

25 January 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets Turkish Defence Minister (photocall)

Prime Minister launches European Cancer Year, QEII Centre

Wakeham Ministerial Group on Alcohol Abuse

TUC General Council

DTI: Lord Young announces Telepoint licences (or 26 January)

STATISTICS

DOE: Construction - new orders (Nov)

DOE: Bricks and cement production and deliveries (4th qtr - prov)

PUBLICATIONS

LCD: Legal Profession Green papers

Northern Ireland Audit Office: Estimate 1989-90

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Environment; Scotland; Foreign and Commonwealth

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: London Government. (Mr Tony Banks)
Official Secrets Bill (1st day) Consideration in Committee
Motion on the Monopolies and Mergers (Performance of Functions) Order

Adjournment Debates: The case of Paul Dandy and alleged malpractice in the West Midlands serious crimes squad (Ms C Short)

Select Committees:

AGRICULTURE

Subject: Salmonella in Eggs

Witnesses: Rt Hon John MacGregor, OBE, MP, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Mr Richard Ryder, OBE, MP, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke, QC, MP, Secretary of State for Health

ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Toxic Waste

Witness: The Earl of Caithness, Minister for Housing, Environment and Countryside

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Select Committees: (cont'd)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Subject: Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union

Witnesses: Professor W Brus, Wolfson College, Mr M Kaser, St Antony's College and Mr A Smith. Officials from the Department of Trade and Industry

PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION

Subject: Remit of the Ombudsman

Witnesses: Lord MacKay, the Lord Chancellor and representatives of the Lord Chancellor's Department

ENERGY

Subject: The Electricity Bill

Witness: The Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson, MP, Secretary of State for Energy

AGRICULTURE

Subject: Salmonella in Eggs

Witnesses: Professor R W Lacey; Dr Tim Lang, Director, London Food Commission; Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: The work of the Equal Opportunities Commission

Witnesses: Chairman and Chief Executive, Equal Opportunities Commission

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Subject: Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union

Witnesses: Officials from the Department of Trade and Industry

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Customs and Excise Account Report: Fraud and Smuggling

Witness: J B Unwin, CB, Chairman, Board of Customs and Excise

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Resourcing the NHS; Whitley Councils

Witnesses: Regional Health Authority Chairman and Regional General Managers; Dr P Beaumont, University of Glasgow

PARLIAMENT Cont'd)Select Committees: (cont'd)

TRANSPORT

Subject: Roads for the Future

Witnesses: British Road Federation (4.15) Trades Union Congress (5.00) and Transport and General Workers Union

TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE SUB-COMMITTEE

Subject: Manpower losses in the Revenue Department

Witnesses: Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise officials

Lords: Starred Questions

Debate to call attention to Her Majesty's Government's method of conducting relations with foreign countries

Junior Hospital Doctors (Regulations of Hours) Bill (HL) Second Reading

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

More stories of rows between you and Chancellor in Today; Mail says the argument is threatening to disrupt plans for the March Budget; you want a consolidation Budget and Chancellor wants to cut taxes.

A variety of stories about what will be in the Budget - £6 extra for low earners (Sun).

You stand firm against EMS, and have made it clear that efforts to reduce inflation must take priority over Treasury's concern to stabilise sterling's value against the Deutschmark (FT).

CBI shows companies are less optimistic about their prospects.

Big drop in building society borrowing - lowest for 2 years.

Express leads with young house buyers opting out of the market.

FT's Lex column concludes that, for what it is worth, yesterday's CBI survey implies that Mr Lawson's medicine is producing the right combination of a slowdown in inflation and the selective suppression of demand.

Wall Street surges to 10 points above its opening level of Black Monday, 1987; British share prices up 8% since beginning of year.

President Bush has outlined a new "process" for reducing US budget deficit (Independent).

Labour trying to get a statement on a report that Government will sell off only 51% of water industry.

Robin Cook tries to scare the public about NHS Review: up to 260 hospitals to be able to opt out of the NHS by 1991. Impression created of a move towards privatisation. But he doesn't get much coverage in the pops.

Surgeons say Roger Freeman's tough words on sale of kidneys must be backed by Government willingness to punish private hospitals and surgeons (Independent).

Lord Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, on eve of Green Papers on legal profession, says rule that only barristers can be made High Court judges is "indefensible" and solicitors' conveyancing monopoly "absurd".

PRESS DIGEST

MAFF announces new food laws, with powers to ban unfit food and inspect processing plants. Times describes them as most far-reaching since war.

Sun says John MacGregor's political future is in the balance. Advised not to return to work for a month.

Independent - MAFF allowed sales of eggs from salmonella infected eggs to continue and has refused to identify the flock involved; also claim that MAFF officials told them two multiple outbreaks should be considered as slightly extended single outbreaks because they occurred over a short period - so they were not persistent. But information from the Communicable Disease Centre showed this was not true and that one outbreak occurred over at least 4 months.

Lords Select Committee has criticised MAFF for cutting spending on research into salmonella (Independent).

Beef prices expected to rise by 4p in the pound after UK outvoted at EC Agricultural Council.

Paul Channon calls for an emergency summit of 33 members of ICAO after Lockerbie to help defeat terrorism.

Stanstead Airport security system fails to detect live ammunition carried by passenger (Times).

World Cricket Conference opts for a compromise on South Africa - with bans on Test cricket for those who go there for up to 5 years.

Mixed reception in press.

Legal challenge likely to follow from Norris McWhirter's Freedom Association.

Sun says miners, asked if they want to buy shares in a privatised industry, should not hesitate if they have any sense.

BP spending £100million on changing their yellow and green logo to italic.

Lord Young rules out delaying the widely-expected Monopolies clearance of Minorco's £2.9billion bid for Consgold until an inquiry into dealings in Consgold is over (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

GEC may be picked for £90million deal to supply high frequency army radios to Turkey. This is expected to be discussed by Defence Ministers in London (FT).

NIREX wants nuclear dump at Sellafield (Independent).

Co-op shopworkers table 40% pay claim.

Horizon Holidays fined £1,000 for misleading holidaymakers about hotels; 16th conviction in five years.

Ford is to spend about £50million to re-equip its engine plant in Belfast (FT).

Nicholas Ridley set to lift planning restraints in the countryside to open the way for a housing boom in and around villages (Times).

School inspectors say all pupils should have chance to learn about controversial environmental issues if they are to leave school with a sense of responsibility (Times).

Almost one-quarter of colleges and polytechnics lack the key financial systems they will need on independence from local authority control, according to Peat Marwick McLintock report (FT).

Torbay Council decides to scrap plans to sell off its housing stock (Times).

An industrial tribunal has found the Government guilty of discriminating against married mothers who join ET schemes. Guidelines stipulate only single parents can get an allowance for child care but the Tribunal found this was unlawful (Independent).

Metropolitan Police Commissioner promises to get tough with violent crime.

Express, commenting on Home Secretary's speech yesterday, says he is entitled to demand evidence of improved performance before committing more taxpayer's money to fight crime.

Concern grows as New York vigilante group, called the Guardian Angels, arrives in London to patrol the Underground (Times).

Reported IRA disbandment of unit in Fermanagh treated with scepticism and as hypocrisy.

PRESS DIGEST

Prince Charles gets a warm welcome in Lockerbie and his visit overruns by an hour.

Princess Diana complains of the amount of drinking portrayed on TV, especially in soaps. Today wants drink banned from screen.

One in three viewers - a slight improvement in fact on 1987 - thinks TV programmes have got worse over past year.

Claims that the value of your Dulwich home will be hit by up to £250,000 by a possible Channel Tunnel rail link route.

Cecil Parkinson says Michael Heseltine talked him out of abandoning a political career after the Keays affair; said he would be bored.

Clapham death toll rises to 35; 61 year old man dies of injuries.

Government sources say at least three battalions of Gurkhas will survive MOD study (Times).

Extel is to close its racing service in face of satellite TV coverage (FT).

Paul Sayer, psychiatric nurse from Leeds, wins Whitbread book prize.

Mail thinks Gorbachev is coming out on top of a power struggle.

Faud costs EC as much as £6billion a year. The main perpetrators are international crime rings of Mafia proportions (Independent).

Le Monde comes close to accusing Mitterrand of misleading the public over the growing stock market scandal involving the state-owned Pechiney aluminium group (Times).

Yasser Arafat may attend IPU conference in London in September (FT).

Japan's Prime Minister was under pressure to resign yesterday after another senior Cabinet Minister was driven from office by scandal (Independent).

Pakistan thinking of applying to rejoin Commonwealth.

Prime Minister Mahathir of Malaysia has heart by-pass surgery.

PRESS DIGESTCRICKET

Star - Politics stuck its mucky, meddling fingers into the world of sport again. Eternal shame.

Ian Wooldridge, in Mail, says a dark shadow fell across the land when the Guardians of English cricket submitted to an act of blackmail. They will live to regret the day. Norris McWhirter will see to that.

Times - ICC bans cricket links with South Africa, but Freedom Association considering whether to challenge decision in the courts.

Independent leader says if they are to mean anything civil liberties must be indivisible - NCCL should pluck up the courage to say that extends to cricketers who wish to play in South Africa, too.

BUDGET

Sun - Nigel's £6 a week boost for lowly paid. Budget tax bonus; leader calls for a better deal for war widows.

Today - A bitter row over tax cuts could spark a new bust up between you and Chancellor. Tension now so high Treasury officials trying to establish whether you have power to veto Chancellor.

Mail - Tax wars in Downing Street - Part 2.

Telegraph says you have moved to squash speculation of a pre-Budget rift but you have dealt Chancellor another blow by ruling out membership of EMS in lifetime of this Parliament.

Guardian - Thatcher in Budget tax battle. You are threatening to force the Chancellor to re-write his draft Budget to include increases in tax thresholds. You are threatening to use your constitutional position as First Lord. Both Brian Griffiths and Alan Walters are seeking substantial tax changes.

PRINCE CHARLES

Star - Charles wins over people of Lockerbie; warm and grateful welcome.

Sun - Caring Charles wins a pardon for Royal snub of Lockerbie.

PRESS DIGEST

Mirror - He tells why Royal Family did not go earlier - "better for me to come after the disaster than at a time when everything is confused".

Today - The Royals had made a mistake and Charles knew it. Don't believe what they say about us, he pleaded.

Express - Bonnie Prince Charlie wins Lockerbie's heart.

Mail - "With compassion and flowers Charles wins the Lockerbie hearts". Leader says it was plainly a mistake not to send a member of the Royal Family to the memorial service but Prince Charles yesterday did all that could be done to make amends.

Times - Prince Charles' visit to Lockerbie welcomed as a helpful gesture.

Telegraph - Lockerbie glad to see the Prince.

NHS

Star - Doctors will rake in the cash after shake up.

Sun - Opt out by 260 hospitals.

Mirror - Push for hospitals to go private.

Express - 250 hospitals "to pull out".

Mail leads with "Hospitals: 260 set to go it alone". Leader says Robin Cook felt he had scored a goal against the Government with his leak yesterday. But if you are targetting hundreds of hospitals for opt out it is very welcome news. The best known means of achieving efficiency is through the pressure of free market forces.

Telegraph - Hospitals to opt out, says Labour.

Independent - Robin Cook says government will set a treatment pricing target for hospitals in NHS review which would make 260 district general hospitals eligible to opt out by 1991. He claimed an 8 page leaked document proved the review would pave the way for full privatisation of the health service.

Confidential Whitehall documents show that more than 250 big hospitals may opt out of the control of health authorities under NHS review plans (FT).

PRESS DIGESTPRIVACY BILL

Times leader under the heading "Filling the Moat" discusses John Browne's Privacy Bill saying few MPs think it is a perfect Bill. Few, indeed, seem to think it even a good one. But in today's political climate "privacy" is like motherhood. It concludes that if lack of opposition means that the Bill, or something like it, comes to the statute book, it will be a stain on Parliament and a reproach to the Conservatives who, of all parties, should best know how good principles do not necessarily make good law.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler addresses Executive Grapevine conference, London
- DEN: Mr Parkinson addresses the Institute of Mining Engineers centenary dinner, Guildhall
- DOE: Mr Ridley addresses Foreign Press Association, London
- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses American/Canadian Chambers of Commerce lunch, London
- HMT: Mr Lawson addresses Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House on What Sort Of European Financial Area
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor attends Agricultural Committee, London
- DEM: Mr Cope attends Employment Training promotional day, Norwich and Ipswich, East Midlands
- DEM: Mr Nicholls attends Ministerial Group on Misuse of Alcohol and the Voluntary Sector
- DEM: Mr Lee visits David Evans and Company Ltd, Crayford, Kent (industrial tourism)
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits the National Curriculum Council in York
- DH: Mr Mellor visits Celltech, Slough
- DH: Mr Freeman releases 6,000 balloons for Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust Silver Jubilee, Covent Garden
- DOE: Mr Gummer visits Local Authorities, Newcastle upon Tyne
- DOE: Lord Caithness gives evidence to Select Committee on Toxic Waste
- DSS: Lord Skelmersdale visits Social Security Advice Line for Employers and tours Glasgow City Local Office
- DTI: Mr Maude addresses Society of Fellows on Insurance after 1992; later addresses London Central European Constituency and Chartered Institute of Banking on 1992
- DTp: Mr Portillo addresses the Chartered Institute of Transport, University of Aston, Birmingham; later launches London Taxi International Wheelchair Taxi, Windsor
- DTp: Lord Brabazon attends the opening of the Farnborough Business Centre
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington attends Agricultural Session, Anglo Turkish Business Council; later attends David Hall Club, Wye
- MOD: Lord Trefgarne and Lord Brabazon open Civilian Enclave at Farnborough
- WO: Mr Grist attends Treasures for the Nation reception, British Museum

TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Kilroy": BBC 1 (9.20)

"The Time, The Place": HTV (10.00)

"You and Yours": BBC Radiuo 4 (12.00)

"The Parliament Programme": C4 (12.00). Coverage of the work of both Houses of Parliament on a daily basis

"Business Daily": C4 (12.30)

"The World at One": BBC Radio 4 (13.00)

"File on Four": Radio 4 (16.05). rpt

"Dispatches": C4 (20.30)

"Rough Justice": BBC 1 (21.30). The case of Paul and Wayne Darvill serving life sentences for murder

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

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.30)
