

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets President of the European Parliament
Police manpower figures announced
Prison Officers' Association annual conference, Folkestone
Consumer Guide to Bus Services published
Police Federation annual conference, Scarborough (to May 22)
Standing Orders Committee considers Channel Fixed Link legislation procedure
Royal Environment Health Institute of Scotland annual conference, Inverness (to May 23)
NRPB Press Conference on their Corporate Plan
RoSPA International Safety Exhibition and Seminar, Birmingham (to May 22)
Chelsea Flower Show (to May 23)

STATISTICS

CBI: CBI/FT survey of distributive trades (end-April)
OPCS: Hospital In-patient enquiry (England) Trends; Summary tables 1984

PUBLICATIONS

DES: HMI report on Wigan LEA; HMI report on St George's Comprehensive School, Birmingham
DES: Report by the Mathias Working Party on private sector funding of research
DTp: Consumer Guide to Bus Services
HOL: 12th Report Select Committee on European Communities (08.30)
NAO: National Audit Office - report by the Comptroller and Auditor General - DOE control of Local Authority capital expenditure (11.00)

PAY

DEM: NHS Medical Physics and Technicians; (11,800); claim is for flat-rate increase of £20 per week, basic minimum wage, reduction in working week, additional holidays; settlement date 1.4.86
DEM: NHS Pharmacy Technicians; (3,000); claim is for flat-rate increase of £20 per week, increases in all allowance, 35-hour week
DEM: NHS Dental Technicians; (800); claim is for basic increase of 13 per cent, reduction of working week, additional holidays; settlement date 1.4.86

PARLIAMENTCommons

Questions: Employment; Social Services; Prime Minister

Business: Completion of remaining stages of the Social Security Bill
(2nd Allotted Day)

Debate to approve first report from the Privileges Committee
1985-6 (H of C Paper 376)

Select Committees: EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS
Subject: Prison Education
Witnesses: NATFHE (at 10.40 am); Her Majesty's
Inspectors of Schools (at 11.40 am)

STANDING ORDERS

Subject: The Channel Tunnel Bill

PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION

Subject: Reports of the Parliamentary Commissioner
for Administration

Witnesses: Mr C W France, CB, Second Permanent
Secretary, Mr B W Taylor, Under Secretary and
Mr M Whippman, Assistant Secretary, Department of
Health and Social Security

DEFENCE

Subject: The Statement on the Defence Estimates 1986

Witness: To be announced

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL

London Docklands Railway (City Extension)

Lords Drainage Rates (Disabled Persons) Bill: Committee

Education Bill: Report

Horticultural Produce Bill: Second Reading

MINISTERS - See Annex

DEFENCE

- Defence Secretary saw the Lobby yesterday and.....
- Sun says George Younger fears Kinnock's defence policies will cause the collapse of NATO.
- Mirror says Tories are launching a scare campaign over Labour's defence policy.
- Today says senior Government Ministers now believe Kinnock will be next Prime Minister and are so concerned they have mounted a campaign to persuade Labour to ditch their nuclear disarmament policy.
- Mail says secret approach to Labour Party chiefs is being planned by Government to safeguard Britain's nuclear defences. Telegraph says George Younger has already started the talks. Guardian: Defence Ministers are embarking on an assault on Opposition policy commitments to persuade them they are mistaken.
- Today leader says Dr Owen was quite right to tell SDP that no political leader could dodge where he stood on our independent nuclear deterrent. But the position of the Alliance is not clear. And how does Owen propose to keep a deterrent while giving up Trident? Express says Owen's determination to keep a British nuclear deterrent is fine but Liberals remain just as firmly against replacing Polaris. The electorate is entitled to think it is an odd kind of Alliance.
- Row looms in NATO Over US manufacture of new "binary" chemical weapons.
- FT: Pakistan expects soon to finalise a deal with Britain to buy 3 Vosper Thorneycroft frigates for more than £300m.
- The Government is planning a propaganda campaign against the Labour and Alliance defence proposals.
- 19 CND members arrested outside Polaris base on Clyde.

FALKLANDS

- Any future Labour Government would talk to Argentina about sovereignty; policy endorsed by Shadow Cabinet.

INDUSTRY

- David Mudd MP says he can no longer promise full or automatic support for the Government's social, industrial and employment policies because of its "inaction" in tackling the tin crisis in Cornwall.
- Row over Graham Day, ex-Chairman of B/Shipbuilders, earning £100,000 last year.
- NCB to close engineering workshops and stores in South Wales with 470 redundant or transferred.
- John Smith MP accuses Paul Channon, after meeting with MPs, of rejecting out of hand measures to save 3,500 shipbuilding jobs.
- Goldcrest wins best film award at Cannes with "The Mission".
- Andrew Alexander, in Mail, on the weird contradiction provided by Michael Parkinson's protests about having to take his dustbin to the gate to save council labour; the emphasis on saving labour in a country with 3.2m unemployed. The labour market is so rigged that the normal laws of supply and demand can't work properly.
- British Island Airways, floated on Stock Exchange, soars to £10.8m valuation.
- High Street spending boom continued at high level last month.
- £861m PSBR raises hopes of lower interest rates (Times).
- Crude oil prices rose above 15\$ a barrel on the North Sea Brent market yesterday, puzzling traders.
- The NCB is to cut the price of nearly a third of its deliveries to power stations over the next 5 years to keep out imports.
- It will take decades for the West Midlands economy to recover, according to a marketing research report.

INDUSTRY (Cont'd)

- The plan to privatise the dockyards has received a setback with the withdrawal of a consortium led by Trafalgar House (FT).

NHS

- Times: More cuts in patient services may have to be made if the Government does not provide extra money to pay nurses, the National Association of Health Authorities said yesterday.
- Guardian says 7 mentally handicapped children with severe disorders are to be denied an ambulance "because of spending cuts".

RAIL

- Union leaders threatening a national strike over BREL redundancies to be announced today.
- Rail tribunal, under Lord McCarthy, sidesteps decision on one-man trains wants rail inspectorate to investigate risks to passenger. Telegraph says BR may now introduce one-man trains without agreement.

UNIONS

- NUPE refuses to support Militant in its campaign against Labour purge.
- Brenda Dean gets rowdy reception from her own members over her handling of Wapping; they want tougher moves against Murdoch.
- Electricity overtime ban starts Sunday - meeting at ACAS today.
- IPCS defies executive and votes to set up a political fund.
- FT: The chances of averting a power workers' dispute improved markedly yesterday when unions and employers agreed to meet today for talks with ACAS.
- All 6 main Civil Service unions are moving towards establishment of political funds, against the explicit wishes of the Government.

TOURISM

- Sir Anthony Acland tells Americans that Britain has a safety record second to none.
- Foreign Secretary going to Washington to win backing of White House for more tourism to Britain (Express).
- Mail says London's West End theatres are being crippled by the lack of American tourists.

PUB OPENING HOURS

- Government approves the idea of longer drinking time, but won't say when likely to become part of manifesto.

- Michael Colvin MP asks "Why wait?".

Express leader hopes the Government will get on with it; the public were the losers when Sunday Trading fell, they should not be made to lose a second time.

Guardian says the Home Secretary has ended the hope of licensing reform this Parliament.

ING

irror leader on difficulty of selling a house in North of England and buying one in the South - housing, private and public, is a permanent scandal. If you care, let you start caring about housing.

ardian says Government is considering limiting the amount of council housing in areas with an excessive proportion of council houses. John Patten will ask conference today whether local council housing monopolies should be allowed to continue.

EDUCATION

- Guardian says Government may be forced to climb down over plans to introduce big cuts in student benefits in the wake of the mishandling of the mortgage relief issue.

- D/Star backs Scarborough headmaster and governors for backing girl, 15, who wrote about bad behaviour of teachers at a union conference; union leaders claim her article in school newspaper is defamatory; Sun finds the NAS/NWT reaction incredible. The divine right of trade unions is gone, but, it says, if Kinnock ever got power the thought police of the TUC would be everywhere and would try to stop you reading the Sun.
- The Government should drop the school voucher idea, a Tory Reform Group pamphlet says (Times).
- The Chairman of the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics has attacked the Government for making a cynical U-turn by planning increased funds for universities while continuing to cut spending on polytechnics (FT).
- FT leader says that until it is decided who runs the schools - Whitehall or local authorities - education will not progress.

LAW AND ORDER

- Soccer thug jailed for life has sentence quashed; instead will serve 10 years for riotous behaviour and grievous bodily harm; Mail says MPs were furious over the cut. Mail leader says many will think the cut is little short of an act of judicial vandalism.
- The Chief Constable of South Wales has blamed scenes of mass defiance of law and order on TV for the increase in attacks on the police.

- Home Secretary says plastic bullets and tear gas can be used by all Britain's police against rioters.
- Samaritans say more young people are killing themselves.
- Mail says record number of people are using cannabis in Britain.
- Board of Visitors at wrecked Northeye Prison complains to you about Home Office delays in answering calls for improved security.

SPORT

- Ian Botham, who has admitted smoking pot, dropped from England team for two internationals against India; will not be chosen for England again until cricket authorities complete their investigations.

POLITICS

- Sun commenting on weekend broadcasts by Michael Heseltine, Leon Brittan and David Howell, says: What a trio! They say we can have both tax cuts and spending increases. But we cannot have our cake and eat it and even failed Tories should understand that.
- Lord Whitelaw, Telegraph says, is putting it about a "second string" in a "balanced ticket" would undermine voter confidence.
- Times: Diary says amid mounting criticism that you have lost touch with the backbenches you have begun an eleventh hour campaign to woo them - by inviting group of MPs to lunch at Chequers.
- Today on "Ken's red alert for Kinnock" says that by the company he kept and the words he used in Amsterdam, Livingstone openly and deliberately aligned himself with the gunmen and terrorists of the IRA. He had the impudence to compare two IRA men detained by Holland to Jewish dissidents in Russia. The danger for Kinnock is that if he tries to slice away the Livingstones in his party he will only expose the degree to which they have established their grip on it.
- Derek Hatton reclaims his position as deputy leader in Liverpool on vote on Labour Group.
- Paul Johnson, Telegraph, says the truth is that Kinnock has always been a little ambivalent about terrorism and now Livingstone has put him on the spot. The Conservatives should keep him there until he tells Britain whether he is for the killers or against them.
- David Evans, Chairman Luton Town, selected as Conservative candidate for Welwyn and Hatfield.
- Sir Keith Joseph may remain in the Cabinet as Minister without Portfolio (Times).

RIVELEGES DEBATE

- Telegraph leader on tonight's Priveleges issue says the Times broke Parliamentary privelege. There is no great principle of press freedom at stake, but the Committee had no option to find against the Times. But a six month sentence is unnecessarily excessive.
- Times: Léader says. if secrecy is required by a Select Committee "it can be ensured by the simple act of keeping its members' mouths shut and not by pursuing the reporter who kept his ears open."
- FT: Peter Riddell says that to punish the messenger and not the leaker is to shift the onus of responsibility away from its proper target.

AFGHANISTAN

- Dobrynin says the Soviet Union hopes to withdraw Red Army "in very near future".

SUDAN

- Band Aid worker and Anglican Bishop killed in Southern Sudan by rebels who shoot down their 'plane.

LIBYA

- Wigan CND secretary bringing private prosecution against you alleging conspiracy to murder civilians in Libyan raids.

USSR

- FT: Soviet industrial output is up by 6.3% and productivity by 5.9%.

CHERNOBYL

- Times: Russia has no intention of rethinking its policy of siting reactors in heavily populated areas. It is also dismissive of the West's containment vessels.
- Guardian says US nuclear experts now believe the plant had similar safety standards to Western reactors.

ISRAEL

- Times: Syria can be attacked with diplomatic or political weapons if it continues to support international terrorism, Peres says. There is no need to resort to military means.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling, Mr Gummer and Lord Belstead attend Regional Panel Chairmen Meeting, London
- DEM: Lord Young lunches with Westminster Chamber of Commerce
- DOE: Mr Baker speaks at the Association of Metropolitan Authorities (AMA) Green Paper Conference on rates reform at Westminster Cathedral Hall
- DEM: Mr Trippier launches voluntary code on late payment of bills, London; later meets Mr J Bullock of Canadian Federation of Industrial Business
- MAFF: Mrs Fenner attends Regional Panel Chairmen Meeting; later addresses Hispanic and Luso Brazilian Council, London
- OAL: Mr Luce speaks at Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme Reception
- MOD: Mr Stanley visits British Aerospace, London; later Mr Stanley, Mr Lee and Lord Trefgarne attend Defence Council Reception.
- DEN: Mr Hunt visits External Cavity Wall Insulation Project, Redbridge
- DEN: Mr Goodlad visits South Eastern Electricity Board technical training college, Dover
- DOE: Mrs Rumbold addresses Council for National Parks Conference, London
- DOE: Mr Patten opens Urban Regeneration Conference, London
- DOE: Sir George Young visits north east (opens housing scheme)
- DOE: Mr Tracey visits Basildon
- DES: Mr Walden address ALBSU conference (Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit)
- DOE: Mrs Rumbold addresses Council for National Parks Conference, Commonwealth Society, Northumberland Avenue (Environmental issues)
- DOE: Mr Tracey visits Basildon (New Town)
- HO: Mr Shaw visits Hertfordshire Police.
- HO: Mr Hurd speaks at AGM of the Central Council of Probation Committees
- FCO: Lady Young briefs MPs on Western European Union
- DTI: Mr Channon opens Picker International Factory, London
- DTI: Mr Pattie addresses Paper Industries Research Association International Conference, Brighton
- DTI: Mr Howard addresses the Food & Drink Council Federation lunch, London

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC) Cont'd

- DTI: Lord Lucas opens Lattice Logic factory, Bracknell
- DTP: Mr Mitchell visits London Regional Transport, Acton
- DTP: Mr Bottomley visits the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation.
- DTP: Mr Ridley addresses Price Waterhouse Senior Partners' Dinner, London
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Mrs Chalker departs for Lisbon (to May 22)
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TV AND RADIO

- "Hindsight: ITV (14.30): A look back at the Beeching cuts in 1963
- "File on 4"; BBC Radio 4 (19.20)
- "4 What It's Worth"; Channel 4 (20.30): Features spraying of baths, timber frame houses and luggage
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