

MAIN EVENTS

MAFF: Statement on Eggs Compensation (prov)

EC: Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels (to 20 December)

EC/Yugoslavia Cooperation Council, Brussels (to 20 December)

STATISTICS

CSO: Gross Domestic Product (3rd Qtr)

DOE: Housing and Construction Statistics Part 1. No 35. Sept Qtr 1988

OPCS: Mortality by cause 1986

OPCS: Sudden infant death syndrome 1985-86

OPCS: Mortality: perinatal and infant 1986

OPCS: Deaths by cause: June Qtr 1988 registrations

OPCS: Deaths from accidents and violence: June Qtr 1988 registrations

OPCS: Hospital in-patient enquiry: maternity 1982-85

PUBLICATIONS

HO: Protection of Seals Order (PN) (comes into force)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Social Security; Transport; Wales

Business:

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Child protection - Mr Geoffrey Dickens

Forestry - Mr John Greenway

Use of Parliamentary Procedure - Dame Jill Knight

Motion for the Christmas Adjournment

Consolidated Fund Bill: All Stages

Adjournment Debates: Staffing arrangements at the Stanley Royal Hospital
(Mr W O'Brien)

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Select Committees: EXAMINERS OF PETITIONS FOR PRIVATE
BILLS: STANDING ORDER PROOFS

HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Forensic Science Services

Witness: Earl Ferrers, Minister of
State, Home Office and Home Office
officials

ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Toxic Waste

Witness: Aspinwall & Co. Ltd.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: The Crown Estate

Witnesses: Dr K Dexter, CB, Second
Crown Estate Commissioner

Lords: Starred Questions
Children Bill (HL): Committee (1st Day))
Bristol Development Corporation (Area and Constitution) Order 1988) **Motion**
Bristol Development Corporation (Area and Constitution) (Amendment)) **for**
Order 1988) **Approval**

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Kinnock, on TV, does not rule out proportional representation but he continues to reject electoral pacts. Confusion follows with Labour sources denying any change of policy on PR.

Kinnock forced to issue statement: "Only the most perverse interpretation of what I said today could lead anyone to believe that I endorsed PR".

NUM reject overtime ban by majority of less than 1,000 votes.

Government expected this evening to opt for British tank. Sun congratulates Vickers.

Telegraph leads with Army Commanders furious with decision to buy British.

Vickers will get trial period, probably one year, to prove Challenger in struggle with US rival over eventual order worth £1.4 billion. 100 Tory MPs form resistance to the American bid (Independent).

Arafat wants to meet you.

Chancellor claims on TV that higher interest rates are working. He will raise interest rates again if necessary to control inflation; economy slowing down largely due to the end of the home price boom.

Opposition say average family £1,700 in debt as stores raise credit card interest rates.

British Rail considering ending rail unions rights to attend internal inquiries after leaks from Clapham disaster hearing (Times).

Big row over Archie Hamilton's banning Christmas parties for troops in Germany at request of West German Government - and then lifting it at potential cost of £1 million compensation for cancelled arrangements. Star says Mr Hamilton will go down as the man who banned Christmas.

Eggs still on the menu. Sun reports Sir Richard Body MP, chairman of Commons Agriculture Select Committee as saying that tests in 1981 showed that 90% of hens were infected with salmonella.

PRESS DIGEST

Express front page leader says Mrs Currie's error of judgement should not be used by Government and egg producers to pretend there is nothing wrong. Unfortunately behaviour of John MacGregor and John Major suggests they are much more preoccupied with welfare of farmers than consumers.

Farmers await John MacGregor's announcement of the details of the buy-in scheme today.

2,000 jobs to be lost in egg industry, according to Mirror.

Edwina Currie may be summoned to appear before Agriculture Select Committee. Teddy Taylor MP defends her.

Leeds Professor says salmonella in eggs kills one consumer a week.

FT leader says that if one lesson of the row stands out it is that the Government must handle issues which potentially affect the health of millions in a manner that inspires confidence, not confusion. What evidence it now has should be published; and a review of its scientific and bureaucratic procedures should be undertaken.

Paul Channon says Government may be forced to charge motorists for driving in London (Independent).

Government facing increasing pressure to make Camelford a disaster area.

Bitter reaction to South West Water Authority's 10% water bill reduction - worth £10-20 - as compensation for heavily poisoned water which has damaged some people's health in Cornwall.

Patients will have right in New Year to see medical reports by their doctor as a result of applications for a job, mortgage or insurance.

Private Health review shows one in six of all non-emergency operations now carried out privately - a rise of a quarter in five years (Independent).

Kenneth Baker says universities already have the power to charge entrance fees to help pay for tuition, but they should not discourage poorer students.

Education Secretary tells National Foundation for Education Research, devising tests for 7 year olds, to put more emphasis on 3Rs; leader writers agree.

PRESS DIGEST

Controversial plan to establish Christian technology college expected to be unveiled this week (Independent).

Crooks helping police to track down violent murderous gang terrorising East Surrey.

Mail offers £10,000 to help trap killers; reward money now totals £25,000.

Government to speed up legal reform allowing children under 14 to give evidence by closed circuit TV in crown court cases involving physical and sexual abuse (Times).

Agreement reached between Lord Chancellor, the Bar and the Law Society will mean barristers will be able to appear in crown courts without a solicitor (Times).

MOD denies it misled Thames Television journalist who made 'Death on the Rock' by not correcting inaccurate information at a briefing (Independent).

New editor appointed to News of the World; Wendy Henry sacked after just 18 months.

Eddy Shah ends publication of The Post and sells his newspaper interests for £25million to concentrate on television.

IRA blasts Army housing estate in Londonderry, but no-one killed.

11 men from Tyrone, Derry and Antrim due to appear in court today after bomb discovered near housing scheme.

Express says IRA threats to scientist witnesses could mean Ryan will not be brought to trial.

Campaign for national disaster team gets new lease of life after Armenia; claims that lack of co-ordination of British effort put us behind other European countries.

Guardian wants an international emergency network.

Nicholas Winterton on TV suggests honours are being bought by industrialists through contributions to the Tory Party.

US fashion designer describes Duchess of York as "a fashion obscenity who walks like a duck with a bad leg".

PRESS DIGEST

EC to impose common standards for health and safety at work after late-night compromise by consumer affairs ministers (FT).

Papandreou survives confidence vote.

Speaking on Blue Peter, you back role for Khmer Rouge in Cambodia.

British doctors say Russians not to blame for lack of organisation in Armenian rescue. Officials, police, doctors and nurses had also been wiped out.

Russians to be allowed to buy their own homes, but will be able to have only one house and will not be able to let for profit.

Soviet Union set to drop death penalty for many offences and abolish exile (Times).

PLO will appoint exile Government early in New Year; Soviet Union welcomes start of contacts between US and PLO: Israeli Cabinet divided on response to Arafat's Geneva speech.

Shamir poised to form coalition without Labour as bloodshed continues (Independent).

Britain and other European countries warned by top PLO officials that terrorists may launch attacks to undermine the new dialogue between US and the PLO (Times).

Mac in Mail voted cartoonist of the year.

KINNOCK BROADCAST

Sun page 2 - Kinnock: voters do see me as the Welsh windbag; confirms that most voters would not trust Labour to run the economy. Threatens to clobber rich and hand power back to unions.

Mirror page 2 - Short piece on Kinnock rejecting deal with SLD.

Today - Tax pledge by Kinnock - seeks to bury Labour's image as a party of higher taxes.

Express - Kinnock pledge over pickets - would allow secondary picketing as part of the balance of power between employers and workers. Leader says Kinnock was back on the old refrain. No wonder he continues to lag so far back in the opinion polls.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail - Kinnock chaos follows hint on polling. Labour sources immediately deny any change of policy planned and confusion follows. Leader says Kinnock's half open mind about PR reveals just how deep has become the slough of despond in which Labour seems irretrievably to be stuck. It's attitude is summed up by "We are never going to win by the present rules so let's change them".

Independent - Kinnock hostile to proportional representation and rules out electoral pacts with other opposition parties

Times - Kinnock emphatically rejects idea of his party forming an electoral pact with opposition parties to defeat Conservatives.

Telegraph - Kinnock rejects electoral pacts and PR voting.

Guardian - Kinnock rejects poll pacts but leaves PR door ajar.

ARCHIE HAMILTON

Star says his party decision was rightly deplored by GOC, Germany, as stupidest order he has ever had to pass on.

Sun - Outrageous ban. The General is "dead right" in his description of the order. The Krauts should have been told where to shove their ban.

Today says Edwina Currie was left with no choice but to quit. If Mr Hamilton is responsible for this other costly boob he should pay for it with his job. If not, and is being made the fall-guy for the Foreign or Defence Secretary, then the Minister responsible should go.

Express leader refers to a humiliating about turn on servicemen's parties which has come too late to salvage most of them. Craven response of Archie Hamilton came as a result of FCO pressure. If the Germans want to tell us what to do with Christmas they might at least pick up some of the Rhine Army Bill.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Times leader discusses CERN and ESA saying that after much hesitation the Government has committed itself to continue subscriptions. In recent years the Government has successfully given the impression that it cared little for scientists or their work. Ill-considered rhetoric and lack of imagination have obscured the considerable investment still made annually in big, basic science projects.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Cope addresses Corporation of London Establishment Committee dinner
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits Dorset Institute of Higher Education to open new library building
- DH: Mr Mellor attends Topping Out Ceremony, NSPCC Child Protection Training Ceremony, Leicester
- DOE: Lord Caithness visits National Environment Research Council, Swindon
- DOE: Mr Trippier attends the launch of the Brixton Property Investment Study Report at Lambeth Town Hall; later gives a press briefing on DOE's Inner-Cities Directorate's 10th Annual Report
- DTp: Mr Portillo starts work on the Chiltern Line Resignalling System, Marylebone
- SO: Mr Forsyth opens Dunblane By-pass
-

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mrs Chalker (to 20 December) attend FAC, Brussels
-

TV AND RADIO

- "Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)
- "Kilroy": BBC 1 (9.20)
- "Business Daily": C4 (12.30)
- "The World at One": BBC Radio 4 (13.00)
- "The Education Programme": BBC 2 (19.40). Better Late than Never. Evidence to counter the myth that the elderly cannot learn new disciplines
- "Watchdog": BBC 1 (19.30)
- "World in Action": Thames (20.30)
- "In the Club? - Birth Control this century": C4 (21.00) Third of three programmes, "it changed our lives"
- "The World Tonight": BBC Radio 4 (22.30) followed by "The Financial World Tonight" and "Today in Parliament"
- "Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.30)
-