

PRIME MINISTER

29 July 1988

MAIN EVENTS

Parliament rises

Prime Minister gives pre-Australian press conference; has lunch with British Society of Magazine Editors; then leaves for Australia

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visits Chelmsford

Prince Edward attends a performance of Romeo and Juliet, Windsor

Princess Alice visits Berlin (to 31 July)

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STATISTICS

BOE: London sterling certificates of deposit (June)

BOE: Bill turnover statistics (June)

BOE: Monetary statistics (June)

BOE: Sterling commercial paper (June)

BOE: Provisional estimates of bank lending for house purchase (2nd qtr)

DTI: Engineering indices of production and orders (May)

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: Timed Summer Adjournment Debates until 3.00 pm

Adjournment Debate: The effect of London Weighting Allowance on employment in the Public Services of adjacent counties (Mr J Arnold)

Lords: Starred Questions  
Debate on the White Paper on the Reform of the Official Secrets Act 1911  
ROYAL ASSENT

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGEST

Paddy Ashdown elected leader of SLDP with 70-20% majority then spurns Owen's hopes of opening up a new partnership. He says he plans to become the alternative party of Government - people recognise Labour can't again form a Government.

Chancellor warns inflation may rise for a year but says the economy is booming and the best is yet to come. Dismisses worries about balance of payments.

Sterling soars on wave of enthusiasm for booming Britain - over 3.21DM.

You warn estate agents to agree a voluntary code against gazumping - or face legislation.

Today quotes Sir Gordon Borrie, OFT, saying that travel firms should compensate for ruined holidays in the same way that stores do for faulty goods. Reputation and good name of ABTA is not being advanced.

Mail leader on the past Parliamentary session says neither Socialism in full flood nor the great Liberal Administration before World War I produced one to match the one now ending. Other Governments may stale with age but not this one. Without your determination, conviction and hands-on style this epic reform session would never have come to pass.

Trust funded by businessmen launched to help schools who want to opt out. It predicts every LEA will have lost control of at least one school in next 2 years.

Social Services Select Committee sends "hands off NHS" message to Government - rejects tax incentives for private health insurance.

£200million London Docklands bridge over Thames given go-ahead and private firms invited to build second Severn crossing.

Nissan to set up UK design centre.

Britain to reprocess an extra 1,000 tonnes of foreign nuclear waste to help pay for cost increase in new plant at Sellafield.

Nuclear Engineering International claims Britain's nuclear power programme is worst in Europe and beaten for poor performance only by India.

All-day drinking comes in on August 22.



PRESS DIGEST

Sun claims that Left leaders at school which shamed a woman colleague for refusing to attend a Mandela assembly banned police from advising children how to avoid sex attacks because they considered them "fascist pigs".

Kenneth Baker is ready to investigate complaint about Mandela incident (Express).

Trading Standards officers in Liverpool ask OFT to examine FA's Cup Final tickets policy; they describe it as a huge rip off with tickets being sold 10 times their value by touts. Star: It's a disgraceful rip off.

Colin Moynihan tells FA to end it.

SAS will give evidence at Gibraltar inquest - in disguise, says Sun. And Express says they will be joined by MI5 to give background to operation. Their attendance will however be kept under review in case there is a threat to their safety (Times).

Norman Tebbit wins libel action against Hugo Young and The Guardian for alleging he said "Nobody with a conscience votes Conservative"; gets £14,000 damages and all his £16,000 costs.

Peter de Savary takes 12% stake in TV-AM.

Lord Young looks forward to possibility of 5th TV channel by 1992.

The Beano is 50 today.

Winnie Mandela's home burned down - police say it was started by children with petrol bombs.

Dukakis has 17% lead in Presidential election poll.

ECONOMY

Sun says Chancellor's warning of rising inflation vindicates your anger over his efforts to peg the pound earlier in the year.

Times leader on the Government planning a campaign to reduce the number of inner-city unemployed after survey reveals there are many more jobs available than had been thought. Included in a five point package are plans for mobile job-finding centres to be sent out on to housing estates taking jobs to the people.



PRESS DIGEST

Andrew Alexander, in Mail, wonders what all the fuss is about the rising pound and the Bank's panicky attempts to hold it down. In 1986 it was around 3.35. In May 1986 it went through 3.40. In April it was 3.50. In 1985 it was 4.00. He concludes: the fuss is grossly overdone.

Telegraph leads with Chancellor's letter to Backbenchers - inflation rising but Lawson stays confident.

FT - Chancellor optimistic on economy but warns that inflation rate will edge up for another year before coming back down again.

FT - Intervention fails to halt surge in dollar and pound, which closed in London last night at DM3.2125 and \$1.7230.

ASHDOWN

Express thinks he deserved his victory because he is marginally more exciting than Beith. But he has a job on his hands.

Telegraph says it will take some time to discover whether the SLD under Ashdown is a reinvented Liberal party or can regain credibility as a national force. From now on he will have to demonstrate not only the aura of leadership but judgement, depth and consistency. His past raises serious doubts and his task is immense.

Guardian says Ashdown is no great original thinker. But he knows where to take advice and if he can't make the policies of the centre vibrant then possible no-one can.

YOUR VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

Today has a big feature headed Maggie's misery tour - 26,900 miles, 18 time zones, 12 cities, 10 days. Thatcher Magical Mystery Tours matched for guaranteed exhaustion only by jogging in the Himalayas and rafting over Victoria Falls.

Express - High flying Maggie off in "toughest ever tour".

Times reports that the main objective of your 12 day tour is to stimulate links, particularly trade, between Britain and Australia. Mr Hawke intends to tackle you over South African sanctions, Fiji and the problems over British pensioners living in Australia; leader looks at your punishing schedule saying that Australia has been neglected in the past. British leaders have given lower priority to Australia since joining the EC. You and



PRESS DIGEST

Bob Hawke have much to do to convince your countrymen that their shared interest remain relevant and that the vast efforts of the Royal Family to boost relations between the two countries this year stand for more than old sentiment.

Telegraph - 12-day Orient express for Thatcher party. It is clear from the itinerary that you do not believe any of those travelling with you need more than your regulation 5 hours' sleep.

Guardian - Ian Aitken, in sour piece because he isn't going, says some Ministers wonder why you think it necessary to do all these daft things. After all everyone has known for some time you are not an ordinary mortal, so why go on proving it year after year?

EC

Sun says you re right to give a "big Non" to absurd pretensions to bury this country in a United States of Europe. Never in a million years will the British people countenance being ruled by bureaucrats in Brussels or accept that Westminster Parliament will lose sovereignty.

Mirror however, says you are wrong about Europe and its future. Under you we may miss an historic opportunity. A failure to be in Europe would be to choose obsolescence instead of modernisation, the past instead of the future. A great many Tories are shocked at the stand you are taking.

Express feature says the mood in Delors office after your braodcast was one of anger and concern. It now seems evolution of Europe will be political trial of strength with London. Nor are you isolated in your concept - Denmark, Greece and Ireland share it.

INDUSTRY

Independent - Guinness, which yesterday lost its appeal against a Lords vote to insist that tenants should be balloted before leaving local authority control.

CHURCH

Independent - Draft resolution of Lambeth Conference says women will be allowed to be consecrated as bishops but it will gravely damage relations between Anglican churches.



PRESS DIGEST

Independent - Nuclear waste dumps are not being properly monitored because the pollution inspectorate has neither manpower nor resources.

FT - VSEL tables new holidays package to end seven-week strike at Barrow, but unions say no decision has been made on recommending to the workers.

Independent - Call for second runway at Gatwick.

MEDIA

Sun notes that Lord Thomson, IBA, has warned that TV standards will decline. This, it says, from a man who allowed the broadcast of a programme blacking the name of the SAS in Gibraltar. Things can only get better with his retirement.

Today critical of average age - 60 - of Broadcasting Standards Council.

Times - The big five TV companies warn that programmes could be affected if Government goes ahead by 1990 with plans to double the levies they have to pay.

FT - Thatcher committee endorses radical broadcasting policy. Broad thrust of policies agreed yesterday for November White Paper, include competitive tendering for ITV franchises, creation of a fifth channel and replacement of the IBA with a new regulatory body covering cable and satellite.

EDUCATION

Express leader on the Mandela incident in Brent says the affair is scandalous - an affront in a free and civilised society that an individual should be harrassed by ideological bullies; and intolerable children should be subjected to political agit-prop. Is it any wonder teaching standards in State system leave something to be desired.

Independent - Jack Straw says City Technology Colleges are a glitzy gimmick.

Independent - Professional Association of Teachers' annual conference heard Government plans to give parents more power in running schools could be a flop.



PRESS DIGESTKENNETH CLARKE

Mail leader notes Edwina Currie's initial reaction to her "3-stone overweight, cigar puffing, exercise shunning Minister". She is as mild and soothing as nanny's nursery custard. One reason: an ambitious woman, hungry for advancement, is beginning to learn which side her political bread is buttered.

TRAVEL AGENTS

Today says 2 out of 5 package holidays go wrong and when they do tour operators put the blame on airlines, hotel owners and excursion organisers. But tour operators select hotels and airlines and should stand behind their performance not hide behind their failures.

POLITICS

FT - Joe Rogaly, in weekly column, argues that even if Britain's opposition continues to disqualify itself from office it is by no means certain that Thatcherism will survive Thatcher.

IRELAND

Express leader says that for his honesty Mayor Koch is being assailed by those anxious to preserve anti-British myths. Wouldn't it be nice if other politicians, nearer home, had the courage to see things for themselves before shooting off at the mouth about them?

Telegraph feature says Ed Koch's change of heart represents a personal coup for Tom King. Another Telegraph writer on Koch's political suicide.

Independent - RUC are questioning an Irishman who first tried to give himself up to Scotland Yard but was turned away because they didn't believe him.

FALKLANDS

Sun says Galtieri has admitted at his trial that the sinking of the Belgrano convinced Argentina it had lost the war. This means that Tam Dalyell should have been cheering all the years he has been weeping.

Independent - Lawyer, representing former President Galtieri in an appeal, says British "aggressiveness" was responsible for Argentina's defeat in Falklands.



PRESS DIGESTNHS

Times - Health authorities say hospital services face a shortfall of £515 million this financial year and have been underfunded by £2.6 billion since 1981.

Independent - Women who have had operations for breast cancer are being denied counselling in an experiment at Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

FT - Leader believes that the NHS, while far from perfect, offers a more comprehensive and equitable service than virtually any other country. But there is an alarming paucity of information on which to base improvements. A key test of Mr Clarke's thinking will be the view he takes of tax relief for private health insurance.

Independent - A national body is needed to decide ethical issues and prevent misuse of patients in experiments both BMA and Royal College of GPs say.

HOUSING

FT - Plans for setting up Housing Action Trusts suffer setback when Lords vote to insist that tenants should be balloted before leaving local authority control.

CHURCH

Independent - Draft resolution of Lambeth Conference says women will be allowed to be consecrated as bishops but it will gravely damage relations between Anglican churches.

GULF

Times - Both Iran and Iraq have talks with Sir Crispin Tickell in effort to bring about peace in the Middle East, but it is stressed that there is no question of Britain conducting a separate peace initiative.

Times - UN will run out of money by October and even earlier if it has to send 250 observers to an Iran-Iraq peace deal.

Independent - A damning UN report which concludes that Iraq has dramatically increased its chemical bombardments of Iranian targets has been suppressed because of Iraqi influence on the Arabic translation service of the UN, according to diplomatic sources.



PRESS DIGESTTHAILAND

FT - General Prem steps down and is likely to be succeeded by Major General Chatchai Choonhavan.



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

HO: Mr Hurd visits Northeye Prison

MAFF: Mr MacGregor visits Park Farm, Snettisham, Norfolk

DHSS: Mrs Currie visits Watford General Hospital

DOE: Lord Caithness visits Cringle Dock waste disposal site in Wandsworth

DOE: Mr Moynihan attends TSB Swimming Championship, Leeds and visits Yorkshire Dales National Park (to 30 July)

DTP: Mr Bottomley visits ESSO's West London distribution depot, Heathrow Airport

OAL: Mr Luce addresses opening of Somerset Guild of Crafts exhibition

SO: Lord James Douglas-Hamilton opens Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd new headquarters, Inverness Airport

SO: Lord Sanderson visits Crieff Tourist Centre, Crieff

WO: Mr Grist attends Alternatives in Social Housing seminar, Park Hotel, Cardiff; later presents awards at Wales Innovation and Technology, Wintech students prizegiving dinner, Holiday Inn, Cardiff

TV AND RADIO

'Today': BBC Radio 4 (06.30)

'Business Daily': Channel 4 (12.30)

'The Parliament Programme': Channel 4 (14.30)

'Ebony': BBC2 (19.30)

'What The Papers Say': Channel 4 (20.00)

'Right Talk': Channel 4 (20.15) First in a 10 part series, "Right Wing", academics, writers and political thinkers talk

'Any Questions?': BBC Radio 4 (20.20) With The Right Hon Douglas Hurd, Paddy Ashdown, Ron Todd and Eric Heffer

'999 - Police International': ITV (21.00) Live coverage of police in action in London, New York and Sydney. (Continued at 22.35)

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

'Newsnight': BBC2 (22.35)