

November 13, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

- Robin Leigh Pemberton attends EC bankers meeting, Basle
 - Inauguration, Fifth General Synod, Church of England
 - Prime Minister meets PM Landsbergis, Lithuania
 - OECD Ministerial, Paris
 - Evening Standard drama awards (David Mellor)
 - UK position on EC Birds Directive
 - UK shipping industry - international revenue & expend., 1989
 - Acquisitions and mergers (Q3)
 - Production index (Sept)
 - Sports Council report on countryside
 - Chief Inspector of Prisons reports on three prisons
 - Boeing news conf, London, on airline safety
 - National Curriculum Council annual report
 - ? Statement on Telecommunications duopoly review - press conference with Peter Lilley and John Redwood
 - Commons: Questions: Employment; Prime Minister
Debate on the
Address: Education and training
Select Cttee: Env - Lynda Chalker on rain forests
 - Lords: Debate on Address - Foreign Affairs & Defence
 - Chancellor meets Greek Finance Minister
 - Home Secy addresses Prison Governors conference
 - Peter Brooke visits Holland and Belgium (to Thur)
 - John Wakeham launches home energy label
 - David Hunt on inward investment mission to Japan/Korea (to Nov 25)
 - Peter Lilley addresses conference on US business
 - Michael Howard launches West Wales TEC
 - Chris Patten gives Royal Fine Arts Commission lecture
 - Kenneth Clarke addresses Banking Inf. Services conference on records of achievement; meets members of Nat. Grammar Schools' Assn
 - Michael Heseltine in Hamburg
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Line from FCS →

Check ?? →

PRESS DIGESTMain News

You will hit any challenger all over the ground - you throw down sporting gauntlet and come out fighting.

Mail claims Heseltine has almost made up his mind to stand. Sir Geoffrey Howe speaks today.

Sun mounts a front page attack on Heseltine on the basis of the company he keeps - Tony Nelson (adulterer); Michael Mates (bungler); Keith Hampson (joker); Robert Hicks (ditherer); and Tony Marlow (love cheat).

Mirror says our soldiers in Gulf don't care who's PM - reply to Tom King.

Heseltine's constituency president doesn't want anyone to stand against you.

Norman Fowler appeals to both Heseltine and Howe not to stand.

Kenneth Clarke tells Heseltine to stop messing around.

FT says Howe is set to launch a blunt attack on your approach to European integration and to warn your stance risks splitting the Conservative Party and alienating millions of your voters. but he won't endorse Heseltine.

Elsbeth Howe says you are the best role model a woman could have.

Calls for another cut in interest rates as retail sales slump.

Prices cut and jobs shed as car giants step up sales war to lure back buyers Times.

Govt accepts findings of Cullen report on Piper Alpha disaster which claimed 167 lives. Labour wants Oxy - owners of platform - prosecuted.

Today calls report a damning indictment of Govt's ability to maintain a regime of safety.

Times leader under the heading "Blood in the oil" says that North Sea oil rigs will be safe only when their owners and operators really do regard safety as their over-riding concern, instead of just saying so. The tragedy is that they had to wait to be told.

Warning against use of cling film for wrapping food, especially

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fatty food.

16% drop in US in support for Gulf action, according to poll Bush acts to recover backing.

Criticism in Bush's handling of the Gulf confrontation has increased sharply since his decision to nearly doubt US forces there times.

We are to double our ground forces in Gulf, according to Express.

Iraq expels British diplomat, allegedly for insulting Hussain; we expel Iraqi.

Line from E.C. Foreign Secy orders our Iraqi Embassy not to help Benn on his visit to Iraq.

Shell, Esso and BP cut petrol prices by 4p.

£120million complex of home, factories and offices, creating 4,000 jobs, announced in Darlington.

Home Secy says Sky-BSB merger was against the law but it's up to IBA to enforce the rules. BSB in clear breach of contract with IBA.

~~MS~~ Home Secy announces legislation in future to create new football hooligan offences.

Arsenal and Manchester Utd each fined £50,000 and have 2 and one League points deducted respectively for brawl on pitch.

Check for H.P. Four senior police officers involved in Hillsborough soccer disaster are to take South Yorkshire Police Authority to the High Court over their refusal to contribute towards their legal costs Times.

Conservative MPs at Select Cttee hearing accuse the football authorities of making millions out of the game while spectators are treated like animals and endure Victorian facilities Times.

Labour Party investigating ballot rigging allegations over selection of successor to Denis Howell MP.

Food rationing to be introduced in Moscow.

Gorbachev and Yeltsin move closer to compromise.

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Queen to visit Germany next week - first since it reunited.

You have protested to Japan over massacre of dolphins.

Forty police injured in violent clashes with students in Paris demanding a better education system. Can this, the Express asks, be the same educational paradise described so glowingly in the Labour Party conference six weeks ago?

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, which only recently emerged from a scandal over alleged financial mismanagement, has become engulfed in a new row over who should head the agency Times.

Times says that for a man of little obvious political calling the President of Lithuania has an acute sense of timing. He is to visit you today at a moment calculated to underline a drawing back of your support for Gorbachev.

Man who set fire to himself at Cenotaph ceremony on Sunday is son of military family.

YOUR SPEECH/LEADERSHIP

Star p2 - I'll smash rivals for six, vows Thatcher. Maggie to bat on.

Sun p4 - Maggie: I'll hit Tarzan for six.

Mirror p2 - I'll hit Tarzan for six says Thatcher. She makes a stand in fight for captaincy.

Today p1 - Thatcher: I will bat to stay in power.

Express p1 - I'll see off the rebels. Maggie pledges to hit challengers for six.

Mail p1 lead - Maggie: I'll hit him for six.

Telegraph p1 lead - Thatcher throws down gauntlet to challengers, as expectation grows Heseltine will mount a challenge.

Guardian p1 lead - PM will go for the bowling. You prove true to your fighting instincts.

Times p1 lead - "First response to leadership challenge: Thatcher ready hit out at hostile bowling". You signal your willingness to take on all comers both in the Conservative Party and Europe. It

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seemed increasingly likely last night that Heseltine would put his name forward. Cabinet mobilises to fend off possible Heseltine challenge. His supporters and opponents agree that he has been propelled too far down the road towards a contest to pull out now without losing credibility.

Times adds that few resignation speeches have been awaited with such keen anticipation as the one Sir Geoffrey Howe will deliver today.

European press are hailing Heseltine as a man for Europe and speculating that he is a potential successor Times.

Independent p1 - Thatcher aims to knock her critics for six. A Cabinet loyalist suggests you would be seriously damaged if Heseltine got more than 120 votes. Heseltine camp reports about 100 hard pledges of support - with "more to come" Independent.

You appear to be having difficulty in finding a campaign manager, with George Younger and Norman Fowler both too busy. Speculation among MPs that the Whips have divided loyalists - some are privately sympathetic to demands for your removal Independent.

Labour MP says Heseltine would knock the living daylight out of Kinnock. "He's tall, handsome, full of energy" says another. "He'd make Kinnock look old".

COMMENT

Sun says the greatest insult to Geoffrey Howe comes from Heseltine's supporters in suggesting he should stand in first round against you and then withdraw in favour of "Goldilocks". They want the dead sheep to play a dead horse. "Geoff" it says, "tell them to get lost".

Express leader headed "Tread softly Sir Geoffrey" says you have seen off Galtieri, Scargill and three Labour leaders. Is it possible Howe will succeed where they failed? He must now tell people what he stands for. He should reflect on Heath who is obsessed with vengeance against you and decide there is no room in the Commons for two Heaths.

Telegraph leader urges MPs to resist any Siren songs from Heseltine and do everything possible to ensure no contested leadership election takes place. The gravest single threat to the Tories is now disunity. The damage Heseltine can do to the party is very great indeed and it is nonsense to claim a contest would clear the air.

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Charles Moore, in Telegraph, says there is no precedent in modern times for turning out a Prime Minister without Parliament having its say. Heseltine will make Labour happy. tory MPs are in danger of overestimating him.

Martin Jacques in the Times says perhaps you will fend off leadership challenges, survive until the next General Election and with the aid of a minor miracle scrape home with a narrow majority. But even given this rather unlikely outcome, it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that we are witnessing the end of an era, the end not only of you but also of the-ism that is named after you. The question is, what will follow the era now in its death throes?

Peter Jenkins in Independent, believes that head counts could give Mr Heseltine support from up to one-third of the Conservative Party. there is no knowing what the final result could be. A fickle, non aligned electorate after 11 years requires a new face and new horizons. Imagine Heseltine stomping the country against Kinock. It would be an unequal contest.

GULF

Today commenting on Hussain's ITN interview, says while he looked ordinary he is no more to be trusted than Hitler or Stalin.

Amir Taheri, author of Cauldron: The Middle East/Behind the Headlines, says in the Times under the heading "Why there can be no Arab solution" that the suggested summit would only play into Saddam Hussain's hands.

President Mubarak says his country would not enter Iraq if Western troops attack Times.

Times leader is critical of Saudi Arabia outlawing the observance of the Christain religion syaing Western Govts should remind them of Article 19 of the UN Charter about human rights.

ECONOMY

Anatole Kaletsky, economic editor of the times, says the question now for both the country and the Conservative Party is whether the recession will be a brief inconvenience or a disaster in the style of 1979-81. He adds that the depth and pain of recession depends on the political and economic purposes it has to serve.

EC

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Sun tells Archbishop of Canterbury, who says Britain should share fully in European unity, not to involve himself in politics and that if he can't

Times says EC leaders are preparing for summit talks with President Bush today, with their relations the worst for years over trade.

INDUSTRY

Postal workers being urged by union to accept 10.4%.

HEALTH

Mirror says the most famous ward - Peter Pan - at Gt Ormond Street hospital has closed because of lack of cash.

Sun, replying to Hattersley's claim that the Govt has destroyed the NHS says in the past 10 years spending has increased by half. So how much would Labour spend.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Labour Methodist Minister who is vice chairman of Rochdale social services cttee has homosexual conviction. Star says he has no right to make judgment on family matters. Today says he should be moved to another cttee.

EDUCATION

Mail exposes "scandal" of thousands of teachers being transferred into bureaucracy while number in classrooms declines - staggering differences between best (Tory) and worst (Labour) authorities.

Mail leader says you always hear about the shortage of teachers; you are never told about the surplus of bureaucrats to bottlenashers. The public sector unions have a vested interest in your not knowing. Likewise flabby education depts. Too much cash is being spent on administration and too little on teaching.

Sun criticises Kenneth Clarke for ruling out school vouchers and for spoiling a good idea.

Call for secondary teachers to be given spelling lessons themselves.