

22 May 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

HM The Queen begins visit to Kentucky, USA (to May 26)
Prime Minister addresses CBI annual dinner
Pay Review Bodies' Reports
The Princess of Wales visits Newcastle upon Tyne
Deregulation White Paper
British Italian Round Table, Naples (to May 23)
Calcutt Report statement
Foreign Secretary addresses Royal Academy annual banquet
British Association of Colliery Management annual delegate
conference, Peebles (to May 24)

STATISTICS

CSO: Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (April)
DTI: Capital expenditure by the manufacturing and service industries
(1st qtr-prov)
DTI: Manufacturers' and distributors' stocks (1st qtr-prov)

PUBLICATIONS

HO: Annual Report of the Gaming Board 1985 (15.30)
HOC: 2nd Report Home Affairs Select Committee - Immigration from Indian
Sub-Committee Vols I & II (Noon)
HOC: Treasury & Civil Service Select Committee report on Civil Servants
and Ministers: Duties and Responsibilities Vols I & II (Noon)
HOL: 11th Report Select Committee on European Communities - indirect
taxation (08.30)
HSE: Health & Safety Executive report on Rutherglen explosion (1530)
SO: 9th annual report Scottish Lay Observer (11.30)
ODA: Commonwealth Development Corporation Annual Report

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Home Office; Northern Ireland; Prime Minister

Business: Second Reading of the Sex Discrimination Bill (Lords)

Select Committees: COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL
London Docklands Railway (City Extension)

Lords Public Trustee and Administration of Funds Bill (HL): Committee
Airports Bill: Committee (2nd Day)
Housing (Scotland) Bill: Third Reading.
Drug Trafficking Offences Bill: Third Reading

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGEST

POLITICS

- MARPLAN poll in Guardian gives Labour 39/SDP-Lib 30/Con 28.

RESHUFFLE

- Kenneth Baker says "I shall want to ensure the resources are available to secure the success of policies".
- Reshuffle coincides with extensive coverage of HMI's report on poor state of our schools. But Mr Baker's appointment pleases party.
- Chancellor in speech says we spend far more per pupil than either the French or Japanese. What people want is a better quality of service, not a higher bill for the taxpayer.

RESHUFFLE (Cont'd)

- D/Star: Baker's billion. Spending spree for schools. £1bn secretly earmarked by you. You have taken the courageous step of appointing a tough, articulate Minister who could develop into a formidable rival for your job.
- Leader says that under all parties education, on which millions have been spent, has gone tragically wrong. For the rest, after Mr Baker's appointment it is more a game of musical chairs. You are clearly taking the elections performance as no more than a hiccup.
- Sun: Baker goes to top of Maggie's class. Sad heart for Mrs T as Joseph bows out. Baker's appointment is major victory for Tory critics of your tough political style. Certain to lead to more spending.
- Leader on "Opportunity knocks for our Kenneth" says he faces a daunting challenge but the reward could be gleaming: No 10. His first task is to make clear he is in charge and then to restore standards in class. He might be encouraged by another education secretary who went on to higher things: yourself.
- Mirror pursuing its "Does she care?" theme, prints picture of rundown school, linked with HMI report. It says unless Kenneth Baker acts quickly the answer to the caring question will be "Does she hell." In story on reshuffle it says there is no sign Mr Baker will have any extra money. Switch of Nicholas Ridley promises stormy relations between local and central Government.
- Leader says teachers must take some of the blame for the condition in our schools. Their unions have remained hostile and obstructive to change. Mr Baker need look no further than the HMI report to see the task facing him.
- Today: More money promise as Baker takes on education - he immediately promises to fight for more cash.
- Express P1 lead: Schools cash plea by Baker; reforms pledge from new education chief - for exams and standards. But Cabinet left looking drier than ever.
- Leader says Government is far from the only culprit in the lamentable state of our education. Mr Baker must stop reiterating the tired old slogan that there can't be much wrong with education because Tory spending has gone up by 18% in real terms. The answer lies deeper - why not a Parents' Charter - an educational Bill of Rights.
- Express feature asks "Is anything beyond our Ken?". If he gets education right then No 10 could be the next step.
- Mail P1 lead: Maggie's Big, Big Spender". The Prime Minister who once said "the lady's not for turning" turned yesterday to one of the biggest Wets to help her win the next election.
- Leader says blame for condition of our schools has to be shared. In some ways Sir Keith was the tragedy of many a brilliant, conscientious but ultimately ineffective teacher - he knew his subject but couldn't put it across. If the new man is to carry more conviction he will have to carry more cash as well.

RESHUFFLE (Cont'd)

- Andrew Alexander, in Mail, says the compromise which usually emerges from a desire for more spending and lower taxes (which you share with Mr Baker) is printing money.
- Telegraph leads with "Baker asks for more. Lawson rejects higher spending. Ministers' on collision course". You earn two (Baker, Moore) rather than 3 cheers. Less enthusiasm and some concern over Mr Ridley's appointment and his reputed readiness to dismantle Green Belt.
- Telegraph leader welcomes Mr Baker. On balance this reshuffle strengthens Government's position. But Mr Baker has to show he has substance as well as style. If there is a doubt it relates to his willingness to bully a highly bureaucratic Department into action. We can only look forward to seeing the complacent Environment civil servants bulldozed by their new master.
- John Izbicki, in Telegraph, says education will never be the same again after Sir Keith; Julian Critchley, in same paper, says Mr Baker will enjoy one advantage denied Sir Keith - the Treasury is now prepared to put its hand in its pocket.
- Times: You have listened to your party's worries about education and appointed your most plausible "carer" to answer them. But just as clearly you have shown by Mr Ridley's appointment, that you will not be bounced into a public-spending free-for-all to buy yourself out of electoral trouble.
- FT: 'Baker promises fight for education cash as Joseph bows out' (a headline which appears unjustified based on the story text).
- FT leader says Mr Baker's appointment is welcome because he gets things done and should go down well with the public. Cabinet-making has not been one of your strong points in the past. Mr Ridley's appointment is questionable. He sets neither the House nor the public on fire.
- Guardian: Balancing act by Thatcher lifts Tories. Baker stakes claim for bigger education budget. Promotion reward for true believers Ridley and Moore. Gave your party a balanced ticket.
- Leader says nobody should cheer too soon over education. Sir Keith did the thinking and he cares. But he could not deliver the money to make change possible. Mr Baker, ironically, may have the cash but he has a lot of thinking to do.

EDUCATION

- Sir Keith, in a parting shot, says children should be taught their ethnic culture at home and not in school.
- D/Star: School standards get a bad report.
- Today: Welcomes the "necessary" defeat for the Government in the Lords over political indoctrination in classes.
- Bristol teacher accused of racism for speaking up in support of Ray Honeyford exonerated by tribunal.
- Times: University vice-chancellors respond angrily to 2% cut in finances. They say £100m extra is needed by the end of 1989 if a major rundown of universities is to be avoided.
- Times leader says central money should be found to repair and maintain deteriorating school buildings, possibly organised through MSC.
- FT: Union leaders say Chris Patten has agreed that extra GCSE funds are needed.

LABOUR PARTY

- Expels Militant Mulhearn of Liverpool after long hearing; Hatton walks out of inquiry and goes home.

INDUSTRY

- Boots announce 750 redundancies, mostly at Beeston, Notts.
- 10,000 B/Shipbuilding workers go on strike over 3500 redundancies, coinciding with Lobby of Parliament; Tyne Ship Repair closing one of its two yards at South Shields with loss of 42 jobs.
- 4000 mining jobs to go in South Yorkshire coalfield, mainly through voluntary redundancy. Norman Willis, TUC, accuses Government of abandoning Britain as a manufacturing nation.
- Two workers contaminated by plutonium oxide at Sellafield. 5 French workers at Cherbourg nuclear plant absorb 3 times legal limit of radiation.
- Graham Day, BL, confirms Horrocks as well as Andrews are to go.
- B/Cal talks with Intersun broken off.
- Paul Channon rules out change in industrial policy.
- National Bus turns operating profit of £35.7m into loss of £85m by throwing in a lot of 'clear out' items to prepare way for privatisation.
- The recovery of Britain's construction industry is continuing to gather pace, according to DoE figures.
- Addressing the Trade and Industry Select Committee, Graham Day said that BL would have made a profit instead of a £30m loss last year if Jaguar had not been sold. MPs on the Committee urged him not to sell any more profitable parts of the group (Times).
- Economic growth is lowest for 4 years in first quarter of this year, according to CSO.
- Times: Bus fares will fall and passenger numbers increase when National Bus is privatised later this year, predicts the company's chairman, Rodney Lund.

UNIONS

- TGWU order a second ballot in an election in South West after vote rigging inquiry by Certification Officer.
- Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions offers BPEL redundant workers support.
- Telegraph leader says railwaymen, who are left in the industry, should reflect that, with all to play for, striking for jobs now is like drinking to stay sober.
- Council workers reject opening 5% pay offer.
- Post Office union may decide next week to hold a strike ballot.

MEDIA

- LWT follows Yorkshire, TV with all night "telly".

CHERNOBYL

- Times: A team of coal miners are working against a strict deadline to complete the construction of a giant concrete slab under the reactor to prevent fresh contamination.
- FT: The IAEA has called for an early international conference to discuss nuclear safety.
- Scientists were carrying out experiments at the time of the accident.

LICENSING HOURS

- Today notes that 1 in 10 now work in tourism. Home Secretary should stop dithering and act to change licensing hours.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Mirror says Head of Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School has taken out private health insurance because he no longer trusts the NHS to provide proper treatment.
- Today's centre page feature on "The sickness in our health service"; Barney Heyhoe replies - but not given much space.
- Peter Clarke, writer in Today, says we have all had to endure a heavy crop of humbug about the values of caring. But the whole notion that a government can be caring is grotesque - it isn't an administrative propensity but a personal quality. Your allies need to convince you that the next election can be won by freeing the markets.

LAW AND ORDER

- Police Federation chairman says every policeman could be carrying a gun by the end of the century.
- Home Secretary tells Federation they can't expect a blankcheque for extra officers and equipment.
- Prison Officers' Association votes for 25% pay rise in 1987 if they get less than 15% this year.
- The Prosecuting Solicitors' Society has urged the Government to abolish the rights of defendents to elect trial by jury.

DEFENCE

- Military chiefs are worried by the rate at which specialists are leaving the forces.

TERRORISM

- Home Secretary condemns Livingstone for calling IRA terrorists "freedom fighters"; calls on Kinnock to rebuke Livingstone; Kinnock disowns Livingstone's remarks.
- £25m art theft in Irish Republic linked to terrorism.
- Times: Sir Anthony Acland tells the Foreign Affairs Select Committee that a massive security clampdown is being enforced at Britain's diplomatic posts overseas. Some missions are to be relocated because of existing dangers.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- FBI arrests 8 alleged IRA gun runners in Boston, Mass.

SPORT AID

- Sun: Maggie to tax Aid jog.

ISRAEL

- You are expecting to sell £1300m worth of arms during your visit (Mirror).

SOUTH AFRICA

- Mail claims Mandela agreed to a truce and talks with Botha last Friday to Commonwealth EPG, and this triggered the raids.
- Times: Botha scorns critics and says attacks were only a first instalment.
- Zambia threatens to withdraw from the Commonwealth unless UK drops opposition to sanctions.

EEC

- Times: Sir Geoffrey Howe announces an action programme for Britain's presidency, putting trade and jobs at the top of the agenda.

PEOPLE

- Tam Dalyell says he intends to launch an attack on you over your role in Westland, the Falklands and Libya.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling addresses Centre for European Studies Conference, London; later attends CBI Annual Dinner, London
- MAFF: Mr Gummer visits Milk Marketing Board, Surrey
- MAFF: Lord Belstead visits Wessex Water Authority (to May 23)
- MAFF: Mrs Fenner attends British Retailers Association lunch; later attends CBI Annual Dinner, London
- MOD: Mr Lee visits HumberShip Repairs Ltd
- DEM: Mr Trippier visits Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce; later speaks at ACAFESS, Birmingham
- DEM: Mr Lang appears on TV South West programme on low pay
- DEN: Mr Goodlad addresses Energy Efficiency Breakfast Special, Sheffield
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave visits Johnson Mattley Chemicals Ltd, Royston, Herts (Chemical plant)
- DOE: Mr Tracey opens new clubhouse for the Tideway Scullers School, Chiswick Bridge
- DOE: Mr Patten opens housing scheme in London
- DHSS: Mr Hayhoe attends Cash and NHS Health Care Conference, Royal Institute of British Architects, London
- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses Royal Academy Annual Banquet
- FCO: Mr Eggar addresses Freedom Association Annual Dinner
- DTI: Mr Butcher attends Centre for Policy Studies Conference; later addresses ICA Design Seminar, London
- DTI: Mr Howard attends City of London Securities dinner, London
- DTP: Mr Bottomley attends launch of 'National Bike Week'

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- MOD: Mr Younger attends Defence Planning Committee, Brussels
- FCO: Mrs Chalker departs Lisbon for Madrid (to May 24)

TV AND RADIO

- "Question Time"; BBC 1 (22.40): With Michael Meadowcroft MP; Margaret Prosser; Nicholas Scott MP
- "Mexican Journey"; BBC Radio 4 (19.40): Mexico's foreign debt
- "Worldwise - What's the Use of Chemicals?"; Channel 4 (20.00): What gets sprayed on our crops
- "TV Eye"; ITV (21.30)
- "Open Space"; BBC 2 (22.30): Features Kenninghall, a Norfolk village struggling against the loss of its services