

30 June 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister makes Commons Statement on European Council; and holds reception for WRVS (photocall)

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visit the Zoological Gardens in Edinburgh to mark the 75th anniversary of their opening; and give a garden party at Holyroodhouse

The Prince of Wales visits the Edinburgh Venture Enterprise Trust and visits Wester Hailes Employment Initiative, Edinburgh

Royal College of Nursing reception for Conservative MPs to mark 40th anniversary of NHS

EC: Telecommunications Council, Luxembourg

Visit to Soviet Chemical Weapons establishment at Shikhany by UK team

STATISTICS

DEN: Energy Trends (April)

HO: Notifiable offences (1st Quarter 1988)

HO: Domestic Proceedings in Magistrates' Courts 1987

PUBLICATIONS

HO: Response to Home Affairs Committee Report on the Government's plans for Radio Broadcasting

Times Industrial Survey on Northern Ireland (prov)

HO: HMCIP report on Risley Remand Centre inspection

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Northern Ireland; Agriculture, Fisheries and Food;
Prime Minister

Business: Debate on Foreign Affairs on a Motion for the Adjournment

Adjournment Debate: The footwear and textile industry in Leicester (Mr K Vaz)

Select Committees: TRADE AND INDUSTRY
Subject: Trade with Eastern Europe
Witness: Mr Michael Kaiser, Director of the
Russian Soviet and East European Institute

Select Committee: (Cont'd)

COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS

City of London (Spitalfields Market) St George's
Hill, Weybridge Estate

Lords: Starred Questions

Local Government Finance Bill: Report (2nd Day)

British Waterways Board (Rateable Values)(Scotland) Amendment
Order 1988: Motion for Approval

Docks and Harbours (Rateable Values)(Scotland) Amendment Order
1988: Motion for Approval

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGEST

Mixed reception for Official Secrets Act reforms from both politicians and media. Tory and Liberal MPs welcome them; Hattersley condemns them as "draconian and unacceptable"; Freedom of Information Campaign sees reforms as no gesture towards their objective.

Press treatment better than expected with generally helpful leaders from Star, Today, Express, Mail, Times, FT.

Kinnock attacks Left, including Scargill, at NUM conference for trying to lead Labour Party into "ultra-Left Disneyland".

In interview with Early Times, children's newspaper, Kinnock says: "Nuclear weapons are unusable and must never be used".

John Gilbert MP says on radio Kinnock could be toppled by MPs' confidence vote, though he doesn't think it will happen immediately.

Kinnock ignores defence issue in NUM speech.

Peter Shore, in Independent, says there is a lack of realism in Kinnock's approach to defence policy.

Nicholas Ridley to announce next week leasing of council sports facilities if private firms can manage them more cheaply.

County Hall, former home of GLC, to be hotel - Ken Livingstone says "It's outrageous".

Mail finds that nearly 75% of people questioned and who had travelled to Continent in past year thought our streets dirtier and more litter strewn than abroad.

Labour Party survey suggests 81% of Kensington adults will suffer from community charge.

Manpower organisation says more than a third of Britain's firms plan to take on extra staff in next 3 months - job prospects best for 15 years.

Nissan to begin exporting from Sunderland in October; takes on extra 250 workers 6 months ahead of schedule.

Government offers Harland & Wolff to Ravi Tikoo.

PRESS DIGEST

Elstree, Britain's oldest film studios, to be sold to property developers.

United Technologies, Sikorsky firm, negotiating to buy Fiat's 16.7% stake in troubled Westland.

Another £345million worth of orders from US and Cyprus for Airbus.

Ban of foam in furniture from next March and from 1993 on its use in second-hand furniture.

Express leads with its announcement of a £2million emergency helicopter hospital service in London to help save accident victims.

Today leads with EC pollution measures which will add £500 to cost of a car by 1993.

Police Federation wants soccer clubs with rioting fans to be banned from playing home matches.

Telegraph leader on Hattersley's claims that soccer hooligans are "Thatcher's children" says they are no more yours than they are Wilson's grandchildren. The majority are victims of neglectful parents.

Police drivers and motor cyclists involved in 279 serious road crashes last year in which 16 civilians and 8 officers died.

Chief Superintendent who led search for Moors murdered bodies says on retirement that he has respect for Myra Hindley who comes over as someone who regrets what she did; he is bitterly disappointed he was prevented from hypnotising Hindley. (NB - He has been forced to retire by injury received during dig on Moors).

Jonathan Sayeed MP wants inquiry into security of Leyhill Open Prison after 15 escapes this year and 4 in one week.

Three most senior officers in RUC cleared of cover up in alleged "shoot-to-kill" controversy by majority of one on Police Authority.

Kevin MacNamara describes decision as "amazing".

Robert Maxwell accuses you of lacking vision over future of Europe.

PRESS DIGEST

Paul Foot, in Mirror, says Nicholas Ridley recently (1985) objected when developers wanted to build more flats above his in Warwick Square and prints a letter from Angela Rumbold to Shirley Porter about the issue while Angela Rumbold was Minister in Department of Environment. But planning permission was granted.

BBC, according to Mail, to show "horrific IRA attack on bus packed with teenagers" in their TV drama next month.

West German prosecutor who has re-opened the case against Wilhelm Mohnke says he doubts there is sufficient fresh evidence for a trial (Independent).

Tension mounts between Rumania and Hungary over Rumania's treatment of Hungarian ethnic minority.

Today says there is a new Greek political scandal: Papandreou spent weekend in Frankfurt with former air hostess before Euro Council.

LABOUR PARTY

Star - Kinnock lashes Disneyland Lefties - Scargill & Co won't face reality.

Sun - Scargill's in Disneyland. Kinnock raps Lefties so scared of change; leader says this was Kinnock's best speech for a long time and he demolished Scargill in 20 minutes flat. But his effort to regain control of Labour Party will lead to a long hot summer.

Mirror - Kinnock blasts Disney Lefties; successfully re-established his authority.

Today - Disneyland Lefties slayed by Kinnock; leader thinks we should do ourselves a favour as a nation by swapping Kinnock for Gorbachev. Kinnock has nothing to say to the British people that's worth a moment of their time.

Express page 1 - Scargill throws Kinnock to lions; lukewarm reception at NUM shows extent of mountain he has to climb. Leader says there was nothing wrong with Kinnock's speech yesterday. What is in doubt is his stomach for taking on and defeating those determined to stop reform. Actions not words are the real test of leadership.

Mail - Kinnock scorns Left's Disneyland.

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph - Kinnock lashes Disneyland Left.

Guardian - Disneyland Left attacked by Kinnock.

Times - Kinnock takes on his foes head-on with defiant speech to NUM in a blistering assault on his far-Left enemies.

Neil Kinnock sought to restore his damaged personal authority by rounding on Arthur Scargill at the NUM conference in a passionate defence of Labour's policy reviews.

OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT

Star - Hurd rolls out a few top secrets - essentially frivolous treatment; leader headed "smart move" says Government has made a start on dismantling secrecy laws.

Sun - Hurd's law will tighten secrets.

Mirror - Storm over Secrets shake up - Richard Shepherd describes attempted reform as "repressive"; leader says the new laws will bring a censorship to Britain unmatched anywhere in the free world. Douglas Hurd's proposals are those of a Government which can't tolerate anybody doing or saying anything of which it doesn't approve. It warns that if ever it discovers illegality, criminality or threats to interests of British people it will publish and be damned.

Today - Lid lifted on tea bag secrets; Hurd the reformer praised for big shake-up by Tory and Liberal MPs; leader says Home Secretary has done a remarkably fine job of demolishing the old ludicrous system. It thinks the likes of Wright and Ponting should face prosecution if they spill the beans along with anyone else who puts personal grievances above public duty. Government must be open but that doesn't mean it should leak like a sieve.

Express - Fair but tough! Hurd's secrets law shake up. Your version of glasnost unveiled; leader says Home Secretary is to be congratulated on his proposals. Overall they seem to strike a realistic balance between legitimate need for some secrecy and public's equally legitimate right to know.

Mail leads with "Reform for Secrets Act". Douglas Hurd caught those who feared a tough, repressive approach on the hop. While Hattersley called them "draconian", Lord Mishcon, in Lords, congratulated Government; leader agrees with you that it must be an offence for any past or present security agent to disclose any details of his work without authority. The reforms will still

PRESS DIGEST

leave the press in Britain considerably more inhibited than in USA but things would have been worse under Shepherd's Bill. You should be willing to accept constructive amendments.

Telegraph leads with "Loopholes closed in Hurd's reform of Secrets Plan"; leader says predictably Freedom of Information Lobby is unsatisfied. But these are major steps towards more open government. It is uneasy about lack of public interest and prior publication defences. But a welcome should be extended to a genuinely reforming measure.

Guardian - Secrets Act shake up may ease prosecution. Leader says the silky package of modest proposals left the Freedom of Information campaigners looking a touch foolish. But shutting the stable door on security services isn't progress.

Times leads with Government taking wind out of the sails of both the Opposition and its own backbenchers with its plans for reforming Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act but Press Council disappointed; leader says Douglas Hurd deserves to win a wide measure of praise. The White Paper, however, should not represent the Government's last word. But as a step in the direction of reform of official secrecy here is a welcome end to the debilitating refusal to advance public policy in recent years.

Independent - Hurd launches official secrets reform plan. Proposals criticised as repressive but Government rejects ministerial fiat on information disclosure. Leader says Mr Hurd has produced ideas which are more liberal than had been anticipated. But they are so circumscribed by exceptions and special designation that the Bill's effect is still likely to be unacceptably restrictive.

FT - Hurd outlines proposal to reform key section of Official Secrets Act. Inside half page of detail and half page of comment plus leader whose verdict is that some of the White Paper is very good. Above all it places the onus of proof in any prosecution firmly on the Government. It is a tidying-up exercise with a liberal bent; greater scrutiny of the security service and less secrecy in government generally might be the next steps.

POLITICS

Times - SDP in Kensington by-election accuse Labour and SLD of lacking the guts to take tough decisions on defence policy.

PRESS DIGESTINDUSTRY

Times - OFTEL announce package of measures to prevent overcharging on telephone bills.

Times - Cost of running new family car has increased by almost double rate of inflation and now costs more than 39p a mile.

Times - High Court rules that travel agents are not shops so are not subject to Sunday trading restrictions.

Times - Dispute between British Coal and SSEB is close to settlement with the electricity industry agreeing to take all available coal from mines north of the border.

CITY

Times says Stock Exchange delivered several warnings about Barlow Clowes to the Government over three years, starting in 1984. The Exchange also warned Bank of England and told DTI that it was working on a detailed investigation into the company.

FT - Francis Maude says he expects to get Barlow Clowes report before Parliament re-assembles in the autumn.

EDUCATION

Times - Kenneth Baker considering whether to reverse Lords' decision over funding of universities and job protection for academics.

Times - Controller of the Audit Commission says Government plans to give schools financial self-control would fail unless local authorities stop dragging their feet.

Independent - Audit Commission report says government's plans for delegating control of budgets to schools seriously flawed and could lead to schools being forced to dismiss experienced teachers.

HEALTH

Independent - Leading academics say idea that large expansion in private health insurance will lift a burden from the NHS is a myth.

PRESS DIGESTLAW & ORDER

Times - Law Society says legal profession is facing an unprecedented recruitment crisis, leading to shortages of lawyers in both public and private sectors and threatening the range and quality of legal services.

Independent - Impersonation of jurors is taking place on a widespread scale in London's Courts, according to evidence gathered by a practising criminal barrister.

MEDIA

FT - Commons Home Affairs Committee will next week recommend abolition of the IBA and urge its replacement by a body similar to the US Federal Communications Commission, with overall responsibility for cable, satellite and commercial television.

ENVIRONMENT

Independent - Britain has blocked an attempt by EC Ministers to ban the export of toxic waste to developing countries.

ECONOMY

FT - Sam Brittan, looking at fiscal policy, believes the odds are that the public sector repayment will be nearer £6billion than the estimated £3billion - well over 1% of GDP.

Independent - Labour Research Department report shows number of equal pay claims brought by women against their employers has increased by almost 50% in the past year.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Times - Forensic science experts reject IRA claim that bus bomb was timed to explode before children joined bus.

Independent - Anglo-Irish relations suffer new setback as Northern Ireland police authority decides to drop threat of disciplinary action against Chief Constable. Irish Government announces it will formally express disappointment and concern at the decision.

EC

Independent - East Germany has signalled interest in a trade and co-operation pact with the EC two weeks after applying for full diplomatic relations with the Community.

PRESS DIGESTNATO

Times - Lord Carrington says NATO's slowness let Gorbachev seize initiative over arms.

SOVIET UNION

Times - Soviet Union takes cautious stock of unexpected call for "full-blooded" democracy and Gorbachev may have pushed too far too fast for some.

THYSSEN

Times has drawings of the proposed new gallery for Canary Wharf which could house the Thyssen collection.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEN: Mr Parkinson visits the East Midlands Electricity Board

DES: Mr Baker attends Lord Peyton lunch for Young Electronic Designer Awards, QEII Conference Centre, London

CO: Mr Luce visits DHSS Leeds office and addresses Business and Leisure Seminar, Wakefield

DEM: Mr Nicholls attends ROSPA annual safety awards ceremony

DES: Mr Jackson visits the National Institute of Medical Research

DES: Mr Dunn attends official opening of Life Education Centre; later visits William de Ferrers School, Essex

DHSS: Mrs Currie addresses Annual Conference of the European Union of Women, London

DOE: Mr Waldegrave addresses the CBI conference on Environmental Assessment in London

DOE: Mr Trippier visits Doncaster for Urban Development Grant for Meadowhall announcement

DOE: Mr Moynihan visits Wimbledon Tennis Championships

DTI: Mr Maude speaks on the effect of SEM on the Information Industry, Royal Institute of International Affairs

DTp: Mr Bottomley visits Norton Motors Ltd, Birmingham

FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses EDG/EPP colloquy, London

MAFF: Mr Gummer visits the Isles of Scilly

SO: Lord Sanderson visits Animal Disease Research Unit, Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DES: Mr Jackson interviewed by John Clare for BBC World Service

TV AND RADIO

'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)

'The Parliament Programme': C4 (14.00)

'This Week': ITV (20.30) Hostages: Should we Deal?

'Nature': BBC2 (20.30) From Atomic Power to Zoos. Last in series

'Newsnight': BBC2 (22.30)

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

'The City Programme': ITV (22.35)