

22 November 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

State Opening of Parliament

25th Anniversary of the assassination of President Kennedy

Prime Minister attends Lord Forte's 80th birthday dinner (photocall)

EC: Budget Council

Midwives Day of Action

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STATISTICS

BSA: Building Societies Monthly figures (October)

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PARLIAMENT

The Queen in person will open the new session at 11.30 am

After the Queen has left the Chamber, the House will separate until 3.30 pm when the Lord Chancellor will take his seat on the Woolsack and Prayers will be read.

Immediately after Prayers, the Lord Chancellor will report The Gracious Speech to the House, whereupon the Motion for an Humble Address will be moved by the Lord Colnbrook and seconded by the Lord Henley.

The Lord Chairman and Principal Deputy Chairman of Committees will be appointed for the session and formal business of a Sessional character will be transacted.

Adjournment debate: The pay and conditions of Physiological Measurement Technicians (Cardiology) (Mr M Shersby)

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Brian Mulroney wins a second term in Canada.

Security Service Bill gets a mention in Express, Independent and Times, and Telegraph leads with it.

In preview of Queen's Speech water privatisation is seen as likely to attract strong opposition. Relaxations on working hours of young people featured and Times reports omission of abolition of Dock Labour Scheme.

Northumberland Water taking legal advice to see if it can block a £60million takeover of two privately owned North East water companies.

Pensioner in Bradford council home challenges Conservative-controlled council's cuts in High Court.

Lord Cockfield attacks UK over their attitude to EC and their reluctance to relax frontier controls.

And Stanley Clinton Davis says Britain is the dirty man of Europe when it comes to polluting the environment. Lord Caithness says Britain is actually in the lead.

Committee of 100 set up in Scotland to fight the community charge, including 7 Labour MPs.

Paddy Ashdown to tell his MPs to brush up their act to lift the party fortunes.

Kenneth Clarke agrees to see RCN, but not COHSE and NUPE unless they condemn industrial action.

With first onset of cold weather, leader of Winter Action on Cold alleges Government has condemned 40,000 old people to death. Jack Jones calls for an extra £5 a week to help with heating. Mirror says our pensioners are poorest and coldest in Northern Europe and there can be no excuses if the Government fails to act.

Gallup poll in Times shows three-quarters of those aged over 65 fear they will have financial difficulties in old age and nearly half think more part-time work should be available.

Essex University researchers say you will romp home at next election if you can sort out our economic problems. Labour has not yet pursued the proper strategy.

PRESS DIGEST

FT list of top 50 companies in Europe includes 22 UK businesses.

Express claims that when National Freight Corporation goes public 400 millionaires will be created; average worker who bought a £700 stake in his company is now worth £53,000.

OFT hits at Elders spree of buying Scottish & Newcastle shares as a clear breach of mergers guidance (Times).

UK consumer electronics market is set for record-breaking year in 1988 with colour TV sales likely to reach 4.5million (FT).

British Coal is to introduce higher redundancy pay in a scheme to cut manning levels by nearly a quarter in the next 18 months.

Thousands of estate agency staff face losing jobs as heat goes out of property boom.

Bank of England Governor says EC directive may be needed to ensure harmonisation of home loan markets in European countries (Times).

Survey shows longer holidays, life insurance and low-interest loans are becoming more important than pay rises to office workers (Times).

Britain and Saudi Arabia expected to announce major UK investment programme in the Kingdom to offset part of the £5.5billion arms deal for Tornados agreed in 1985-86 (Times).

TUC expected to change its mind this week and support the Employment Training Scheme.

Army tank contract is so finely balanced and the arguments so complex that George Younger may not make any recommendation to his colleagues when they meet to decide the issue on Thursday (Independent).

Police arrest 31 year old farm labourer in France, wanted in connection with disappearance of schoolgirl on Welsh/Shropshire border.

Case of couple who battered a three year old girl to death who got only 2 years in jail.

Man shot dead at a VIP protection exercise run by specialist firearms instructor company.

PRESS DIGEST

RUC policeman shot dead by IRA in Tyrone; another grazed by bullet.

Armagh court told that murder charges could still be brought against three RUC officers involved in the undercover shooting of three unarmed IRA men if new evidence emerged at an inquest into their deaths (Times).

Labour-dominated Association of Metropolitan Authorities planning a campaign to persuade parents not to opt out schools from local control. It says many LEAs have stopped school closures and other reorganisation because of opting out.

Institute of Economic Affairs wants a return to O-levels and scrapping of GCSE the first results of which, it claims, were "cooked".

Audit Commission tells council they could save £200million a year on maintaining parks and gardens (Times).

Sun wants to know where Thames TV's report on "Death on the Rock" has got to.

Today complains we have waited too long for the Commons to be televised; could be delayed to next Autumn.

BBC tells unions it wants to cut 217 jobs in network television in next financial year because of indexation of the licence fee and requirement to commission independent productions.

Jack Dunnett, ex-Labour MP, elected new chairman of Football League and attacks Government's plan for a national membership scheme.

Mail leader on police opposition to membership card scheme detects a strong undertow of defeatism. England's football clubs have chosen to procrastinate; that is why the Prime Minister has decided to legislate.

Former Labour Transport Minister, Tom Fraser dies, 77.

3 Britons among mass Scientology arrests in Spain.

George Bush names Richard Darman as budget director.

Talks to be held in New York today and tomorrow between President Vassiliou and Rauf Denktash and the UNSG expected to be tough. But nobody wants them to collapse.

PRESS DIGEST

Pakistan President says Benazir Bhutto should be given first chance to form government. Transfer of power expected with a week (Independent).

EC Foreign Ministers welcome Palestine decisions as step forward but stop well short of recognising an independent Palestinian state. The declaration contrasts strongly with Washington's cool reaction last week (Independent).

Supreme Soviet, according to Guardian, makes dramatic concession by affirming Baltic States right to decide.

SECURITY SERVICE BILL

Express - MI5 to face strict new legal controls. You want to ensure Government has control.

Times - Security Service will be put on a statutory basis.

Telegraph leads with Powers of MI5 to be defined by legislation. Major surprise. Provide scope for most detailed and searching Commons debate on operations and methods of security services.

Independent - Hurd to close 'Spycatcher' loophole. The Government will today propose to put the security services on a statutory footing, but this does not mean the introduction of parliamentary accountability or oversight - an omission which will be strongly criticised on both sides of the House.

QUEEN'S SPEECH

Independent - Water Privatisation Bill, due to be published on Thursday, faces a stormy ride in Parliament and greater opposition than any of the Government's privatisations to date.

"New session, same old driving force", writes Peter Jenkins in the Independent. It is you, and no other force, which drives the Government relentlessly forward. Your energy is as boundless as ever, your workaholic taking new grip. But if the social consequences of the Government's activity prove too severe there is scope for tactical retreat. The third stage of your radical rocket is equipped with a fail-safe.

Times reviews the Queen's Speech leading on plans to change rules governing the working hours and conditions of young people and to make it easier for 16-18 year olds to find work. Leader says one proposal unlikely to be in Queen's Speech is legislation to end

PRESS DIGEST

National Dock Labour Scheme. It adds that this omission should be rectified as soon as possible as the Scheme represents a pinnacle of labour-restrictive practice.

Telegraph back page - Royal welcome for Gorbachev visit - continuing sign of improvement in East-West relations. Main areas of Queen's Speech rehearsed; leader sees reform of welfare state as one of the challenges of the '90s that will need to be addressed in the next Conservative manifesto.

Bruce Anderson, in Telegraph, says that if anything Government have become more enthusiastic in office and have gained in confidence.

Guardian says electricity prices could be frozen for next 10 years if generating industry accepts a new fuel deal with British Coal.

FT leader on electricity privatisation says Department of Energy appears to have produced a scheme which will automatically pass the costs of nuclear power to consumers as a surcharge to tariffs.

NURSES

Express leader says nurses deserve every penny of new award just as they deserve the enormous esteem in which they are held by the public. But this was earned by hard work and dedication of generations of nurses - not by petulant displays which put the well-being of patients second.

Times - Kenneth Clarke accused of trying to divide the nursing unions by agreeing to meet only the RCN. County Durham suspend nurses working to grade.

Guardian leader says the Government's strategy is in tatters and it is dishonest of them to urge nurses to use the appeal system when 50,000 nurses want to appeal.

USA

Times leader says Bush seeks to steady the markets by appointing Richard Darman as budget director but this may not be enough to deflect the chill winds blowing from Wall Street.

MIDDLE EAST

Government's policy of refusing to hold high-level meetings with PLO is likely to be dropped as EC Ministers welcome Algiers decision as a big step to a permanent and fair solution (Times).

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DOE: Mr Ridley addresses Historic Houses Association

DTI: Mr Newton visits Newcastle

MAFF Mr MacGregor addresses and Mr Ryder attends Guild of Food Writers Meeting, London

WO: Mr Walker addresses Single Market Campaign regional breakfast and visits Alun High School, Mold; later opens Wheatsheaf Workshops, Wrexham and Bersham Enterprise Workshops, Bersham; later visits Wrexham Wire Co Ltd and JCB Transmissions, Wrexham

DEN: Mr Morrison attends Geological Society lunch, TBA

DES: Mr Butcher visits a Primary and Secondary school in Birmingham LEA

DOE: Mr Chope addresses National Development Control Seminar on planning

HO: Mr Patten addresses London Magistrates

MAFF Baroness Trumpinton lunches with Scotch Whisky Association, London

MAFF Mr Thompson meets Institute of Environmental Health Officers about their role after 1992

OAL: Mr Luce addresses Scottish Opera reception

WO: Mr Roberts attends WINvest lunch, House of Commons

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTI: Mr Maude visits Dublin

~~DTI~~ Lord Brabazon attends Permanent Commission of Eurocontrol, Brussels

HO: Mr Renton attends Mass Media Policy conference, to discuss Council of Europe Convention on Broadcasting, Stockholm (to 24 November)

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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DES: Mr Jackson records interview with Radio 4's You and Yours programme

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TV AND RADIO

'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

'Kilroy': BBC 1 (9.20)

'State Opening of Parliament': BBC 1 (10.50), Radio 4 (11.25)

'The Parliament Programme': C4 (12.00)

'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)

'The World At One': BBC Radio 4 (13.00)

'The Divided Kingdom': C4 (20.00) The Home Counties

'1988 Reith Lectures' BBC Radio 4 (20.45) Politics in the USSR

'The Other Europe': C4 (21.00). How Eastern Bloc countries have tried to reform Soviet-style Communism

'Who Shot President Kennedy?': BBC 2 (21.30) Narrated by Walter Cronkite

'The World Tonight': R4 (22.30) followed by 'The Financial World Tonight' and 'Today in Parliament'

'Newsnight': BBC 2 (22.30)

'Witness': ITV (22.35) Third and final in-depth report on social workers

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