

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

HM The Queen attends dinner by the Commonwealth High Commissioner to mark Her Majesty's 60th birthday

Autumn Statement (?)

EC Political Advisers meet, London

Association of Health Service Treasurers annual conference, London (to November 7)

Employment Secretary leads third businessmen's delegation to China (to November 18)

NIREX protestors in High Court for allegedly menacing workers

Joint conference by MSC/EOC on Young Women in YTS, London

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PUBLICATIONS

HoC: 6th Report Select Committee on SI's (11.00)

SO: Scottish Development Agency annual report 1985 (14.00)

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Treasury; Home Office; Prime Minister

Business: Opposition Day (20th allotted day) - Debate on the Government's Economic Strategy

Adjournment Debate

The forthcoming meetings of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (Mr D Atkinson)

Select Committees: SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CHANNEL TUNNEL BILL

Lords UQ on the findings of the European Court on Human Rights on the terms of compensation under the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Act 1977

UQ to ask HMG what steps they intend to take to increase the accessibility of information of concern to members of the public and, in particular, access to their personal files

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTPUBLIC EXPENDITURE

- Star: Big spender Maggie digs into the pot. You are set to spend, spend, spend in bid for a hatrick of victories.
- Today : A double helping to tempt the voters. Tax to be cut as spending goes up - a double treat.
- Express: Lawson points to summer poll; mood of Westminster is for an early summer showdown. Tory MPs convinced there will be room for 2p tax cut.
- FT: Public spending may rise; government plans to combine provision for higher public spending on education, the NHS and housing in the run-up to the general election with an optimistic assessment of Britain's economic prospects.
- Times: Chancellor to reveal increase in spending. Chancellor expected to dampen expectations of tax cuts; Kenneth Fleet says the statement is unlikely to contain fireworks. The planning total has to be £144bn despite suggestions that it will be substantially higher.
- Guardian: Lawson's spree to woo voters - will today unveil the first half of his strategy to win the Conservatives a third victory.
- Independent: Lawson will give a bouyant message.

ECONOMY

- Average gross earnings now £184.70 a week. Chancellor sets off storm when he suggests at NEDC that wage rises in the North should be lower than in the South because present levels price people out of jobs in North - union leaders barrack him. Guardian says they hissed and booed.
- Hopes of oil price rise boost £.
- FT: A British-led plan to tackle unemployment in the EEC through deregulation, the promotion of self-employment and small businesses has run into a fierce backlash from European trade unions.

INDUSTRY/UNIONS

- EETPU going into the cut price car business with Shropshire fleet company to attract members.
- B/Telecom engineers vote to reject 5% pay offer.
- Much publicity of baby without legs who cannot get artificial limbs because of strike at factory making them.
- Bread and milk prices going up - bread 2p next month; milk 1p a pint from January 1.
- Consumers Association claims millions of Britons are drinking sub-standard water.
- FT: The First Division Association has voted against setting up a political fund.
- Sir Robert Haslam says that by the middle of next year the coal industry should have come through its turbulent period of rationalisation.
- Select Committee give governors of the Bank of England until 5pm today to provide it with titles of documents on handling of tin crisis which passed between Government and Bank.

INDUSTRY

- Rolls-Royce Derby wins £500m Irish order for 200 jet engines, securing 11,000 jobs.
- FT: British Coal expects to lose some £300m because of falling world oil prices.
- Westland expects a gap in its order book in 2 years until the Anglo-Italian EH101 enters production.
- Times: P1 lead: The future of ten of Britain's Magnox nuclear power stations is in doubt after the discovery of serious corrosion at the two reactors at Hinckley Point in Somerset, but CEBG denies this (Telegraph).
- FT: Eurotunnel said yesterday that the findings of the Commons Select Committee were fair, objective and would not affect the project's viability.

POLITICS

- Marplan puts you 3.5% ahead after Harris gave you a 4% lead.
- Star leader on "Why Labour is losing" says a majority of those who intend to vote Labour are opposed to its nuclear disarmament policy and are sick of antics of madcap local councils. If Kinnock cannot win the backing of his own supporters on these major issues, what chance has he of gaining the country's confidence?
- Express leader says Tory panic mongers, crying for your head only a few months ago, should be shamefaced as they contemplate the party's strong lead in the polls. Even the wettest Tory must now feel that there is everything to fight for.
- Mail: Double poll boost as Maggie forges on. Tories are in poll position on the starting grid for election year in an incredible burst of speed which has taken them ahead.
- Telegraph: Poll result a morale booster for Tories.
- Guardian: Another poll lifts Tories; leader says the polls confirm the Tories' autumn ascendancy and perhaps a fair amount besides. As things stand a Tory victory is looking more likely than for several months. Economy writer says that on balance economics point to an April or May election.
- Independent notes Conservatives have made a significant number of gains in local authority by-elections for the first time since the Falklands.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Audit Commission says wasteful and inefficient ways of carrying out council house repairs are costing ratepayers hundreds of millions.
- Times: Local authorities could improve council house maintenance by up to 30%, worth about £700m a year, by better management systems, says the Audit Commission.

MEDIA

- Inside page stuff in the 'pops'.
  - Star: BBC chiefs hit back over Libya bias claim; Mr Tebbit stands by his criticisms.
  - Sun; Hands off, Tebbit told by Beeb chairman, Duke Hussey.
  - Today leader says BBC firmly and rightly rejected Tebbit's accusation of bias and its detailed account shows its coverage was a fair analysis. The BBC has shown that bias lies largely in Tebbit's fevered political imagination. News story headed "We played it straight down the line say BBC chiefs. Tebbit gets a rocket on bias attack".
  - Mirror: BBC slams back at Tebbit's bias claim.
  - Express: Tebbit hits out at BBC defence - he says its reply is confusing, evasive. BBC closes ranks in row with Tebbit; leader agrees with Mr Tebbit in feeling that his allegations are correct and that the BBC's reply has not dispelled them. Mr Tebbit may also wonder why Duke Hussey has rushed to involve himself when he is not officially behind his desk yet.
  - Mail: Tebbit stays on the BBC warpath - flatly refuses to call off his bitter battle against bias.
  - Frank Chapple says there is a lot more to TV bias than Tebbit's complaints - he knows because he's been on the receiving end for years of things shown out of context, damaging shots and cutting about of interviews.
  - Telegraph P1 lead: BBC reply on bias scorned. Tebbit rejects offer of truce.
  - FT: Mr Tebbit last night renewed his attack on the BBC, suggesting that he is in no mood to defuse the political row between the Corporation and the party.
  - Leader says the Government should by all means continue to make a public issue of this, but it should also put its regard for the BBC's independence beyond all doubt by indexing the licence fee, as recommended by Peacock.
  - Telegraph says the BBC's reply cannot be taken as a full and complete refutation of Mr Tebbit's allegations of political bias. Most readers who have waded through the BBC's document will be left with the impression the BBC protests too much. But taken together BBC and COO documents prove that balance is an approximate and arguable business. Mr Tebbit was ill-advised in mounting such a massive attack on such a narrow front.
  - Guardian: Tebbit refuels bias row with uncowed BBC.
  - Independent: BBC dismisses Tebbit criticism. Also says the response from the BBC was ill-judged.
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- Paul Foot, in Mirror, says for 3 years Duke Hussey has been chairman of an independent broadcasting company, Radio West, which for most of the time was a disaster.
  - John Timpson to retire from BBC Radio 4 on Christmas Eve.
  - 3 Labour councils ordered by High Court to lift their ban on Murdoch papers in public libraries - Camden, Ealing and Hammersmith.
  - Jeffrey Archer to sue News of the World for libel - also Star. Frank Chapple criticises top Tories for deserting Mr Archer at first whiff of scandal.

TEACHERS

- Kenneth Baker takes full page advert to set out the full offer to teachers.
- Sun leader parishes David Owen for urging teachers to call off their strikes. It is time we heard similarly from Kinnock. Why hasn't he the guts to say offer is generous?
- Shirley Williams, in Today, says education is now a national emergency. Kenneth Baker should open his proposals for negotiation and set a timetable and ballot teachers if it is not met.
- Express says Kenneth Baker is adopting a tough line and plans to intervene on this weekend's talks.
- Mail says head teachers leader says they will not reach agreement in Nottingham this weekend unless Mr Baker's deal is improved. But Telegraph say the heads do admit Mr Baker's proposals are better.
- The Alliance warned that failure to reach a negotiated settlement would provide the Government with an excuse for establishing a centrally-run education service.



EDUCATION

- Miss McGoldrick, teacher at centre of Brent race row, back at work.
- Jonathan Savary also gets his job back in Bristol. Cleared of racism but will soon be moved to another posting.
- Kenneth Baker orders officials to draw up plans for helping brighter children in state schools.
- Mail says Miss McGoldrick's relief may be short-lived; Brent's policy of hounding teachers on trumped up charges will doubtless continue.

LAW AND ORDER

- M4 rapist admits 13 charges, including manslaughter of prostitute - sentence on Monday.
- Sun leader says the Government was wrong to agree to a reduction in the maximum sentence for rioters from life to 10 years.
- Mail says Home Secretary has promised a full investigation into links between pornography and sex attacks.
- Two men in court on sex charges after calls to BBC's Childline.
- Ministers and MPs outraged by 15 months' delay in India providing entry visas for 2 British drug liaison officers.
- The Government is expected to reject proposals for extending the maximum 12-month sentence for the majority of juvenile offenders (Independent).

HOSTAGES

- Terry Waite accuses political meddlers of putting lives at risk in his operations by speculation; says his life was in peril.
- Today says there is a lot to be depressed about in the US behind the scenes dealing with Iran, and Waite has been shown to be little more than a pawn. Reagan is exposed as being just as guilty as others of talking tough against terrorism and then letting domestic political interests take precedence.
- Guardian says the Iran mission has split the US Administration, with Shultz saying they should continue to refuse to sell weapons to Iran.

TERRORISM

- Michael Spicer rejects idea of a tax on plane tickets to pay for anti-terrorist protection as urged by Select Committee. Mail leader says few will mind paying extra airport tax to finance increases.
- Council of Europe motions pledge to step up fight against terrorism.
- John Torode (Independent) considers there is no chance that the Western community can have a coherent anti-terrorist policy. The occasional diplomatic diversion and the very occasional air raid is about as much as can be expected.

AIDS

- First TV adverts warning of risks will be screened tonight on Scottish TV.
- Sun leader is against a committee led by Lord Whitelaw. The problem demands a special Government unit led by a man of talent, energy and commitment.
- British Aids Groups welcome California decision rejecting idea of quarantining victims of disease.

EAST-WEST

- Reagan's negotiating position said to have been weakened by mid-term election reverses.
- Express says Kremlin toughened up its arms control stand as Reagan's power base began to crumble.
- Mail says Republicans' defeat on local bread and butter issues will weaken his bargaining position with Russians and he will now have to make concessions. But it would be out of character for him to seek agreement at all costs.
- FT leader says Mr Reagan lacks an heir apparent and now, maybe, even the authority to create one. Reaganism has not shifted the centre of politics to the same extent as Thatcherism.
- Times: Prospects for progress on arms talks hung in the balance last night as the first of two meetings between US and Soviet officials ended with no clear signs of accord.

PEOPLE

- David Owen suffering from food poisoning after Colchester Oyster feast.
- You are the favourite politician in the eyes of Chinese young people, according to poll.
- Mail says you are being forced to decide whether to sanction unprecedented disclosure of MI5's spy hunting activities.

FALKLANDS

- Argentina says it would fight the fishing zone with "all national instruments".

CHINA

- Agrees to buy £400m worth of radar and electronics for jets from USA.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- FT: Ireland's main proposal for reforming Ulster's one-judge, non-jury courts has been turned down in a letter from you to Dr Fitzgerald.

FRANCE

- Cabinet agrees to spend £40bn on defence over 5 years.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MAFF: Mr Gummer attends East Anglian Production Association dinner, Ipswich
- MAFF: Mr Thompson visits Springhill Farm, Essex
- DES: Mr Dunn launches schools/industry project, Cannock
- DEM: Mr Lee addresses London Association of Wharfingers dinner
- DEM: Mr Trippier opens Small Business Exhibition, Ashford, Kent
- DOE: Mr Tracey speaks at Minet Holdings Plc Sportmens lunch, London
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave meets Norwegian Environment Minister, London
- DOE: Lord Skelmersdale visits Builders Materials Federation HQ, Harlow
- PCO: Mrs Chalker addresses Foreign Press Association, London
- DHSS: Mr Major attends 'Help the Hospices' Conference, London
- SO: Mr Mackay attends Crofters Commission Assessors Conference, Inverness
- SO: Lord Glenarthur opens new ward and kitchen at Leverndale Hospital, Glasgow
- DTI: Mr Clark addresses Hong Kong Trade Advisory Group Seminar
- DTI: Mr Shaw addresses British Compressed Air Society
- DTI: Mr Howard addresses International Accounting Standards Committee
- DTP: Mr Mitchell receives presentation from Watkins Group of Consultants on Channel Fixed Link, Epsom
- DTP: Mr Bottomley opens Institute of Highways and Transportation Conference on European Road Safety Year, Nottingham
- WO: Mr Roberts visits Pontypool Vith form college

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DEM: Mr Clarke attends EC Standing Employment Committee dinner, Brussels
- DEM: Lord Young departs for China (to November 18)
- DTP: Lord Brabazon visits Norway (to November 7)

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TV AND RADIO

- "This Week"; ITV (21.30): With Jonathan Dimbleby
- "Question Time"; BBC 1 (22.00): Sir Robin Day's guests are: Paul Boateng, Jeremy Bullmore, John Redwood and Polly Toynbee
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