

July 19, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

- Prime Minister attends reading of Loyal Address to Queen Mother at Clarence House
 - Cabinet - public expenditure: economic discussion
 - CSO - Regional trends, 1990
 - ? Households below average income announcement
 - Unemployment figures (June); average earnings (May)
 - Prime Minister addresses 1922 Cttee - manifesto
 - EC Informal Health Council, Italy (to Fri)
 - London Palladium gala, Queen Mother's 90th birthday
 - Transfer of Railways Inspectorate to HSE
 - Broadcasting Complaints Commission report 1989-90
 - Statements on RSG and community charge; and Northern Ireland
 - Commons: Questions: Northern Ireland; Prime Minister
Debate: Lords Amdts to Govt Trading Bill and Aviation & Maritime Security Bill; and Select Cttee report on televising House
 - Lords: Debate: Broadcasting Bill, Cttee (D4)
 - Lord Chancellor meets Law Society; and Family Law Bar Assn re maintenance
 - Chancellor addresses Conservative Industrial Fund
 - Chris Patten visits Romsey Businessmen's Club
 - Tony Newton addresses RNIB Blind
 - Kenneth Clarke meets TUC Health Services Cttee
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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Bush to open talks with Vietnam to try to block Khmer Rouge's return to power and end civil war in Cambodia.

Independent editorial welcomes the US change of heart on Cambodia. the Soviets and their satellites no longer present the ideological threat that persuaded the US to suspend considerations of simple humanity in Cambodia and in many other places too. But - until China adopts a more humane policy - it will be difficult to feel optimistic about Cambodia's future.

Extensive coverage of your speech on the family which gets a general welcome though interest groups claim to be disappointed it did not go further especially in child care.

Kinnock's visit to USA gets mixed reviews. New York Times says Bush treated Kinnock "almost like a head of State". But Washington Times accuses him of a "sea of words".

Express says Kinnock shocked British Ambassador and US media people at dinner by attacking you in speech. Times says fireside chats are no substitute for a serious contribution to foreign affairs.

Mail feature says "he's still little league", according to a White House official. but we did better than last time.

Kenneth Baker launches a fight-back to repair damage caused by Ridley affair (Express) saying Tories are the party of Europe.

Govt spending as a proportion of GNP is likely to be forced down when the Cabinet meets today to consider next year's plans Times.

Sun says Chris Patten will announce plan to cut community charge bills by £50.

Times says Chris Patten will set out plan to simplify community charge bills to enable payers to tell exactly how their money is spent.

Chris Patten says costs of some environmental ideas have ruled them out of the White Paper Independent.

Independent says that Chris Patten was defeated in MISC 141 over the date for pegging carbon dioxide emissions. But he has kept a firm hand over the Cttee's drafting of the Environment White Paper.

PRESS DIGEST

Govt puts off community care plans because it fears the consequences in community charge bills. Storm of protest from Labour and voluntary bodies who say society's vulnerable people are at greater risk. Telegraph says the Govt is right to recognise this is not the time to press ahead.

Fourteen Labour councillors in Liverpool face disciplinary action by the party's national executive for defying the whip and voting against a rent rise for council house tenants Times.

Coalition of moderate Labour and Liberal Democrats seen as only way out of Liverpool's financial crisis.

High Court rules that a decision by Derbyshire County Council to ban advertisements in the Times Educational Supplement and other News International publications was vindictive, illegal and a flagrant abuse of power Times.

Independent says defence "Option for Change" announcement delayed by rejection of pessimistic report on Soviet strength from Defence Intelligence staff.

Guardian says the Cabinet has had to confront the fact that any statement on defence cuts must be conditional and that the initial peace dividend will be paltry.

Guardian says Kinnock will face renewed pressure at party conference to commit Labour to a big cut in defence expenditure.

Peter Jenkins, in the Independent, says there will be no peace dividend, or anything people will notice. Norman Lamont's ambition has been largely overruled by the inertia of the services and the innate caution of the defence planners. The irony is that Labour is disqualified by its Cold War record from taking advantage of the peace. The Govt thinks it can get away with a small lick and a promise disguised as a peace dividend with calculation that Labour will not do so to outbid it.

£ goes through 3 DM.

Britons owe £47 billion to financial institutions, not counting mortgages.

Regional trends published today particularly highlights the good life in East Anglia.

The South East is shortly to get Sunday postal collections, five

PRESS DIGEST

months ahead of schedule Times.

Sir Leon Brittan launches plans to cut prices and boost consumer choice by opening the European market for "non-life" insurance Times.

Draft EC directive could force Britain to strengthen data privacy laws Independent.

Less than three weeks after currency union between the two Germanies, trade union leaders and employer groups in West Germany warn of a new mass emigration from East Germany because of its rapidly deteriorating economy Times.

Express says West Germany may be Europe's economic giant, but that does not make us pygmies. Fortune magazine's list of world's biggest companies puts UK third behind US and Japan.

Bernard Levin in the Times under the heading "An out-of-date squire lends his lance to yobboes" discusses the Nicholas Ridley affair saying that West German democracy should be an object of emulation - not intemperate attack. He adds that the simple, inescapable truth about post-war Germany is that the Federal Republic has been away the most impeccably democratic nation in the world, and Kohl is a fitting leader for a country with such high standards.

Today says excitement is building up in City for sale of electricity.

Labour protest over average increase of 9% in phone bills but some charges for businesses cut.

ICL facing takeover by Fujitsu which is offering £650million for controlling stake.

Justice Hoffman rules against Sunday trading by B&Q in Norwich and Stoke on Trent.

Tightfisted local authorities are to be forced to hand over more of their education budgets to schools, hanging on to too much money which ought to be spent on pupils.

Mail says patients recovering from surgery were moved from their hospital beds at lam to make way for a rush of emergencies at Colchester.

Scientists identify gene which determines sex.

PRESS DIGEST

Times leader says the arts in Britain, we are told, are a "national scandal". The report published today, however, by the Policy Studies Institute shows this is nonsense. Culture in Britain valued at more than £10 billion, now rivals the car industry. It adds that the report should take some of the hysteria out of the debate on the state of the arts. Hysterics do no service to Britain's flourishing cultural life.

Lords vote to require TV companies to make a commitment to broadcasting programmes at peak times.

Lord Rees-Mogg calls for new guidelines to protect children from sexually explicit and violent programmes.

Sun calls on those who delight in uncovering the remotest suggestion of misconduct by police to stop it - after investigating the violence to which they are subjected.

Police arrest 19 year old photographer in connection with Animal Rights bomb which injured baby.

26 year old van driver from Kent also arrested after bomb making equipment found during community charge riot inquiries.

5 English World Cup fans jailed for 3 months in France after 150 caused trouble on a train.

Donald Trelford, Editor, Observer, says Tiny Rowland masterminded release of Mrs Parish from Iraq but let Kaunda take the credit.

Kuwait Parliament in emergency session as Iraq renews threats over border dispute Independent.

Council of Europe says prison staffing levels in England and Wales are below the European average. Sweden has 94.6 officers per inmate; England & Wales 43; West Germany 37.8; France 26.6; and Turkey 20 Times.

Mirror says lorries are carrying nuclear bombs once a week along the M25.

Times says local police have been called in by Russian high command to investigate Soviet troops in East Germany selling their guns.

Shevardnadze ready to talk to Latvia's Foreign Minister as pace of change quickens in Baltics Independent.

PRESS DIGEST

Solidarity split seems final as new movement is set up to counter Walesa Independent.

US and Soviets narrow their differences over Afghanistan, agreeing to use good offices of the UN Independent.

Times correspondent Christopher Walker, who was expelled from Kenya earlier this week for not having a work permit, writes that President Moi is as widely reviled as Ceausescu was but as yet there is little sign of any individual or even loose coalition ready to take over if he is toppled. He says there is much criticism over our High Commissioner keeping quite about recent glaring infringements of human rights. Off the record, the Americans are scathing about the British stand, while British officials insinuate that the Americans in Nairobi are diplomatic loudmouths whose public bark is much less effective than Britain's privately administered bite.

State of emergency to be lifted in Zimbabwe after 25 years.

Times says that following an interview with you The Star of Johannesburg reports that despite an utterly appalling error of judgment on Northern Ireland, Mandela evidently made a favourable impression on you.

Mandela's return to South Africa from a triumphant overseas tour marred by news of 26 deaths and 65 injuries in what appears to be worst single incident so far in a murderous conflict between rival black organisations in Natal Times.

Armed Mohawks in Quebec land dispute demand UN observers as police tighten cordon around them Independent.

YOUR SPEECH

Star p6 - Maggie's charter for the children - you launch a bid to save the family.

Sun p2 - Shop runaway dads to Maggie's new FBI - Fathers Bureau of Investigation.

Mirror p5 - Bad dads kit.

Today p1 - Charter to make kids rich - ie charter to enable them to share in rising wealth of parents. Leader says you are right morally and politically to make the family a central theme of your Govt. but you must add more resources for child care.

PRESS DIGEST

Express p2 - Parenthood is for life, says Thatcher. Runaway fathers will be found and made to pay up. Children first campaign. Leader says you sounded the alarm yesterday about the disintegration of the British family. Your reminder that parenthood is for life is timely. Ideas are a sensible start.

Mail leads with Crusade for the family. You put the plight of the single family at the forefront of Govt policy. Leader headed "Governed at last by maternal instincts", says all credit to the Govt for gingerly approaching this highly sensitive area where public welfare and individual privacy clash. It is disappointed you did not announce measures to slow divorce.

Independent p1 - Thatcher acts to make parents support children. Your 300 Group speech falls short of the expected statement on family policy, indicating that the Tory party remains divided on the issue. Editorial says the child support agency offers some advantages over the slow and arbitrary courts. But some wives might kick out their husbands, knowing they can rely on a fixed slice of men's income. And there is not shortage of further steps the Govt could take to make it easier for parents to combine family responsibilities with work, especially better child-care provision.

Times p1 - "Thatcher acts on missing fathers". You take the first initiative in the Govt's family policy by announcing an agency to track down absent fathers. But your failure to indicate the priorities to be set out in this autumn's White Paper was seen at Westminster as underlining the confusion within the Tory Party on the role of women in the 1990s. Groups concerned about the increasing number of families breaking up disappointed that your speech failed to address the causes. Leader says your suggestion over maintenance is a sane though modest step adding that the Bill will not help most unmarried mothers. It concludes that you should direct some of your thoughts towards helping ordinary marriages to survive. Prevention is half the cure.

Telegraph p4 - with picture (like Independent): Thatcher spells out her charter for the family under threat.

Guardian p1 lead - Tough levy for errant fathers; maintenance levels to be fixed at 18% of income.

Guardian says the instinct is right but hard thinking and commitment are missing. Page 2 with picture - Thatcher hails wider horizons for women.

PRESS DIGESTKINNOCK

Sun p2 - US blast for windbag Neil - Washington Times dismisses Kinnock's talks with Bush as "sea of words".

Mirror p2 - Bush's thumbs up for Kinnock. He denies he has been trying to drive a wedge between you and Bush. Leader says he has every right to feel pleased with his mission. bush was eager to hear what he had to say. Americans recognise he could be next Prime Minister.

Today p6 - Washington crowns Neil King of the runaway tongue. Bush did not exactly roll out the red carpet but he did listen politely.

Times - Kinnock describes his US visit as successful and productive. Leader says fireside chats at the White House are no substitute for a serious contribution to foreign affairs. Labour strategists, of course, do not wish to offer any substitute that might be hostage to fortune. That is their choice. but if they wish to offer no contribution they cannot complain at the public returning the cynicism.

Guardian p2 - White House warms to Kinnock style.

FT - Kinnock wins respect in US but questions remain.

Guardian - Kinnock had a perfectly satisfactory trip. Guardian leader says there is a gathering sense in Washington that twilight is enfolding your career and some tinges of relief that this is so.