what you have achieved and shares your determination to keep Britain strong, prosperous and free. Nine years on, such is your force that you continue to polarise British politics.

Guardian leader says yesterday's merger vote means there will be some form of effective third party at the next general election and beyond. But we must wait and see whether that does anyone any favours, apart from Conservatives. Judging from the mood at Blackpool and Sheffield, Steel can still be leader if he really wants it.

Independent: Acrimony as SDP backs merger - both factions claim victory after council votes for union.

Times leads with SDP civil war raging in wake of merger vote with supporters shouting "easy, easy". Whoever "won", the indisputable outcome is that there will be two new separate parties in the centre with Dr Owen saying they will contest each constituency; leadership race wide open as MacLennan's rating drops to minus 32 and Steel's to minus 28; leader discusses the disarray saying that there is only bitterness and animosity as they prepare to do battle for middle ground. It adds that Mr Kinnock is also fighting for centre ground but, if hard Left continues on its characteristic way, it is you who will be the principal beneficiary of the fragmentation of centre politics.

POLITICS

Express leader headed "Maggie's top of the pops" says you and your Government have never been more popular. Opposition have never been so divided or demented. No wonder public are turning in ever greater numbers to the strength, sanity and stability of Mrs T.

Paul Johnson, in **Mail**, explains why Kinnock has no right of Labour leadership. He is trying to stifle debate.

George Walden, in **Telegraph**, wants more effective opposition.

Guardian says pressure is mounting for a civil disobedience campaign in the stand against community charge.

Guardian prints statements on Labour's future by Benn and a joint one by Blunkett and Bernard Crick.

Independent: Mood of despair and desperation pervades Labour's local government conference in Edinburgh.

ILEA

Sun finds it good to hear ILEA's days are numbered. Its activities have done more to disrupt education for children in capital than anything since blitz.

Independent: Cabinet to discuss abolition of ILEA on Thursday as pressure grows for its outright abolition. ILEA to consider balloting parents as part of its defence.

EDUCATION

Guardian leader on Paisley Grammar School decision says you have changed the rules. It highlights the silent role the Government assigns to local democracy.

Independent: As today's guillotine comes down on Education Reform Bill committee discussion, hardly any changes of substance have been introduced.

Kenneth Baker emphasises in Times under the heading "In the moral dimension" why church schools need not fear the reforms set out in the Education Bill.

FT: Cross-party group of MPs will tomorrow try to amend Education Bill to ensure minimum of 40% parental support for schools wishing to opt out.

ECONOMY

Times: Business is booming for consultants searching for chief executives and managing directors.

Times: City forecast is that inflation will rise to 5% by end of year because of wages, fall in value of £ and continued strong growth in credit.

INDUSTRY

Basil Feldman writes on "Better made in Britain" in Express.

Andrew Alexander, in Mail, advances a new economics law: when people discover the best way of screwing money out of the Government is to air and exaggerate problems (eg N/S divide; Scots) that is what they do.

Times: You are expected to back UK bids for Bosphorus bridge work when you visit Turkey.

Times: Prospects are good for the building industry, says Building Employers Federation.

Times: CEBG's four independent non-executive directors claim electricity is likely to cost more with privatisation.

Times: Airbus Industrie offers to lease first four new jets to BA in effort to heal growing rift between the two companies.

Times: Zeebrugge ferry disaster captain to get five-figure golden handshake if he agrees not to discuss events leading up to the capsizing and safety systems operated by company.

Times: US companies working on feasibility studies for new generation of Concorde.

FT: US and EC near deadlock in attempt to end Airbus dispute.

FT: MSC report finds serious shortcomings in even the best of British employers' training programmes.

MEDIA

Times: BBC to transmit medical information by TV - should raise £500,000 a year in revenue.

LAW AND ORDER

Bernard Levin, in Times discusses the Government's obsession for secrecy saying that day by day the wall grows higher and thicker - the wall that shuts out the people's right to know what affects them, and what they need to know if they are to make judgements on their public and political servants.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Times: Irish Government may seek UN help over "shoot-to-kill" report if tomorrow's Anglo/Irish conference fails to satisfy its concerns.

Independent: MPs call for judicial review into behaviour of senior RUC officers as Government faces increasing pressure over alleged "shoot-to-kill" policy. Growing conviction that Sir Jack Hermon will have to retire.

Independent: Birmingham Six repeat claims of innocence alleging that police "fitted them up".

DEFENCE

Times leader welcomes Government's decision to form specialised anti-tank brigade to strengthen NATO's forces in Europe saying it sets an example which other armies would do well to follow. It concludes, however, that it would be more sensible to station the brigade in West Germany rather than Catterick.

EC

Independent: West Germany to present series of options which lean heavily to its point of view over farm policy reform, although it concedes Britain's rebate should continue, albeit at a lower level. Little prospect you will compromise with Kohl tomorrow.

Lord Cockfield, in Independent, says Britain has "schizophrenic" approach to the internal market. Only in Britain are the difficulties of removing EC barriers engraved on the public mind at the expense of the economic benefits and opportunities.

Times: Alan Clark urges free trade between EC and EFTA.

Times: British manufacturers may need agriculture-type aid to help adjust when EC market barriers come down.

FT: Leader says German proposals on farm budget do not come near to solving the problem; and if that is all that is on offer in Brussels you will be right to withhold agreement to try again for a sensible, lasting settlement in Hanover.

SOUTH AFRICA

Times: Gulf between Britain and Commonwealth on South Africa underlined by its absence from talks in Lusaka.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Fowler, Mr Cope and Mr Nicholls meet BBC Nine O'Clock News Team, BBC TV Centre, London

DEN: Mr Parkinson addresses Coal Industry Society Lunch, Park Lane Hotel

MOD: Mr Younger addresses Cambridge Union Society

WO: Mr Walker visits County of Gwynedd

DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses the Engineering Careers launch, Selfridge Hotel, London

DES: Mr Dunn visits Bishop Grossefeste Teacher Training Centre, Newark

DES: Lady Hooper attends Ministerial group on crime prevention; later attends Royal Geographical Society, Council Meeting, London

DOE: Mr Tripper visits Liverpool (Inner Cities)

DOE: Mr Moynihan visits the BBC External Services, Bush House, London

DOE: Mrs Roe hosts Industry and Parliament Trust lunch in London

DTI: Mr Maude visits ROSPA, Birmingham

DTP: Mr Bottomley attends press launch of the Children in Cars Working Party report, Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, London

HO: Mr Hogg visits Cranston Project on drugs

HO: Mr Renton visits Central TV studios, Birmingham

HO: Mr Patten visits N. Peckham Task Force

MAFF: Mr Gummer has talks with Bruce Lloyd, Australian Shadow Minister for Primary Industry

OAL: Mr Luce addresses reception to launch Chinese Cultural Centre, London

SO: Mr Forsyth launches Scottish Health Education Group (SHEG) Drug Campaign, Edinburgh

WO: Mr Roberts visits Bangor Technical College; later opens National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, New Offices, Bangor

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTI: Lord Young visits Bonn to address BDI/German Chamber of Industry and Commerce in London conference

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe departs for Brussels, EC Foreign Ministers Conclave Meeting

DES: Mr Jackson visits Bonn, West Germany about CERN/EURO Synchrotron Research Facilities

MAFF: Mr Thompson visits International Sweets and Biscuits Fair, Cologne (to 2 February)

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DES: Mrs Rumbold interviewed by Tim Arnold of Devon Air Radio

TV AND RADIO

BBC TV: Panorama, on the NHS

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Kilroy": BBC 1 (9.20) daily discussion programme

"Down Your Way": BBC Radio 4 (11.00) Includes Mrs Thatcher's former chemistry teacher

"Are Mothers Really Necessary?": ITV (11.30) Considers effect of inadequate care on children

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

"Business Daily": Channel 4 (12.00)

"Advice Shop": BBC 2 (16.00) looks at fighting claims against bureaucratic opposition

"Panorama": BBC 1 (21.30) 'NHS - A Terminal Case?' David Lomax reports from St Bartholomews in London and Gloucestershire health district, and examines Government and Opposition prescriptions

"Information Technology": Channel 4 (18.00) on fibre optics

"Horizon": BBC 2 (20.10) 'Death of Working Classes' analyses causes of class bias of death at all ages

"World in Action": ITV (20.30)

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

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.45)
