

MAIN EVENTS

Gorbachev begins visit to UN

SO: Statement on "Scottish Enterprise: A New Approach to Training and Enterprise Creation" White Paper

The Queen holds an Investiture at Buckingham Palace

Princess Royal names HM Customs Fast Patrol Boat, Cowes, Isle of Wight

HO: Visit of Dutch Minister of Justice (to December 7)

HO: Standing Conference on Crime Prevention

OAL: Press launch of Arts in Britain

STATISTICS

OPCS: Infectious diseases: December Qtr 1987

OPCS: Abortion Statistics 1987

OPCS: Deaths by cause, March Qtr 1988 registrations

OPCS: Deaths from accidents and violence, March Qtr 1988 registrations

OPCS: Legal abortions, June Qtr 1988

PUBLICATIONS

DEM: HSE Annual Report

HO: Reports of Working Group on Car Crime, Costs of Crime and Prevention of Arson

HO: Criminal Injuries Compensation Board annual report 1987

PARLIAMENT**Commons**

Questions: Employment; Health; Prime Minister

Business: Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Bill: 2nd Reading

Adjournment Debates: Mr and Mrs Michie and the home loss payments scheme (Mr B Dunn)

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

Lords: Starred Questions
Children Bill, 2nd Reading
Unstarred Question to ask HMG what measures they are taking to promote direct inter-continental air services to regional airports in the United Kingdom

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

It's all eggs today.

A fair amount of confusion around in the eggs row. Kenneth Clarke defends Edwina Currie who is expected to stay and there are some admiring reviews of her capacity as a politician, even if it is thought that on this occasion she has gone a bit over the top.

But complaints that public still lack clear advice and egg industry still furious. Supermarkets said to be dumping eggs.

MAFF issues guidance to poultry breeders. More to follow for egg producers.

Telegraph claims 33% of turkeys affected by salmonella.

Meanwhile TB is spreading among farmed deer, causing a serious danger to public health say deer farmers and vets, who accuse MAFF of pursuing policies that could spread the disease further (Independent).

Sevenoaks sells its 6,500 council houses for £66.5million to housing association with help of building society (Mail).

Cost of MI6 has nearly doubled in 5 years, according to written Treasury Answer (Telegraph).

Sales of Mappa Mundi will not be halted unless Hereford Cathedral receives written guarantee of £7million (Telegraph).

Lord Chancellor gives his backing to abolishing the right to trial by jury for some minor offences (Times).

NFU president says Government has failed abysmally in its primary duty to control inflation (Times).

Leading ITV companies planning to beam favourite programmes from space if they lose their contracts in the Government's multi-million pound auction scheme (Times).

Post Office refuses to hand over £16million of TV licence fee revenue because of bizarre dispute with Home Office over collection costs (Times).

Ministers offer more funds for European Space Agency in return for independent review of the science programme and management (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Charterhouse economist suggests house prices will fall 10% over next 2 years.

Construction output will rise by 3.5% according to forecast by National Council of Building Material Producers (FT).

French construction companies involved in building Channel Tunnel call press conference next Tuesday to defend themselves against complaints that they are to blame for delaying the project.

Lord Young protests to Spain about hold up in port of Nissan Bluebird.

Express welcomes news that postage stamps are to be sold in 35,000 shops and stores next year.

British Steel has some claim to be seen as the Government's most finely judged flotation to date (Independent).

Nearly 2,000 applications for British Steel shares are being investigated for possible fraud. Only 2p premium on shares when dealing opened yesterday.

NAO report says Whitehall bungled 'privatisation' of National Seed Development Organisation (Independent).

National Union of Seamen launch £1million claim for backpay from P&O during industrial dispute.

Sun identifies a "dedicated Marxist" as the man behind hospital strikes ; an Oxford graduate and founder of Workers' Socialist League.

Disciplinary action to be taken by health authorities against Drs Higgs and Wyatt in Cleveland child abuse case; meanwhile Cleveland's Social Services director moves to similar post in Manchester.

At least six NHS hospitals would be self-governing within next two years as a result of your review of the health service (Times).

BMA attacks plans to allow some hospitals to opt out of State control; Government no mandate for busting apart NHS.

Frank Dobson MP says sick or injured people could be turned away at hospital doors under Tory plans to reform NHS.

PRESS DIGEST

Kenneth Clarke says most nurses appeals against regrading will be withdrawn.

Mirror says chairman of Central Birmingham Health Authority who had a private operation elsewhere demonstrated his lack of faith in the hospital service he leads and cuts.

Another 54, on top of 155 already known, received radiation doses in blunder at Devon and Exeter Hospital.

Audenshaw school votes 9-1 to opt out of Manchester LEA in spite of Labour's attempt to sabotage it.

Two Labour MPs, John Reid and John Evans, close allies of Kinnock, call for election pact with opposition parties to get rid of you.

Humphrey Berkeley rejoins Labour Party.

Mail says Ministers feel public are ready for random breath tests.

Sun takes up Stewart Steven's (Editor, Mail on Sunday) account of his arrest and treatment by police for improper use of car horn in Chiswick.

Today says violent crime is soaring to record levels.

London Fire Brigade challenge report by traffic expert Dr Mogridge when he claimed deaths at King's Cross could have been reduced if traffic had not held up fire engines (Times).

Sun says Archbishop Habgood is too modest when he says he is too old to be new Archbishop of Canterbury; there are a million reasons why he is unfit to lead the Church in an age of doubt.

Fresh legislation is expected to be brought before the Commons by Andrew Mackay MP to allow Sunday horse racing. (Times).

Star says a man who produced 1,000 tonnes of heroin last year in Thailand (Burma) is threatening to step up production unless West agrees to his establishing an independent State.

NATO hoping to seize initiative from Gorbachev in urging him to scrap 40,000 tanks to show he is serious about arms cuts (Express).

Mail says you have ruled out any Cabinet Minister meeting Arafat or his senior colleagues.

PRESS DIGEST

Lech Walesa gets passport to visit Paris at invitation of Mitterrand; first he receives in 7 years.

Papandreou is to divorce and wed Mrs Liani.

CURRIED EGGS

Star - Eggwina to face £10million damages. Farmers boiling over "poison" alert. Battered Currie backed by Clarke. Leader says the public are entitled to know the truth. Mrs Currie was clearly wrong to say that the majority of eggs are dangerous but it's enough that any eggs are risky. Instead of taking out lawsuits farmers should put their hen house in order.

Sun - Egg sales go crash in poison bug scare. Producers speak of catastrophe.

Mirror - Stores scramble to dump eggs in Currie scare. Edwina chickens out of egg row by not turning up in Commons. MPs want her fired.

Today leads with case of fried egg which is alleged to have killed a boy. It says poison toll could be 10 times higher than originally thought, involving 10,000 people. Leader headed "Well scrambled" says Kenneth Clarke did not do much to wipe the egg off Edwina's face. Instead he succeeded in spreading handfuls across his own. People are still puzzled over whether it is safe to eat an egg for breakfast. Ministers must be extremely careful when they speak on delicate issues.

Express - Edwina egg cup crisis. Poison panic puts industry in turmoil. Supermarkets dumping eggs and hospitals and schools take them off the menu. £20million a week industry appears to be heading for bankruptcy. Edwina's career hits crisis and on knife-edge. Leader says Edwina Currie's penchant for high profile politics has on the whole been stimulating but her remarks on eggs come dangerously close to slandering a whole industry. Kenneth Clarke seems oblivious to his colleague's gaffe. The speed with which Edwina removes the egg from her face will determine her future in the Government.

Express feature says Edwina's outburst has, however, helped to pinpoint the growing concern over food.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail - Egg row bubbles on but Edwina's boss backs her. Kenneth Clarke publicly stands by her, but is said to have rebuked her in private. Gordon Greig feature says Edwina ruffles a lot of feathers but look how she wakes us up". He thinks there is a lot more to come from her yet. She has the greatest bite, aggression and flair of any apart from you.

Times leads with Kenneth Clarke's bid to defuse row over egg risk as incensed Tory MPs join farmers in criticising Edwina Currie. Last night you entered the fray when you told MPs at a dinner that you were very worried about the effect of the scare on egg producers, but you did not criticise Mrs Currie. Leader welcomes Clarke's statement and also the guidance issued to poultry farmers because during the last six months egg eaters have been bombarded by conflicting advice. While Mrs Currie may not be precisely vindicated, she will live to fight another day.

Independent - Clarke rejects furious Conservative demands to sack Edwina Currie as MAFF issues seven point code of practice to the poultry industry.

Telegraph page 1 lead - Clarke defends Currie in furore over egg safety. "Cook carefully" advice to public. Egg orders down by a quarter. Leader says Mrs Currie has gone too far and certain war weariness towards her had already set in before this. Her sense of political self preservation should now persuade her to give us a seasonal rest from her nannying harangues.

FT - New egg code as Currie row grows. NFU president Simon Gourley says they are considering suing Mrs Currie.

Guardian - Clarke acts on poison egg fears. Leader says Mrs Currie has a serious problem. How can she get a word in edgeways between two such successful publicity seekers as Messrs Clarke and Mellor. But she seems to have gone over the top. Statistically, an individual would have to consume 11million eggs before catching salmonella.

ECHR and RYAN

Star - Government set to ignore ECHR ruling on holding of terrorists.

Mirror - Maggie KOs IRA ruling. Poised to defy ECHR.

Express - Thatcher defiant over terror storm. You will reject court ruling that could wreck Britain's battle against terrorists. Ryan now more likely to be tried in Dublin.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent - Belief growing in Dublin that Irish authorities will not give go-ahead for Ryan's extradition. You are expected this afternoon, if pressed, to reject Irish overtures that Ryan should face trial in the Republic. Meanwhile, no decision is expected on the ECHR ruling before the PTA Bill comes out of committee though both political and legal sources regard derogation as almost inconceivable.

Home Secretary will tell Commons today that UK will not abide by ECHR ruling that terrorist suspects must be charged and brought to court within four days (Times).

George Walden, in Telegraph, calls for improvement in anti-IRA propaganda.

Telegraph says Britain is not prepared to comply with ECHR curb.

Guardian - Thatcher ponders detention ruling. Departments still locked in argument.

EMPLOYMENT WHITE PAPER

Star ignores it.

Sun - Fowler pledge over jobs.

Today says the White Paper makes the saddest possible reading for trades unions. If he has his way there will be no room for them in national pay negotiations, no more influence on wages councils and last remaining closed shops will disappear. The unions must know they have only themselves to blame for their downfall.

Express - Fowler's new bid to axe the closed shop. Leader says Government clearly intends the closed shop should die by a thousand cuts. But shouldn't it simply ban it altogether.

FT page 1 leads with "Wages councils to go under plan for 1990s". One page of detail inside. Leader's verdict is that White Paper hardly lives up to expectations. Training (or rather the lack of it) is seen as just one obstacle to employment - on a par with pay or industrial relations. The Government is putting too little emphasis on the sort of rigorous vocational education which people need if they are to raise their skill levels significantly, but which cannot easily be supplied on the premises of individual employers.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail - Bosses to spearhead training's new look. Leader says the unions have had their chance and failed. They have been yesterday's men defending yesterday's job. So employers are now to run training programmes. Those who moan loudest about shortage of skilled labour are to be given responsibility for solving problems. The country is in danger of becoming undone by its success. The bosses had better not let themselves or Britain down.

Independent - Fowler aims to end skills shortage by private training. Leader says the structure that the White Paper suggests is at best appropriate to dealing with today's localised skill shortages rather than tomorrow's potential opportunities. But its most serious deficiency is that it was not produced jointly with the DES. It is a sorry response from a Government which professes to take supply-side policies seriously.

Telegraph - Training reform will give private firms bigger role.

Guardian - Employers take reins in training shake up. Leader finds it purposeful change in theory but leaving it to employers has failed before.

POLITICS

In an Independent commentary, Peter Jenkins looks at attempts of some intellectual socialists to form an "anti-Thatcher front", by trying to make popular what would not otherwise be popular, namely socialism. He concludes that the plans are a delusion and a fantasy.

MIDDLE EAST

Independent - Britain drops plan for talks with PLO, apparently as a result of American pressure. There is no doubt that Foreign Office ministers left the final word to Downing Street.

EAST-WEST

Independent - Gorbachev set to make important arms offer. Strong possibility his proposals to the UN and President Reagan could concern the control of chemical weapons.

Independent - Last two items holding up the conclusion of the Vienna CSCE talks have now been resolved to clear the way for new talks on the reduction of conventional forces.

PRESS DIGEST

Times leader discusses Mr Gorbachev's visit to the UN, Cuba and Britain. While the personal rapport between you and Mr Gorbachev should facilitate productive meetings the Soviet leader will also know that you are the one he must convince if some of his favourite ideas are ever to advance far. It adds that neither you nor the British people are likely to be impressed should Gorbachev challenge Britain's human rights record through the Irish question.

Gorbachev arrives in New York heralded by a Soviet public relations barrage that has raised fears in the White House that he may intend launching some spectacular peace initiative for which the US officials are unprepared (Times).

FT - Gorbachev is expected to press US and Britain to acknowledge Soviet improvements in human rights and clear the way for talks on conventional arms. On the eve of his tour, two Soviet daily newspapers publish unambiguous tributes to Thatcherism.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler presents Awards at Institute of Mechanical Engineers
- DES: Mr Baker addresses Birkbeck College on their 150th Anniversary, about the importance of evening and part time degrees; later addresses Royal Society Engineering Council
- DTI: Mr Newton attends Action for Cities Breakfast, Leicester
- HMT: Mr Lawson addresses conference on debt, London
- HO: Mr Hurd and Mr Patten address Standing Conference on Crime Prevention
- WO: Mr Walker attends Sunday Times Christmas reception, London
- DEM: Mr Lee attends presentation of awards, Flying Start to Business Enterprise Competition, Manchester
- DEN: Baroness Hooper addresses the National Energy Management Exhibition, Birmingham
- DH: Mrs Currie attends launch of Federation of London Alcohol Groups
- DOE: Mr Chope receives Australia PSA Chief Executive about the Football Bill
- DOE: Mr Moynihan meets Football Sports Association
- DOE: Mr Trippier has Action for Cities breakfast, and visits City Council, Leicester
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley launches Countrywide Video Disc and makes speech, Brighton
- DSS: Mr Lloyd lays foundation stone, North Fylde Centre Office
- DTI: Mr Forth addresses launch of IT Starts Programme for National Computing Centre
- DTp: Mr Portillo addresses the Intermodal Europe '88 Conference, Kensington Exhibition Centre
- DTp: Lord Brabazon is guest speaker at Joint Airports Committee of Local Authorities conference dinner, Bristol
- FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses Bow Group, London
- MAFFBaroness Trumpington attends Royal Smithfield Show
- MAFFMr Ryder attends Parliamentary Food and Health Forum AGM, London
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses Hobsons 1988 Sponsorship Awards dinner
- WO: Mr Roberts attends Pre-School Playgroups Association reception, House of Commons
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

ODA: Mr Patten attends bilateral discussions, Paris

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DOE: Mr Ridley on Tyne Tees TV Water Front Production on rural housing

DOE: Mr Tripper on Panorama, about housing

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)

"Prisoners of Conscience": BBC 2 (19.55)

"The Divided Kingdom": C4 (20.00). Ain't no black in the Union Jack. Margo MacDonald examines identities in the inner cities.

"The New Professionals": BBC Radio 4 (20.00). The Corporation Men - who are the men running the new organisations, such as City Technology Colleges and executive agencies

"Moneyspinner": C4 (20.30). In the light of Barlow Clowes, how "safe" is safe investment

"1988 Reith Lectures" BBC Radio 4 (20.45). Politics in the USSR: Religion and the Atheist State

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

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.30)

"Network in Ireland": BBC 1 (22.50). Includes examination of how viewers in Irish Republic has reacted to the media ban on Sinn Fein
