

27 October 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh attend a Royal Gala performance of The Tempest at the National Theatre

Prime Minister attends Hebrew University of Jerusalem dinner and receives honorary doctorate of Law

NATO Nuclear Planning Group meeting, Scheveningen

EC: "1992 Threat or Opportunity" meeting, NFU, London

Phase 2 Drink-Drive Campaign launch by Peter Bottomley

STATISTICS

CLSB: Quarterly house purchase finance statistics (3rd Qtr)

DEN: Energy Trends (Aug)

DTI/

CSO: Balance of Payments current account and overseas trade figures (Sept)

DTp: New vehicle registrations (Sept)

PUBLICATIONS

DTI: Consumer Safety Report

HO: Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Taxes Annual Report 1987

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Treasury; Home Office; Prime Minister

Business: European Communities (Finance) Bill: Remaining Stages
Housing (Northern Ireland) Order

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Adjournment Debate: The proposed amalgamation of the Haringey and Hampstead Health District (Mr B Grant)

Select Committees: COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS
Associated British Ports (No 2)
North Killingholme Cargo Terminal

Lords: Starred Questions
Housing Bill: Report (4th Day)
Parliamentary Constituencies (Scotland)(Miscellaneous Changes)
Order 1988: Motion for Approval

MINISTERS - See Annex

27 October 1988

MAIN NEWS

Russia promises to free all political prisoners by the end of the year, according to Chancellor Kohl in Moscow.

Robin Cook, on basis of leaked document, claims Government is cheating again over social security - ie with helping to meet community charge.

Government launches search for leaker.

(Today) says honourable people do not leak their bosses' correspondence. That is why Robin Cook is utterly and cynically wrong when he claims it was an honourable Civil Servant who leaked him letter. The leaker should be brought to book and the fact that Cook chose to publicise letter and praise Cook shows what a dishonourable humbug he is.

Phillips and Drew forecast pay increases and another rise in mortgage rates will push inflation to 8.1% in first three months of 1989.

Kinnock wins EC vote to introduce one man one vote in local parties. TGWU says that the price of a TGWU/NUM merger would be Scargill's resignation. Unthinkable he should be in charge of nuclear power workers.

PAC to launch new investigation into sale of Royal Ordnance factories to British Aerospace, forcing civil servants to account for the apparent failure to consider the potential value of the factory sites (Independent).

Rover unions accept about 20% over 2 years, plus bonuses - blow to Government's pay hopes (Today)

(Today) leader on Lloyd's decision to pay interest on current accounts, says slowly but surely banks are being dragged into modern world under competition from building societies. (Mail) says competition, which you have cheerfully made possible, has been the rude awakening for the banks.

Electricity industry's programme for new generation of coal-fired power stations is in danger of collapse because of Government's privatisation proposals. Government will announce in next few days deferral of CEGB's application for a new station at Fawley (FT).

European Commission unexpectedly defers for a week the adoption of a paper setting out its policies for the car industry for the run-up to 1992.

Queue for operations 18,000 higher in spite of Government's £30million injection of cash to reduce number.

Labour claims employment figures are bogus, saying record 200,000 adults stopped receiving unemployment benefit this summer but only 42,000 seemed to find work (Independent).

Case of Gloucestershire farmer who puts his pigstye on market for £250,000.

Government changes licensing system to curb loan sharks.

John Heddle MP calls on Government to outlaw gazumping.

Joan Lester MP says Government is putting youngsters at risk by supporting spread of amusement arcades.

Edwina Currie attacks doctors for fobbing off too many women with tranquillisers while sending men to specialists.

Britain is to contribute to a joint OECD/IEA sponsored project to discover which countries are responsible for causing the "greenhouse effect" (Times)

Oxford University launches a £220million appeal.

Bradford City Council seen as "blueprint for Mrs Thatcher's town hall revolution" (Star); "Bradford, frontline of Maggie's revolution" (Express)

(Telegraph) says Bradford Conservative Lord Mayor is now under police guard at home

NALGO tells members not to implement any of Bradford Council's decisions while Labour Party considers High Court action.

(Telegraph) leader says most of the criticism of the Government for adopting a dirigiste and bossy approach is misplaced.

Jury in trial of 3 alleged Irish terrorists, accused of plotting to murder Tom King, fails to reach verdict so far.

Audit Commission says thousands of crimes remain unsolved because of disturbing inefficiency of police fingerprint teams.

IBA investigating claims that Central TV programme this week suggesting Kennedy was murdered by Mafia was full of inaccuracies. (Mail) says TV journalism is on trial again as it emerged that three Frenchmen accused of assassination had ~~officially~~ backed alibies.

W H Smith satellite TV says sex and violence have no place in their plans for their two channels.

(Mail) says British Tories reeled yesterday under a storm of protests from virtually all fellow Euro MPs against your "Little Englander" approach.

(Mail) comments on Select Committee row over evidence on future of Gurkhas, says George Younger should give evidence to make clear we can't afford to do without Gurkhas.

Paul Foot, in (Mirror), says that while the Government is excluding IRA and Sinn Fein from the air it is talking to Adolfo Calero, leader of Contras.

6 people, including a baby and a 4 year old, killed in car crash near Blackpool.

New industry minister Mieczyslaw Wilczek is looking to you to tell Solidarity that unions should rein in their political ambitions and not pursue wage demands which risk bankrupting the companies that employ them (FT).

Bush says your achievements are an example of what he hopes to do for USA while Dukakis attacks your action on right to silence.

Sinn Fein said to have decided not to field a candidate in Govan and feels exercise would not be worthwhile.

Confusion remains over Government's broadcasting ban. IBA to seek further clarification from Home Office. Concern about whether interviews with Sinn Fein Councillors can be broadcast if they are not advocating support for terrorism (Times)

Claims that King Fahd's yacht is armed with 4 anti-aircraft Stinger missiles.

Whales in American Arctic make it to safety after Russian icebreaker joins Americans in rescue.

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Star) - Furious Tories hunt for poll tax mole.

(Sun) - Find "Moore Mole" storm. Government denies it plans to rat on pledges.

(Mirror) - Cheating Thatcher caught out again.

(Today) - Poll tax mole sparks crisis for Moore; Express largely ignores issue .

(Mail) - "Hunt for Whitehall mole who leaked a Minister's letter".

In his (Independent) commentary, Peter Jenkins argues that to freeze child benefit slowly to death in the absence of an effective alternative is the most disreputable of courses. It deserves to be uprated on its own merits. John Moore is held in deep and widespread contempt in his own part for running with the hare and hunting with the hounds.

'Cheat' row follows poll tax leak: Government backs away from breaking pledge by you on social security benefits after letter is leaked. John Moore secures more money after letter was written to enable government to say it was honouring the pledge. Text of the letter is carried on inside page (Independent).

John Moore will confirm this afternoon that child benefit is to be frozen at £7.25. This is ahead of the autumn economic statement which will today be confirmed as coming as soon as next Tuesday.

(Telegraph) page 1 lead - Moore seeking to head off revolt with aid for poor.

(Guardian) - Moore ready to ditch Thatcher pledge.
Fourth serious leak in a year. In letter Moore claims you have pledged to protect "average liability of those on income support", a point later questioned by Government sources (Times)

Moore to launch counter-attack today in the controversy after child benefit uprating. Will confirm child benefit has been frozen but remainder of package, including increased family support, targetted on the most needy will cheer Tory MPs (Times).

YOUR TIMES INTERVIEW

(Sun) leader commenting on your hope to win a fourth term, bets you will leave No 10 in a wheelchair; news story about the advice you will give new US president.

(Mirror) leader says an active old age is commendable but there are limits.

(Express) says single mothers and fly by night fathers who refuse to support their children face a purge (and John Moore confirms it is top of the agenda). Leader says you should act now to stop system encouraging unmarried girls to get pregnant.

Leader takes up your comment in the (Times) interview that you have no obvious successor at present and says that if you are able to manage both your departure and succession it will be against the odds. It is the party that discovers the leader it deems appropriate (Independent).

GCHQ

TUC yesterday agreed plans for 20 marches and rallies on November 7 in support of GCHQ workers.

MEDIA

Broadcasting Ban - (Times) leader says restricting Sinn Fein appearances to "local" issues may actually make things worse by presenting it ONLY as a peaceful political party.

EC

Delors, in speech to European Parliament, warns that political polemics triggered by your Bruges speech threaten to paralyse Community relations and wreck progress towards 1992. But he offers an olive branch by not naming you and even congratulating the British Government for the recent issue of Treasury bills denominated in ECUs.

SOVIET UNION

(Today) says Gorbachev's promise to set free all Soviet Union's political prisoners is best news out of Russia since death of Station. But letting dissidents out of jail is just the first step. Freedom to migrate, to worship, to write and publish are just as important.

. (Times) leader questions what West Germany may have offered in return for the announcement of the release of political prisoners; was it payment of a higher price for East German emigration or something more substantial - favourable credit terms?

Kohl ends summit with pledge of release of all Soviet political prisoners. It also signals his consent to the idea of a human rights conference in Moscow in 1991 if three conditions are met. With France and Germany amenable to the idea, and the US taking a more neutral approach, Britain left increasingly alone in its opposition.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler addresses London Business School
- DTI: Lord Young addresses the stock exchange annual conference for industry, London
- DEM: Mr Cope visits Small Firms Service Counselling Seminar, Tunbridge Wells; in the evening addresses Factory Inspectorate dinner, London
- DEM: Mr Nicholls attends NCVQ presentation (prov); later attends Factory Inspectorate dinner, London
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits Cranfield Business School, Bedford
- DES: Mr Jackson visits Cambridge Science Park
- DTI: Mr Forth addresses Welsh Consumer Council, Cardiff
- DTp: Mr Bottomley attends working lunch with the Guild of Motoring Writers, London
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DEM: Mr Lee visits Israel (to 4 November)
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DTp: Mr Portillo takes part in BBC TV Question Time
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TV AND RADIO

- 'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)
- 'Kilroy' ~~BBC~~ BBC 1 (9.20)
- 'The Parliament Programme': C4 (12.00)
- 'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)
- 'The World at One': BBC Radio 4 (13.00)
- 'Open Space': BBC 2 (20.00). Looks at cutbacks in the Health and Safety Inspectorate despite rising toll of accidents at work
- 'This Week': ITV (20.30). The Broadcasting proposals: will more choice mean better television?
- 'Question Time': BBC 1 (22.05). Tony Blair, Michael Portillo, Jonathon Porritt and Ann Leslie
- 'Newsnight': BBC 2 (22.45)
- 'The World Tonight': BBC Radio 4 (22.30) followed by 'The Financial World Tonight' and 'Today in Parliament'
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