

20 APRIL 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Prince of Wales opens an exhibition marking the quattrocentenary of the Spanish Armada at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

EC: Political Committee, Bonn (to 21 April)

Mr Kinnock speaks to Scottish TUC

STATISTICS

CO/OAL: Civil Service Commission annual report

HMT/CSO: Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (Mar)

HMT: Economic Progress Report

WO: Index of production and construction for Wales (4th Qtr)

PUBLICATIONS

Civil Service Commission: Annual Report

DES: Draft Evidence: Transfer to boroughs from ILEA.

HO: Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons report 1986

British Institute of Management Survey

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Environment; Scotland; Foreign and Commonwealth

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Small Firms (Liberation)
Local Government Finance Bill: Progress on Remaining Stages
Motion relating to the Personal Community Charge (Students) (Scotland) Regulations

Adjournment Debate: The regulation of standards in private and voluntary residential care and nursing homes in Scotland
Mr W McKelvey

PARLIAMENT (cont'd)Select Committees:

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: Information Technology

Witnesses: Computer Services Association; CAP and Logica; Coopers and Lybrand, Touche Ross

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Subject: Current UK policy towards the Iran-Iraq conflict

Witnesses: Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence and Department of Transport

WELSH AFFAIRS

Subject: Inward Investment into Wales

Witnesses: Scottish Development Agency; Locate in Scotland; Livingston Development Corporation

DEFENCE

Subject: Major Defence Projects:

Foxhunter radar, ALARM missile, Harrier GR5

Witness: Ministry of Defence

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: Urban Development Corporations

Witnesses: Officials from the London Docklands Development Corporation

HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Broadcasting

Witnesses: Department of Trade and Industry

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Management of the collections of the English National Museums and Galleries

Witnesses: Mr R W L Wilding, Office of Arts and Libraries; Sir David Wilson, British Museums; Mrs E Estevecoll, Victoria and Albert Museum

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Resourcing the NHS

Witnesses: British Medical Association; Medical Practitioners Union

TRANSPORT

Subject: Public Expenditure White Paper

Witness: Department of Transport officials

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS

Subject: Educational Provisions for the Under-Fives

Witness: Lady Plowden, DBE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Subject: Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Overseas Development Association Expenditure 1988/89

Witnesses: Officials from the Overseas Development Association

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: Information Technology

Witnesses: Mr Brian Oakley, Logica; Mr David Butler, Butler and Cox

PARLIAMENT (cont'd)

Select Committees (cont'd)

COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS

OPPOSED BILL COMMITTEES

Hampshire (Lyndhurst Bypass) (Lords)
South Yorkshire Light Rail Transit

UNOPPOSED BILL COMMITTEES

1. Brighton and Preston Cemetery
2. Saint Bennet Fink Burial Ground (City of London)
(Lords)

Lords: Starred Questions

Debate to call attention to the state of public transport and the
problems of traffic congestion

Protection of Official Information (No 2) Bill (HL): Second
Reading

MINISTERS - See attached

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PRESS DIGEST

Algeria: hijack over, hostages freed.

More trouble for Community Charge Bill confidently forecast for Lords. Roy Jenkins tables motion to delay Bill there.

CBI calls on Government to modify unified business rate.

Another small rebellion by Tories over Rates Bill last night.

You accuse Kinnock of receiving stolen documents - Express says his attempt to embarrass you fell flat on its face.

Lord President tables motion to suspend Ron Brown for 20 days and make him responsible for cost of repairing Mace.

Labour MPs demand he is stripped of Whip.

Brown says he and other Lefties are launching a campaign to disrupt the House.

Star says Brown declared war on Government last night and left Kinnock facing anarchy in his ranks. Kinnock furious with him (Sun).

Yorkshire miners vote to support Kinnock and Prescott in Labour leadership battle.

Benn attacks Norman Willis for trying to save Ford, Dundee, project - says he would plead for jobs if there was a guarantee of no unions at all.

Fred Smithies, NAS/UWT, calls for series of half day strikes against "totally inadequate" pay award for teachers. In anticipation of Review Body report Today says even if nurses get 12-18% they will still be bottom of world league.

Mirror leads with John Moore allegedly backing down over benefit to mother of cerebral palsy boy, thanks to Mirror publicity.

Telegraph leader notes that, by an extreme twist of irony, the woman turns out not to be a chronic dependent on social security but a symbol of self help and devotion. Her case is an argument for a less complex system against which it is easier to appeal.

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Mirror also says Royal British Legion are asking for better social security treatment for old soldiers and widows.

MoD advised British shipping to stay away from Gulf of Hormuz - 9 British ships in Gulf. Iran admits 40 men killed or wounded in Monday's strikes.

Iran vows to hit back at American "bullies". Britain protests about Iranian attack on British-flagged tanker.

Plans announced to build ultimate in cruise liners - £240million ship for Ravi Takoo - at Belfast, provided the Government puts up the money.

P&O claims Dover ferry dispute is crumbling - 30% have accepted new terms.

750,000 British Gas shareholders believed not to have paid final instalment.

Woolwich and Gateway Building Societies cut their mortgage rates to below those of Halifax and Abbey National - from 10.25% to 9.5%.

Police Complaints Authority says senior police were guilty of serious errors in allowing drug smuggler to escape from custody in Yorkshire where he was allowed to live "life of Riley" in cell.

Entry charges said to have led to drop of 40% in attendance at Natural History Museum.

Sun says you backed Zola Budd's battle to run in the Olympics.

Times - you sent a clear message to BAAB that it should stand by Budd.

Scottish teacher Raymond Hubbard, 34, runs Belfast, London and Boston marathons on successive days - each in under 3 hours.

Soccer linesman attacked by two fans and carried off on stretcher; players detain attackers at Huddersfield.

James Naughtie, Guardian, to succeed Robin Day as presenter of BBC Radio's "World at One".

Denmark calls General Election for May 10 on NATO issue.

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Dukakis wins majority of votes in New York primary and looks set to be Democratic candidate.

Iran admits it could lose Gulf war (Express).

COMMUNITY CHARGE

Star says former "wet" members of the Government are planning to "ambush" Bill in Lords.

Sun - Hands off our poll tax, Maggie tells Lords. Tories plan new revolt; leader advises their Lordships to "beware getting their ermine in a twist over democratic decisions"; otherwise some people might ask why we should have a House of Lords at all. The vote was a humiliation for the Government and demonstrated the deplorable lack of judgement by some Backbenchers who supported Mates' "unworkable, crackpot ideas".

Express leader tells Lords to "keep their gloves on". Lords have no right to destroy Bills and Government has a clear mandate for the measure. The Lords would be foolish to ignore this. In view of the old anti-Thatcher group backing Mates' amendment no wonder some observers believe that rather than the community charge many of the rebels may see their real target as you yourself.

Mail leader says with a supreme effort of political will you are driving through Parliament this most controversial commitment. The Mates' amendment would not have worked. You suffered a sobering slump in your majority but it is not now for Peers to set themselves up as the conscience of the nation.

Paul Johnson, in Mail, says the real leader of the revolt is Heseltine - a man with a mission to become leader of the Tory Party. The revolt has nothing to do with local government finance.

Telegraph - leads with you ruling out further concessions; Guardian with "Tory rebels to carry fight to Lords". Guardian leader says much the best fate for the Bill would be an organised scuttling on Third Reading on Monday - this would be healthier than having it mutilated in an unelected chamber.

Independent - Tories face second backbench revolt tomorrow night, this time on the proposal to introduce a uniform national business rate. A growing number are concerned that it could drive many small traders out of business. And many of the 38 who rebelled on Monday are expected to vote against the whole Bill at its third reading next Monday. Rumours are circulating that Mates might be

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deposed from secretaryship of 1922 Committee as a loyalist reprisal.

Independent leader says that, after the resounding setback of Monday's vote, the Government should drop the poll tax Bill. When so many Tory MPs, despite all the Whips' efforts, voted against it, there can be little doubt that it will be impossible to convince the electorate at large. The time has come for you to pluck up courage and admit that when you and your colleagues committed yourselves to the tax, you made a mistake. Peter Jenkins says he knows of no Cabinet minister who does not wish the poll tax had never been thought of and of no senior civil servant who believes it a wise or prudent measure.

Times - page 1 lead "Thatcher will push ahead on poll tax Bill". You defiantly told the Commons that the 25 majority was sufficient endorsement for a flat-rate policy despite the rebellion. Nicholas Ridley said there would be no more concessions.

MI5 may be asked to find the source of the leaked Cabinet document which embarrassed the Government.

Times leader says that it is clear that the politically sovereign Commons majority showed itself unclear and split. It is up to the Lords to look carefully to their constitutional duty. They exist to revise and give an opportunity for second thoughts. They have a serious constitutional responsibility which is more important than any one Bill, however good in principle.

Times - Labour Party Whips were angry over the failure of two of their most senior MPs, Denis Healey and Denis Howell, to vote in the poll tax division.

FT - Ministers change poll tax policy. You tell MPs the Government does not intend to claw back from less well off council tenants the benefits of an extension of rebates. Peter Riddell assesses the significance of Monday's rebellion as the way in which Michael Mates held his troops in line, despite the concession and widespread doubts about the feasibility of his plan.

RON BROWN

Star features "The Wild Bunch" - Ron Brown, Dave Nellist and Alex Palmond who have recently been suspended; leader headed "Brown must get the boot" says he and his cronies are determined to wreck Parliament. There is only one way to discipline them: to kick them out of Labour Party.

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Express - Mace MP threatens new Commons chaos. "If you think this is a one-off, don't believe it", he is quoted as saying.

Mail says Labour faces a major crisis because of Brown's declared aim to disrupt Parliament.

Telegraph says Commons will tonight take first steps towards cracking down on unruly behaviour.

Independent - Whips crackdown on Mace-bending maverick. Cost of repairs to Mace may run into thousands of pounds.

THE LEAK

Sun has a "Who dunnit?" article which says Downing Street was in turmoil yesterday over leak. It has stunned 70 staff of No 10.

Today - Maggie closes net on No 10 secrets mole.

In Mail Gordon Greig goes "on the trail of the mole who betrayed Maggie's trust". His conclusion seems to be that the latest leak was from the DHSS.

Times - Members of MI5 may be called in to track down the source of the leak. Downing Street is viewing it with the utmost seriousness and Ministers agreed to a request from Ridley for an immediate inquiry.

Times - Reg Whitney writes article "How to stop the leakers", and urges the Civil Service to return to its old standards.

POLITICS

Joe Haines, in Mirror, says you are losing your touch and have become suspicious, troubled and uncertain. Government signs of decline have set in.

NHS

Independent - Hospitals sharpen marketing skills to beat cash crisis. Increasingly offbeat money-making schemes, across the country, are expected to reach a target of £20million this year, rising to £70million in three years.

Independent - An unpublished DHSS study shows that hospital beds in Inner London have been closing at twice the rate planned, with

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equivalent of 6 district general hospitals shutting in just three years.

Times - Government plans to introduce a more flexible 'internal market' within the NHS suffered early blow when three of London's leading heart hospitals threw out a package to cut waiting lists for another region, saying it would amount to jumping their own queues for heart operations.

MEDIA

Today leader critical of TV advertising costs which, it says, are squeezing companies because they have to spend so much on advertising they haven't enough left over to develop new products.

Times - Trades unions at Independent Television News were last night given six weeks to accept streamlining plans, which include the introduction of improved equipment and 142 jobs lost.

Times - A British Minister visiting India has made a bitter attack against a BBC Panorama television programme about Gandhi.

FT - ITN says it is prepared to impose sweeping changes to staff working practices if unions refuse to discuss cost-cutting package involving 142 job losses.

INDUSTRY

Times - Heathrow to seek fifth terminal.

LAW & ORDER

Jeff Rooker MP names former SS Major General who, he says, ordered massacre of 80 unarmed British prisoners of war near Dunkirk in 1940; lives near Hamburg.

Independent - Government plans legislation to give police powers to examine and freeze bank accounts of Irish and international terrorists.

Independent - Relatives of the Guildford Six call press conference to say they have no faith in police inquiry into new evidence in the case.

Independent - Experimental reparation project whereby offenders are introduced to their victims seems certain to be rejected by Home Office.

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EDUCATION

Times - More than 400,000 teachers in England and Wales are to receive an average pay rise of 4.75% backdated to April 1.

Times - Lord Mackay promised academics to consider concessions to the Education Bill on academic tenure.

SHIPBUILDING

Independent - Speculation that Harland & Wolff has been chosen by Tikoo because the Government will come under tremendous pressure to provide aid to maintain employment at one of Northern Ireland's two biggest employers.

Times - Lawyers acting for British Shipbuilders are trying to save Sunderland's £90million contract on which 3,000 jobs depend; trying to solve problems over an order 26 ferries being built in Sunderland.

UNIONS

Independent - Scottish TUC takes first step toward repairing damage caused over Ford plant at Dundee by approving a new strategy, in a display of fragile unity, to prevent similar inter-union disputes arising in the future.

FT - Government's £1.4billion employment training programme will be launched on September 5 regardless of union opposition, says Norman Fowler.

FT - Public sector is most likely target for Government's next inquiry into restrictive trade union practices, says Norman Fowler. National Dock Labour Scheme is thought to be the leading contender.

EC

Independent - EC Farm Ministers fail to make progress towards agreeing price levels for coming year, and display deep differences over how to implement some of key provisions concluded at Brussels summit in February.

GULF

Independent - Two leading US Senators call for Gulf policy rethink as it transpires that Monday's incidents left at least 40 Iranians

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dead or wounded, six Iranian ships crippled or sunk and one US helicopter missing.

WEU reaffirms the right of countries to defend shipping and backs US action but does not explicitly condemn Iran. Joint Dutch-Belgian minehunting fleet, which had been temporarily withdrawn, has been returned to operation in the Gulf.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler addresses EEF Management Board, London
- DEN: Mr Parkinson addresses the Russell Partnership lunch, London
- DES: Mr Baker visits a Rank Xerox workshop for chief education officers in Newport Pagnall
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor hosts luncheon for Mr Myers, Deputy Secretary for Agriculture, USA, Lancaster House
- CO: Mr Luce addresses Corporate Responsibility Group lunch, London
- DEM: Mr Lee visits Calor Gas caravan park of the year award, Ramsgate
- DEN: Mr Spicer addresses the British Nuclear Forum annual general meeting, Inn on the Park, London
- DES: Mr Jackson visits IBM, Havant, to see their teaching company scheme; also visits Brunel University
- DES: Lady Hooper attends launch of curriculum material on the Channel Tunnel
- DHSS: Mrs Currie addresses Coronary Prevention Group forum
- DHSS: Lord Skelmersdale visits Great Ormond Street Hospital
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave addresses Jerry Wiggin's Safe Planning Group, London
- DOE: Lord Caithness attends Tidy Britain group launch of educational booklet, Manchester
- DOE: Mrs Roe visits Wandsworth (housing)
- DOE: Mr Moynihan attends British Olympic Appeal dinner, London
- DTI: Mr Maude addresses CAMIFA dinner, London
- FCO: Mr Mellor addresses lunch given by Families for Defence
- HO: Mr Patten visits Horseferry Road Magistrates; later addresses Crime Prevention for Children conference, London
- HO: Mr Hogg visits West Midland Prison Governors conference, Wolverhampton; later addresses ACPO Drugs conference, Preston
- MAFF: Mr Thompson visits Mr Harvey Greenway MP's horses, Ealing
- MAFF: Mr Gummer addresses Timber Growers UK annual general meeting, Agriculture House, London
- SO: Lord Sanderson visits Crofters Commission, Inverness

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DTI: Lord Young interviewed by Tokyo TV
- WO: Mr Walker visits and is interviewed by Swansea Sound radio station, Swansea
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TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Business Daily": C4 (12.30)

"The Parliament Programme": C4 (14.00)

"A Week in Politics": C4 (20.30)

"The Last Colony in Africa": BBC Radio 3 (21.00). Zimbabwe - Pt 1 -
Chance, Change and Margaret Thatcher

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

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.50)
