

27 March 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

House of Commons rises for Easter Recess (to April 8)

Family Law Bill published

HM The Queen distributes Maundy Money, Chichester Cathedral

Clive Ponting's book, "Whitehall: Tragedy & Farce" published

GLC's ceremonial last meeting

EC Transport Council, Brussels

French General Assembly reconvenes

"Doomsday 900" and exhibition to celebrate the 900th anniversary of the Doomsday Book, Great Hall, Winchester (to November 1)

STATISTICS

CSO: Industrial and commercial companies (4th qtr)

CSO: Personal income expenditure and saving (4th qtr)

DEN: Energy Trends (Jan)

DTp: New vehicle registrations (Feb)

PAY

DEM: NHS ambulancemen; (18,000); claim to be presented; settlement date 1.4.86

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Northern Ireland; Agriculture, Fisheries & Food; Prime Minister

Business: Timed Easter Adjournment Debates until 1530

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMAIN ISSUES

- Labour Party in turmoil over disciplining of Liverpool Militants after Heffer-led walk-out from NEC; party constitution now to be changed; meanwhile 'chaos, pantomime, shambles, humiliation, fiasco, sabotage' just some of the words to describe situation.
 - Big haul of weapons and National Front literature by police in breaking up Chelsea soccer hooligan gang; 7 charged - all had planned to travel to Russia for England v. Russia soccer match.
 - £4m of heroin seized in London.
 - BBC Newsnight survey on Fulham puts Labour well ahead - 44/Con 30/SDP/Libs 23. Gallup national poll puts SDP ahead 34.5/Lab 34/Con 29.5.
 - Terrorist alert in Britain after Gulf of Sirte incidents.
 - Rupert Murdoch agrees to pay compensation to print workers who went on strike and were dismissed.
 - Chancellor tells Select Committee he is perfectly content with present pattern of exchange rates; dampens speculation on EMS membership (FT).
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- Paul Foot, in Mirror, features hospital suicides as part of Mirror's campaign against Government on NHS.
 - Lord Glenarthur, in Lords, says Britain made several technical changes to Glenholmes warrants at request of Irish; Express describes Netherlands court decision on extradition of IRA terrorists, as Double Dutch.
 - Kinnock supporter, Bryan Nicholson, new chairman of TGWU executive - pres says this breaks stranglehold of Left.
 - More than 80% of Vickers shipyard workers have applied for shares - triumphant endorsement of popular capitalism (Mail).
 - Claims that abolition of GLC could mean more manpower and less saving.

OTHER POINTS

- GATT secretariat expects 4% rise in world trade this year.
- Halfords £50m investment plan will create thousands of new jobs.
- BBC TV programmes face disruption today because of 24-hour pay strike by 30 vision mixers.
- Notts headmaster renaming 5 houses in his school because current names after famous people are "sexist".
- Backlog of motorway repairs will take 6 years to clear.
- Nationwide Building Society forecasts 10% increase in house prices this year - but more in South East.
- National Consumer Council says passengers are being taken for a ride at airport duty free shops and in other ways by cartels; fares unnecessarily high.
- Survey claims Britain's schools are turning into a battleground where violent pupils prey on their classmates and teachers; Baroness Cox, Lord Bauer and Mrs Gorman win substantial damages from Express for allegations about their political affiliation with Far Right.
- Bishop of Derby says argument for Sunday Trading Bill - that people should be free to do what they want on Sunday - could equally be used to legalise prostitution.
- Lord Hailsham accepts defeat in High Court and agrees to negotiate on barristers' fees within timetable.
- Telegraph says you and colleagues backed away from GM takeover because of new sensitivity born of Westland affair; colleagues think Westland has improved your attitude to collective responsibility.
- Healey re-opens Defence debate to alarm of Labour Party; should they get rid of Polaris or use it as a bargaining counter?
- Michael Heseltine presents his own blueprint for inner cities.
- Swindon railway workshops close with loss of 1,100 jobs.
- Select Committee accuses Whitehall officials of unforgiveable incompetence for failing to help prevent tin crisis and Ministers of unjustified secrecy.
- Guardian says only a limited part of Sellafield will be investigated by NII.
- Labour controlled West Midlands Police Authority calls for special firearms team after accusing force of shocking record in incidents involving innocent people.

OTHER POINTS (CONT'D)

- Ronald Butt in Times argues that Sir Keith Joseph should leave DES now - no time to embark on major reform and it would be sensible to give his successor time to start on what is now imperative.
- Chairman of Electricity Council says Gas Bill could place electricity industry at disadvantage/

OVERSEAS

- LIBYA: Reagan brushes aside Gorbachev offer to withdraw Russian fleet from Mediterranean if America does.

Libya vows total war on USA.
- SOUTH AFRICA: 32 dead in racial violence.
- HONDURAS: USA claims Nicaragua has attacked 'rebel' camps inside Honduras.

PEOPLE

- Express says it is hard not to agree with you that you have been victim of scurrilous and totally false allegations. Seasoned observers will regard allegations as the most impressive trough of hogwash since BL slush fund scandal. Even Labour Party leaders lack stomach to touch scrapings at bottom of barrel.
- Alastair Graham to leave CPSA to become new head of Industrial Society.
- Sun writer, Professor John Vincent, says in Sun that the thugs will never silence him.
- Roy Hattersley in review of new book about Rupert Murdoch in Mirror writes about his record of disreputability matched by enthusiasm for trivia and soft porn.
- Your interview with Times to be published tomorrow (Friday).

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

MAPP: Mrs Fenner attends presentation of the Wolf prize to
Sir Ralph Riley, London

DEM: Mr Lang opens Community Programme Agency, Lincoln

DOE: Mr Tracey attends Rosslyn Park Rugby Sevens

DOE: Mr Waldegrave lunches with British Nuclear Fuels Ltd

SO: Mr Ancram opens Tranent bypass

SO: Mr MacKay opens BMA symposium on NHS cost efficiency, Dundee

TV AND RADIO

"The Natural History Programme" BBC Radio 4 (09.05): Looks at attitudes
towards the British fur trade

"Medicine Now"; BBC Radio 4 (10.00): Repeat of Tuesday's programme

"Union World"; Channel 4 (18.30): Programme for and about trade unionists

"Brass Tacks"; BBC 2 (20.20): Examines the Government's drive for greater
efficiency in the National Health Service

"TV Eye"; ITV (21.30):

"40 Minutes"; BBC 2 (21.30): "Nuts". Examines the scandal that rocked
the Labour Government 40 years ago - a scheme to turn Tanzanyika into a
peanut allotment
