

26 October 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh open the new Moorfields Eye Hospital,
London

The Prince of Wales visits the Netherlands (to 27 October)

TUC General Council

Metropolitan Police Commission address West Indian standing conference

Prime Minister opens "Treasures for the Nation" Exhibition,
British Museum

STATISTICS

DOE: Bricks and cement production and deliveries (3rd qtr - prov)

DOE: Construction - new orders (Aug)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Trade and Industry; Environment; Scotland

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Legal Profession (Abolition of Restrictive Practices) (No 2) (Mr Quentin Davies)
Housing (Scotland) Bill: Consideration of Lords Amendments
Motions relating to Scottish Community Charge Regulations

Adjournment Debate: The GCSE history examination (Mr N Bennett)

Select Committees: AGRICULTURE
Subject: Land-Use and Forestry
Witness: Forestry Commission

ENVIRONMENT
Subject: Toxic Waste
Witness: Confederation of British Industry

DEFENCE
Subject: The Future of the Brigade of Gurkhas
Witness: Ministry of Defence

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Select Committees:

ENERGY

Subject: The Northern Ireland Electricity
Report and Accounts for 1988

Witnesses: Dr R L Schierbeck, Chairman, Mr A
Hadfield, Deputy Chairman, and Mr F F C
Davidson, Director of Finance, Northern
Ireland Electricity

HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Forensic Science Service
Witness: Home Office

TRANSPORT

Subject: Air Traffic Control Safety
Witness: Civil Aviation Authority

TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE

Subject: International Monetary Co-ordination
Witness: Sir Kit McMahon, Chairman of the Midland
Bank

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS

Associated British Ports (No 2)
North Killingholme Cargo Terminal

Lords:

Starred Questions
Housing Bill: Report (3rd Day)
Church of England (Pensions) Measure

PRESS DIGESTMain News

You tell Times you intend to stay on to lead Government into '90s and to do a fourth term.

Ted Heath, in Marxism Today, says British "sense of fairness" will destroy Thatcherism.

Uproar in Commons over Kinnock calling you a cheat - and having to withdraw, but repeating abuse on TV.

Chancellor calls for pay restraint in Commons debate and asserts pound will be kept strong. Today leads with advocacy of profit related pay.

Tony Blair, Opposition spokesman, threatens to reinforce 60% top tax limit.

CBI says boom is slowing but 60% plan to invest more this year and more plan to take on more workers than reduce their number.

Conservative controlled Bradford City Council drive through their cuts in a noisy all night meeting but Labour may mount legal challenge.

Mail leader on "Thatcherism hits town halls" says the savings should be substantial. We must hope we might at last see an end to the folly and extravagance which have been the marks of municipal Socialism.

~~Judges~~ are getting tougher with violent and armed criminals - length of jail sentence for using firearms to resist arrest increased 95% in last 3 years. Mail leader says sterner attitude after a period when Bench looked too soft should not only make hoodlums think twice but also add to popular confidence in law.

Independent says family credit is still not being claimed by 200,000 entitled to it.

European Parliament is threatening to call for outright European federal union - a move which could disrupt the EuroCouncil meeting in Rhodes (Times).

Guardian says Government may be forced to increase regional and inner city spending by £6 billion over 4 years by EC requiring it to match £ for £.

PRESS DIGEST

Accountants Spicer and Oppenheim and Touche Ross are to be investigated over their conduct of the Barlow Clowes affair - this could lead to disciplinary action (Times).

Boy, 13, ordered to be detained during HM pleasure after conviction of abducting and killing girl aged 2.

Lady Marre says Lord Chancellor is moving too quickly with reforms of legal profession.

BBC journalists and producers yesterday received revised and slightly relaxed guidelines on quoting Sinn Fein. There was "no comment" from the Home Office last night on whether the revised guidelines were a climbdown - journalists will be able to report Gerry Adams verbatim and will be able to broadcast interviews with Sinn Fein councillors provided their remarks are confined to council issues and not promoting Sinn Fein (Times).

Claims that Rover cutbacks could lead to 11,000 redundancies.

Nurses union submit new pay claim today.

British Rail fare increases of around 12.5%, but varying widely, expected.

Buswatch report claims fewer people are travelling by bus and that buses have become dirtier, shabbier and more uncomfortable after privatisation.

Banks to start paying interest on current accounts to ward off ~~competition~~ from building societies - Express says this once again proves the value of competition.

British Rail managers defy their unions and accept new salary system in a move which will severely weaken the leverage of the two white-collar unions involved (Independent).

Shorts win £34million order to supply Sherpa aircraft to American National Guard.

BP plans £200million investment in ethylene production plant at Grangemouth in Scotland.

Cecil Parkinson expected to announce within days decision which will virtually end Britain's £25million-a-year research programme into generating energy from nuclear fusion by 1992 (Independent).

Government refers Minorco bid for ConsGold to MMC.

PRESS DIGEST

Bodies of another 25 Piper Alpha victims recovered from raised living quarters.

Pounds and ounces to be replaced by kilo and grammes in 1992 but pint (for beer and milk) and mile saved for foreseeable future; some traders say they will fight metrication.

Express finds it sickening that Champagne Socialists should choose Samizdat as name for their new magazine when they do not lack outlets for their snobbish hatred of the spreading prosperity brought by your revolution.

You agree to examine compensation payments to IRA victims after David Owen complains of delay in settling claims and niggardly payments (Times).

Security sources say that two well-known IRA figures believed to be involved in the murder of two army corporals who drove into an IRA funeral in Belfast in March cannot be charged due to lack of evidence (Independent); Patrick Ryan, IRA man held in Belgium, expected to face extradition proceedings in Brussels court tomorrow.

Commander-in-Chief Fleet says Royal Navy has reached the absolute minimum number of destroyers and frigates necessary to meet its commitments (Independent).

South Africa goes to poll in local elections today.

~~Three~~ polls show major swing to Republicans in US Presidential race - leads of 10-13%.

Sun backs idea of Jeffrey Archer as Ambassador to US - Yanks love a fighter and a winner.

Guardian says you are preparing for a diplomatic triumph with an announcement that Gorbachev is to visit UK at an early date.

Russians join fight to save whales in American Arctic.

And Russians are to become the world's largest wine growers by mid-90s.

Amid the Soviet-German harmony in Moscow this week, Gorbachev maintains a less than enthusiastic note in his personal relations with Kohl - a clear hint that he has not completely forgotten the Goebbels jibe of two years ago.

PRESS DIGEST

Domestic row brewing in West Germany over plans by state-owned bank to help finance Britain's sale of eight Tornado aircraft to Jordan. Critics say it is a moral breach of West Germany's own laws which forbidsales of weapons to areas of tension.

Commons

Mirror leader says it is not under the same constraints as Kinnock in House. "What else but a cheat", it asks, "do you call a Prime Minister who promised in her last election manifesto that child benefit would continue and then sets about wrecking its worth?"

Today says if Kinnock can't think of a better argument over child benefit than to call you a cheat he should keep his mouth shut.

Edward Pearce, in Express, says (after Gordon Brown's performance in economic debate) that nothing goes entirely right for Labour. No sooner do such first rate talents which make one think Labour might come back as serious politicians than the reasons (Winnick and Ewing who chortled over pirated text of Chancellor's speech) begin, like mice in wainscoting, to show why this is unlikely.

Your Interview

Most newspapers pick up the Times interview, leading on your wish to win a fourth term. Independent chooses to lead with "Prime Minister says civil liberties sacrificed in IRA war".

Times puts the interview as its front page news: highlights your view that nuclear power is in line with support for green policies; you intend to lead the Conservatives into the next election and seek a 4th term; you reject the ideas of those seeking a raft of workers' rights to accompany the single market as "outdated Marxists"; you back tougher measures to ensure those claiming unemployment benefit are actively seeking work.

Your Visit to FT

FT carries a front page picture of you starting the presses and highlights your comment that the process of investment and renewal in Britain had to go on and on.

PRESS DIGESTLegal Profession

Independent leader welcomes Government's intention to move harder and faster to reform the legal profession than had been anticipated, and urges it to be sceptical of those lobbyists representing solicitors and barristers who advocate new limitation in the name of consumer protection.

Merger Policy

FT leader looks at the vetting of mergers and finds it curious that the Government, which is committed to freeing industry from political meddling, has shown no interest in reforming merger vetting. It says competition policy should only be about competition and calls for an end to the use of MMC as a political escape hatch.

Lord Young to give guidance on merger policy tomorrow after recent merger decisions have been criticised. Consolidated Coldfields welcomed decision to refer (Times).

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler addresses IPM conference, Harrogate
- DES: Mr Baker visits Imperial College, London
- DOE: Mr Ridley receives Dr Linener, East German Ambassador
- HO: Mr Hurd inaugurates Glasgow Passport Office computerisation
- MOD: Mr Younger addresses WEU Assembly Presidential Committee
- DEM: Mr Cope attends launch of British Institute of Innkeeping Game, London
- DEM: Mr Lee attends Caterers and Hotel Keeper Careers Open Day
- DES: Mr Jackson addresses the Association of Polytechnic Administrators Seminar at the City of London Polytechnic
- DOE: Mr Gummer visits West Midlands to meet Local Authorities
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley addresses launch of Waste Disposal Paper number 4, QE11 Conference Centre, London
- DOE: Mr Moynihan visits Newcastle
- DTp: Mr Portillo visits Middlesbrough to open freight facility
- DTp: Mr Bottomley addresses the Association of District Councils' Planning and Transportation Convention, Nottingham
- HO: Mr Patten opens Security and Fire Prevention Exhibition, Nottingham; later addresses AGM of Northamptonshire Branch of Magistrates' Association; later visits the Grave House Probation Hostel, Nottingham
- OAL: Mr Luce makes arts visit to West Midlands (to 27 October), addresses opening of Birmingham Art Gallery and addresses ABSA/BSIS reception at Warwick Arts Centre
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- ODA: Mr Patten addresses Royal Institute of International Affairs meeting on Anglo-Japanese Co-operation
- WO: Mr Roberts attends Aluminium Federation dinner, London
- WO: Mr Grist opens Energy Managers Seminar, Port Talbot
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTp: Mr Channon attends the European Transport Council meeting,
Luxembourg

TV AND RADIO

'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

'Kilroy': BBC 1 (9.20)

'The Parliament Programme': C4 (12.00)

'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)

'The World at One': BBC Radio 4

'Woman's Hour': BBC Radio 4 (1400). Should Urdu be compulsory in primary schools with high numbers of Asian children?

'Party Political Comment': C4 (19.50). This week, a Conservative politician

'Dispatches': C4 (20.30). Would Turkey be a fit member of the EC?
Investigation of allegations of torture of suspects by police

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

'Facing up to AIDS': BBC 2 (22.30). The experience of two people with AIDS

'Newsnight': BBC 2 (23.00)
