

2 February 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister has talks with Chancellor Kohl, London

Mr Moore sees TUC health unions

EC: Internal Market Council, Brussels

Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Conference

NUM delegate conference on overtime ban

?Strike by National Union of Seamen

PUBLICATIONS

HMT: UK Official Reserves

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Employment; Social Services; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Personal Income (Ending of Higher Rate Taxation)

Public Utility Transfers and Water Charges Bill: Remaining Stages

Motion on the Industrial Training Levy (Engineering Board) Order

Adjournment Debate: VAT on crisps, nuts and confectionery (Mr D Henderson)

Select Committees: TRANSPORT
Subject: Decline in the UK-registered Merchant Fleet
Witness: General Council of British Shipping

PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION
Subject: Reports of the Health Service Commissioner
Witnesses: Liverpool Health Authority; Enfield Health Authority

Lords: Starred Questions
Local Government Bill: Committee (4th day)

United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting (Electoral Scheme) (Variation) Order 1988: Motion for Approval.

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

Ferry strike going ahead in defiance of court injunction obtained by companies; union could face big fine and claims for compensation.

NUM agree to talks with UDM and also not to escalate overtime ban but to put its continuation to ballot - described as two humiliating defeats for Scargill; NACODS strike closes 101 pits.

Cecil Parkinson threatens to cut coal investment if unions continue to play politics.

Mirror claims Government evidence recommends only 5.5% pay rise for nurses.

MORI poll in Times shows that 88% of nurses dissatisfied with handling of NHS.

Claims that management at Charing Cross Hospital have told nurses who strike they may be dismissed or struck off register.

Several papers report Left agitators rigging votes to bring nurses out or intimidating them into taking action.

Coventry doctors up in arms over attempt to cut their use of deputising service; see it as a move to cash limit family doctor service.

Today says Government is considering a fifth industrial relations Bill to stop lightning strikes.

Half per cent rise in interest rates unlikely to affect mortgages - catches everyone on the hop except FT who wonders why everyone was surprised. CBI objects to increased costs. Several papers say wage settlements triggered the rise.

Government ready to allow BP takeover of Britoil, subject to certain conditions.

Importers to withdraw salami sticks from shops after 80 cases of salmonella.

Labour MPs attack award of GBE to Cap Weinburger; claim it is your way of paying him back for backing Britain in Falklands War. Dalyell: Outrageous. Express: Most welcome.

Mirror says Francis Maude has been removed from his consumer affairs job for bungling over foam in furniture.

Guardian claims the Government is to introduce in Camden, Kensington, Chelsea, Brent and Westminster first moves to compel unemployed to take jobs or have benefit withdrawn.

ILEA strips chief executive appointed to new Government post of power and transfers control to deputy.

B/Aerospace wins £40m order for Sea Wolf missiles for Royal Navy.

John Moore agrees his Ministers can meet MPs who want NHS to boycott Eli Lilly products unless it improves OPREN compensation (Mail).

Express says pressure is mounting for a judicial inquiry into Stalker affair; he continues his account in its columns.

Homosexual computer operator confesses to killing Midlands newspaper boy in his first court appearance and asks for maximum sentence.

One in three breach motorway speed limit, according to D/Transport 1987 survey.

Today leader wants to know why when Lord Chief Justice rejected as laughable an appeal by a Brighton bomber that jury at his trial should have been vetted for members of the Tory Party, a Wolverhampton Coroner's court jury was aborted because no black had been empanelled to inquire into death of West Indian.

Granada TV names a member of ASTMS as an anti union "spy" for Economic League.

Home Secretary moves to expel 7 Tamils next week.

Linda Bellos admits calling in police to free her from a mob who stormed into her Lambeth Council offices.

Document alleged to confirm Waldheim's guilt of war crimes goes missing in Yugoslavia. Mail says it has been branded a forgery.

Chief Constable Anderton ceases to be a Methodist lay preacher and joins Roman Catholic Church.

150 Liverpool fans wreck a train returning from Cup tie.

Millwall appoint John Stalker as anti-hooligan adviser

Telegraph speculates about visit by you to Channel Tunnel within a few days.

Malenkov dies in obscurity, 85.

Hugo Young, in Guardian, wants to know by what right do MPs arrogate to themselves that the Commons should remain a no-go TV area?

NHS

Mirror leader says a strike by nurses won't transform them into fallen angels. Patients won't suffer; wards will be covered. You must stop being mean.

Today says nurses are defying Left wing leaders and putting patients first. Only 1 in 50 will walk out; leader says nurses who walk off the wards tomorrow will make all the headlines but nurses who stay at their posts will make all the sense. Left will try to manufacture a crisis out of this half-hearted walkout but this is nonsense.

Express tells nurses to think again about striking. And reveals that COHSE are thinking of another day of action before Budget Day, with more to follow if Chancellor does not boost spending by £2.5bn. It trusts the Government will treat such arrogant bluster with the contempt it deserves. Nurses should avoid being used as political cannon fodder for far Left.

Times leads with RCN leader being delighted after talks with John Moore who gave a qualified commitment to the full funding of nurses' pay award. Trevor Clay says he is hopeful that an extra £1.1bn will be put into NHS. He makes it clear that you, rather than Mr Moore, are in the driving seat of the NHS review and that the RCN had not ruled out a meeting with you, but not immediately.

MORI poll in Times showing 88% of nurses dissatisfied with Government's handling of NHS shows 32% would still vote Conservative if there were a general election tomorrow. 54% in favour of day of action, with 29% saying there should have been more consultation and 75% that there should have been national ballot before calling day of action.

Times: Hundreds of non-urgent operations cancelled because of tomorrow's strike by nurses.

Times leader discusses the problem facing the NHS, saying that the public will not allow hospitals to become a battleground. The Government is certain to have overwhelming support for compelling

peace, if necessary, but no one will gain - Unions, DHSS or Downing Street.

Mail: Moore reassures nurses over pay. Mary Kenny feature says Edwina Currie was "so right" - speaking from her own experience.

Independent: Senior civil servants warn that NHS pay awards must be fully funded if health authorities are not to face another round of closures and cuts. Peter Jenkins, in commentary, says that John Moore will attempt to "Bakerise" the NHS, ie obtain a substantial increase in state funding on the strength of a radical-sounding Thatcherite reform plan, which might include supplementary or queue insurance.

FT: Government would fully implement and fund any salary increases recommended by the pay review body provided there was no "clear and compelling" reasons not to do so, John Moore told RCN.

UNIONS

Mail leader hardly thinks the spectre of the sick man of Europe has come back to haunt us. One swallow doesn't make a summer, but it is worrying.

ECONOMY

Express leader, headed "Just a touch on the tiller", says the rise in interest rates is an attempt to head off danger of high inflation. Most people are likely to conclude authorities have acted prudently.

Times: Chancellor has £9bn for tax changes, say economic forecasters.

Independent: Some City analysts blame rise in interest rates on union militancy and serious threats of higher pay settlements.

FT: Governor of Bank warns bankers not to go too far in making provisions against doubtful Third World loans.

Guardian asks why on earth has Chancellor bowed to Bank of England pressure? The main worry now is recession. It could produce a costly mistake for industry.

INDUSTRY

Times: Public 'phone boxes breaking down more often in spite of B/Telecom promise that 9 out of 10 would work by end of next month.

FT: Samuel Montagu bankers appointed for sale of BSC.

FT: CEGB chairman Lord Marshall will learn of electricity privatisation plans on Thursday; and Government will announce its conclusions in about 3 weeks.

Independent: New Law Society report says alarming disadvantages are forcing women solicitors out of the profession in droves.

Independent: Engineering Industry Training Board launches scheme for manufacturing companies to link with primary schools to create more positive attitudes towards engineering, especially girls, among 5-11 year olds.

MEDIA

Times: BMA voice ethical doubts over BBC's medical channel, denying that it was backing the project.

IRELAND

Sun says we owe no apologies to Ireland; least of all to a foreign country which has both condoned terrorism and harboured its perpetrators. It hopes Tom King will deliver this message at the Inter-Governmental conference today.

Times: Tom King will not allow Irish Ministers to see full copy of Stalker/Sansom report.

T E Utley in Times, discusses the security forces in Northern Ireland, Dublin's view, the Birmingham pub bombers' case and the "shoot-to-kill" affair, saying that we prize highly the independence of the judiciary and the independent semi-judicial role of DPPs and Attorneys' General in deciding whether to bring prosecutions.

Independent: Commons' pressure mounts to discipline Sir John Hermon and other senior RUC officers. Anglo/Irish relations severely threatened as Irish backbenchers urge Dublin government to take tough line including threatening to end extraditions.

Independent: Labour announces it will continue to oppose the Northern Ireland Emergency Provisions Act, despite Tory criticism.

Guardian leader says Stalker's "vivid testimony" is shocking and chilling. It will stoke up protests about Attorney General's statement.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Star tells Government not to give in to blackmail over Clause 28 of Bill precluding promotion of homosexuality by councils. Millions of anxious parents support Government.

KOHL VISIT

Express: Maggie set to trump Kohl.

Times: West German officials try to repair Anglo-German relations in attempt to break EC farm deadlock; leader says there should be no false regrets if this morning's meeting between you and Chancellor Kohl fails to produce a basis for compromise on the EC budget crisis. Compromise should be far from your thoughts. It adds that until there is pain there will be no realism, and until there is realism the CAP will not be reformed. It concludes by asking how long must Europe wait before its leaders accept financial responsibility?

Mail: Maggie to tell Kohl to stop the blackmail over our rebate.

Independent: Kohl faces stiff test in his meeting with you. He claims he genuinely wants to do a deal with you but suspicions remain that he is prepared to fail and blame you in run-up to Lander elections: growing support in German press that you are right to press for proper agricultural reform. Leader says that it should be remembered you are defending the Commission's approach and you will be acting in the Community's best interests if you decline another sticking plaster solution today and next week. But you would find more sympathy if you did not adopt such a niggardly approach to Community expenditure on regional infrastructure aid, job training and high-tech research.

FT: You will pull out all the stops to try to persuade Chancellor Kohl to accept radical reforms of EC farm policy - but the prospects for agreement are very thin.

Guardian says gravest miscalculation seems to be in Bonn if he thinks you will be moved by "isolation". Where has he been these last 8 years? Your domestic standing thrives on such fodder.

POLITICS

Times: Tories to urge Government to develop a coordinated policy as a means of restoring electoral fortunes in northern England.

EDUCATION

Times: Future of ILEA looks increasingly bleak.

MIDDLE EAST

Independent: Worst violence on West Bank since disturbances began on 9 December. US vetoes UN Security Council proposal to curb Israel's "iron-fist" policy. Mubarak and Hussein meet to coordinate response to new US Middle East peace initiative which has received cautious welcome from Shamir and Peres but which is opposed by Likud hardliners and the PLO.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DHSS: Mr Moore meets TUC Health Unions, London

MAFF: Mr MacGregor visits Cornwall and addresses NFU AGM, Newquay; also opens Truro Divisional Office

WO: Mr Walker addresses Industrial Council for Wales, Swansea

DES: Mr Dunn judges a school catering competition at the Hotel Olympia

DES: Mr Jackson meets Publishing Association about Education Bill

DOE: Mr Tripper visits Gateshead (Inner Cities)

DOE: Mr Chope speaks at Future of Local Government Conference, London

DTp: Lord Brabazon hosts dinner for General Volkov, USSR Minister for Aviation, London

DTp: Mr Bottomley attends Institute of Advanced Motorists meeting, London

HO: Lord Ferrers visits Stoke Newington Police District

HO: Mr Patten attends launch of Basildon Crime Prevention Campaign

MAFF: Mr Gummer attends Silage Conference, Stratford College of Agriculture

OAL: Mr Luce visits Remploy Bindery, Barking, Essex

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DEN: Mr Parkinson addresses the World Economics Forum, Switzerland

MOD: Mr Younger visits Denmark (to 3 February)

DES: Lady Hooper attends the opening ceremony of the Diecta exhibition for International Educational Exporters, Basle, Switzerland

DES: Mr Jackson visits CERN, Paris (Prov)

DTI: Mr Clark attends EC/EFTA Ministerial Meeting, Brussels

DTI: Mr Maude attends Internal Market Council, Brussels

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

ODA: Mr Patten interviewed by the Financial Times for their profile page

TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Kilroy": BBC 1 (9.20)

"Daytime on Two": BBC 2 (9.20) 'Inset Science' - series discusses demands of secondary science curriculum, including GCSE

"Business Daily": Channel 4 (12.00)

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

"I Could Do That": Channel 4 (13.00) - fourth of five programmes about business opportunities for young people

"The Parliament Programme": Channel 4 (14.00) daily programme covering both Houses of Parliament

"The Local Network": BBC Radio 4 (16.05) - BBC local radio link up looks at future of Britain's provincial theatres

"Reporting London": ITV (19.30)

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.45)

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