

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

House of Commons rises for Whitsun Recess (to June 3)

IPU delegation headed by Lord Whitelaw begins visit to Moscow (to June 2)

Ceramic and Allied Trades Union annual conference, Rothesay (to May 24)

Home Secretary addresses annual conference of Justice Clerks' Society

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STATISTICS

DTI: Sales and orders in the engineering industries (Feb)

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PAY

DEM: University technicians; (13,300); claim is for substantial increase, reduction in hours, additional holidays, review to compare salaries with those in Civil Service. Employers have agreed to the exercise. 3 per cent offer rejected; settlement date 1.4.86

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: Debates on the motion for adjournment

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REVIEW BODIES

- The Government's decisions are taken fairly quietly - and get some praise, though not from the Telegraph. Ritual condemnations from unions.
- COHSE says the nurses have been "betrayed". RCN: "We are extremely angry". Michael Meacher: "Yet another kick in the teeth for nurses". BMA: "Doctors increasingly demoralised".
- New President of CBI wants to stop annual pay deals.
- D/Star P8: Maggie pay curb on top people. Nurses get a better deal than judges. "It was the first real sign of the new 'caring' Maggie' approach". Leader: Settlement is eminently fair and an excellent example. In strict economic terms it would be a rare bonanza if everyone could be persuaded to settle for the inflation rate. In the battle against unemployment you have taken a modest step in the right direction.
- Sun P2: Rumpus as Maggie docks nurses' rise; 7.8% rise is cut by a quarter and judges, military top brass and Whitehall mandarins fared still worse.
- Mirror P1: More health cuts threatened last night as the price of a pay rise for nurses - you are putting only £60m towards £267m NHS bill.
- Today ignores the story.
- Express P1: "Storm as GPs and nurses get 5.9% pay rise".
- Mail P1: Nurses get £10 pay rise; leader headed "Breakthrough for commonsense" says to judge from the awards the Government has just had a sudden rush of commonsense to the head. We must hope that the Government's recovery of its political nous has not come too late.
- Telegraph leads with "state pay rises are trimmed"; leader says the awards demonstrate that even this Government is not immune to throwing money at a problem. The review body system must go.
- Guardian: The Government juggled the recommendation of the pay review bodies to win political credit for squeezing top salaries but also to cut the cost of nurses and other health workers. Leader says the Government's decisions are the very model of its new caution.
- Times: Rises for top people halved; Cabinet's decision on top salaries applauded by Conservative MPs.
- FT: The announcement was generally well received by Tory MPs who regarded the approach as a clever package which did not break public spending guidelines. But the Opposition and nursing unions are angry. They are likely to launch a publicity campaign to try to force you to reverse the decision to defer payments.
- Times leader says the Government has played to the gallery and the Government's treatment of the nurses borders on the sentimental. To farm judgements out to review bodies and then to override them brings discredit on the process and gives rise to unfulfillable expectations. Far better to institute ad hoc reviews of particular problems.

YOUR SPEECH (which incidentally gets a lot of coverage on BBC)

- D/Star P2: Maggie backs a tax cut boost and signals big tax cuts are on the way in the next Budget; you have a message of hope for the unemployed
- Express P2 wraps it up in an economic good news story with hope for jobs
- Mail: Lower taxes mean jobs, says Maggie.
- Telegraph P1: We'll go on cutting tax, says Thatcher.
- Guardian, back page: Thatcher stands by tax cuts strategy.
- Times P1: Thatcher firm on reducing tax; says CBI is to take a hard line on pay.
- FT: "Thatcher promises continued tax cuts."

ECONOMY

- "Surprise" cut in base rate by NatWest by 0.5% to 10%.
- Express P2: At last! Here's the good news - 3% cut in electricity prices; cut in lending rates; 80 proposals to get rid of red tape; and your hope at CBI for jobless.
- The Chancellor's plans for wider share ownership are criticised - by the Wider Share Ownership Council. Budget changes will benefit the rich speculator more than the small investor (FT).

INDUSTRY

- Sun hopes that John Moore, said to be passionately devoted to privatisation, will speedily turn principle into practice and get B/Airways into private sector.
- Equal Opportunities Commission says fathers should be given 3 months off work to help mothers look after a new baby - we're lagging behind Europe.
- Labour Party will maintain existing power stations but use coal as the prime source of fuel in its new energy strategy (so what's new?).
- FT: The Water Authority Association has urged the government not to privatise the authorities piecemeal. It wants all 10 privatised simultaneously.
- Labour is pressing for a full statement on allegations that ECGD has breached EEC rules on subsidised trade finance.

MEDIA

- Hopes of an end to Wapping dispute - unions to try to negotiate a settlement before May 30 deadline for acceptance of a package.
- Kinnock calls for new control over newspapers and their owners - right of reply and control over worst examples of deliberate attempts to pervert the true course of real information.
- Guardian: Kinnock attacks feudal press barons - says bad papers have driven out the good.

DEREGULATION

- Times leads with red tape cut in battle to create jobs as part of a bustle of Government activity on the economy.
- Sun: "VAT's better - war on red tape in dramatic bid to set business free"; Today "New jobs push".
- Express leader says for the second time within a year Lord Young has produced proposals aimed at cutting through red tape and restrictive regulations but employers fear that his Enterprise Unit still lacks teeth.
- Mail: Move to boost jobs by cutting out curse of red tape.
- Guardian says Lord Young was accused by Labour Party and trade union leaders of eroding workers' rights.
- FT: The package drew a cautious welcome from small businessmen and hostility from the Institute of Directors and the TUC. Leader says that while liberalisation is important, many of the proposals are "footling". Lord Young is stressing the virtues of America's enterprise culture just as doubts are gathering about the health of US manufacturing industry.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY

- Tories are being urged by Norman Tebbit to jam BBC and ITV switchboards with complaints about Left wing bias - party newspaper prints details of how to complain.
- Candidate picked by SW Norfolk constituency 12 days earlier rejected as unsuitable for rural constituency.
- Express leader says fainthearted Conservatives all over Europe should take heed of the Dutch election results where Lubbers, against all the odds, romped home. Tory doubters should not miss the message.
- Telegraph says you have taken soundings among your closest advisers about sacking Mr Biffen; his position remains in question but you have been cautioned that sacking him would be seen as a panic measure. He is to remain in isolation from Downing Street.
- Telegraph: Callup poll says two-thirds of public think the Government lacks the qualities of honesty, caring and truthfulness.
- Times P1: Biffen attack nearly cost job. Came close to being summarily dismissed. Doubts whether he will last beyond the autumn.
- Guardian wonders whether you thought about the possible impact of Nicholas Ridley on inner city policy and race relations.

CIVIL SERVICE

- Treasury Select Committee calls for major shake-up in Whitehall. Warns civil servants who want to blow the whistle on Ministers to "pipe down" (Express).
- Mail says Committee wants rules changed to provide a new set of regulations to solve such conflicts between Ministers and staff as arose over Westland leak.
- Guardian says report claims Civil Servants were "misused" in the Westland affair.
- FT: Favourable reaction reported from most sides to the Select Committee report.
- Times says you are likely to turn down the idea of a single Civil Service Minister and separate head of the Home Civil Service.

EDUCATION

- Sun leader on Sir Keith's departure, says he leaves with wise advice in saying children should be taught their culture at home, not at school.
- Mail feature says Wednesday was a bad day for taboos but a very good one for education with Sir Keith speaking his mind on racism and the clearance of a British teacher for backing Ray Honeyford.
- Telegraph says Kenneth Baker will get more cash for schools; you have given him an assurance.

LAW AND ORDER

- Mail leads with a report of frightening new crime figures putting the Government's law and order policies and police complaints of undermanning under pressure.
- Calcutt report clears military police of using "inhuman" methods to get confessions; seven accused airmen to get compensation for being illegally held during the investigation. Express: Interrogators did use undue pressure.
- Child brides to/prevented from coming to live in Britain.
- Select Committee says a substantial number of applications from would-be immigrants in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are "fraudulent".
- RUC officer urges Police Federation not to allow themselves to drift into the role of an armed paramilitary force.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- An Army major and 2 policemen killed in IRA bomb explosion.

RUSSIA

- Mail report headed "Whitelaw's helping hand for Gorbachev" on the IPU delegation to Russia.

DT

- Pictures of DT with his big bottle of bubbly as sports supporter of the year in D/Star, Mirror, Today, Express (who award him a leader and say he should be nominated Sportsman of the year); Mail: "A super tincture for fan Denis" - and leader which says like a true sport he immediately offered his prize for auction to help sport for the kids; Times.

PEOPLE

- Denis Howell MP's son dies.
- High Court writ against Sir Peter Emery MP over Eophuthatswana funds withdrawn.



DEFENCE

- FT: Nato defence ministers decided yesterday to approve new chemical weapons production by the US. Such weapons could now be stored at US bases in Britain and used in a crisis.

NORWAY

- Energy Minister to meet Yamani and Opec official on stabilising oil prices.

JAPAN

- Nakasone likely to call election in July.

EEC

- FT: A weakening of the Franco-German axis offers Britain an unusual opportunity to exercise leadership of Europe when it takes over the Presidency.

CHINA

- Concern grows in China over the safety of its nuclear programme in the wake of Chernobyl.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

HO: Mr Hurd addresses Annual Conference of Justice Clerks' Society

DTI: Mr Channon, 1 day regional visit to North East

MOD: Mr Lee visits Colebrands (Defence Manufacturer), Lancs

DES: Mr Dunn visits Plymouth

DEN: Mr Hunt addresses BACM conference, Hydro Hotel, Peebles

DOE: Mrs Rumbold addresses the Institute of Waste Management Conference, London

DOE: Sir George Young opens crime prevention seminar, London

HO: Mr Mellor visits Verne Prison

HO: Mr Mellor addresses Community Concern at Wareham

HO: Mr Waddington addresses Tyne and Wear Community Relations Council

SO: Lord Gray opens Forestry Products terminal, Aberdeen Harbour

SO: Mr MacKay addresses Royal Environmental Health Institute for Scotland, Inverness; later visits Inverness Prison

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe departs for Brussels

DEM: Mr Trippier visits Japan (to June 1)

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TV AND RADIO

"Headlines, Deadlines"; BBC Radio 4 (20.20): An interview with Lord Cudlipp

"Any Questions?": BBC Radio 4 (20.45): With Heather Couper, President, British Astronomical Society; Richard Needham MP, PUSC Northern Ireland; Dr Dickson Mabon, industrialist and Lord Parry, Chairman, 'Keep Britain Tidy'

"The Lords This Week"; BBC 2 (23.30)

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