

2 November 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister visits Poland (to November 4)

The Queen holds an investiture at Buckingham Palace

The Prince of Wales visits Newcastle Initiative, Tyneside and the Newcastle Arts Centre

Result of Shadow Cabinet elections

Meeting of Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental conference

March to Downing Street to mark anniversary of the beginning of the Birmingham Six Appeal

STATISTICS

BOE: Capital issues and redemptions

DEM: Overseas travel and tourism statistics

HMT: UK official reserves (Oct)

PUBLICATIONS

DE: Survey of Unemployment in London

DTI: Releasing Enterprise-Deregulation White Paper

NIO: Northern Ireland Legal Aid annual report

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Environment; Scotland; Foreign and Commonwealth

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Unleaded Petrol (Engine Adjustment)
Firearms (Amendment) Bill: Money Resolution, Supplemental
Timetable Motion and Consideration of Lords Amendments
Afterwards, Debate on Government Motion on Broadcasting and
Terrorism

Adjournment Debate: Fluidised bed experiment at Grimethorpe and its
financing (Mr T Patchett)

PARLIAMENT Continued)Select Committees:

AGRICULTURE

Subject: Land-Use and Forestry

Witnesses: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Welsh Office Agriculture Department; Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland; Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland

ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Toxic Waste

Witness: H M Inspectorate of Pollution

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: Trade with Eastern Europe

Witnesses: Lord Jellicoe, Chairman, East European Trade Council; Alan Clark MP, Minister for Trade and Industry

DEFENCE

Subject: The Future of the Brigade of Gurkhas

Witness: Ministry of Defence

ENERGY

Subject: The United Kingdom Independent Oil Sector

Witnesses: Rt Hon Peter Morrison, MP, Minister of State for Energy and officials of the Department of Energy

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: British Aerospace/Rover

Witnesses: Professor Roland Smith, Chairman, British Aerospace; Mr Graham Day, Rover Group

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: The employment patterns of the over-50s

Witnesses: Mr Hugh Mellor, Former Director of the Centre for Policy on Ageing; Mr Bernard Casey, Research Fellow, Policy Studies Institute

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS

UNOPPOSED

1. Newcastle Upon Tyne Town Moor
[Lords]
2. Harwich Harbour [Lords]

OPPOSED

Associated British Ports (No2)
North Killingholme Cargo Terminal

Lords: Starred Questions
Copyright, Designs and Patents Bill (HL): Consideration of Commons
Amendments.
Royal Assent

MINISTERS — See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Government wins teeth and eye test charge votes by narrow majorities of 16 and 8. Calls for Lords to reject them again.

Revolt in spite of "massive boost" for NHS in Autumn Statement - largest increase NHS has ever received.

The Statement generally welcomed, especially extra spending on NHS, but continuing worries over inflation.

Gordon Brown says NHS is just kept ticking over in view of rise in prices.

Minimal tax cuts expected in Spring Budget.

Thousands of nurses walk out claiming they have been conned over pay rises and will receive far less than 15.3% promised.

Clay, RCN, claims some nurses are being cheated out of £2,000.

Walesa pleads with Gdansk shipyard workers not to embarrass you. Lots of preliminary stories about your visit, and the political minefield you are entering.

Israeli general election looks like a stalemate, though Right wing and religious parties have done well, increasing chances of a Likud Government.

Extra 2,000 policemen to go on beat to deal with lager louts
~~(Sun)~~.

EETPU votes, along with two Civil Service Unions, against a strike on Monday in protest over GCHQ sackings.

British Rail ends national bargaining with unions and devolves negotiations on five separate groups - Today sees it as a move to assist privatisation and leader says it is the smartest thing BR has done for years. Express says this is on the right lines.

Fears of wage rises pushing up the inflationary spiral will be heightened this month when more than 30,000 Ford workers receive an increase of more than 8% (Times).

Firemen to get 8.6% pay rise.

Channel Tunnel contractors incur heavy fines for falling behind schedule with digging.

PRESS DIGEST

West Germany looks set to agree further DM4billion financing of Airbus (FT).

More research into safety at nuclear dumps is required, according to Government safety advisers (Independent).

Tony Newton to announce closure of Wearside shipyard tomorrow.

Vauxhall recalling 170,000 of its most popular cars because of faults in the braking system.

Videomusic of Italy gains control of SuperChannel (FT).

Home Secretary today expected to clarify curbs on terrorist interviews (FT).

British universities are being denied vital computer software because they are unwilling to sign contracts obliging them to comply with US export control regulations (Independent).

Master of the Rolls calls for greater restrictions on the right of litigants to bring cases to the Court of Appeal without first obtaining leave (Times).

Lord Hailsham and Lord Rawlinson call for fundamental changes in jury system (Times).

Home Secretary backs veto of major research project into homosexuality and drug use in prison (Independent).

~~Woman~~, 78, blown out of her room into corridor in Tory conference bombing at Brighton awarded £5,000 by Criminal Injuries Compensation Board for injured right foot and temporary loss of sight; she says it is a bitter pill.

A £2million racket in Brent involving illicit international trade in council house tenancies may be investigated by Scotland Yard (Times).

Keys to Brent council houses freely on sale in Nigeria for up to £500, with a ready market among rich Nigerians whose children are due on courses in Britain. The racket is only possible because of Brent Council's monumental incompetence (Mail).

Skegness Grammar School poised to become the first to opt out (Telegraph).

PRESS DIGEST

Population projections suggest a retreat from cities to countryside with biggest increases in East Anglia and West Country.

Express notes on its front page your praise for its support for litter and graffiti clean up.

Retired Mr Justice Lawton advocates bugging of jury rooms to provide reliable evidence on whether jury system is working.

Airline sues 5 drunken Scots who attacked cabin crew on flight from Corfu to Glasgow; wants £10,000 compensation for cost of diverting plane to Amsterdam to secure police intervention.

Dukakis claims Britain holds itself above the law in Northern Ireland; hints in Irish newspaper he would discourage extradition of terrorists. Legal system in Northern Ireland is unfair and inconsistent with basic principles of justice, he says.

HMS Invincible, of Falklands fame, puts to sea after £100million refit.

Feature on power struggle at heart of EC concludes that if you want better control of the Commission, the European Parliament may be your best ally (FT).

Amnesty International claims that most of the 250,000 people arrested in Turkey since 1980 have been tortured (Independent).

South Africa bans Weekly Mail until November 28 for articles ~~posing~~ posing a threat to the "safety of the public".

AUTUMN STATEMENT

Star page 2 - Money for all in Lawson bonanza - £3.5billion giveaway.

Sun page 1 - £2billion tonic for NHS; leader says the Chancellor tells a pretty happy story in his annual report but the State, at 40%, still takes too much of our cash. When are we going to see real cuts?

Mirror page 2 - Spending to stand still as inflation races ahead - Government keeping funds in hand to win next election.

PRESS DIGEST

Today page 1 lead - Lawson's medicine. A massive boost for the nation's health. Ailing NHS gets a shot in the arm. Maggie whips Tory rebels back into line. Leader says we find it difficult to get used to good news from the Chancellor. Careful housekeeping and booming economy have put more into Government kitty, including NHS, the increased amount catching people on the hop. Government can begin to shed its uncaring image.

Express page 1 lead - Lawson defuses Tory revolt. Leader says the autumn statement is proof of the economy's underlying strength. Increases in spending are the result of sensible economic policies and sound financial management. But unless the NHS is radically reformed governments will constantly be pressed to hand it more funds.

Mail page 1 - Lawson hands £2billion tonic to the NHS in master stroke which ends row over whether NHS is safe in Tory hands. Leader concentrates on ending the petrol menace, saying the Government cares about the environment and is rich and now is the time to put its money where its heart is and clear the air of lead from petrol. It wants tax concessions for "pollution-conscious" motorists. Another leader finds the fall in public spending ratio immensely heartening and the fact that the Government is now fully in control of spending is underlined by the Star Chamber's not being required. Chief worry is rising inflation but this is clearly not caused by State spending. Outlook remains good with tax reductions in prospect. Colin Welch, in Mail, says Chancellor radiated a summery confidence.

Times says Chancellor suprised MPs with public spending increases far higher than expected, but his extra £2billion for NHS fails to defuse health charge rebellion. Separate story says Chancellor gave notice of a sharp squeeze on consumers and period of slower growth in the economy; leader says the Government's decisions on public spending will satisfy the City and should go a long way towards satisfying the citizens too. By sticking to his public spending plans, the Chancellor has provided a firm foundation for fiscal policy which he should build on in the Budget.

Telegraph page 1 lead - Extra £2billion gives NHS its biggest boost; more for defence, housing and roads, but total is kept down. Boom forces Chancellor to reveal his forecasts. A remarkable comeback for Chancellor after bruising summer and considerable personal triumph for Chief Secretary.

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph leader sees virtue rewarded but with three anxieties to cloud the shining landscape - trade deficit; outlook for economic growth; and level of earnings. There must be a risk that generosity to large spending Departments will lead to a dangerously relaxed approach to wage settlements.

Guardian page 1 lead - Lawson bets on growth, bigger spending will mean £2billion more for NHS.

Independent page 1 lead - The boom in house prices and falling unemployment helped the Chancellor meet his target. The extra £2billion for the NHS failed to end the Tory revolt on eye and dental charges. Your view that a majority of one is sufficient is reiterated.

FT page 1 lead - Lawson holds firm on spending, confounding economic pundits and City analysts by keeping spending target unchanged. 6 pages of detail inside. Political assessment by Joe Rogaly is that Chancellor is quite clearly the world's greatest salesman. Twice a year the House buys a new economic policy from him. When he sat down yesterday he had the air of a man who had seen the doubters off. Leader's verdict is that Chancellor's most remarkable quality is his ability to exude confidence under pressure. But in health, as in other social policy areas, the Government has yet to resolve a medium-term dilemma: that demand for publicly provided services is likely to rise more than proportionately to GDP. Lex column says market response was doggedly neutral but second thoughts could be made benevolent.

Guardian leader headed "The old wizard finds the cash" sees ~~Chancellor~~ pulling out another white rabbit from the same old topper, managing to wrong foot Opposition.

VISIT TO POLAND

Sun feature - Crisis torn Poles call for SuperMag - this is virtually an SOS for help.

Express leader says the best advice you can give Poland's rulers can be summed up in one word - freedom.

Within hours of your arriving in Warsaw you will come face to face with those who wish to convert Poland's ailing economy into a model of Thatcherism (Times); leader commenting on your "Mission to Poland" says the main message you need to convey to your hosts at every opportunity is that the comparison between your remedy for Britain's ills and the Jaruzelski-Rakowski remedy for Poland is built on a false premise, and you should spell out why.

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph says you will be hard pressed to maintain your balance in Poland. Consequences unpredictable. Challenge to decide whose side you are on. Nicholas Bethel feature says Rakowski, by his provocative timing of closure of shipyard and his constant attempts to disrupt your visit to Gdansk, is showing a dangerous lack of responsibility.

FT - Poland tense on eve of Thatcher visit. You face a difficult task since both the Government and Solidarity are hoping to use your presence to drum up support for radical economic reforms or greater democratic freedom. Leader believes Jaruzelski and Rakowski have designed a clever strategy for using you to outwit Walesa; but it would be most surprising if you did not turn the table on your hosts.

Peter Jenkins (Independent) says you will expound on your policy towards the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe on your visit to Poland. You think economic modernisation should work in favour of political liberalisation.

Guardian - Thatcher takes her place in the Polish political drama. Feature says you will find the country on the brink of confrontation and your skills at diplomacy will be severely tested.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Mr Baker addresses William and Mary Tercentary on Education and the Inner Cities
- DTp: Mr Channon launches Merchant Navy Officers Training Scheme, London; later addresses the Adam Smith Institute Private Finance conference, London
- HO: Mr Hurd addresses the North East London Magistrates' Association; later addresses Royal Television Society conference on Official Secrets Act
- MAFF: Mr Macgregor addresses European Luncheon Club, London
- WO: Mr Walker visits Amersham International, Cardiff; later opens DC Gardiner Offices, Cardiff and attends Welsh Farming Conference, Miskin
- DEM: Mr Cope addresses press launch of COIC, ALBSU publications, London
- DEM: Mr Nicholls addresses Local Government and Tourism seminar, Portsmouth
- DH: Mrs Currie visits Well Woman Clinic and District General Hospital in Eastbourne; later addresses The Talubank Club, BBC External Service
- DOE: Mr Gummer addresses British Property Federation
- DOE: Lord Caithness addresses Chemical Industry Association in London
- DTp: Mr Bottomley addresses the Churches Council on alcohol and drugs, Baptist Church House; later addresses the Wey Valley Advanced Motor Cyclist Forum, House of Commons
- HO: Mr Patten opens Devon and Cornwall Constabulary Crime Prevention Seminar
- HO: Mr Renton addresses United Kingdom Council for Overseas Student ~~Affairs~~ Concert
- HO: Lord Ferrers opens Portland Fire Station
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses reception for expert advisers and the trade, Lancaster House
- ODA: Mr Patten attends Konrad Adenauer Institute Anglo-German Seminar on Overseas Aid, Bath
- WO: Mr Roberts attends lunch with Associated Octel, London

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DOE: Mr Ridley interviewed on Channel 4 Dispatches programme
- DES: Mr Jackson interviewed by BBC Radio's Analysis programme
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TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Kilroy": BBC 1 (9.20)

"The Parliament Programme": (12.00)

"Business Daily": C4 (12.30)

"The World at One": BBC Radio 4

"Party Political Comment": C4 (19.50). This week, a Labour politician

"Dispatches": C4 (20.30). The Export of High Technology from West to East

"Sex on Television": C4 (21.15) Investigation including interview with Lord Rees Mogg

"Barnardo's": BBC 1 (21.30) The changing role of the child care society, featuring Princess Diana

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

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.30)

