

27 APRIL 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister opens new Cardiac Wing, Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

The Princess of Wales attends the gala premiere of the film Wall Street, Odeon Cinema, London

TUC General Council

MIND, The National Association for Mental Health, lobby Parliament on the crisis in the mental health service

EC: Economic and Social Committee (to 28 April)

STATISTICS

DOE: Construction - new orders (Feb)

DOE: Bricks and cement production and deliveries (1st qtr-prov)

PUBLICATIONS

HO: Government response to the Public Accounts Committee report on the monitoring and supervision of charities

LCD: Today's Magistrate booklet (and press notice)

CO: Review of Equal Opportunities in Civil Service

HMT: Treasury Minute on 15th to 20th Reports from PAC

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Scotland; Foreign and Commonwealth; Trade and Industry

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Freedom from Junk Mail
Opposition Day (10th allotted day)
There will be a debate on an Opposition Motion on Housing Benefit
Licensing Bill: Consideration of Lords amendments
OPPOSED PRIVATE BUSINESS
British Rail (No 2) Bill

Adjournment Debate: The implications for child welfare of the growth of occult societies (Mr G Dickens)

Select Committees: DEFENCE
Subject: Major Defence Projects:
Third Generation Anti Tank Guided Weapon (TRIGAT),

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Select Committees: DEFENCE (Cont'd)
 (cont'd) Battlefield Artillery Target Engagement System
 (BATES), Light Attack Helicopter, 155mm Howitzer
 Witness: Ministry of Defence

ENERGY

Subject: The structure, regulation and economic
 consequences of electricity supply in the private
 sector

Witnesses: Dr Dieter Helm; Mr Alex Henney; Mr Andrew
 Holmes

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: Urban Development Corporations
 Witnesses: Construction Industry Training Board;
 Building Employers' Confederation, Allied Trades and
 Technicians

HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Broadcasting
 Witness: Broadcasting Research Unit

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: The Government's Purchasing Initiative
 Witness: Mr J Anson, CB, Second Permanent Secretary,
 HM Treasury

TRANSPORT

Subject: Department of the Environment's Main
 Estimates, 1988-89

Witnesses: Department of the Environment officials

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL

Hampshire (Lyndhurst Bypass) [Lords]

Lords: Starred Questions:

Short Debate to call attention to the Government publication
 "Public Health in England"

Short Debate to call attention to the responsibilities of the BBC
 under the Royal Charter and the Licence and Agreement granted by
 the Secretary of State for the Home Department on 2 April 1981.

UQ to ask HMG whether they still consider it appropriate to plan
 for foreshore development by means of private legislation rather
 than bring such developments within the planning system.

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGEST

Government set for benefits U-turn - John Moore to announce concessions today. You bow to pressure from Tory rebels.

DHSS report shows mistakes were made in 39% of decisions on supplementary benefit.

P&O dispute has three aspects: presence on picket line of striking miner who was imprisoned for assault during pit dispute; Sealink's court action because its seamen refused to cross picket line; and P&O's plans to sail ferries from Rotterdam to Dover to resume service.

National Union of Seamen plans to intensify picketing today.

You warn violent pickets they face prosecution.

You attack Haughey for his remarks in New York - and slap down Foreign Secretary for his surprise to Haughey's speech.

Express - You are hailed in USA for lighting a go-getters bonfire which is putting Britain on way to economic miracle - a reference to Fortune article. CBI report booming orders, better job prospects and more investment as confidence rises.

Mail picks up report which says British managers are pushing US executives out of top international jobs.

Much is made of Nestle's bid for Rowntree - and Rowntree's resistance.

US General Cinema Corporation planning bid for Cadbury-Schweppes.

TGWU tell Kinnock they cannot guarantee members will back Hattersley as deputy leader.

Express says Labour Party would clobber fee paying schools by eliminating their charitable status, according to Hattersley announcement.

Guardian says Government climbdown on control of local authority creative accounting could cost £600million.

No significant danger to public from asbestos fall-out from Shropshire Ordnance Depot fire; arson suspected; damage put at £100million.

PRESS DIGEST

John Patten suggests a curfew - 7pm to 7am - for relatively minor offenders instead of going to jail.

LWT's Weekend World - the old Brian Walden show - to end in June.

IBA introduces football-style yellow and red card warnings for TV companies who put out inadequate programmes; Today leads with fines for sex, violence and shoddy TV and says the yellow card idea is merely justifying the IBA's existence. It should be abolished and left to viewers to exercise their own choice.

Rupert Murdoch to build high-tech colour printing plant on Merseyside, creating 400 jobs at Knowsley.

Record numbers of parents are opting to send their children to private schools.

Mail pursuing Manchester school where race relations policies led to tragedy said the mother of the Asian schoolboy murdered by white pupil attacked the "hypocrisy" of anti-racist policies and said coloured children didn't want special but equal treatment.

Government to ban garages and petrol service stations from being granted licences to sell alcohol.

Saudi Arabia announces severance of diplomatic relations with Iran.

ETA, Spanish terrorist organisation's banker, held after shoot-out with police.

Kohl appoints new Defence Minister who is neither MP nor has military experience; a law don and Berlin Justice senator.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Star - Mrs T set for benefits U-turn.

Sun - Maggie helps old folk hit by cuts.

Mirror - Thatcher in £150million U-turn on benefits - humiliating, third cave-in in three weeks.

Today - Maggie does a £150million U-turn - forced into embarrassing climbdown by threat of Backbench revolt.

PRESS DIGEST

Express leads with "Maggie to buy off mutineers" - £100million housing benefits package after threat of revolt. You act to defuse threats.

Mail - page 2 - £150million deal on welfare changes, after uproar among Tories.

Telegraph - page 1 lead - concessions may cost up to £150million.

Guardian - page 1 lead - Tories bow to Backbench benefit revolt. Government will surrender to Backbench rebels for second time this month. Decision a humiliation for you.

Independent - You trailed a government about-turn on social security reforms, with details of the climbdown to be announced today; 8-2 majority for change among Backbenchers at a meeting attended by Archie Hamilton.

Times - Thatcher climbdown to head off Tory rebellion over social security changes. Government expected to put finishing touches to £100million package this morning. Kinnock says you should act now to put the wrongs right.

FT - Government in retreat over social security. You have been persuaded of the need for sizeable concessions in the past two days. The signs are that today's announcement will be aimed at particular anomalies affecting the old and disabled. Additionally, the taper for pensioners with savings over £3,000 may be altered; and the £6,000 ceiling could possibly be increased to £8,000.

COMMUNITY CHARGE

Times - Nicholas Ridley ridicules Heseltine over his protest about the community charge saying it is always interesting to hear how people's views change when freed from the cares of office.

NHS

Times - St Thomas's Hospital to make 137 redundant, including possibly two consultants, in package to save more than £3million.

FERRY STRIKE

Star - leads with "Thugs on the picket line - pit bully leads ferry blockade".

PRESS DIGEST

Sun - Page 2 - Agitator. Cop hating miner sparks picket mayhem at Dover. NUS facing court threat to freeze its £5million assets.

Mirror leads with shame of the picket nobody wants, with picture of him shouting abuse; leader headed "A sea of troubles" says this is a classic case of attempted union busting by an over-bearing employer. The seamen have a good case and P&O should agree to arbitration.

Today - Sealink stranded as crews back strikers. Union faces bankruptcy. Pits thug back with the mob; leader says McCluskie, NUS leader, must count as the Grand Old Duke of York among union leaders - he has handled the episode farcically and having thrown a picket cordon round Dover, can now be expected to march them away again faced with sequestration of assets.

Express - page 1 - Jailed picket in ferry demo. Court move to seize union's assets; leader says yesterday's picket line violence seems light years away from the picture of Britain drawn by Fortune magazine in USA. It is an ugly throw-back. Unless there is a change of attitude quickly NUS leaders are destined to become yesterday's men and their members' jobs yesterday's jobs.

Mail - page 1 - Sealink bosses sue for unions' millions. Left stirs up clashes at docks picket.

Independent - The P&O ferry dispute was last night immersed in legal action following a day of increasing tension and four arrests on the picket line in Dover. Sealink said it would go to the High Court today to activate an injunction against the union. The union in turn will be in court today seeking an injunction against P&O for breach of contract.

Times leads with seamen's strike at Dover expected to enter a more bitter phase today: leader describes strike as a sad dispute because there are men who have genuine fear about their future. The NUS would seem to have a grievance over the new shifts and this should be dealt with by independent arbitration. But the NUS has no right to prevent other men doing the work they have refused to do or to prevent others, such as lorry drivers, going about their business.

Times - looks at the implications of the strike saying both P&O and the NUS know there must be drastic manning changes but that the Dover dispute is more than a local argument. It has also become part of the general question of union power and the Government will use it as evidence that its trade union reforms do limit disruption.

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph - P&O fleet ready to challenge strike blockage; ex-miner directs pickets, leader says that in breaking relations with the NUS the company is also breaking a very long tradition. Even on an objective view of the dispute the NUS carries most of the blame for it.

Guardian - NUS back in court over Dover action.

IRELAND

Sun - Maggie rap for Haughey in IRA row.

Today - Maggie lashes Dublin outburst - stark contrast to conciliatory remarks by Foreign Secretary at weekend.

Express says Haughey is under fire in Dublin as much as from you. Irish MPs assailed him for failing to condemn IRA.

Mail - Maggie's fury at Haughey.

Telegraph - Thatcher rebukes Haughey; you brush aside an attempt to improve Anglo-Irish relations.

Independent - You told the Commons yesterday that you were demanding an assurance from Haughey that his New York speech did not mean his Government was backing away from the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Times - You sharply rebuke Haughey for his criticism of British policy in Ulster; Haughey accused in angry exchanges in Irish Parliament of never having condemned the IRA since he became Prime Minister.

POLITICS

Independent - Opponents of the poll tax and education change pin their hopes on the Lords.

Independent - You have been accused by Labour MPs of refusing to disclose membership of an international masonic organisation, the Lodge of the Eastern Star.

INDUSTRY

PRESS DIGEST

Independent - Government is planning to launch a major campaign to warn industry that it will face a severe shortage of school-leavers in the 1990s and that there will be "serious economic consequences" unless training and recruitment policies are improved.

FT - CBI reports manufacturing surge. Pound's rise has yet to have an impact on overseas sales. In past four months, output and orders appear to have risen faster than at any time since the mid-1970s.

FT - Jaguar launches XJ-S V12 convertible, with more than half forecast sales planned for the US.

FT - British Coal to have new deputy chairman. Cecil Parkinson expected to appoint John Northard, presently director of operations, later this week.

Times - Shop workers union to prosecute councils who fail to take action against shops trading illegally on Sundays.

Times - Gavin Laird accuses T&GWU of sabotage over £40million Ford plant at Dundee.

Times - T&GWU to investigate allegations by Norman Fowler that union members caused a violent disruption at a Liverpool meeting discussing the jobs training programme.

Times - Stress-related illness costing industry billions of pounds a year through absenteeism and inefficiency.

ECONOMY

Express leader, on Fortune article, says British companies are cutting a swathe through corporate America. The turnabout in Britain's economic performance barely imaginable a decade ago.

Mail, reporting on progress towards single Euro market says all the indications are that cross-Channel links between business and industrial research are getting stronger every day.

MEDIA

Independent - IBA seeks new breed of television company in the 1990s of commercial regional television publishing houses, selling their own advertising air-time but buying in all programmes from independent programme suppliers.

PRESS DIGEST

Times - IBA rejects Cabinet ideas to sell off ITV franchises to highest bidder as they would undermine public service broadcasting on ITV.

Times - Thames TV to cut staff by 200 and remove all restrictive practices if it is to survive.

FT - IBA backs fifth channel funded by advertising.

FT - Press Council fails to appoint new chairman.

TRANSPORT

Independent - The CAA says Government faces a series of stark choices if Britain is to cope with rising air traffic levels into the next century.

FT - CAA makes clear that congestion in the skies goes further than air traffic control and calls on Government to revise aviation policy as a matter of national priority.

Times - CAA chairman tells Select Committee that air traffic controllers are moonlighting as cabbies.

Times - BA start month-long trial smoking ban on flights between London and Glasgow.

DEFENCE

Times - Britain signs agreement to join multi-billion pound anti-tank weapon programme with France and Germany.

EDUCATION

Sun leader on teachers' objection to a Labour Party plan for parents and pupils to report on teachers, says it is not surprising after centuries of sarcastic comments and grumpy end of term remarks in school reports, teachers are less than keen on a taste of their own medicine.

Independent - Anti-racist education policies are strongly criticised in a report on the murder of a 13 year old Asian boy in Manchester. The policies have created resentment among the white working-class majority the report says: Leader says this foolish and ideologically-based pre-occupation with the supposed shortcomings of one group led to the establishment of a community education department which concerned itself almost exclusively

PRESS DIGEST

with promoting the interests of racial minorities. The views and the value of the majority were brushed aside.

Independent - Guidelines on how London boroughs should take over responsibility for education are bland and lack detailed advice say critics of the proposed abolition of the ILEA.

Times - Kenneth Baker may urgently review schools' policy on race relations after Manchester school killing as report says Left-wing ideas engender tension; leader calls upon Manchester to publish the report and for the Government to launch an open review of the way race education is being carried out, into whose hands it has fallen and what is to be done about it. It adds that behind the headmaster's misguided zeal lie the malignment theories and guidelines that can be found in places all over Britain.

Times - Record number of 560,000 children at private schools although total school rolls are falling and fees have risen by 31% over past 3 years.

Mail - leader on Labour's education policies says that having turned their face against parent power they make a gesture by suggesting parents and may be children should write confidential reports on teachers. How surreptitious can you get?

DEMJANJUK

Sun in leader explaining why "Ivan the Terrible" must hang, says he has a special place as one of the monsters of history. Hanging is too good for him.

SOUTH AFRICA

Times - Dr Allan Boesak accuses you of being indifferent to the fate of black children in South African jails.

NEW ZEALAND

Times - David Lange appears delighted after meeting with you because Britain will back New Zealand against EC quota cuts.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler addresses launch of Tourism Training Initiative, Wembley
- DHSS: Mr Moore hosts and Mrs Currie attends press conference and launch of EC Cancer Week, London
- DOE: Mr Ridley attends Country Landowners' Association lunch, London
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor addresses Biennial luncheon of International Meat Trade Association, Great Hall, Worshipful Company of Butchers; later addresses seminar organised by European Affairs Committee of American Chamber of Commerce
- SO: Mr Rifkind addresses Scottish Police Federation annual conference, Peebles Hydro
- DEM: Mr Cope addresses Small Business Bureau national conference, Frimley; later attends National Careers Service conference, London
- DEM: Mr Lee addresses Tourism Seminar, Bournemouth; later delivers closing address at Tourism Training Initiative, Wembley Conference Centre
- DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses Engineering Council at launch of MSE Programme
- DES: Mr Jackson visits Aberdeen and Strathclyde Universities
- DES: Mr Dunn visits Old Swinford Hospital School, Stourbridge
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave opens Bramsten Close Nursing Scheme for the physically disabled in Hainault
- DOE: Mr Howard attends Institute of Economic Affairs, what is the future of Local Government conference, London
- DOE: Mr Trippier visits St Austell and Cornish China Clay District
- DOE: Mr Chope addresses Dicta National Seminar in Northampton
- DOE: Mr Moynihan visits South Yorkshire to promote unleaded petrol
- DOE: Mrs Roe makes Rural Housing visit (prov)
- DTI: Mr Clark addresses Souling in Britain dinner, Manchester
- DTp: Mr Bottomley visits Kent County Council
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington attends South West Regional Panel dinner

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC) (Cont'd)

- OAL: Mr Luce addresses launch of Hertfordshire Heritage Fund, Knebworth House
- SO: Lord Sanderson opens Scottish Travel Fair, Scottish Conference and Exhibition Centre, Glasgow
- WO: Mr Roberts addresses Careers Service national conference, London
-

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DEN: Mr Morrison attends Offshore Technology conference, Houston, Texas

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

Lord Ferrers interviewed by Dr Heffmann, Financial Times about role of Lord Chancellor

TV AND RADIO

'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)

'The Parliament Programme': C4 (14.00)

'File on Four': BBC Radio 4 (16.05) What kind of Afghanistan will emerge as the Russians prepare to withdraw?

'The Making of Britain': C4 (18.30) 4. The New Jerusalem

'A Week in Politics': C4 (20.30)

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

'Newsnight': BBC 2 (22.50)
