

Tuesday, 3 May 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

EC: Internal Market/Consumer Affairs Council, Brussels

The Princess Royal opens the new unit at Evans Medical factory, Speke, Liverpool; later visits Weatherall, Bond Street W1 Ltd, also opens Wirrel Autistic Society's new extension to Raby Hall

The Prince of Wales addresses the British/American conference on Private Sector Initiative, Lancaster House

The Princess of Wales names a British Rail 125 locomotive "The New Cross" at Paddington Station, London

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Employment; Social Services; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Legal Profession (Abolition of Restrictive Practices) (Mr Austin Mitchell)
Finance (No 2) Bill: Committee Stage (1st day)

Adjournment Debate: The Department of Transport report on the rail accident at Colwich Junction on 22 September 1986 (Mr J Heddle)

Select Committees: TELEVISIONING PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE
Witnesses: British Broadcasting Corporation;
Independent Broadcasting Authority

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL
Hampshire (Lyndhurst Bypass) [Lords]

Lords: Starred Questions
Court of Session Bill (HL): Third Reading
Landlord and Tenant Bill (HL)
Education Reform Bill: Committee (1st Day)
Redundancy Payments (Local Government) (Modification) (Amendment)
Order 1988: Motion for Approval
Meat and Livestock Commission Levy (Variation) Scheme
(Confirmation) Order 1988: Motion for Approval
ROYAL ASSENT

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGEST

British police travel to help track down IRA killers in Holland.

Press believe IRA Maze escapees carried out the murders of 3 Servicemen over the weekend, but their information on who differs.

One of injured airmen has foot amputated.

Special number-plates of Servicemen in Germany may be withdrawn; help to identify them.

Husband of Carmen, Thames' Gibraltar witness, says she got it wrong about the 3 IRA men putting their hands up in surrender; Carmen says she wants to be left alone.

BBC Northern Ireland may make a film on Gibraltar shootings.

Britain will press for more security co-operation in Anglo-Irish talks this week.

Mail leads with report that IBA is split over handling of Thames programme.

Lawyer representing families of 3 IRA terrorists in Gibraltar says he has been assured by Belfast that the people of Gibraltar will not be harmed in future.

P&O make 3 return crossings between Zeebrugge and Dover; strike ends at Portsmouth.

National Union of Seamen in court today and resigned to sequestration of assets.

Fishing boats stand in for strike-bound ferries between Stranraer and Larne.

BBC Brass Tacks programme claims that P&O's Pride of Bruges has sailed without crew vital in emergency.

Michael Heseltine wants Swiss bids for our confectionery firm to be blocked because Switzerland bans all foreign bids for its firms; 19 Tory MPs support him.

Express says we should refuse to play until Swiss change rules. Investigation into 4 x 7ft undercarriage door of Icelandair flight fell into garden in Pinner; no-one hurt.

PRESS DIGEST

TUC split over report which backs continuation of nuclear power industry.

Telegraph says loss making pits may be offered for sale to miners.

Police said to be protecting 28 peers who have received death threats from homosexual activists in connection with Section 28.

Labour leaders, according to Mirror, convinced Britain has reached a political turning point "with voters steadily rejecting a Government which has made greed its moral code".

Scargill backs Benn in Labour leadership campaign. SOGAT and EEPTU to consult members on whom to support.

Robin Day, in Express interview, says you are one of greatest Prime Ministers of this century.

Guardian believes Steel will announce he is standing down next week.

John Hughes MP, banned from House for interrupting prayers, has bought his own council house while trying to prevent other tenants from doing so.

500 cab drivers scrap their unemployment benefit claims in West Midlands after Ministry checks - overall clampdown across country has saved £40million. Nearly 60,000 found to be working and claiming benefit in last 8 months of 1987. Today approves of putting "fear of God" into offenders rather than taking them to court. Express backs move - "Carry on cracking down" it says.

FDA survey shows most senior Civil Servants do not claim overtime and only 1 in 5 takes time off in lieu; it urges recruits to be more "hard nosed" about pay.

Car thefts in Britain - worth £600million over 5 years - said to be financing drug trade.

Baby snatched from Cardiff store by bogus detective; police still searching.

Perth prison officer, held hostage by prisoners, released unharmed.

Star claims Turkey is not ready for tourist invasion and that some people will be accommodated in "chicken shacks".

PRESS DIGEST

BBC HQ being disinfected for Legionnaire's disease.

Today claims "damning new evidence" about Waldheim will put pressure on you to withdraw our Ambassador from Vienna - claims that UK investigation has brought a lot of new evidence to light.

15 die in clashes between rival groups in Palestinian camps in Beirut.

Israelis move into Lebanon in search for guerrilla bases.

30 feared dead in children's hospital collapse in Kashmir.

Polish shipyard workers start sit-in at Gdansk.

Seven solidarity leaders rounded up.

Claims that President Reagan is guided in organising his diary by astrologer.

McDonalds to open hamburger shop in Moscow.

IRA BOMBINGS/TERRORISM

Star leader hopes that SAS squads are ranging the Continent in pursuit of the killers. It also hopes Lord Thomson's resignation as IBA chairman will be on your desk. He is almost as guilty of giving aid and comfort to the enemy as the Thames people who made the Gibraltar film.

Times leads with security measures for British Servicemen and families in West Germany under intensive review as two Scotland Yard anti-terrorism experts join in search for IRA killers in Holland; families of the three Servicemen killed condemn the "sewer-like mentality of the IRA" and say Thames TV report about Gibraltar should never have been shown; Dutch fear more terror attacks.

Times leader stresses the urgent need for all European countries to harmonise their anti-terrorist policies more closely particularly as after 1992 terrorists will be able to move much more freely and be like needles in a haystack of 300 million people. But changes will not happen thoroughly enough or fast enough unless driven by determined political will from the top.

PRESS DIGEST

Conor Cruise O'Brien in the Times looks at the difficulties of taking out terrorists while operating in the rule of law, concluding it would be better openly and legally to suspend the presumption of innocence, in relation to a particular category of suspect, rather than to acquiesce in a silent devaluation of the general concept of the rule of law.

Mail leader says while you can't personally confine 150,000 Servicemen and families to barracks new anti-terrorist precautions must now be considered. And we must block off terrorists' "funk holes" in Europe.

P&O

Sun leader says it is a sad day when the full might of the law has to be turned on a trade union.

Independent - Government and opposition business managers face difficult week following row over Labour's attitude to the dispute. Dobson threatens to break off co-operation in running parliamentary business unless Tory MP apologises for accusing Labour of supporting the use of violence.

MEDIA

Sun criticises BBC for spending £250,000 on "freeloading" at TV festival on Riviera.

IRELAND

Express leader says Kevin McNamara is a confused man. While condemning shootings in Holland he harks back to Gibraltar and says "Two wrongs don't make a right". Who, apart from someone determined to prejudge the issue, can say SAS acted wrongly in Gibraltar?

FT - Charles Haughey will raise Gibraltar shootings and Netherlands murders at tomorrow's meeting of Anglo-Irish conference in Dublin.

INDUSTRY

Times - TUC calls for tight conditions to be imposed on continued operation and development of nuclear industry.

PRESS DIGEST

Times - European space programme strengthens with unveiling of latest and most powerful addition to Ariatue family of satellite launch vehicles.

Times - Government studying radical plans for private sector to take a large role in financing road and rail networks.

Independent - Scottish Labour MPs enthusiastic about effort by British Aerospace to persuade the RAF to dogfight over the North Sea - idea it is said would help oil rig fabrication yards as well as giving the RAF an opportunity to practice dogfighting away from populated areas, because rigs covered with electronic monitoring equipment would be required.

FT - Draft proposals for dividing 78 power stations in England and Wales between two rival generating companies should be completed within three months.

FT - Industry is failing to make the most of Star Wars, according to director general of SDI Participation Office at MoD.

ECONOMY

Times - Oil price drops by nearly \$1 after OPEC fails to agree cuts in exports.

Times - Public Expenditure White Paper likely to be discontinued as Treasury decides to accept Select Committee's recommendation and have an expanded Autumn statement.

FT - Lloyds Bank forecasts business investment growth of 9% this year.

LAW & ORDER

Times - Post Office hopes Government will agree to its launching its own fraud investigation agency offering services to companies such as banks, building societies, retailers and airlines.

Times - Retiring Chief Constable says in annual report that Hampshire was so short of police last year that at times there was only one patrolling officer for every 9,600 inhabitants.

Independent - Police thought to be breaking spirit of EC Data Protection Act by keeping people's names on computer but the information about them on cards.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent - On the eve of the 2nd Reading of the Legal Aid Bill, Independent leader sympathises with the Law Society's concern at the Government's failure to raise eligibility levels for legal aid.

LOCAL ELECTIONS

Times - Two separate stories looking at local elections say sudden riches in Bristol spell danger for Labour control while in the Wirral national issues put Tories on defensive.

Independent - Labour's hopes are rising that the party will record an unexpectedly strong performance in the local government elections. But Tories are confident the nurses pay rise came just in time. Both agree it will be hard to discern a clear national pattern and few changes in control of individual councils are expected.

NHS

Independent - NHS review appears to be backing away from radical changes, aiming instead to build on changes already taking place. Consultants' contracts are likely to be reviewed every 5 years, merit award system is likely to be revamped and RHAs are likely to be slimmed down.

Independent - John Wakeham promises to find extra Parliamentary time for Alton Bill if it falls on Friday because of procedural wrecking tactics. Most of the MPs backing the Bill will vote against any amendment raising the 18-week limit to 24 weeks.

Mail review of history of NHS to 1957 says roots of today's crises can be traced back to Labour Party founders.

ENVIRONMENT

Times - Group of 80 Conservative MPs to intensify pressure on Government to curb further development in rural southern England.

HOUSING

Times - Property buyers trying to complete by August being hit by long delays by local authorities carrying out searches.

PRESS DIGESTEDUCATION

Keith Joseph tables amendments to Education Reform Bill's proposals on curriculum.

EC

Times - Government expected to announce today that it will match a £267million contribution from EC's social fund to fight unemployment.

Times - City law firms to make representations to EC over restrictions they claim will inhibit them from operating freely under the single market after 1992.

NAMIBIA

Independent - SWAPO left out of Namibian peace talks to be held at undisclosed venue in London today under US chairmanship.

TAKESHITA'S VISIT

Independent - Japanese official says Takeshita's meeting with you in key element of his European tour, and hints that you could make or break the visit depending on the sort of questions you raise.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DOE: Mr Ridley attends Guardian Informal Tuesday conference, London
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor lunches with Cadbury Schweppes, 2-4 Connaught Place, London
- DEM: Mr Lee visits South East (to 4 May) and attends South East Tourism Board dinner, Dover
- DES: Mr Jackson visits St Helens College and Salford University, Manchester
- DES: Mr Dunn addresses Sastro conference at the QEII Conference Centre, London
- DHSS: Mrs Currie attends the launch of WNCCC European Cancer Week, Hilton Hotel, London
- DHSS: Lord Skelmesdale addresses National Association of Funeral Directors conference, Eastbourne
- DOE: Mr Trippier visits Bristol
- DOE: Mrs Roe attends housing seminar in Maidstone; later visits Canterbury (housing)
- ODA: Mr Patten addresses the Royal Commonwealth Society on the European Community and the Lome Convention, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DHSS: Mr Moore addresses World Health Organisation meeting in Geneva, on AIDS
- DTI: Mr Maude attends Internal Market Council/Consumer Affairs Council, Brussels
- HO: Mr Patten visits Netherlands on crime prevention and drugs (to 4 May)

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DHSS: Mrs Currie interviewed by Granada TV on passive smoking
- FCO: Mrs Chalker interviewed by BBC World Service
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TV AND RADIO

- "Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)
- "Business Daily": C4 (12.30)
- "The Parliament Programme": C4 (14.00)
- "In Business": BBC Radio 4 (16.05)
- "The Cook Report": ITV (20.00)
- "Brass Tacks": BBC 2 (20.30) The disease of sloppiness - does it infect the management of P & O following the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster?
- "Network": BBC 1 (22.30) can television be accused of supplying the 'oxygen of publicity' to terrorism?
- "The World Tonight": BBC Radio 4 (22.30) followed by "The Financial World Tonight" and "Today in Parliament"
- "Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.35)
- "First Tuesday": IVT (22.40) A Nation Divided
- "The Troubles": C4 (23.00) - documentary on Northern Ireland covering period 1966-72
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