

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen holds an Investiture at Buckingham Palace

EC: Finance Council, Brussels

UK/Nigerian Air Services talks (to 11 February)

Home and Foreign Secretaries sign the UK/USA agreement on confiscation of proceeds of drug trafficking

ILEA teachers' strike over budget cuts

STATISTICS

OPCS: Deaths by cause (June Qtr 1987)

OPCS: Death from accidents and violence (June Qtr 1987)

OPCS: Cigarette smoking (1972-1986)

PUBLICATIONS

NAO: Industry Department for Scotland: Review of Scottish New Towns

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Social Services; Education and Science; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Smoke Detectors in Houses
Debate on a Motion on Televising the Proceedings of the House of Commons
Motions on the Precept Limitation (Prescribed Maximum) (West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority), (Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority) and (Merseyside Passenger Transport Authority) Orders

Adjournment Debate: The role of OFTEL in regulating British Telecom's 'Talkabout' service (Mr G Dickens)

Select Committees: TRANSPORT
Subject: Decline in the UK-registered Merchant Fleet
Witnesses: Department of Transport, Ministry of Defence and HM Treasury Officials

SOCIAL SERVICES
Subject: Resourcing the NHS
Witness: Dr Kenneth Grant

Lords: Starred Questions
Social Security Bill: Committee (1st Day)
Royal Assent

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

Britain on stand-by for hurricane today - weather forecasters taking no chance after October. Winds up to 100 mph forecast.

Strikes - and especially Ford's - knock £8bn off shares; shop stewards ask dockers to block imports of Ford cars and T&GWU leader agrees. Belgian workers laid off.

Mail says Labour has backed Ford strike. Meacher says it is time workers had fair share in country's new prosperity.

GM to double investment in Britain in spite of strike threat at Vauxhall.

Thousands of miners sent home because of NACODS' overtime ban.

Ferry strike peace talks collapse.

Sealink asks for NU Seamen's assets to be frozen.

ILEA teachers on strike today - schools closed - in protest against Budget cuts.

Royal College of Nursing to vote on no-strike rule to resolve uncertainties.

Britain appoints a Commission of two to investigate whether evidence against war criminals living here is sufficient to warrant a change in the law.

Waldheim claims he has been exonerated from war crimes by commission which clears him of taking part but says he knew what was going on. U-turn by investigators.

Russians set May 15 as date for start of pull-out from Afghanistan. Gorbachev does not insist Soviets should approve shape of new Kabul Government.

Paul Channon orders inquiry into near miss between BA and Bulgarian jets over Lydd. Independent claims traffic controller made an error.

Pro-TV campaigners for Commons said to be optimistic - 60% of newly elected MPs said to be in favour.

EC condemns West Bank and Gaza violence.

BBC claims Government is electronically to tag young criminals to ease strain on prisons but put them under curfew; Home Office denies it.

Today says Government is determined to close down B/Telecom's Talkabout service which allows up to 10 youngsters to take part in a joint conversation and which, some say, is being infiltrated by perverts.

Tory Reform Group warns Chancellor not to cut taxes in Budget unless he also gives NHS more cash.

Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association want NHS funded through compulsory insurance instead of taxation.

Guardian says Marplan has detected a major shift of public opinion against opting out - 61% want schools to remain under local authority control.

Big row brewing over £500,000 tax on £6m Zeebrugge disaster fund.

Guardian says you have insisted on a toughening up of the inner cities White Paper to curb the influence of local government, cut housing subsidies and weaken the role of municipal trade unions.

Eton and Harrow said to be refusing to open doors to Assisted Places Scheme (Express).

Terry Dicks and Jonathan Sayeed protest over Bristol magistrates granting bail to second rape suspect.

Mirror says CS gas canister thrown at world boxing match at Stafford on Sunday is freely available at £8.50 a can in France.

Sudanese Government hijacks seven Oxfam lorries - and apparently apologises to Star.

John Selwyn Gummer, on eve of Church of England Synod, attacks church's "Condom culture" and says that in the eyes of the church it is apparently now less sinful for a man to sleep with his neighbour than with his neighbour's wife. Today says this overstates the case but it is too near the mark for comfort. Express says church leaders can hardly complain about attacks from senior Tories; after all they invited retaliation by their own political sniping. Most Bishops are more concerned about the supposed ills of Thatcherism than about traditional church teaching and morality.

Woman's Own names you Politician of the Year.

Raymond Barr declares himself Presidential candidate.

Air Chief Marshal Sir David Craig to be new Chief of Defence Staff; Army upset.

COMMONS TV

Sun, under heading "Keep these ugly mugs off telly" asks if the nation is ready for a TV view of Dennis Skinner. The radio experiment shows they will see only the ugly face of democracy. There is a case for allowing the cameras in on big occasions - eg Budget - but not day to day to watch MPs at play.

Mirror leader headed "Show us the truth" says MPs should remember that seeing is believing when they vote on whether to admit TV cameras.

Today says "Let cameras in, Maggie". You should change your mind. Otherwise you will be setting your face against an unstoppable wave. TV is bound to come.

Mail feature by Julian Critchley accuses those opposed to televising House of "humbug" over effect of bad behaviour of MPs on viewers. It is a forum for confrontational politics.

FT: Advocates of televising Commons claim growing evidence of support ahead of today's debate, with a clear majority of new MPs in favour.

Telegraph asks if we can trust the Commons with cameras or the cameras with the Commons. It is unlikely new arguments will be produced today but the old ones against televising House are becoming stronger with time. TV does not always bring out the best in our representatives or the electorate. Spare us the spectacle of the worst in ourselves.

ELECTRICITY PRIVATISATION

Sun leader describes Lord Marshall as a "high voltage pain in the neck". He wants to swap a public monopoly for a private one. If he is threatening to resign he should do so. The graveyards are full of irreplaceable men.

Times: Consumer Council backs Cecil Parkinson's plans for privatisation of electricity, but says it must be radically restructured before sale.

STRIKES

Express says the dockers' leader who responded positively to Ford shop steward requests to block Ford imports must have had his mouth on auto pilot. Or perhaps he doesn't mind his unions running foul of the law. TGWU may be spoiling for a fight but that is no reason for shooting itself in the foot.

Times: Action in car, coal and shipping industries leaves 47,000 idle, one of the largest one-day totals since you came to power; 2,500 Belgium Ford workers laid off for lack of parts.

Times leader says that Britain is still suffering from industrial disease with the Ford strike reminding us that a revolution in attitudes to work is still to come. It adds that Government should not be criticised too much in this respect, concluding that Ford management must share blame for lack of car production by producing too many "final" offers.

Times: NACODS overtime ban halts 57 pits.

Pat Lowry, ex-ACAS, says this is no winter of discontent; partly coincidence (Mail).

Independent: Labour unrest in Britain intensified yesterday when production at Ford was brought to virtual standstill, and British Coal sent home 11,000 miners after a weekend stoppage by pit deputies.

Guardian leader says the Ford strike has somewhat punctured the claim that your 9 years and a host of changes to employment law have produced an irrevocable shift in the balance of shop floor power.

NHS

Times carries what it claims is part of Government evidence to nurses' pay review body about the DHSS pressing for large-scale regional pay variations with health authorities being free to offer higher salaries when necessary.

Times: Tory backbenchers to try to overturn Government's controversial decision to introduce charges for dental checks.

Independent: St Thomas's Hospital has been offered £300,000 a year to close half its NHS pay beds, allowing the patients to transfer to a private hospital.

FT: RCN starts formal procedure that will lead to ballot of its 265,000 members on whether to abandon no-strikes policy. Special meeting of union's ruling council will be held on Saturday to propose extraordinary general meeting where votes would be registered by proxy. Leader argues that Government's review should be open and informal, listening to widest possible range of outside opinion. It cannot afford to ignore that health care is an unusual commodity; suppliers often determine demand and in the US there is evidence of operations performed unnecessarily.

EDUCATION

Times: Independent schools warned by examination board that their final GCSE results this summer could fall far below expectations.

Independent: Pupils feeling the strain of continuous assessment in GCSE courses. The new system has also led to arguments between teachers.

Independent: Failed university applicants could buy their places, suggests Durham University professor.

ECONOMY

Times: Stock Exchange turnover falls to less than half level reached in market peak last summer.

Times: Credit and retail sales near record.

FT: Share prices fall sharply, with FT-SE 100 down 43.3 points at 1,694-5, amid concern over Ford strikes and fears that buoyant demand will lead to another rise in base rates. Treasury and Bank of England, however, seek to play down possibility of an imminent rise in borrowing costs.

FT: Chancellor has room to spend £4bn in cutting tax rates in the Budget, according to Institute of Fiscal Studies. Base rate will probably come down to 25p with new top rate reduced from 60p to 50p, it predicts.

INDUSTRY

Times: PSA owed almost £28m by US for construction and maintenance work on bases in Britain.

MEDIA

FT: The Independent is using a fourth production plant, in Northampton, with aim of printing an additional 120,000 copies to challenge The Times and Guardian this year.

LAW AND ORDER

Times: Three-pronged package launched by Government to help provide tough alternative to prison, including the electronic tagging of offenders.

Independent: Collets have decided to stop selling copies of Spycatcher after further threats of legal action.

IRELAND

Times: Stalker condemns claims made by Merlyn Rees that he was taken off RUC inquiry because of background to murder of police sergeant in Leeds in 1984 and suspicions that a friend of Stalker's may have had IRA connections; Spectrum, in Times, features Stalker and discusses his book.

Independent: The 'Yorkshire Post' yesterday said Stalker was removed from RUC inquiry because of information suggesting that Manchester criminals were laundering IRA money.

Guardian says there is only one reason why Ministers would try to seize Stalker's profits - because some of his disclosures have been embarrassing.

MIDDLE EAST

Mail leader says Israel - so gallant in fighting off its external enemies in the past, must now train its troops for a very different and utterly thankless task - containing civil unrest on a massive scale.

EAST/WEST

Times: Western sources feel Soviet pull-out from Afghanistan date depends on successful outcome in Geneva. Americans give news a cautious welcome.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Fowler addresses ECA annual dinner, Grosvenor Hotel

DOE: Mr Ridley and Mr Trippier meet Richard Branson to discuss UK 2000

DTP: Mr Channon meets the German Minister of Transport, Dr Warnke

MAFF: Mr MacGregor addresses National Agricultural and Countryside Forum; later attends NFU Annual Dinner, Hilton, London with Mr Thompson and Baroness Trumpington

WO: Mr Walker visits Mid Wales; later opens Laura Ashley New Designer Studio, Carno

DEM: Mr Lee lunches with the General Manager of the London Inter-Continental Properties

DES: Lady Hooper visits Commonwealth Institute, London

DHSS: Lord Skelmersdale visits General Electric Medical Services

DTP: Mr Mitchell attends Bus and Coach Council Annual Dinner, Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington

ODA: Mr Patten visits the Institute of Child Health, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe attends EC Political Cooperation meeting

HMT: Mr Brooke visits the Court of Auditors, Luxembourg

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

"Medicine Now": BBC Radio 4 (10.00) reports on health of medical care

"Business Daily": Channel 4 (12.00)

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

"I Could Do That": Channel 4 (13.00) - last 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 schemes preventing erosion of British coastline

"Reporting London": ITV (19.30)

"Hospital Watch": BBC 1 (21.30) continues its look at Liverpool hospitals

"Survival Special": ITV (22.35) examines forestry threat to wildlife in Scotland

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.45)

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