

23 November 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen holds an investiture at Buckingham Palace

TUC General Council

British Steel flotation price announced

EC: Education Council, Brussels

EC: Development Council, Brussels

HO: Seminar on Emergency Planning, Easingwold, North Yorks
(to 25 November)

DOE: International Conference on the Ozone Layer announced
for next March in London

STATISTICS

CSO: Gross Domestic Product (output-based) (3rd Qtr)

DOE: Construction - new orders (Sept)

PUBLICATIONS

BBC Handbook incorporating report and accounts 1987

Economic and Social Research Council Report

DH/NAO: Quality of Clinical Care in NHS Hospitals Economic
and Research Council report

HO: Security Service Bill

DE: Petroleum Royalties Exemption

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2.

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: Debate on the Address

Adjournment Debates: Briefing of the Prime Minister by the Security Services
(Mr C Mullin)

Select Committees: Treasury and Civil Service Committee
1988 Autumn Statement: The Rt Hon John Major MP,
Chief Secretary to the Cabinet

Lords: Debate on the Address - First Day

The Debate will concentrate on FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Queen said to be at centre of a disagreement over Government policy following Govan by-election when she expressed sympathy with people living there, saying "they have got nothing".

She is also thought to be angry over publicity that she would not be allowed to go to Russia.

Very good and extensive coverage of the Queen's Speech. Comment stresses that the Government cannot be accused of running out of steam.

Solicitors recommending a £100 million settlement to most of families of men who died on Piper Alpha.

Kenneth Clarke refuses to make any concessions to nurses whose unions go to ACAS - no question of going back to negotiations.

Immediate negotiations with Congress on reducing the US deficit are planned by George Bush when he becomes President (FT).

Second highest monthly deposits with building societies show effect of high interest rates.

IRA bomb under care of policeman assigned to protect Princess Anne during her visit yesterday to Northern Ireland.

High Court rules policemen who shot 3 unarmed IRA men in Armagh need not give evidence to inquest.

European integration threatens industry and could fuel pressure for temporary trade protection in Europe against countries like Japan. Sir John Harvey Jones, speaking at an FT conference yesterday, said more than half of Europe's factories would close and half the companies disappear or become merged over the next 10 years. Many hurdles remain before single market is achieved (FT).

Rank Hovis McDougal yesterday became the first major company to put a "brand value" on all of its products in its balance sheet (FT).

Telegraph says British Steel price will be below 130p; some others say 125p.

Peugeot Talbot workers claiming 20% pay rise.

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American firm, General Dynamics, offering to place £1 billion worth of business in UK if it wins Army tank replacement order.

Stealth bomber makes its debut in the USA.

European air traffic control centre to be developed to co-ordinate flow of aircraft in effort to cut flight delay chaos (Times).

Glaxo to build £5.5 billion pharmaceutical plants in China - believed to be first such joint venture (FT).

Mail says ICI is to start the first mass replacement of CFCs which are blamed for eating away ozone layer.

Nicholas Ridley will today announce that Britain is to host a major international conference on the ozone layer (FT).

Chief Inspector of Pollution says he resigned because of serious disagreements over the way HM Inspectorate was run (Telegraph).

Nicholas Ridley tells Historic Houses Association that those who cannot keep up their estates should sell them off (Times).

Labour Party executive expected to recommend expulsion of 15 Militant Tendency followers today.

Today says British university professors are leaving in droves for higher salaries in USA. Mail says Britain has lost more than 200 of its most talented professors to the USA.

Telegraph says a black Tory councillor in Lambeth is reporting black councillors for several London LAs for telling him "you can only be black if you vote Labour".

Labour Party will today advise Labour-controlled councils to take legal advice before boycotting Government's Employment Training programme (Times).

Influential Committee of chief police officers back principle of national identity card scheme. This change in policy is bound to increase the likelihood that Britain will have obligatory European-style identity cards (Independent).

North Wales man wanted in connection with disappearance of schoolgirl detained in France. He remains silent about where she is.

Mail says Cecil Parkinson's daughter, Mary, has gone missing.

PRESS DIGEST

Much coverage of the Chancellor's charity party - and the morning after the night before.

3 British members of Scientology cult expelled from Spain.

M Rocard, beset by a sea of troubles, admits it has been a hard slog since he became Prime Minister of France (Times).

Increased demand for UN intervention in trouble spots has led to a shake-up in the organisation's top echelons which could limit British influence in high-profile, peace-making activities (Times).

US State Department announces that American psychiatrists are to be allowed to visit, probably in January, Soviet psychiatric institutions of their choice in which prisoners of conscience are being held (Independent).

Talks aimed at forming broad-based coalition to include Likud and Labour parties collapse over which cabinet post Shimon Peres would hold. Likud now expected to form government with small religion and right-wing parties.

Yasser Arafat claims US will issue a visa enabling him to address UN next month (FT).

Rezso Nyers, architect of Hungary's 1968 economic reforms, was yesterday nominated to succeed Karoly Grosz as Prime Minister (FT).

Express says Britain's hopes of selling submarines to Canada have been boosted by Mulroney's victory.

South Africa accepts timetable for Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola.

US accuses South African Government of a deplorable misuse of its judicial system for political purposes in the recent trial of black South African activists (Times).

Shell deny it is supplying oil to South Africa. BP, who say they do not supply oil to that country, refuse to respond until it has seen the detailed allegations (Times).

PRESS DIGESTQUEEN'S SPEECH

Star page 2 - Maggie's flogging off the lot. Electricity and water industries up for grabs - heading on round up of Queen's Speech main provisions. Leader on water and electricity privatisation says it is good and bad news. Good news that they will no longer be in the "iron cage" of bureaucracy; bad news there will still be no real competition. It hopes there will be enough safeguards to protect consumer.

Sun page 2 - Maggie's new master plan. Reforms to affect all. Rip-roaring programme of political reform which is summarised over most of the page. Leader says your purpose is to take Britain so far down the road to freedom that there can be no turning back and the Socialists are in no state to stop you.

Mirror page 2 - Jail crackdown on provo assassins. Leader says the Queen's Speech is more of the same but more so. For the most part it is Thatcherism at its most raw. Next year there won't be much left to privatise so the Queen had better watch out.

Today pages 8 & 9 - double page spread headed "Maggie cuts the last apron string - a revolutionary charter for women to allow them to compete on equal terms for all jobs". This heads a comprehensive digest of the Speech's main provisions. Leader headed "Maggie the transformer" says the privatisation of water and electricity will almost complete the extraordinary transformation of Britain. It is far more than the economy you have changed; you have transformed attitudes. The switch from public sloth to private initiative lies at the heart of the changes.

Express page 2 - IRA terrorists face longer jail terms. On pages 6 & 7 an extensive account of the programme headed "Full speed ahead - great years are on the way declares Thatcher".

Edward Pearce, in Express, says Kinnock has taken on a dull, dispirited manner. If this was a call to arms it would have had trouble raising a platoon.

Leader headed "Tory revolution keeps rolling" says not even its critics could seriously accuse this Government of standing still. Get your big legislative battles fought and won in the first few years after election is the golden rule.

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Mail page 9 - Maggie's football revolution kicks off a marathon for Parliament - a heavy programme and an avalanche legislation for what promises to be the most hectic, crowded and contentious session. Leader: No-one can fairly say on the evidence of the Queen's Speech that this Government is running out of steam. On the contrary the Thatcher revolution is, if anything, gathering speed. Tory MPs, whatever the late sittings - will have the satisfaction of knowing that it should help make for a safer, freer and more dynamic Britain.

Telegraph page 1 lead - Thatcher keeps up momentum of reform. Water and power privatisation head list of major legislation. the rowdy exchanges left you in little doubt you are facing one of the most controversial sessions since you came to power. Back page summary of 16 Bills identified in Queen's Speech. Inside, pages 18 & 19 - full account of the programme. Leader says you will be a remarkable politician indeed if you and your party can complete this session according to the programme outlined yesterday. No room for the Government to be complacent about its chances after the wafer-thin majorities on eye and dental test charges.

Independent - Customers to foot pollution bill. You herald higher electricity and water bills as the welcome price to pay for environmental improvement. Thatcher to cut remission for convicted terrorists. The new move represents a significant change of stance by you. You are now differentiating between terrorist and non-terrorist, a principle which lay at the heart of the 1981 hunger strikes. You have your way with Sinn Fein. It is known that the planned law requiring a renunciation of violence declaration will be put before Parliament at your personal insistence against a number of Government voices opposing the measure as counter-productive and ineffective; Leader says water privatisation is one of the hardest measures to justify in the legislative programme. Its inclusion is based on ideological fashion.

In guest article for Independent, Philip Knightley looks at today's Security Service Bill and regrets that there will be no parliamentary control of the security service. He praises the American model and suggests that there is to be no similar scheme here because it would reveal the enormous size of the British secret world.

Crackdown on terror groups by Thatcher is page 1 headline in Times as 16 Bills are unveiled. You surprise Commons over remissions. Sell-offs top the Tories agenda. Leader describes the legislative programme as one of the heaviest. It does not expect the programme to unleash the bitterest kind of controversy the Government has

PRESS DIGEST

encountered in the past, although water and power privatisation could bring the Government into controversy deeper than now seems apparent.

Times leader welcomes the proposals for the Security Service, even if overdue, but feels they are unlikely to calm all concerns caused by the Spycatcher, Massiter and Bettaney affairs. Michael Evans in the Times looks at the need for formal rules for the Security Service, saying that the action taken by the Home Secretary was inevitable.

FT leader says the revolution continues. Your government shows no sign of a loss of momentum and the parliamentary majority will ensure all bills get through. But little was said yesterday about the economy, which will determine success or failure.

FT - Water and electricity privatisation bills will be rushed in next week to underline the Government's intention to maintain the momentum of its radical legislative programme. Sales are expected to raise between £20 and £30 billion before the next election. There will be a number of small privatisations. The Secret Service Bill was asked for by the Service itself after the recent spate of revelations by former officers. Opposition suspect its purpose may be to distract attention from the Official Secrets Bill reforms.

Guardian page 1 lead - Terrorists to lose remission. Queen's speech announces tougher Northern Ireland line. Ministers set hasty pace to round off manifesto pledges. Pages 2 & 3 summarise provisions under main heading - menu of legislation for a busy session. Leader says two great themes of this very mature Government came together in the Queen's Speech - on the one hand the economic liberation of the citizen and on the other his spiritual repression. But they are not conclusions which offend the British electorate.

THE QUEEN

Mirror page 1 - Queen's fury at plight of poor at the centre of extraordinary disagreement over Government policy.

Today page 2 - Queen's Russia trip still on the cards. You were forced to back down. Believed that Foreign Secretary is in favour of an invitation.

Express page 2 - Thatcher's veto denial.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail page 2 in story headed "How the party leaders upset the Queen" said she opened Parliament yesterday amid irritation with both Kinnock and yourself - Kinnock for relaying Queen's private concern at Govan by-election result to his party's establishment; and you for "a pre-emptive strike by Downing Street against the Queen going to Russia" if invited by Gorbachev. But you and Kinnock are united in one thing: neither intended to upset the Monarch.

CANADA

Independent - Mulroney becomes first Canadian premier in history to win outright victories in successive election. Also his resounding win he pledges to push through controversial US-Canada free trade deal before the new year. Leader says the Canadian electorate has made the right choice. Despite the risks, the trade deal should be a major boost to the Canadian economy.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEN: Mr Parkinson and Mr Morrison attend Spectator/Highland Park Parliamentarian of the year lunch, Savoy, London; Mr Parkinson later attends Anglo-Japanese Economic reception, Garrick Club, London
- DES: Mr Baker addresses the NCPTA Conference
- HMT: Mr Lawson addresses CBI Council, London
- MAFF Mr MacGregor and Baroness Trumpington address Womens Farmers Union AGM
- WO: Mr Walker addresses Swansea Business Club lunch, Swansea; later visits Orion Electric UK Ltd, Port Talbot and Rockwool, Pencoed; later addresses annual lecture at Welsh Centre for International Affairs, Cardiff
- DEM: Mr Nicholls attends launch of Employment Training - Invalid Children's Aid Nationwide, Manchester Airport
- DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses the Metropolitan LEAs annual meeting at the Doncaster Exhibition Conference Centre
- DH: Mrs Currie addresses Foundation dinner of the Royal College of Pathologists
- DH: Mr Mellor attends Alzheimers Disease Society meeting
- DOE: Mr Gummer launches Diamedes Project in Spelthorne on the Estate Action Housing Scheme
- DOE: Lord Caithness receives Egyptian Environment Minister; later addresses National Association of Waste Disposal Contractors
- DOE: Mr Trippier visits Dearne Valley in Doncaster (housing)
- DSS: Lord Skelmersdale attends West Midlands Pension Committee Chairmans Meeting, Birmingham; later attends Institute of Complementary Medicine reception
- DTp: Mr Portillo gives Channel Tunnel presentation at the Tourism Co-ordinated Committee Meeting
- DTp: Lord Brabazon opens a passenger terminal at Sheerness for the Medway Ports Authority
- HO: Mr Hogg visits HM Prison, Lewes
- MAFF Mr Thompson attends Sea Fisheries Committee annual meeting
- MOD: Lord Trefgarne opens the third Anglo-French Defence Equipment conference on Air Systems, QEII Conference Centre, London
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses presentation of Honorary CBE to Robert Cohan, President, London Contemporary Dance Theatre
- WO: Mr Roberts addresses Monkton House School speech day and presentation ceremony, Cardiff
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DES: Mr Jackson attends EC Education Council, Brussels

FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses Management Centre Europe, Brussels; later
departs for Rome (to 24 November)

ODA: Mr Patten attends EC Development Council, Brussels

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 (13.00)

'File on Four': BBC Radio 4 (16.05) The Chancellor's interest rate policy

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

'Dispatches': C4 (20.30)

'Building Sights': BBC 2 (22.20) Should Alexander Fleming House be preserved
in its original design?

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

'Newsnight': BBC 2 (22.30)
