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October 1988 Sept. 1988
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THE GUARDIAN
119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER
ABC CIRC. 472,648
ISSUE DATE 21 OCT 1988

Tribune's young Turks vie for Shadow Cabinet

Patrick Wintour

A GROUP of able, younger Tribune MPs were lobbying hard for elevation yesterday as nominations opened for the 15 elected places in the Shadow Cabinet.

Although the outcome, expected on November 2, is unlikely to alter the political balance, it could improve the effectiveness of Mr Neil Kinnock's front bench, as he struggles to lift Labour's poll rating.

The five MPs widely tipped for success are: Mr Clive Soley, the housing spokesman, Mr Tony Blair, the young and highly regarded City spokesman, Ms Harriet Harman, the health spokeswoman, Mr Martin O'Neill, defence spokesman, and the constituencies' favourite, Mr David Blunkett.

Their first hurdle, however, is to win the support of their fellow Tribune MPs. Last year the 105 Tribune MPs failed to come to an accommodation with the smaller hard left Campaign Group on a joint slate.

Thus Tribune has not bothered negotiating with Campaign this year and has decided to increase its slate from 12 to 15 — all the Shadow Cabinet seats available. Twenty-seven Tribune MPs have put themselves forward for election on to the slate and those who fail are not expected to stand independently.

Unlike last year, none of the nine Tribune MPs in the Shadow Cabinet has been guaranteed a place on the slate although they are almost certain to get in Monday's results. Mr Soley, Mr Blunkett, Mr O'Neill, Mr Blair are expected to take four of the six places left.

Other strong contenders, say insiders, are: Ms Harman, Mr Kevin McNamara, the Northern Ireland spokesman, Ms Joan Lestor, a national executive member, Mr Chris Smith, a Treasury spokesman, Mr Derek Fatchett, an education and youth spokesman, and Ms Clare Short, recently elected to the national executive.

The difficulty for aspirants is the quality of existing Shadow Cabinet members, acknowledged by Mr John Wakeham, the Leader of the Commons, on Wednesday. In the one clear vacancy, caused by the extraordinary resignation of Mr Denzil Davies, then Shadow Defence Secretary, his former number two, Mr Martin O'Neill, is regarded as sufficiently knowledgeable and safe to continue as the party begins the second vital year of its defence review.

Mr David Clark, the agricultural spokesman, and Mr Bob Hughes, transport spokesman, are the two most frequently mentioned as unlikely to be re-elected. However, Mr Clark is the most green of senior Labour MPs and demotion when green issues have come to the fore would be a strange signal to give, although critics say he does not have the necessary instinct for the jugular. Mr Hughes is well regarded by MPs but has hardly adopted a high profile.

● Mr Derek Foster was yesterday re-elected Labour Chief whip on the first ballot, but only avoided a re-run by a margin of two votes, a considerably closer result than he expected.

In the first contest since he was elected three years ago, Mr Foster won 107 votes with his nearest rival, Mr Ron Davies, capturing 64. Mr Jeff Rooker came third with 41. Mr Foster had failed to gain the votes of more than half the 229 MPs.

Mr Stan Orme was re-elected chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party with 142 votes beating Mr Max Madden by a margin of 80.

TRIBUNE
308 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8DY
WEEKLY
ISSUE DATE 21 OCT 1988

LABOUR BY CAROLINE REES

Left MPs worried about Shadow Cabinet places for Richardson and Meacher

NOMINATIONS opened yesterday (Thursday) for elections for the 15 Shadow Cabinet places, as allegations echoed round Westminster that a plan was afoot within the Tribune Group of MPs to replace five of the sitting members.

Left-wingers in the group are angry about the apparent existence of an organised effort to secure the election of five new faces who, they believe, are not the five a Left group should choose: Martin O'Neill, who took over as defence spokesman when Denzil Davies resigned in June, Tony Blair, Harriet Harman, Joan Lestor and Clive Soley. (Two Sunday newspapers were briefed last weekend about the possible election of Mr O'Neill and Mr Blair.)

This plan requires five vacancies, and names being mentioned as possible casualties include Denzil Davies, who is unlikely to stand, Labour's Agriculture spokesman, David Clark, and three members of the Tribune Group, Michael Meacher, Jo Richardson and Bob Hughes.

This year, unlike last, the Tribune Group is running a full slate of 15, with no automatic right of inclusion for existing Shadow Cabinet members. Twenty-seven MPs put their names forward and the ballot closed today. Voting is secret and the slate is not mandatory, so campaigns for or against individual MPs cannot be certain of success.

Many Tribune Group MPs will back the sitting Right-wing members of the Shadow Cabinet, John Cunningham, Gerald Kaufman, Donald Dewar and John Smith, but Left MPs are likely to make a priority of ensuring the re-election of Jo Richardson and Michael Meacher. There would be outrage throughout the party if Jo Richardson, the only woman in the Shadow Cabinet, lost her place but she is assured of Campaign Group support. Mr Meacher would be safe too if he could harness the additional leverage of the 34 Campaign votes.

The Campaign Group was meeting to decide its nominees as *Tribune* went to press, but no more than 10 members were thought likely to stand. The result of the Shadow Cabinet elections will be announced on November 2.

The result of voting for the posts of Chief Whip and chair of the Parliamentary Labour Party was due yesterday. The three contenders for the Whip's job were the incumbent, Derek Foster, the MP for Caerphilly, Ron Davies, and the MP for Birmingham Perry Bar, Jeff Rooker. Both Mr Foster and Mr Davies are Tribune Group members, but the group decided not to make a choice between the two.

The Campaign Group was expected to back Mr Foster, although not with much enthusiasm. The outcome remained uncertain at the time of writing, with the possibility of a second ballot next Thursday if no candidate emerged with more than 50 per cent of the votes. It was predicted that Stan Orme would hold on to his position as PLP chairman, easily fighting off a challenge by Max Madden, MP for Bradford West and a Campaign member.

The 103-strong Tribune Group is now effectively split between those who loyally back the party leadership no matter what and those, to the Left, who tend towards making judgments on the merits of an issue when it arises. In the election for deputy leader, 55 Tribune members voted for Roy Hattersley (who is not a member) out of loyalty to "the ticket", against John Prescott (who is). Frustration is widespread on the Left of the group that it is becoming nothing more than a rubber stamp for the leadership.

SOUTH LONDON PRESS
2-6 Leigham Court Road, London SW16 2pd
THICE WEEKLY
ISSUE DATE 18 NOV 1988

SOUTHWARK: Tenants faced with private landlords taking over their council homes have the chance to discuss the Government's housing bill and the HATS scheme.

A meeting is to be held with speakers Harriet Harman, Peckham MP, and Clive Soely MP, Labour's shadow housing minister.

It will be held at Southwark Town Hall in Peckham Road, on Monday, at 8 p.m.

NURSING TIMES
4 Little Essex Street, London WC2R 3LF
CIRC. 93,924 WEEKLY
ISSUE DATE 2 NOV 1988

PRIVATE SECTOR GROWTH PATCHY

PRIVATE HEALTH CARE is growing in an unplanned way, causing 'gross distortions' in provision, according to a new survey.

Labour MPs Harriet Harman and Sam Galbraith sent a questionnaire to private clinics and hospitals throughout Britain and they claim their findings 'expose the myths' about the private sector.

They found that more than 50% of private medicine is based in London and the south-east, while it is insignificant in the north of England, Scotland and Wales.

The pair warn that the government's plans to base improvements in health care on the private sector would worsen the inequalities between North and South.

Labour health spokeswoman Harriet Harman said, 'The government doesn't know what's going on in private health care. The only people who have anything to gain from the entangling of the private sector with the NHS are the American shareholders of the private health companies. British patients would lose out.'

The survey discovered that the private sector is no more likely to treat people as day cases. In the NHS, 18% of surgical cases are seen on a day case basis — exactly the same number as in the private sector. Bed occupancy averages 80% in the NHS, but in the private hospitals surveyed, it was 65%. Average spending on administration by the 52 private hospitals and clinics replying to the survey was 7.6%, which compares with 5% in the NHS.

Only four hospitals which responded ever took urgent cases and only three took emergencies.

The survey also highlighted the fact that the private sector in health care is no longer dominated by the charitable hospitals. Between 1979 and 1988, the percentage of beds in the charitable sector shrank from 71% to 45%. In the same period, the profit-making hospitals increased their percentage of beds from 29% to 55%.

Ms Harman added that she found no evidence to support the claim that costs in the private sector were falling. One private hospital charged £4 125 for a hip replacement operation which would cost £3 300 if done by the NHS.

THE INDEPENDENT
40 City Road, London EC1 2DB
ABC CIRC. 325,830 DAILY
ISSUE DATE 23 SEP 1988

'Unacceptable' hospitals putting patients at risk

By Nicholas Timmins
Health Services Correspondent

PATIENTS MAY be at risk because of the unacceptable state of some NHS hospitals, a cross-party committee of MPs warned yesterday.

In a few health authorities between 10 to 15 per cent of NHS property used for patients is classified as "inoperable or unacceptable", the Public Accounts Committee says. In some districts it will take seven years for it to be closed or upgraded.

"We take a grave view of this situation and expect the Department of Health to ensure early action is taken. We are concerned that the safety of patients and employees may be at risk."

In a report highly critical of the way the £13bn NHS estate of 50,000 acres and 2,000 hospitals is run, the MPs say it is "surprising and unacceptable" that health authorities apparently do not have comprehensive information on whether their buildings comply with health, safety and hygiene standards. Although much of the estate is clearly in poor condition, the MPs say, Department of Health figures are not reliable. What figures there are show that only 68 per cent is classified as in "adequate" condition or better.

The backlog maintenance bill stands at £1.8bn. And while the Department of Health says a significant proportion of that relates to property planned for disposal, the committee says it is concerned at the "very high level of necessary work outstanding".

The committee argues that vigorous rationalisation programmes could lead to much better use of buildings and cash and ease the maintenance problems.

Merton and Sutton health authority, which went through a large-scale closure and re-location process using spare capacity, remained the "one example of really creative land management".

The Department of Health believes that £300m could be saved annually if other districts followed suit.

"The perception locally that rationalisation is dependent on major capital developments concerns us, especially since it is clear that better use can be made of existing facilities," the MPs say.

A quarter of the NHS estate has been identified as surplus, of which 13 per cent is due to be sold over the next three years.

All three health departments in Britain must monitor more rigorously whether health authorities are complying with fire safety, kitchen hygiene and other standards, the committee says.

■ *Estate Management in the NHS;* Public Accounts Committee; House of Commons paper 481; HMSO £5.10.

MP attacks health district 'gag'

By John Pienaar
Political Correspondent

A REGIONAL health authority has been threatened by Labour with action for contempt of Parliament for "gagging" districts from disclosing estimates of the cost of the nurses' pay award.

The warning was issued yesterday by Harriet Harman, an Opposition health spokesman, to South East Thames Regional Health Authority. It came amid mounting suspicion among Opposition MPs and health workers' that regions were obstructing the release of information to limit embarrassment to the Government.

Figures already released by some districts and regions have pointed to a shortfall in the cash needed to fund the 15.3 per cent nurses' pay deal with their allocation of £803m. Estimates of the shortfall have ranged from £100m to £190m. Ms Harman said she had been given evidence that South East Thames had signalled that its district authorities should not co-operate with her request for information.

"The regions depend on the department [of health] for their money, and the districts depend on the regions. So pressure from above can be very effective," she said. Signals were emanating from ministers to "choke off the information to relieve themselves of political pressure".

Ms Harman, MP for Peckham in south London, wrote yesterday to Peter Griffiths, the South East Thames regional general manager, demanding the district level figures and accusing the region of telling districts that giving information would be "frowned upon".

"It is totally unacceptable that the region should decide to intervene between district nursing managers and a Member of Parliament," she wrote.

The Labour spokesman told *The Independent:* "I am urging all regional and district managers not to allow themselves to be gagged for the sake of political convenience."

A spokesman for the South East Thames region confirmed last night that districts had been given "strong advice" to make no comment until the figures were collated. "We wanted to avoid raising unecessary fears about the future of the service before the costs were known — and before this had been discussed with ministers," she said.

WESTERN MAIL
Thomson House, Havelock Street, Cardiff CF1 1WR
CIRC. 76,684 MORNING
ISSUE DATE 26 OCT 1988

Private hospital beds 'a disaster'

MOVES TO boost private health care will be disastrous for Wales, Labour claimed last night.

Private medical firms are based overwhelmingly in the south east of England and Government inducements to patients to switch away from the NHS would simply increase regional inequalities, said the party's Shadow Health Minister, Miss Harriet Harman.

A Labour survey of private hospitals and clinics throughout Britain revealed that, while the four Thames health regions all had 30 or more private beds per 100,000 population, Wales, Scotland and the North of England all had only eight or fewer.

Well over 50 per cent of private health care was concentrated in the south east of England, said Miss Harman.

"In Wales, Scotland and the north of England, private health care provision is insignificant," she told a Westminster press conference.

"There is an enormous regional disparity because the location of private beds is determined by where profit can be made, rather than where it is needed for the provision of health services.

"They have decided they can make their most money in the south east, not in the northern region, Wales or Scotland."

DEPTFORD & PECKAM MERCURY
116 Deptford High Street, London SE8 4NX
6,801 WEEKLY
ISSUE DATE 27 OCT 1988

MP holds benefit clinics

A LABOUR MP is holding special advice surgeries to help people with welfare benefit problems and warning the DHSS not to move their offices.

Peckham MP Harriet Harman is holding special Saturday morning surgeries in each of the eight wards in her constituency to help people with problems caused by benefit changes.

Already the first one at St Giles Ward has been held, and the MP says: "Everyone who came to see me was entitled to more benefit than they were getting."

The Consort Ward surgery will be at the Acorn Tenants Association Hall, Acorn Estate, Peckham, on Saturday, November 5th from 10am to 12 noon.

Shelve

The MP will be submitting cases to the Health Minister, John Moore, and asking him to improve the service for her constituents.

She is also calling on him to shelve his plans to reduce to 15 the number of staff in Blenheim Grove and Bournemouth Road DHSS offices.

She said: "The department is threatening to close both the Camberwell and the Peckham DHSS offices and move out of London. My constituents already find it hard to get benefit paid on time and correctly."

EXPRESS & STAR
51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 3BU
CIRC. 238,179 EVENING
ISSUE DATE 26 OCT 1988

NHS 'in better health than private sector'

The NHS is "leaner and fitter" than the private health sector, a Labour survey claimes.

The private sector administrative costs were higher and bed occupancy rates lower, it says.

Shadow Ministers Harriet Harman and Dr Sam Galbraith, who carried out the survey, also highlighted Government figures showing that costs for operations are far lower in the NHS.

They used the information to attack suspected Government plans to increase cooperation between the NHS and the private health sector.

The Ministers sent a questionnaire to Britain's 205 private hospitals, but received only 52 replies.

Ms Harman said : "The claims that the private sector is more streamlined and administratively leaner and fitter than the NHS are demonstrated to be untrue."

Replies showed that 7.6 per cent of private sector health budgets went on administration, compared with just five per cent in the NHS.

On average, 80 per cent of NHS beds were occupied in comparison with 65 per cent in private hospitals, she said.

THE SCOTSMAN
20 North Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1YT
ABC CIRC. 94,607 MORNING ISSUE DATE 26 OCT 1988

Regional divide 'flaw in plan for private health'

By EWEN MacASKILL, Political Correspondent

GOVERNMENT plans to have a mixture of private and public health are seriously flawed because they fail to take into account regional differences, Labour's Front Bench health team said yesterday.

The conclusion is based on a Labour survey of private medicine unveiled yesterday that shows that more than 50 per cent of private hospitals and clinics are based in the South-east of England.

Labour said the private sector in Scotland, Wales and the North of England was insignificant. Scotland, for instance, accounted for only 3 per cent.

Other findings Labour claimed it had found in the survey were that charitable hospitals were being taken over by American companies and that the private sector could not cope with emergencies, was less efficient than the health service and had higher administrative costs and lower bed occupancy.

Although the Government has not yet completed its health review, it is thought to be moving towards a system in which the National Health Service and the private sector would be more closely involved with one another.

Ms Harriet Harman, the Shadow Health Minister, and Mr Sam Galbraith, the Scottish Front Bench health spokesman, told a Press conference at Westminster that the regional imbalances and other problems they uncovered ought to deter the Government from pursuing its present course.

"Any policy promoting private health care would have sharply different effects in Scotland and the North of England from London and the South East," the Labour MPs said.

Mr Galbraith said that historically the private sector was small in Scotland and he saw no reason why this should change.

Asked if Labour planned to take action against the private sector, Mr Galbraith said a Labour Government would have to make health care so good that the private sector would be marginalised.

The survey was based on a questionnaire the MPs sent to Britain's 205 private hospitals, of which 52 replied.

DAILY POST
PO Box 48, Old Hall Street, Liverpool L69 3EB
CIRC. 71,209 MORNING ISSUE DATE 26 OCT 1988

Think-tank's worry after NHS check-up

by Richard Woodman

THE NHS still provides excellent value for money, but is "beginning to look more like Woolworths than Marks and Spencer," a leading health expert has warned.

"Nowhere in the world is there a better service for the price, but the NHS is not the best in the world," said Mr Robert Maxwell, secretary of the King's Fund.

"Many of its buildings are neglected and much of its equipment outdated. Visitors from Scandinavia and North America are politely appalled," he said in a speech to Gloucester Health Authority.

"We fall short of decent, affordable standards in waiting times and in standards of service, especially for such vulnerable groups as the elderly and the handicapped."

Any Government, whatever its politics, would have difficulty funding the NHS in the 1990s, he said. Staff would have to become more selective in how they made use of expensive hospital care and more health promotion was needed to prevent accidents and diseases.

Meanwhile, a Labour survey has claimed that the NHS is "leaner and fitter" than the private health sector. The private sector administrative costs were higher and bed occupancy rates lower, it says.

Shadow ministers Harriet Harman and Dr Sam Galbraith, who carried out the survey, also highlighted Government figures showing that costs for operations are far lower in the NHS.

They used the information to attack suspected Government plans to increase co-operation between the NHS and the private health sector.

The ministers sent a questionnaire to Britain's 205 private hospitals, but received only 52 replies.

Replies showed that 7.6 pc of private sector health budgets went on administration, compared with just 5 pc in the NHS.

On average, 80 pc of NHS beds were occupied in comparison with 65 pc in private hospitals, she said.

She said: "We have to know what is going on in the private sector if the Government is going to push the NHS further and further into the arms of the private sector. We have learned that that would be quite the wrong direction to push the NHS."

DOCTOR
13-21 High St, Guildford GU1 3DX
RC. 31,285 WEEKLY ISSUE DATE 3 NOV 1988

Survey backs Labour health service policy

THE Labour Party says it has proved that health care cannot be built on the private sector.

In what is claimed to be the first comprehensive survey of the independent sector, Labour outlines 'serious limitations which ought to deter any rational government from forcing more health care into the private sector'.

Shadow health minister, Harriet Harman, who conducted the survey, said she had become increasingly frustrated by Government inability to answer parliamentary questions on commercial health care.

'The Government's enthusiasm for the private sector is based on ideological commitment to free enterprise rather than on the facts,' Ms Harman said.

The first problem with the private sector was its 'hopeless regional inequality', Ms Harman said.

'No national policy for the improvement in the health care of everyone in the country can be built on a private health care system which contains such huge regional disparities,' she said.

TODAY
Allen House, 70 Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1V 2RP
MORNING ISSUE DATE 4 NOV 1988

Speaker's cornered

SPEAKER **Jack Weatherill** is allowing far more raucous goings-on in his revered Palace of Westminster quarters than those which cost former Arts Minister **Norman St John Stevas** so dearly.

Letting **Elton John** recline in the Speaker's chair, as Norman did, was moderate behaviour by Jack's standards.

Tory MP **Jerry Hayes** tells me that when he visited Weatherill, "Jack's name was announced with the usual pomp but in marched his grandson decked out in the ceremonial wig".

And Labour's **Harriet Harman** says that when she enjoyed the Speaker's hospitality she was confronted by "a slap-up jelly and ice-cream tea on the table used for state banquets, followed by a game of hunt the thimble behind medieval tapestries".

There must be some explanation.

THE STAR
121 Fleet Street, London EC4P 4JT
ABC CIRC. 1,421,085 ISSUE DATE 10 NOV 1988

Bros put gloss on graffiti

BROS want to rub out a black mark against them ...

Girl fans have been making life hell for tenants' of a block of flats near the heartrobs' old home by scrawling graffiti on walls.

Sometimes the teeny "Broseters" even sleep there overnight.

Now, after a request from Harriet Harman, MP for Packham, where group members Matt and Luke Goss once lived in Commercial Road, Bros's CBS label has agree to clean it up.

The group will also pay for an entry phone system to beat intruders.

SUSAN BAGLEY : SOUTHWARK COUNCIL

FAMILY MEMBER

HARRIET HARMAN talks to Frances Twinn about her life as wife, mother and Labour Member of Parliament for Peckham

Harriet Harman, Labour MP for Peckham, and I meet regularly in the playground as we drop our five-year-olds at school, although it was in her kitchen that I caught up with her on this occasion.

It was not, as it turned out, to prove an hour of uninterrupted conversation. Fortunately bribery, in the shape of digestive biscuits and orange juice, was successful at least where her younger children were concerned. But not all interruptions were fielded quite so easily.

Harriet describes herself as a family-centred person. She lives for family, friends and constituents and their problems. The order of priority depends on the time of day and the demands of her diary.

For instance, she cooks breakfast for her brood, and invariably takes five-year-old Harry to school before leaving for morning appointments at the House of Commons or elsewhere. She tries to be home for tea, bath and bedtime. So what about 7 o'clock votes? "I'm not keen on those," she admits ruefully.

Within her marriage, Harriet is the nurturer; the one who, despite long, late hours, gets up to the children in the night. Jack, her husband, is the practical one who does a major weekly shop accompanied by two children and keeps the house tidy.

At this moment, Jack appears to say goodbye to everyone as he leaves for work. The usual discussion about the day's plans ensues before there are fond farewells from the children.

I ask Harriet whether she has always wanted to go into politics The answer is a qualified negative. She explains how she became a Member of Parliament.

After being considered at Fulham at the request of the women's committee, who desired more female representation, it became known that Peckham's Harry Lamborn was retiring. She put her name forward. Unexpectedly and sadly, Harry died at the end of 1982, so a very pregnant Harriet became the prospective candidate for an October by-election.

It was never suggested that she should step down because she was expecting a baby – to her delight of course. Since then she has produced three children, a tribute to her commitment to family and career.

The furious pace of life leaves little time for leisure. She admits to having no hobbies but rates communication with family and friends very highly. An invaluable part of Harriet's day are her phone chats with one of her three sisters or a friend and the quiet exchange of news with Jack, often in the early hours.

Harriet feels there is a tension between full-time work and family life for a woman and would clearly love to see a shorter working week. She thinks that with such changes as mail order shopping, a revolution in the pattern of home and work will come eventually.

As far as she is concerned though, as the nurturer of the children, that role is of paramount importance. "You cannot delegate parenthood," she says, but during the Labour Party Conference in Blackpool her sister did the "familying" for the two nights she and Jack were away.

Commitment is second nature to Harriet Harman. Whether her energies are focused on the family or the constituency, she is dedicated to the task. Having always been involved in political issues such as women's rights and civil liberties, she found herself lobbying for change. Now she has the privilege of being able to fight for her causes in Parliament.

As well as speaking on health matters from the opposition front bench she is currently assembling evidence to present to the Select Committee on Education about the teacher shortage. She prefers to spend evenings in the recess collating this material rather than watching television.

However, 80 per cent of Harriet's time is spent dealing with constituents' problems and constituency issues. Current issues absorbing time are the abolition of ILEA; the Housing Action Trust and changes in DHSS offices. Harriet, with the help of the local party, has been holding Saturday morning surgeries to assist people who may be underclaiming state benefits. This indicates her commitment to the people of Peckham. She feels that she is often doing little more than helping people cut through red tape for which her solicitor's training comes in useful.

Individual cases are uppermost in her mind however. As she talks of an asbestos discovery in a school kitchen and the cuts in peak-time BR services locally, one is reminded of the time-consuming nature of dealing with such issues and impressed by her drive to get things done quickly. Nevertheless, she feels it is not possible to enjoy a situation in which you cannot make as much progress as you would like. She admits, when pressed, that her frustration stems from being in opposition.

My final question was inevitable; "Which job would you prefer were the Labour Party in power?" She feels she has no particular preference but would be committed and busy whatever she was asked to do.

At this point Mary-Ann, the children's nanny, returns having successfully settled Jo at playgroup. She takes Amy off for a rest and Harriet prepares to leave for her first appointment of the day. It is 9.50am.

Life for Harriet Harman is conducted at a furious pace but with all the energy and drive of a committed wife, mother and Member of Parliament. □

South Circular Nov 1988

SOUTH LONDON PRESS
2-6 Leigham Court Road, London SW16 2PD
88,128 THICE WEEKLY
ISSUE
DATE 11 NOV 1988

Bros foot the bill for fans

POP MEGA stars Bros have agreed to pay for damage caused by their teenage fans.

The South London trio have told Peckham MP Harriet Harman they will foot the bill for damage caused by eager admirers who wait outside their old home for a glimpse of the boys.

Mess

Tenants in Peterchurch House, Commercial Way, Peckham complained to Ms. Harman that the 'Brosettes' had made a mess of their block, which overlooks the former home of Matt and Luke Goss.

A window has been smashed and obscene Bros graffiti sprayed on the walls.

And often the desperate teeny boppers stayed overnight, causing around the clock nuisance.

But after Ms. Harman wrote to the Bros' record company CBS the twins agreed to pay for repairs — and begged fans to stay away.

Teachers' Weekly

MEMO FROM THE BIG CHEESE:
Harriet RECEIVED 21 NOV 1988

Peckham crisis

Drastic action is need to solve the problem of primary teacher shortage in the Peckham area of Southwark, London, an MP claims.

Harriet Harman, the local Labour MP, says in her evidence to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Education which is considering teacher supply, that the huge turnover of teachers has resulted in children becoming unhappy, demoralised and losing interest in school.

One example she cites is Grange Primary School. The head, Dorothy Walker says: 'This is the first term in the last six terms I've been fully staffed' ●

DEPTFORD & PECKAM MERCURY
116 Deptford High Street, London SE8 4NX
6,801 WEEKLY ISSUE DATE 10 NOV 1988

MP's sour note as Brosettes continue a non-stop chorus

TOP chart stars Bros are in trouble with their MP.

Labour's Harriet Harman wants their record company to pay for a clean-up at council flats near where the twins' mum and dad live.

The MP for Peckham says hundreds of love-sick girl Bros fans — known as Brosettes — use the council tower as a look-out over the house occupied by the twins' parents. The fans keep a vigil in the hope of spotting their idols on a visit home.

But the 24-hour stake-out at Peterchurch House, Commercial Way, has created a nightmare for tenants, she claims.

In a letter to Bros recording company CBS, she says: "I have seen for myself that every inch, literally, of the walls and ceilings of the staircase of the first two floors are covered in graffiti about Bros — much of it sexually explicit or obscene.

Nuisance

"Fans have broken the frosted glass window on the first floor staircase so that they can get a better view.

"Sometimes, young girls have even stayed overnight on the staircase and created noise and nuisance to the tenants.

"The obsession of girl Bros fans has made the life of tenants of Peterchurch House a misery.

"I am writing to ask you to make a gesture of goodwill towards the tenants by making the money available to repair the staircase and the window and put in an entryphone system. Without the latter, any fresh paint would be covered with graffiti before it is dry.

"Your company has made millions from Bros. But the Bros success is casting a shadow on the lives of Peterchurch House."

CBS said: "We can't take any responsibility for what Brossettes get up to but of course we will be replying to the MP's letter."

DAILY TELEGRAPH
181, Marsh Wall, London E14 9SR
ABC CIRC. 1,171,291 ISSUE DATE 5 NOV 19[illegible]

TELEVISION

Churchill's rebellion

PUT ALMOST any aspect of the British way of life in front of Caryl Churchill, and she will denigrate it. Pride in honest agricultural toil? Another name for exploitation. The kinship of the male sex in far-flung climes? A cover for repressed homosexuality. Family life? A cover for oppression and brutality.

Not surprisingly, Miss Churchill is the darling of the left-wing theatre, and especially of its London citadel, Sloane Square's Royal Court. Its director, Max Stafford-Clark, rates her "Britain's finest living playwright". Since he has produced most of her plays, this is not altogether unexpected.

Encountered last night in **Omnibus** (BBC-1), the author of such abrasive and uncomfortable works as "Serious Money" and "Fen" turned out to look disconcertingly like a younger version of Miss Marple. You could readily imagine her knitting jumpers or opening fêtes. Her background, or what little of it that was revealed, suggested the classic rebellion against the mores of the English upper middle class, prompted by the discovery that "I was made unhappy by things being unjust".

Some deeper motivation than a vague sense of being at odds with her world must surely have fuelled the acerbic invective that characterises the Churchill oeuvre, but Anna Benson-Gyles's and James Runcie's alternation of interview and dramatic extracts (following the pattern of the recent Pinter "Omnibus") did not seem to be penetrating it.

Indeed, they left me with the impression that Miss Churchill is either slightly naive, or not totally honest. When asked about the inherent violence of much of her work, or the use of obscenity, she replied that she had never been aware of either, but now that it was pointed out, she could see it was there.

When researching "Fen", she said (the Royal Court team knocked at cottagers' doors and asked searching questions, rather like Fleet Street), she was taken aback by the paradox of employers working shoulder to shoulder with their exploited labourers. She sounded — I'm sure she didn't mean to — like a zoologist pinning new specimens on to cards. Maybe that's what serious workshop play-writing is about.

Support for Prince Charles's view of contemporary architecture continues to rumble on. In **Question Time** (BBC-1) only a single voice was raised in dissent, despite the presence of progressive politicos like Harriet Harman who might have been expected to come out against him. Expect a media backlash as soon as the baffled dealers in concrete and glass have got their act together.

Richard Last

DEPTFORD & PECKAM MERCURY
116 Deptford High Street, London SE8 4NX
ISSUE DATE 17 NOV 1988

Bros pick up the tab

BROS superstars Luke and Matt Goss will pay to repair a tower block damaged by their lovesick girl fans.

The millionaire twins, now on tour in Japan with Bros partner Craig Logan, will fork out £1,000 for decorating, replacement windows and a high security telephone entry system at Peterchurch House, Peckham.

Tenants in the Commercial Way council block say the fans — known as Brosettes — have made their lives a nightmare because the tower overlooks the twins' mother's house.

The girls shout, sing and have covered walls with obscene graffiti while waiting to catch a glimpse of the star duo making a visit home.

Bros record company CBS, which last week rejected a plea from Peckham Labour MP Harriet Harman to pay for the repairs said the fans have been wasting their time all along.

Brosettes never had any hope of seeing Luke and Matt because both are barred from home visits, the company said.

"They no longer go to Peckham because of the bother it causes neighbours. They send a car round to pick up their mum so she can visit them instead."

THE SUN
Virginia Street, London E1 9BD
ABC CIRC. 4,021,122
ISSUE DATE 10 NOV 1988

Bros put gloss back on block invaded by fans

By GARRY BUSHELL

BROS superstars Luke and Matt Goss yesterday said **THEY** will pay for repairs to a tower block damaged by their fans.

The pop pin-ups will fork out £1,000 to replace broken windows, paint out graffiti and install an entryphone in the council block.

The tower, which overlooks the home of the twins' mother in Peckham, South London, was invaded by flocks of girl fans after they discovered they could sometimes catch a glimpse of their idols.

On Tuesday, Labour MP Harriet Harman demanded that Bros's record company CBS foot the bill for the mayhem.

Suffer

But yesterday a spokesman for Matt and Luke, currently on tour with Bros partner Craig Logan in Japan, said: "They are gutted that their neighbours have had to suffer.

"They have agreed to pay for all the repairs."

The twins moved **OUT** of their mum's house in March.

DEPTFORD & PECKAM MERCURY
116 Deptford High Street, London SE8 4NX
6,801 WEEKLY
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Huge turnover in teachers

Crisis in the classroom

KIDS are becoming depressed, demoralised and fed up with school because teachers keep deserting them, a Labour spokesman says.

In a report to a top parliamentary committee, Peckham MP Harriet Harman claims that SE London youngsters are losing interest in school because of the huge turnover in teachers.

She blames a shortage of trained men and women in the profession, which leads to constant staff vacancies in many SE London schools — especially in areas like her Peckham constituency which are often unpopular places to work.

The teacher shortage has meant pupils being sent home early, sometimes disrupting their parents' work life and causing them to lose pay.

Frequently children are told to change classes while their teacher fills in for an absent colleague, she says in the report entitled "The Supply of Teachers".

The nightmare continues for headteachers. They have to tackle masses of paperwork, but increasingly have to teach because of unfilled vacancies.

Specialist teachers, who should be looking after small classes of youngsters with learning difficulties, are being pulled into mainstream teaching.

"Education for children in Peckham will continue to suffer until the teacher shortage is solved. Our report, in the words of parents and teachers from 13 primary schools serving my constituency, shows that drastic action is needed," the MP says in the report.

One parent says in the report that her son has had four different teachers in one year. A head teacher explains how she has had to cope with 21 staff changes in a year among just 20 staff places.

The father of a 10-year-old at Peckham Park Junior School says his son has lost his extra maths group, violin teaching and time in the library.

THE TIMES
1 Pennington Street, London E1
ABC CIRC. 446,790
ISSUE DATE 11 NOV 1988

Youthful Shadow Cabinet

Kinnock names his new team

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, gave youth its head in naming his full front bench team last night.

Of the 12 new appointments, 11 came into the Commons only at the last general election, in June last year. Five are Scots.

Among the newcomers is Mr David Blunkett, the blind MP for Sheffield, Brightside, a member of Labour's national executive, who becomes one of the party's housing and local government spokesmen.

The only new spokesman from an earlier intake is Mr Kevin Barron, who has been Mr Kinnock's parliamentary private secretary and who has been replaced in that capacity by another Scottish newcomer, Mr Adam Ingram (East Kilbride). Mr Barron becomes one of the energy team.

The other newcomers are: Miss Maria Fyfe (Glasgow, Maryhill), Mr Alun Michael (Cardiff S and Penarth), Mr Paul Murphy (Torfaen), Miss Hilary Armstrong (Durham NW), Mr Frank Doran (Aberdeen S), Mr Rhodri Morgan (Cardiff W), Mr Alistair Darling (Edinburgh Central), Mr Henry McLeish (Fife Central), Mr Brian Wilson (Cunninghame N), and Miss Joan Walley (Stoke-on-Trent N).

Mr Robert Hughes, the former transport spokesman who lost his place in this year's Shadow Cabinet elections, has gone to the back benches at his own request, as has Mr Jeffrey Rooker, who was unsuccessful in the election for Chief Whip.

Also out are the former Welsh Office minister, Mr Ted Rowlands, and Mr Alex Eadie and Mr Norman Hogg, who both left the front bench by agreement.

The Scottish spokesman, Mr John Home Robertson, had already been dropped for announcing his refusal to obey the law over the poll tax.

The new front bench includes half Labour's women MPs; a quarter of the party's spokesmen are now Scottish, keeping the team in proportion with Mr Kinnock's parliamentary party.

The full Labour team is:

Home Affairs: Roy Hattersley, Barry Sheerman, Robin Corbett, Stuart Randall, Alistair Darling.

Chief Secretary to the Treasury: Gordon Brown.

Treasury and Economic Affairs: John Smith, Stuart Holland, Nicholas Brown, John Marek, Christopher Smith.

Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs: Gerald Kaufman, George Robertson, Donald Anderson, George Foulkes.

Agriculture and Rural Affairs: David Clark, Ronald Davies, Norman Godman.

Health and Social Security: Robin Cook. Social Security: Margaret Beckett, Paul Flynn. Health: Harriet Harman, Sam Galbraith. Personal Social Services: Tom Clarke.

Scotland: Donald Dewar, John Maxton, Sam Galbraith, Henry McLeish, Brian Wilson.

Leader of the House and Campaigns Co-ordinator: Frank Dobson, Alan Williams, Bruce Grocott.

Trade and Industry: Bryan Gould, John Garrett, Dick Caborn, Austin Mitchell, Roger Stott.

Energy: Tony Blair, Kevin Barron, Frank Doran, Rhodri Morgan.

Employment: Michael Meacher, Derek Fatchett (Training), Clare Short, Gavin Strang.

Education: Jack Straw. Secondary, tertiary, youth affairs: Derek Fatchett. Higher: Andrew Bennett. Pre-school and primary: Hilary Armstrong.

Wales: Barry Jones, Alun Michael, Paul Murphy.

Transport: John Prescott, Peter Snape, Tony Lloyd.

Environment: John Cunningham. Housing and local government: Clive Soley, Bill O'Brien, David Blunkett. Water privatization: Ann Taylor. Environmental protection and development: Allan Roberts, Joan Walley. Sports: Denis Howell.

Women: Jo Richardson, Maria Fyfe.

Defence, Disarmament and Arms Control: Martin O'Neill, Sean Hughes, Allan Rogers, Roland Boyes.

Northern Ireland: Kevin McNamara, Jim Marshall, Marjorie Mowlam.

Arts: Mark Fisher.

Overseas Development and Co-operation: Joan Lestor.

Disabled People: Alf Morris.

Legal Affairs and Shadow Attorney General: John Morris, John Fraser.

Science and Technology: Jeremy Bray.

The following are also members of the Shadow Cabinet:

House of Commons: Derek Foster (Chief Whip), Stan Orme (chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party).

House of Lords: Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos (Leader), Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede (Chief Whip), Lord Dean of Beswick (peers' representative).

THE LONDON EVENING STANDARD
118 Fleet Street, London EC4P 4JT
ABC CIRC. 522,407
ISSUE DATE

Pupils suffer in the battle for teachers

ALARMING shortages of teachers in South London schools are wrecking classes, distressing parents and causing pupils to play truant, a report discloses today.

It tells a Parliamentary watch-dog committee the crisis has meant "children becoming unhappy, demoralised and losing interest in school."

And it continues: "Where pupils have unexpectedly been sent home, parents' work life is disrupted and often they lose pay. Where children are put into other classes, while a colleague covers for an absent teacher, the situation is often described as child-minding rather than education.

"Headteachers cannot do their job properly because they are constantly having to teach to cover for vacancies. Education will continue to suffer until the shortage is solved."

The survey, released today, was carried out by Harriet Harman, Peckham's Labour MP, who investigated 13 primary schools in the borough of Southwark.

She has sent the results to the Parliamentary Select Committee, inquiring into the national shortage of teachers. Ms Harman's report quotes Peter Troy, who has a 10-year-old stepson, Arthur, at Peckham Park junior school, Friary Road, who said: "He's lost his extra maths group and his violin lessons.

by Bruce Kemble

"There's no one to teach him. His class teacher is a probationer and goes to college one day a week. There's no supply teacher to replace him, so the class is split between the head and the deputy head."

This school has had 21 changes of staff among the 20 teachers employed. Over at Grange Primary School, Webb Street, headmistress Dorothy Walker said: "This is the first term in the last six I have been fully staffed. Out of a total of nine teachers, we've had 23 changes. One class had seven different teachers in six terms."

Janis Maher, whose 10-year-old son had four different class teachers last year, said: "He's got a really good teacher this year, but she's leaving at Christmas. We don't know what's going to happen after that.

"The mothers with younger children don't know from one term to the next who's going to teach their children."

Roger Medhurst, head of the Michael Faraday primary, Portland Street, said: "My nursery teacher left last Easter through ill health. We couldn't replace her so I was forced to close the nursery for most of the summer term."

Problem

Alan Mackenzie, the ILEA's acting divisional officer, who is joining the staff exodus on the eve of the authority's abolition, and taking a job with Devon council, said: "On a Monday morning with possibly 30 absences across our 80 primary schools, we might have up to eight supply teachers to deploy.

A spokesman for the ILEA said: "We've been very concerned about finding and retaining both heads and classroom teachers. Th trouble is caused partly by rise ... the number of pr. mary school pupils.

"But we feel we are get to grips with the problen

SOUTH LONDON PRESS
2-6 Leigham Court Road, London SW16 2PD
88,128 TWICE WEEKLY
ISSUE DATE 18 NOV 1988

● *HARRIET Harman the Peckham MP (Letters November 4) has certainly hit the nail on the head when she calls for a dramatic improvement in cleaning, caretaking, repairs and management services for tenants.*

● *Unfortunately, for her, the nail she has hit is one driven into the coffin of the Labour Party in Southwark who are unquestionably guilty of the failure to provide those services currently.*

● *Let us hope that Ms. Harman also calls for the end to other practices of Southwark which council tenants find so disruptive and annoying.*

● *These include 1,600 squatted properties, 2,000 empty properties, rent arrears of nearly £34 million and a repairs backlog of thousands and thousands.*

● *Perhaps she might also call for the council to act more rapidly in dealing with the thousands of right-to-buy applications they have at the moment.*

—Cllr. Trevor Pitman, deputy leader, Tory Group, Southwark Council.

SURREY COMET
12 Lower Ham Road, Kingston upon Thames KT2 5AF
CIRC. 8,616 TUES & FRI
ISSUE DATE 11 NOV 1988

Local union rep on TV

WAS Mrs. Thatcher guilty of double standards when she travelled to Poland to urge the Polish Government to negotiate with the banned trade union Solidarity?

Local union official Phil Wilson thought so, and made his views quite clear when he asked the first question of the night on Sir Robin Day's Question Time programme last week.

Mr. Wilson, who is the National Union of Public Employees branch secretary at Kingston Council's California Road depot in New Malden, asked the invited panel for their views on the Prime Minister's visit.

After hearing their comments, Sir Robin asked Mr. Wilson for his own views on the subject.

Mr. Wilson sided with Labour MP Harriet Harman and said that he felt Mrs. Thatcher's strong anti-union power stance in Britain conflicted with her comments in Poland.

"She is banning workers at GCHQ from belonging to trades union, but she lectured Poland on how they should have free trades union," he said, shaking his head in exasperation.

Sir Robin decided it was time for a change of tack, and asked for the second question of the evening. To everyone's astonishment up popped Phil Wilson's deputy, Miss Chrissie Dove, the NUPE assistant branch secretary!

Questions

Speaking in her capacity as a home care assistant, she asked the panel's views on the proposed charges for optical and dental checks.

"I think we did wuite well getting the first two questions of the evening," she told Trail of the Comet, adding that the NUPE group which went up to the Question Time recording had applied for audience tickets more than three years ago.

THE GUARDIAN
119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER
ABC CIRC. 472,648
ISSUE DATE NOV 1988

Labour's new-look front bench

Martin Linton

LABOUR leader Mr Neil Kinnock has now completed his reshuffle with 12 new appointments on an Opposition front bench team of 81.

The full list, with members of the Shadow Cabinet in italics and new appointments marked by an asterisk, is:

Home Affairs: *Roy Hattersley*, Barry Sheerman, Robin Corbett, Stuart Randall, Alistair Darling*.

Chief Secretary to the Treasury: *Gordon Brown.*

Treasury: *John Smith*, Stuart Holland, Nick Brown, John Marek, Chris Smith.

Foreign and Commonwealth: *Gerald Kaufman*, George Robertson, Donald Anderson, George Foulkes.

Agriculture and Rural Affairs: *David Clark*, Ron Davies, Norman Godman.

Health and Social Security: *Robin Cook*, Margaret Beckett, Paul Flynn (social security), Harriet Harman, Sam Galbraith (health), Tom Clarke (personal social services).

Scotland: *Donald Dewar*, John Maxton, Sam Galbraith, Henry McLeish*, Brian Wilson*.

Leader of the House and Campaign Co-ordinator: *Frank Dobson*, Alan Williams, Bruce Grocott.

Trade and Industry: *Bryan Gould*, John Garrett, Dick Caborn, Austin Mitchell, Roger Stott.

Energy: *Tony Blair*, Kevin Barron*, Frank Doran*, Rhodri Morgan*.

Employment: *Michael Meacher*, Derek Fatchett, Clare Short, Gavin Strang.

Environment: *John Cunningham*, Clive Soley, Bill O'Brien, David Blunkett* (housing, local government), Ann Taylor (water privatisation), Allan Roberts, Joan Walley* (environmental protection, development), Denis Howell (sports).

Women: *Jo Richardson*, Maria Fyfe*.

Education: *Jack Straw*, Derek Fatchett (secondary, tertiary), Andrew Bennett (higher), Hilary Armstrong* (pre-school, primary).

Wales: *Barry Jones*, Alun Michael*, Paul Murphy*.

Transport: *John Prescott*, Peter Snape, Tony Lloyd.

Defence: Martin O'Neill, Sean Hughes, Allan Rogers, Roland Boyes.

Northern Ireland: Kevin McNamara, Jim Marshall, Marjorie Mowlam.

Arts: Mark Fisher.

Development: Joan Lestor.

Disabled: Alf Morris.

Legal Affairs: John Morris, John Fraser.

Science and Technology: Jeremy Bray.

Chief Whip: *Derek Foster.*

Chair of Parliamentary Labour Party: *Stan Orme.*

Lords: *Lord Cledwyn* (Leader), *Lord Ponsonby* (Chief Whip), *Lord Dean* (peers' representative).

NORTHERN ECHO
Priestgate, Darlington, Co. Durham DL1 1NP
CIRC. 89,959 MORNING
ISSUE DATE 17 NOV 1988

Smear calling system frozen

A HEALTH authority has been forced to suspend its system of calling women for their first cervical cancer screening test.

The step has been taken by Durham Health Authority in a bid to reduce what district general manager Arthur Holroyd yesterday admitted were "totally unacceptable" delays in returning test results.

At their peak the delays had risen to 16 weeks — partly as a result of staffing difficulties but mainly because of the larger than expected demand.

The authority launched its call and recall system in September last year, spending £200,000 on an extension to the pathology laboratory at Dryburn Hospital in Durham and £100,000 a year on extra staff.

Mr Holroyd said yesterday that the staffing problems had been caused by senior staff leaving for promotion and maternity leave among other staff.

Despite this 19,000 smears had been processed compared with an anticipated annual workload of 18,000.

But the delay in returning results meant the call system had now been temporarily suspended to try to create some slack in the system.

Mr Holroyd said: "The total number of smears being received was far in excess of that forecast when we set up the service. One of the reasons is that some women are not waiting to be called but are going to their GPs and asking for a smear to be taken."

It meant women who might have expected to receive their first call over the next few months will now not get one until after next April when it is hoped the service will be resumed.

Earlier this year the cervical screening service provided by the authority was critisised in a report from Labour health spokeswoman Harriet Harman.

Look, no stethoscope!

HAVING swopped the operating theatre for the political theatre 18 months ago, Sam Galbraith has lost none of his medical skills.

He was at a meeting last week attended by Labour colleague Harriet Harman. "You're not looking well Harriet," says Sam. "Could be pneumonia."

It was. Harriet will be off work for the next few weeks.

SCOTLAND ON SUNDAY
20 North Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1YT
20 NOV 1988
ISSUE DATE

THE GUARDIAN
119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER
ABC CIRC. 472,648
28 NOV 1988
ISSUE DATE

European teeth needed to make the secrets Bill bite

IN HIS article on the Security Services Bill (November 23), Richard Norton-Taylor mentions that the Government's "hand may have been forced by cases now before the European Court of Human Rights." The cases he refers to have been taken by NCCL and include, in particular, that of Harriet Harman and Patricia Hewitt. This case alleges that, by virtue of the secret activities of MI5, the United Kingdom Government has breached the privacy of individuals enshrined in Article 8 of the European Convention, and is also in breach of Article 13 in that no effective remedy exists in domestic law. The cases have recently been ruled admissible by the European Commission.

It is significant that the Government has, in this instance, felt it necessary to depart from past practice in introducing legislation which purports to amend the situation which gave rise to the cases, before the Court of Human Rights has given a final judgment. It was the judgment of the Court in 1984, in the case of Malone, which led to the eventual enactment of legislation dealing with telephone taps and interception of mail in the Interception of Communications Act in 1985. The Act provided for a tribunal with such limited powers that there was no possibility of its safeguarding the rights of individuals, particularly as it was excluded from dealing with unauthorised telephone taps. The Security Services Bill, unfortunately, is closely modelled on that Act in this area.

The Bill will not provide the "adequate and effective safeguards against abuse" in relation to the powers of state security forces required by the European judgment in the earlier Leander case against Sweden in 1987.

The remit of the security forces will still be far too wide and ill-defined, enabling the targetting of individuals whose political views the Government does not agree with; there will still be no Parliamentary scrutiny of their activities; and the continuing secrecy surrounding their operations will mean that individuals will be unlikely to possess the necessary knowledge to complain of their activities to the tribunal or the Commissioner. When complaints are made, the decisions of the tribunal and the Commissioner will be subject to no review by the courts.

If the Bill passes unamended, omitting any provision for an effective remedy for individuals harmed by the activities of the security forces, these cases will provide further examples of the Government's reluctance to comply with the European Convention on Human Rights.

Sarah Spencer.
General Secretary,
NCCL,
21 Tabard Street,
London SE1.

THE INDEPENDENT
40 City Road, London EC1 2DB
ABC CIRC. 325,830 DAILY
ISSUE DATE 11 NOV 1988

Three sacked in Kinnock reshuffle

By Colin Brown
Political Correspondent

THREE LABOUR frontbench spokesmen were sacked last night and two more voluntarily stepped down to the backbenches in a reshuffle announced by Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader.

Underlining the importance attached by Labour to Scottish affairs, Mr Kinnock sacked Norman Hogg and John Home Robertson from the Scottish team. They were replaced by Henry McLeish and Brian Wilson.

Alex Eadie was also dropped from the energy team, which was expanded from three to four to strengthen the attack on the planned privatisation of the electricity industry. Kevin Barron, Mr Kinnock's Parliamentary Private Secretary, was added to the team. Mr Barron was replaced as PPS by Adam Ingram.

Jeff Rooker, a member of the environment team, returned to the backbenches at his own request. He was replaced by David Blunkett, former leader of Sheffield City Council. Although he was requested by Jack Cunningham, Shadow environment secretary, his appointment was opposed by some right wingers.

Ann Taylor was moved to environment from home affairs to lead the attack on water privatisation. Roland Boyes, who previously held the water portfolio, was moved to the defence team, with responsibility for Trident. Bob Hughes also returned to the backbenches at his own request.

The full Labour team is as follows: Home Affairs — Roy Hattersley*, Barry Sheerman, Robin Corbett, Stuart Randall, Alistair Darling; Chief Secretary to the Treasury — Gordon Brown*; Treasury — John Smith*, Stuart Holland, Nick Brown, John Marek, Chris Smith; Foreign Affairs — Gerald Kaufman*, George Robertson, Donald Anderson, George Foulkes; Agriculture — David Clark*, Ron Davies, Norman Godman; Health and Social Security — Robin Cook*, (Soc Sec) Margaret Beckett, Paul Flynn (Health) Harriet Harman, Sam Galbraith (Personal and Social Services) Tom Clarke; Scotland — Donald Dewar*, John Maxton, Sam Galbraith, Henry McLeish, Brian Wilson.

Leader of the House and Campaigns Co-ordinator — Frank Dobson*, Alan Williams, Bruce Grocott; Trade and Industry — Bryan Gould*, John Garrett, Dick Caborn, Austin Mitchell, Roger Stott; Energy — Tony Blair*, Kevin Barron, Frank Doran, Rhodri Morgan; Employment — Michael Meacher*, Derek Fatchett, Clare Short, Gavin Strang; Education — Jack Straw*, Derek Fatchett (secondary), Andrew Bennett (higher), Hilary Armstrong (pre-school and primary); Wales — Barry Jones*, Alun Michael, Paul Murphy; Transport — John Prescott*, Peter Snape, Tony Lloyd; Environment — John Cunningham *, Clive Soley (housing and local government), Bill O'Brien, David Blunkett, Ann Taylor (water privatisation), Allan Roberts and Joan Walley (environmental protection), Denis Howell (sport).

Women — Jo Richardson*, Maria Fyfe; Defence — Martin O'Neill, Sean Hughes, Allan Rogers, Roland Boyes; Northern Ireland — Kevin McNamara, Jim Marshall, Marjorie Mowlam; Arts — Mark Fisher; Development and Co-operation — Joan Lestor; Disabled — Alf Morris; Legal Affairs and Shadow Attorney General — John Morris, John Fraser; Science and Technology — Jeremy Bray.

■* Denotes member of Shadow Cabinet.

SOUTH LONDON PRESS
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CAMBERWELL: Peckham Labour MP Harriet Harman has expressed concern to health minister David Mellor over the threatened axing of more than 120 jobs within Camberwell Health Authority to meet a £600,000 budget deficit.

SOUTH LONDON PRESS
2-6 Leighan Court Road, London SW16 2PD
CIRC. 88,236 TWICE WEEKLY ISSUE DATE 11 NOV 1988

Take 5

Bon Appetit!

New 'Nite Out' for Indian food lovers

JUST A week old, the Nite Out Tandoori restaurant had a grand opening with Hariet Harman, MP, the Mayor of Southwark, Councillor Rita Sergeant and other dignitaries.

This Indian restaurant is in the Walworth Road, just past the Coop Building heading towards the Elephant and Castle and in the evening it is possible to park right outside as there is only a single yellow line.

The owner, Mr. Abdul Rohim, has owned a couple of other Indian restaurants before this and there is a feeling of expertise around the place.

The welcome is friendly and efficient and though there are staff around Abdul works at the table, trying all the time to help his customers and to make the evening pleasant.

Nite Out Tandoori
368 Walworth Road,
SE17 2NF
Tel: 703 8068

It has been tastefully decorated with white walls and sunken lights and there is ample space between the table where there are covers for 56.

There is also a bar at the front of the restaurant for aperitifs and nibbles but for me there was too much Indian music.

Whilst recognising it is an Indian restaurant a change of music would have been nice. A little bit of "Old Blue Eyes" would not have gone amiss.

Nite Out offers a wide range for selection and for starters my partner had Reshmi Kebab, £1.95.

This is minced lamb in an omelette and she found it tasty. I had Butter Chicken, £2.10, which was lightly cooked in a spicy, creamy sauce, I thought this was very enjoyable.

For the main course I chose Tandoori King Prawn Masala (charcoal grilled prawns in spices with butter to their own recipe), £7.95. There were plenty of prawns and a nice savoury sauce.

With it was an excellent special rice, £1.85. It was a basmati rice, light and cooked with saffron.

My colleague has Chicken Tikka Masala, £3.95. This was barbecued diced chicken, flavoured with fenugreek, and cooked with yoghurt and ground spices. This she found to be very pleasant and it was again served on rice.

We both had this with Mushroom Bhaji, Saag and Paratha. Here was a meal which would fill any large eater - more than enough for anybody.

For the wine I chose a bottle of Chateauneuf-du-Pape, £9.95. This was a 1985 vintage and the negotiant was A. Bichot from Beaune.

This wine was clear and a good pliumy red. It tasted full bodied with a good tanin balance. A very good example of this well-known Rhone wine.

I think with his new restaurant Abdul Rohim will have a similar success to his others and that the Nite Out Tandoori will be a worthy addition to Walworth Road.

The new front of the Nite Out restaurant.

Abdul sitting between Hariet Harman, MP, and Councillor Rita Sergeant, the Mayoress.

BURTON MAIL
65-68 High Street, Burton-On-Trent DE14 1LE
CIRC. 22,,336 EVENING ISSUE DATE 22 NOV 1988

Delegation meets MPs

Campaigners fighting the closure of Ashby Hospital will be taking their case to Parliament tomorrow.

A 12-strong delegation, including Doctor Orace Mulka from Measham Health Centre and staff from the axe-threatened cottage hospital, are heading south to meet with leading politicians.

On the agenda are discussions with Labour's health spokesman Mr Robin Cook and outspoken Labour MP Miss Harriet Harman.

The Ashby protestors will also be sitting in on a meeting between Leicester MP Mr Keith Vaz and Junior Health Minister Mrs Edwina Currie. The meeting, organised by Mr Vaz, will cover the proposed closure of district hospitals in Leicestershire, including Ashby.

Ashby staff nurse Mrs Christina Buckley said: "We are prepared to go to Parliament on this proposed closure and hopefully will be able to win as much support as possible for our case from the politicians we meet."

TRIBUNE
308 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8DY
WEEKLY ISSUE DATE 18 NOV 1988

One in three Labour MPs on front bench

TWELVE new appointments were made to Labour's 81-member front bench last week. The new-look Energy team, headed now by Tony Blair, a former Trade and Industry spokesman who took over from John Prescott, includes three new faces, Kevin Barron, Frank Doran and Rhodri Morgan. Mr Prescott was moved to the Transport portfolio, widely looked upon as a demotion for contesting the deputy leadership, replacing Bob Hughes who failed to get re-elected to the Shadow Cabinet.

The other new members are Alistair Darling (Home Affairs); Henry McLeish and Brian Wilson (Scotland); David Blunkett and Joan Walley (Environment); Maria Fyfe (Women) and Hilary Armstrong (Education), both of whom replace Ann Clwyd who was sacked two weeks ago; and Alun Michael and Paul Murphy (Wales). Barry Jones, who was re-elected to the Shadow Cabinet this year, returns to his former job as spokesman on Wales, taking over from Alan Williams who has moved to the campaigns team.

Barry Sheerman has been transferred from Employment to the Home Affairs team, Paul Flynn from Wales to Social Security, Roland Boyes from Environment to Defence and John Garrett from Energy to Trade and Industry. Derek Fatchett takes on a responsibility for Employment on top of his Education brief. Adam Ingram becomes Parliamentary Private Secretary to Neil Kinnock instead of Kevin Barron.

In addition to Bob Hughes, three other MPs have left the front bench: Jeff Rooker, formerly an Environment spokesman, who has returned to the back benches at his own request, John Home Robertson, who was sacked from the Scottish team, and Alex Eadie, who was removed from his energy position.

At a time when the party has been signalling that Green issues will be pushed further up its agenda, Joan Walley, the convenor of the Socialist Environment and Resources Association parliamentary group and a new appointee, said that her aim was to pull together "an integrated environment protection policy which treads on everyone's toes". David Blunkett, who now shoulders the responsibility for local government, stressed that it was vital for Labour to go on the offensive on the poll tax: "We shouldn't simply be there to be reactive to Government policies. Our job is to use Parliament as a platform to campaign on our positive alternatives."

In the Defence team, Roland Boyes' brief is the Navy, which includes Trident, chemical and biological weapons and any new systems which are developed. He told *Tribune*: "We need to work out a clear, coherent, acceptable defence policy. I can't spell it out today, otherwise we can't spend the next year working on it. Some people don't want to look at our defence policy. But we must not only satisfy the party, we've also got to satisfy the people who put crosses in little boxes."

● The new front bench is: **Home Affairs:** Roy Hattersley, Barry Sheerman, Robin Corbett, Stuart Randall, Alistair Darling. **Chief Secretary to the Treasury:** Gordon Brown. **Economic Affairs:** John Smith, Stuart Holland, Nick Brown, John Marek, Chris Smith. **Foreign Affairs:** Gerald Kaufman, George Robertson, Donald Anderson, George Foulkes. **Agriculture:** David Clark, Ron Davies, Norman Godman. **Health and Social Security:** Robin Cook, Margaret Beckett, Paul Flynn, Harriet Harman, Sam Galbraith, Tom Clarke. **Scotland:** Donald Dewar, John Maxton, Sam Galbraith, Henry McLeish, Brian Wilson. **Leader of the House and Campaigns:** Frank Dobson, Alan Williams, Bruce Grocott. **Trade and Industry:** Bryan Gould, John Garrett, Richard Caborn, Austin Mitchell, Roger Stott. **Energy:** Tony Blair, Kevin Barron, Frank Doran, Rhodri Morgan. **Employment:** Michael Meacher, Derek Fatchett, Clare Short, Gavin Strang. **Environment:** John Cunningham, Clive Soley, Bill O'Brien, David Blunkett, Ann Taylor, Allan Roberts, Joan Walley, Denis Howell. **Women:** Jo Richardson, Maria Fyfe. **Education:** Jack Straw, Derek Fatchett, Andrew Bennett, Hilary Armstrong. **Wales:** Barry Jones, Alun Michael, Paul Murphy. **Transport:** John Prescott, Peter Snape, Tony Lloyd. **Defence:** Martin O'Neill, Sean Hughes, Allan Rogers, Roland Boyes. **Northern Ireland:** Kevin McNamara, Jim Marshall, Mo Mowlam. **Arts:** Mark Fisher. **Development:** Joan Lestor. **Disabled:** Alf Morris. **Legal Affairs:** John Morris, John Fraser. **Science and Technology:** Jeremy Bray. **Chief Whip:** Derek Foster. **PLP chair:** Stan Orme. **Lords:** Lord Cledwyn, Lord Ponsonby, Lord Dean.

SOUTH WALES ARGUS
Cardiff Road, Maesglas, Newport NP9 1AW
CIRC. 41,429 EVENING ISSUE DATE 30 DEC 1988

Baby unit 'crisis'

SHADOW health minister Harriet Harman has called for an inquiry into the "crisis" in maternity care in Britain. Drawing attention to the "growing number" of closures of small maternity units, she said: "Women should have a choice of setting for the delivery of their babies."

Women still don't count

AS DIANE ABBOTT, Ann Pettifor, and Ken Livingstone (*Tribune*, November 11) point out, it is essential for Labour to transform its attitude towards women. Its policies for women are excellent but hardly carry conviction with women voters when women are seen to carry so little weight within the party at top levels.

Only two regional organisers are women and, while at grass-roots level many women are elected to the thankless task of secretary, few hold the position of chair.

"One woman on the shortlist" is not going to change all that. It may not even change the number of women Parliamentary candidates in safe, marginal or by-election seats, although the number of women selected for hopeless ones will doubtless increase.

Male candidates were selected for the three by-election seats of Govan, Richmond, and Epping Forest. This is not to say that women were not shortlisted – I should know, I was shortlisted for the two I applied for.

I hope that this year's conference decision signifies a genuine change of heart. If not, the damaging image of a macho, male, trade unionist party will persist and that might be the time, as Harriet Harman said at conference, to think seriously about quotas to improve women's representation in Parliament.

HELEN BRINTON
SEVENOAKS, KENT

TRIBUNE
308 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8DY
WEEKLY ISSUE DATE 25 NOV 1988

SOUTH LONDON PRESS
2-6 Leighan Court Road, London SW16 2PD
88,128 TWICE WEEKLY
ISSUE DATE 4 NOV 1988

Harriet Harman

Don't gag tenants on HATs

☐ *PERHAPS the HAT suggestion is a good idea.*

☐ *On this estate, there is a flat where key money has been paid three times.*

☐ *Other flats have tenants who have paid key money. Even squatters have been allowed to stay because their parents live on the estate.*

☐ *A couple of months ago, there was a two-bedroom flat empty for just over a week.*

☐ *Now a family of squatters are in the flat. Neighbours who are friends helped them to break in.*

☐ *Southwark Council know about this but what have they done? I have a daughter with two children on the council housing list who will never get a home because Southwark does not care.*—Name and address supplied, Lettsom Estate, Camberwell.

AS Peckham MP and representative for the North Peckham and Gloucester Grove Estates, my concern is the interests of tenants on those estates. That is my starting point.

I am also concerned for their children and the chance they will have of finding a home in Southwark. That is why I am against the Government's decision to change the terms of their tenancy and sign them over to a housing action Trust.

The Government has not asked the tenants where they want a change of landlord.

My fear is that in the long term the Government want to move them out and make their estates into luxury flats for sale. This is what they did in Docklands and Battersea.

I am working closely with the tenants' associations to secure the future of tenants. I am not satisfied with the conditions as they are at present on the estates. I want to see dramatic improvements, but the Government-imposed HAT is not the answer.

Improvement in the living conditions for tenants on Gloucester Grove and North Peckham should be brought about by:
(a) Structural improvements — and the council and tenants have already agreed upon the changes needed and work is underway; and
(b) A dramatic improvement in the cleaning, caretaking, repairs and management services for tenants.—Harriet Harman, Labour MP, Peckham.

THE INDEPENDENT
40 City Road, London EC1 2DB
ABC CIRC. 325,830 DAILY
ISSUE DATE 14 NOV 1988

Cash offers to lure new teachers to London

By Peter Wilby
Education Editor

EDUCATION authorities in London are offering "golden hellos" for college leavers as teacher shortages worsen.

Redbridge is offering £490 to newly-qualified teachers, as well as removal expenses and a lodging allowance of £65 a week for 31 weeks, according to a survey published today in *Industrial Relations Review and Report*.

Havering offers £100 "to purchase books and teaching equipment". Newham pays a mortgage or rent subsidy of up to £46 a week for four years, while Bromley offers leased cars for senior teachers.

Some of the worst shortages are now in primary schools, where pupil rolls are rising. According to the latest government figures, there are nearly 1,000 vacancies for primary teachers in Greater London — 4.2 per cent of the total posts. Nationally, 1.5 per cent of primary posts are vacant.

The Inner London Education Authority lost 23.3 per cent of its primary teachers during the last school year, compared with 14.3 per cent in 1985-86.

In some of the worst-hit areas, such as Southwark, a highly-deprived inner London borough, classes are being taught by a succession of supply teachers, or doubled up so that 40 children are taught by one teacher.

According to details sent to the parliamentary select committee on education by Harriet Harman, Labour MP for Peckham, one junior school has had 21 changes, in a staff of 20, so far this year. Parents have complained that their children are missing out on special maths tuition, musical instrument lessons and library visits because teachers have left or are in short supply.

At Grange Primary School, in the same area, the second-year junior class has had seven teachers in six terms. "This is the first term in my six terms here that I've been fully staffed," Dorothy Walker, the head teacher, said. But she will be losing four of her nine teachers at Christmas, and has no immediate prospect of finding replacements.

Roger Medhurst, head of Michael Faraday Primary School near by, had to close his nursery unit last term. The teacher had left through ill health at Easter. "I advertised through the ILEA and in *The Times Educational Supplement*. I did not get a single applicant," he said.

Ms Harman says that there is "demoralisation and despair among teachers and parents". Children are losing interest in school, she warns, because they are so often shunted from one teacher or class to another.

Heads say that the shortages are caused largely by the high cost of housing in London. Mr Medhurst lost four of his 14 teachers last summer, of whom two headed north in search of cheaper accommodation. Recent legislation has exacerbated the problems. "Because the ILEA is being abolished, people are uncertain about the future and are wary of moving in," Ms Walker said.

She added that primary teachers were angry about their new conditions of service, which required them to work fixed numbers of hours and to lose a week's holiday for in-service training.

"They have always worked longer than the Government requires anyway. Things like wall displays take hours and hours to prepare. Now, they have the Education Reform Act making new demands. So many things have added together to make them pretty disillusioned," she said.

In Southwark, the teacher shortages affect even those schools that manage to retain staff. Almost the entire supply teaching force is needed to cover the 50 or so vacant full-time posts. So, if teachers fall ill, colleagues in the same school have to provide cover.

COURIER & ADVERTISER
7 Bank Street, Dundee DD1 9HU
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Maternity care 'crisis' call

SHADOW HEALTH minister Harriet Harman yesterday called for an inquiry into the "crisis" in maternity care.

She has written to Health Minister Mr David Mellor drawing attention to the "growing number" of closures of small maternity units.

Harriet Harman said in her letter: "Women should have a choice of setting for the delivery of their babies. The closure of these units removes that choice for many women.

"There is no clear published evidence that this policy constitutes a more efficient use of financial resources, nor are there grounds for closing smaller units on the basis of improving the quality of care."

Meanwhile, Mr Frank Dobson, shadow Leader of the Commons and M.P. for Holborn and St Pancras, has written to the Prime Minister urging her to intervene to save the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital in Euston Road, London, as the only hospital in Britain which provides treatment for women by women.

He said that when the hospital was amalgamated with another as planned, it would no longer provide treatment exclusively by women. It would not even be able to guarantee women-only wards.

NEW STATESMAN & SOCIETY
Perseverance Works, 38 Kingsland Road, E2 8BA
CIRC. 28,375 WEEKLY ISSUE DATE 25 NOV 1988

POLITICAL COLUMN

Gender agenda

Women are more "progressive" than men, say the polls. So what is Labour doing about it?

Stephen Howe

At the last election, my north London Labour Party had some splendid literature addressing women voters' concerns. The leaflets took up issues like rape and sexual harassment, cervical cancer screening, childcare and nurseries, virginity tests by the immigration service and strip searching by police. All were important, and many of them were probably chosen to match the likely preoccupations of a stereotype "Stoke Newington Woman". It made sense, therefore, to target households where a sole female voter lived alone or was the apparent head of household, and to distribute these leaflets to them. Good thinking—except that the great majority of these households, as we discovered while canvassing, were inhabited by pensioners, the last remnants of the area's old white working class.

It would be foolishly condescending to assume that such women are unconcerned about nurseries, domestic violence or cervical cancer, but they are unlikely to be their central interests. Many of them seemed far more worried about an Alliance smear that our candidate wanted to abolish the Queen. I suspect that Labour locally lost more votes among older women on that non issue than it picked up among younger ones from its women's literature.

The point of this parable is that while Labour has been trying for some time to appeal specifically to women voters, it hasn't always been very good at targeting particular groups or very clear about what issues will make an impact. The dominant theme of last week's shadow cabinet summit at Rottingdean was the effort to remedy this. Women were identified as the key to improving Labour's election performance. On very many issues, as both the recent major Mori survey and the new British Social Attitudes report show, women are considerably more likely to hold values often associated with Labour than are men. They're less keen on an unfettered market economy, more egalitarian, place more emphasis on collective welfare and less on individual money making, hold less traditionalist attitudes on many social and moral questions.

The Rottingdean discussions started from the premise that Labour can and should cash in far more effectively on these gender differences. In particular, two groups were highlighted: elderly women on pensions, and middle-class women with children, often in part-time work, aged between 35 and 54. Labour does better with women than with men, but the difference is least in those two target groups, and overall is less than the gender gap on issues suggests it could be. The choice of subjects to highlight must more closely reflect women's concerns, notably health, education, the environment, childcare, employment opportunities and crime prevention. The style of Labour's propaganda must change. And women must be given a higher profile in the party itself.

Neil Kinnock's office proudly points out that half of all Labour women MPs now hold front-bench posts. This is splendid, but looks a bit less impressive when one notes that only one of them (Jo Richardson, in charge predictably enough of women's affairs) heads any of the Shadow teams, and that almost one third of all the male MPs are also on the front bench. Why on earth are strikingly able women MPs like Harriet Harman and Joan Ruddock, who made such a splash in their respective fields before entering Parliament, not given adequate opportunities now to show what they can do? Why not give Ms Harman the legal affairs post for which she's so obviously qualified, and Ms Ruddock something high-profile at Defence? And the representation of women in the party cannot be improved just by changes at parliamentary level. Labour should be aiming, like the German SPD, to guarantee at least 40 per cent of places for women at all levels.

Labour should be aiming to guarantee at least 40 per cent of places for women

The lessons which the Rottingdean summit drew from the US experience were that Bush had closed Dukakis's lead among women by stressing his family image and by exploiting a fear of violent crime. Bush was shown as a patriarch: not an image likely to appeal to many Labour women activists, nor one corresponding to the way most people live today. Mind you, the way in which the Kinnocks have been portrayed recently isn't all that much better. The fact that Glenys Kinnock is the first prominent British political spouse of modern times should be a real asset for Labour. It is wasting it.

Both Bush themes sought to appeal to traditional and even authoritarian values among women. But as we have seen, there is a major contradiction between the recommendation that Labour should appeal to these values, and the findings of the polls.

A central message of the Rottingdean presentation was that women voters could be won over by a major shift in Labour's publicity style. Again, the US experience was strongly highlighted here. Dukakis held more positions on policies which were popular among women, but his style—cerebral, abstract, unemotional—lost him support. The message for Labour in appealing to women is thus said to be "cut out abstraction", give "real life examples of what policies mean" and offer "symbolic policies not programmatic broadsweep".

Now, the hackles of many feminists will rise at the implications of this. They will say that appealing to women voters is being used as an excuse to move toward an even less intellectually substantial campaigning stance than was adopted in 1987, maybe less radical on specific policies, based even more on personality, atmosphere and symbol. What Labour's suggesting, the critics will argue, is in essence that "real politics is still for men, but since we need these silly women's votes in order to get on with the job, we'd better give them what they want."

This is a caricature of the shadow cabinet's conclusions, but it's one with enough resemblance to reality for one to keep doubting Labour's commitment. The profile of women voters' demands is not identical with what is usually thought of as a specifically feminist politics. But the congruence between them is greater than present Labour plans seem to allow. Creative ways can be found to combine the two: the GLC's municipal feminism, for all the bad publicity and all the genuine errors, still has much to teach here. No radical party seeking broad-based support among women can confine itself to the feminist agenda. Yet a mere change in style, even if accompanied by a higher profile for women MPs, would be seen, perhaps rightly, as a cynical vote-grabbing exercise.

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL
BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR
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ISSUE DATE 5 NOV 1988

Money and markets in health care

"Maggie in £1bn U-turn: Clarke's dramatic new cash coup for Health Service," claimed the *Mail on Sunday* across its front page. With other papers on 30 and 31 October carrying similar forecasts I assume that the Downing Street's information spreader had been in action again, presumably as part of the government's strenuous efforts to head off those Conservative MPs threatening to rebel against the reinsertion in the Health and Medicines Bill of charges for dental checks and eye tests (p 1154). By the time you read this column the Chancellor of the Exchequer will have told the House of Commons about the government's spending plans for 1989-90. So you will know, firstly, whether the figure of £1 billion is an accurate forecast and, secondly, whether the sum (roughly 5% of the NHS budget) is in addition to any Treasury allocation to cover inflation next year. If the latter it would be a welcome boost (though hardly a dramatic coup). If not then stand by for a rough year as 5% is unlikely to match inflation in the NHS.

To indulge in speculative hype ahead of official announcements is a tabloid weakness even if it does sell papers: the habit does not sit comfortably in the columns of a learned journal. So let me move on from speculation on the NHS in the right wing press to speculation on the private sector in the Labour party. Earlier this week I went to hear Harriet Harman, Labour's parliamentary spokesman on health and, as it happens, the daughter of a distinguished London physician, and Sam Galbraith, Labour's health spokesman for Scotland, who exchanged neurosurgery in Glasgow for a seat in Westminster representing Strathkelvin and Bearsden. They told us about a survey that they had conducted on private care. The survey had been done because despite "actively promoting commercial medicine" the government had—by its own admission in a parliamentary answer—few facts on the private sector in Britain.

The results of their research, based on a 25% response from 205 private hospitals and clinics approached, showed that the private sector was predominantly in London and the south east (57% of all private care); concentrated on inpatient services; now contained 55% of for profit beds compared with 29% in 1979; was no more likely than the NHS to treat patients on a day basis; operated on a much lower bed occupancy than the NHS; spent 7·6% of its budget on administration compared with 5% in the NHS; and was not able "to deal with urgent cases or with emergency work," whereas 30% of patients in the NHS came in through accident and emergency departments. Furthermore, they found that operations were more costly in the private sector.

Though the information in this survey would surprise few with an interest in health care, it provided the Labour party with some confirmatory ammunition for its policy of opposing private care.

I was not surprised to find later in the week that neither Ms Harman nor Mr Galbraith was present at a conference discussing a mixed market in health care. But nor did I spot any ministers from a government that is so enthusiastic about cooperation between the NHS and private care. The conference was described as being "sponsored by BUPA for the National Health Service," and there was a solid phalanx of NHS administrators and health authority members plus a sprinkling of civil servants in the audience at the comfortably appointed Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster. But no ministers: so are they in purdah until the Prime Minister's review is unveiled?

Professor Alan Maynard, the health economist from York; John Peet, who moved from dealing with NHS finances in the Treasury to the *Economist*; and Bob Graham, chief executive of BUPA, were among the speakers who provided an informative matrix for the day. Professor Maynard argued for the separation of the finances and the provision of health care, claiming that market forces could be used to make sure that resources were effectively used. He questioned whether the widely canvassed internal market for the NHS would provide sufficient competition, but, surprisingly, on this occasion he was less critical than usual about doctors, though he still views them as a major obstacle to improved efficiency. The professor forecast a health service undergoing slow radical change—has he had a peep under the NHS's review wrappers? And condemning the palpable failure of the NHS's "redisorganisations," he called for cautious experimentation.

Cautious experimentation might almost have been the motto for the conference. Even John Peet, normally a severe critic of the NHS's inefficiencies, echoed Professor Maynard's appeal for experimentation, challenging both sectors of health care to try out different approaches to organising and delivering health care so as to achieve "common aims."

For me the most practical contribution came from Bob Graham, who had some promising proposals for cooperation. While emphasising that market forces could maximise the use of resources he did not want a two tier system of care, reiterating BUPA's long established policy of support for a centrally financed health service complemented by private health care provision. That said, he went on to offer to share with the NHS an updated version of the directory of acute services that BUPA was developing. It was a "very economical viewdata system" that would among other services provide bar charts showing bed availability in hospitals. Secondly, Bob Graham said that his association wanted to broaden the successful pilot project for reducing waiting lists organised with the Trent Regional Health Authority.

In my book practical cooperation of this sort is a more constructive course than trying to create artificial markets in the NHS.

SCRUTATOR

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL
BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR
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ISSUE DATE 12 NOV 1988

Quality — the heart of the matter

The Labour Party is targeting the quality of healthcare as a central issue in the review of its health policy. Simon Crompton explains

WHAT IS 'QUALITY' healthcare? How should it be measured? Who should measure it? How should measurements be acted on?

These, said the Labour Party's Scottish health spokesman Sam Galbraith MP, were the questions to be answered in the party's special seminar on clinical effectiveness and the quality of care, held in the House of Commons last week.

The meeting was one of a series organised by Labour's health and social services policy review group as part of the party's policy review.

'This is definitely not a PR exercise,' said health spokeswoman Harriet Harman, introducing events. 'We have invited you here because you know more than us in this area.'

Health authority managers, doctors, consultants, and representatives from unions, professional bodies and health think tanks had been invited.

One of the main speakers, Bryan Jennett, professor of neurosurgery in Glasgow and author of *High technology medicine*, said effectiveness was the most important factor in 'quality'.

'We are more and more concerned about what happens to the patients at the end of the day,' he said.

'A lot of studies of quality in the past have asked if consumers are satisfied.'

The high cost of medical equipment had to be got into perspective, he said. 'We tend to talk about cost, but we ought to be looking at cost per success because that is the objective.'

One current buzzword, the QALY, or quality adjusted life year, was at least a rational basis on which to compare technology and what you were getting from it, rather than making 'choice by decibel' according to who shouted the loudest, said Professor Jennett.

Some treatments were inappropriately expensive — if the patient was not ill enough or too ill; if it was unsafe, unwise or unkind.

Inappropriate decisions on treatment were made because not enough data were available to know if it was going to be effective. 'Basically, it's a lack of another buzzword — technology assessment,' he said.

He called on a consortium drawn from the NHS, health authorities, the Medical Research Council, trusts and universities to look into the question of technology assessment because 'the questions that have to be asked are far more than medical questions'. The effectiveness, appropriate use and affordable provision of technology all had to be identified.

Dr John Muir Gray, community physician for Oxfordshire HA, was wary of the word 'effectiveness'. 'We must be careful not to separate satisfaction from effectiveness.'

He went on to say that inappropriate targeting of services was one thing that was wrong with professional performance. And intervention was not always properly justified by weighing up the benefits and risks of treatment.

'The assumption I make is that we must look for a small change in a large number of professionals,' he said, estimating that 80 to 90 per cent would like to do better. 'That's the section you work on.'

Health professionals were fed up with reports telling them what they were not doing and exhorting them to do things, he said.

Sam Galbraith . . . quality of care is essential.

'But 80 per cent of them are delighted when you walk into their surgery and give them some assistance,' he added.

Jackie Holloway from the Open University emphasised that performance indicators were useful if one defined them more broadly than the department seemed to.

'When we started looking at appropriate techniques of getting appropriate data, it didn't take long to discover that you can measure whatever you want,' she said. 'It's deciding what you want to measure that's the problem.'

Delegates disagreed on whether regions and hospitals should publish mortality rates. John Yates from the Health Services Management Centre's inter authority comparisons consultancy said there were huge variations in death rates from unit to unit. Improvements could be made if rates were published internally.

If there were no improvements, the figures should be made public, he said.

But Ms Harman was concerned such a move would be like a policing operation, concentrating on the bad end of care and creating the wrong climate to make people want to improve. □

TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT
Priory House, St John's Lane, London EC1M 4BX
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ISSUE DATE 11 NOV 1988

An MP has collected evidence of the suffering caused by staff shortages. Sarah Bayliss reports

Ghost timetables haunt heads

Twelve examples of the stress and frustration caused to families and schools by teacher shortages have been sent to a House of Commons inquiry.

The case studies have been compiled by Ms Harriet Harman, Labour MP for Peckham in the South London Borough of Southwark, from primary schools in her constituency. They tell of children having four or more teachers in a year, of headteachers preparing "ghost" timetables in the desperate hope that vacant posts will be filled and of statemented children being denied special help.

The report contains evidence of a massive turnover of staff in this division of the Inner London Education Authority – 21 changes in one year at Peckham Park junior school for instance – and of senior teachers leaving the service, worn out after months of covering for absences.

Ms Harman has submitted this sorry catalogue to the Commons Select Committee inquiry into teacher shortages which began receiving written submissions at the beginning of this parliamentary session. The Committee will begin taking oral evidence after Christmas.

Ms Harman, whose constituency contains some of Europe's biggest council estates and London's poorest districts, says children's education is suffering while parents are desperate for them to benefit from their time at school.

"Let's face it," says a parent at Gloucester Grove infant school, "education is the only chance my three children have got of getting out of living here."

Drastic action is urgently needed, says Ms Harman, to reduce the shortages which have been disrupting Peckham primary schools for the past four years, some of which have had virtually no supply cover for two years.

At Grange primary school, Ms Dorothy Walker, the headteacher, says that in the past six terms there have been 23 changes in a staff of nine. During this time one class of second-year juniors has had seven teachers.

"This is the first term in the past six terms I've been fully staffed. There just aren't any teachers."

Ms Janis Maher, says her junior school son has had four teachers in the past year. He is doing well with his current teacher but she is leaving at Christmas and there is no news yet of a replacement.

"He's an intelligent child but I feel this has upset his chances of getting to a good secondary school. You can't get projects going when your teachers keep changing."

In the infant department, children are "being baby-sat" because teachers are absent or have left. "The parents are frustrated and angry but feel helpless. We feel our hands are tied."

At Peckham Park junior school, Mr Richard Edwards, the headteacher who has had 21 changes in three terms in a staff of 20, says: "This term I've had to plan a ghost timetable in the hope that staff will be found. I am teaching today because three teachers are absent. There are no supply teachers."

At Michael Faraday primary school, the headteacher, Roger Medhurst, was forced to close the nursery department for most of the summer term because a teacher who gave notice the previous January was not replaced until September.

The shortage of teachers was placing an "enormous day-to-day strain" on the school. "Cover for absent colleagues is constantly falling upon myself and the remaining class teachers."

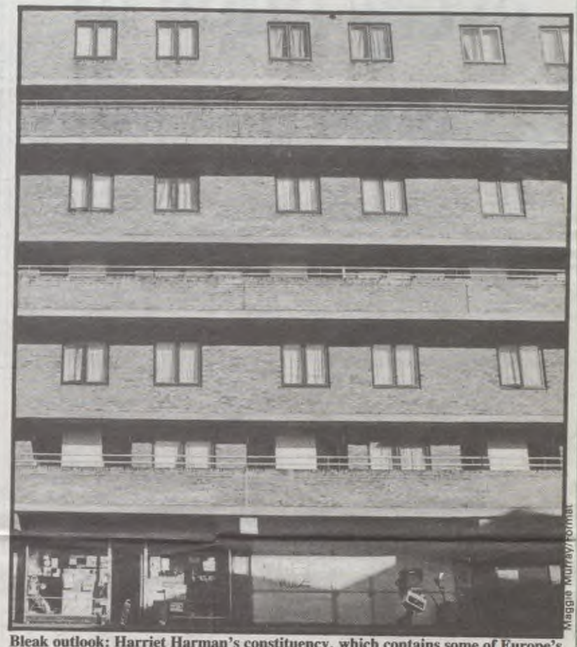
Mrs Cherry Cridge, head of Bessemer Grange junior school, says that children with special needs are "slipping through the net". Colleagues have left teaching "because they foresee that they will not be able to manage schools in the future without adequate teacher resources".

Ms Diane Williamson, a parent at Crampton primary school, says her daughter had four teachers in a year and began refusing to go to school when she felt "she wasn't getting anywhere".

"Some children were on reading level one and some on level six – but the teacher didn't know and there weren't proper records because the teachers weren't there long enough to make them."

A letter from Mr Alan Mackenzie, acting divisional officer for Southwark, to Ms Harman, is included with the case studies. He says that no primary school in the borough has been unaffected by the teacher supply crisis during the past three years.

He says the introduction of minimum cover for absent colleagues, written into the teachers' contract in 1987, has relieved the parental problem of children being sent home. But, "the level of frustration within schools and internal disruption as classes are split and moved around the school, are frequently brought to our attention by headteachers and senior colleagues."



Maggie Murray/Format

Bleak outlook: Harriet Harman's constituency, which contains some of Europe's largest council estates, has been hit by severe teacher shortages

This term there are 50 permanent posts covered by supply teachers and although there is money to pay for more supply staff, they cannot be found.

On a Monday morning when there are possibly 30 absences from the borough's 80 primary schools, the education office has only got eight supply teachers to deploy.

Southwark is hit harder than other areas of the capital says Mr Mackenzie, who is himself leaving the borough to work for Devon County Council. The effort needed to meet the "absolute priority" of recruiting and retaining teachers is putting a "disturbing brake on the development of the service".

News Focus, pages 14 and 15

Sheila Rock/Format

EXPRESS & STAR
51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 3BU
CIRC. 238,179 EVENING
ISSUE DATE 30 DEC 1988

Inquiry call over maternity 'crisis'

Shadow health minister Harriet Harman has called for an inquiry into the "crisis" in maternity care in Britain.

She has written to Health Minister Mr David Mellor drawing attention to the "growing number" of closures of small maternity units.

Miss Harman said in her letter: "Women should have a choice of setting for the delivery of their babies. The closure of these units removes that choice for many women.

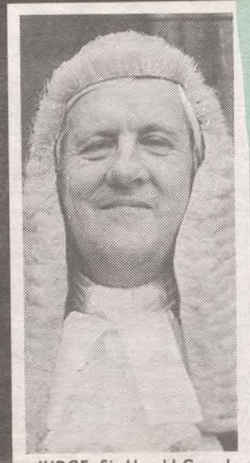
"There is no clear published evidence that this policy constitutes a more efficient use of financial resources, nor are there grounds for closing smaller units on the basis of improving the quality of care."

Meanwhile, Mr Frank Dobson, shadow Leader of the Commons and MP for Holborn and St Pancras, has written to the Prime Minister urging her to intervene to save the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital in Euston Road, London, as the only hospital in Britain which provides treatment for women by women.

He said: "It is now threatened by an invasion of male doctors when it is amalgamated with another hospital, which has men as well as women doctors — so that the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson will no longer provide treatment exclusively by women."

DAILY MIRROR
Holborn Circus, London EC1P 1DQ
ABC CIRC. 3,048,963
ISSUE DATE 30 NOV 1988

FURY AS SEX MONSTER IS FREED



JUDGE: Sir Harold Cassel

A SEX monster walked free from court yesterday after a judge accepted that his wife's pregnancy drove him to indecently assault his 12-year-old stepdaughter.

'Father only attacked girl because his wife was pregnant'

Judge Harold Cassel said that an expectant wife's "lack of sexual appetite" led to "considerable problems for healthy young husbands".

But the 72-year-old judge's comments brought fury from the girl's mother and a storm of protest from child care organisations and MPs.

The mother yelled "You bastard" and punched her husband in the face after he was given two years' probation.

Wreck

She did not give evidence at Knightsbridge Crown Court, London, because of a guilty plea by her 30-year-old husband, a Metropolitan Police officer until a year ago.

Last night she declared: "The judge is off this planet."

By GRAHAM BARNES and BILL AKASS

She said her daughter was now an emotional wreck, unable to sleep at nights, terrified of leaving home and suffering from fits.

"I was having sexual intercourse with my husband throughout my pregnancy," she said.

"Even on the day my son was born we were intimate.

"Within six days after the birth we made love."

The 33-year-old mother denied the judge's claims that her husband had not threatened the girl.

"He used to drop her off at school every morning and ask her if she would comply with his wants that night," she said.

"If she said 'Yes' he would give her a kiss.

"If she refused he would smash her head against the school railing."

The girl only talked about the assaults after her baby brother was born in January.

"She was terrified my husband was going to hurt her little brother as well," said the mother.

The mother left her husband the next day and is now seeking a divorce.

From Page One

The court had heard how he assaulted the girl three times.

The first two — when the girl was 12 and her mother was pregnant — happened in the girl's bedroom.

The third assault occurred when the girl was 13 and after the baby's birth.

It took place in the couple's bed.

Father-of-four Judge Cassel accused the woman of "encouraging" the assaults.

He said that pregnancy was "a time when ladies are naturally not very receptive to their husbands."

But he conceded that he was leaving himself wide open to criticism.

And last night he got it.

Childline director Valerie Howarth said: "We find it an utterly appalling suggestion that when a mother is pregnant a man should be entitled to sexually abuse his stepchildren.

"The judge is giving a licence to others to think this kind of behaviour is acceptable in society."

Childline presenter Esther Rantzen said the mother rang the organisation for help after her daughter complained of the abuse.

Labour MP Harriet Harman said: "This case raises the question of whether or not this man is fit to be a judge."

Turn to Page 2

DOCTOR
13-21 High St, Guildford GU1 3DX
CIRC. 31,285 WEEKLY
ISSUE DATE 3 NOV 1988

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Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, has already pressed demands for a no-fault compensation scheme on Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. But she rejected his pleas out of hand. Now, Labour believes the time is right to force Mrs Thatcher's hand again.

Labour has already held one seminar, on non-clinical improvements to the NHS and spokesmen came away convinced that more could be done within the NHS.

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EVENING POST
Forman Street, Nottingham NG1 4AB
CIRC. 133,190
ISSUE DATE 30 DEC 1988

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Harriet Harman — 'more closures'

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GLASGOW HERALD
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ABC CIRC. 123,720 MORNING
ISSUE DATE 27 DEC 1988

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She said: "I have been ill with pneumonia and it was caused by the psittacosis virus. I am now fine. I have no idea whether I picked it up from a bird or anybody else."

Red moles in DHAs to inform the Opposition

Harriet Harman

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While there is some truth in both accusations, the districts have been willing to pass on the information to anyone who would take it — Labour or Tory. It would be a very serious step, if it is true, for the DoH to instruct the districts to stop supplying information to the 'enemy'.

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DAILY MIRROR
Holborn Circus, London EC1P 1DQ
ABC CIRC. 3,048,963
ISSUE DATE 30 NOV 1988

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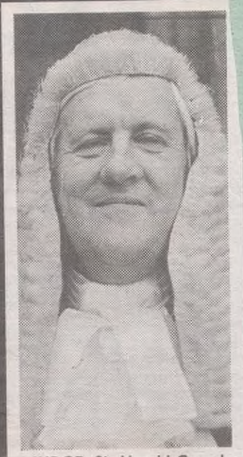

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CIRC. 31,285 WEEKLY
ISSUE DATE 3 NOV 1988

Labour battling on for mishap victims

by Colin Brown

DEMANDS for the Government to introduce the controversial no-fault compensation system are to be intensified by the Labour Party.

The move follows allegations that family practitioner committees are too slow in responding to claims.

Labour's health team, led by Robin Cook, is organising a seminar on compensation schemes. But it already seems certain that the party will come down firmly in favour of a no-fault system.

Harriet Harman, Labour's shadow health minister, said: 'There is plenty of evidence that FPCs take months to adjudicate on the smallest claims. We want that to end.'

The main purpose of the seminar will be to devise ways of bringing a no-fault system into effect. Labour spokesmen favour limiting the scheme to accidents in the health services.

This idea would, for example, exclude claims for accidents at work or on the road.

The aim of the no-fault scheme is to deliver compensation quickly to those who clearly need it and to avoid delays by lengthy legal argument about blame. The snag with the scheme, from the victim's point of view, would be that the settlement would probably be lower than some of the sensational payments recently agreed in the courts.

Labour believes the advantage of obtaining rapid payment of an adequate sum would outweigh the disadvantage of not qualifying for some of the jackpot sums victims have recently won.

It also means that victims of accidents on the operating table or elsewhere in the health service who have failed to establish medical negligence will still be compensated.

Health authorities and the medical profession may oppose the system because it would be more expensive. But the recent large awards by the courts have led to a spiral in insurance cover.

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THE DAILY MAIL
Northcliffe House, London EC4Y 0JA
ABC CIRC. 1,801,317
ISSUE DATE 14 NOV 1988
Daily Mail, Monday, November 14, 1988

A MAIL ENVIRONMENT CAMPAIGN

THE astonishing response to the Daily Mail's poll of MPs on the leaded petrol issue reflects their constituents' views on the menace to children of poisonous fumes.

Question One was: Do you feel that the Government should introduce further tax incentives to encourage motorists to switch over to unleaded petrol?
Yes 365, No 80, Don't Know 8.

Question Two: Do you feel that the standard leaded petrol now most commonly used should eventually be phased out?
Yes 421, No 24, Don't Know 8.

This is the way MPs voted in response to Question One.

How MPs voted over the leaded petrol menace

YES

Diane Abbott (Lab) Hackney N
Allen Adams (Lab) Paisley N
Jonathan Aitken (C) Thanet S
Richard Alexander (C) Newark
Michael Alison (C) Selby
Rupert Allason (C) Torbay
Graham Allen (Lab) Nottingham N
David Alton (L) Liverpool MH
David Amess (C) Basildon
Alan Amos (C) Hexham
Donald Anderson (Lab) Swansea W
James Arbuthnot (C) Wanstead
Peter Archer (Lab) Warley W
Hilary Armstrong (Lab) Durham NW
Tom Arnold (C) Hazel Grove
David Ashby (C) Leics NW
Paddy Ashdown (L) Yeovil
Jack Ashley (Lab) Stoke S
Joe Ashton (Lab) Bassetlaw
Jack Aspinwall (C) Wansdyke
David Atkinson (C) Bournemouth E
Nicholas Baker (C) Dorset N
Robert Banks (C) Harrogate
Rosie Barnes (SDP) Greenwich
Spencer Batiste (C) Elmet
John Battle (Lab) Leeds W
Margaret Beckett (Lab) Derby S
Roy Beggs (UUP) Antrim E
Alan Beith (L) Berwick
Stuart Bell (Lab) Middlesbrough
Henry Bellingham (C) Norfolk NW
Vivian Bendall (C) Ilford N
Nicholas Bennett (C) Pembroke
William Benyon (C) Milton Keynes
Gerald Bermingham (Lab) St Hlns S
David Bevan (C) Birmingham Y
Sydney Bidwell (Lab) Ealing S
Tony Blair (Lab) Sedgefield
Paul Boateng (Lab) Brent S
Sir Richard Body (C) Holland with Boston
Sir Nicholas Bonsor (C) Upminster
Robert Boscawen (C) Somerton & F
Tim Boswell (C) Daventry
Andrew Bowden (C) Brighton K
Gerry Bowden (C) Dulwich
John Bowis (C) Battersea
Roland Boyes (Lab) Houghton & W
Keith Bradley (Lab) Manchester W
Martin Brandon-Bravo (C) N'ham S
Dr Jeremy Bray (Lab) Motherwell S
Michael Brown (C) Brigg & C
Nicholas Brown (Lab) Newcastle E
John Browne (C) Winchester
Ian Bruce (C) Dorset S
Malcolm Bruce (L) Gordon
Norman Buchan (Lab) Paisley S
Alick Buchanan-Smith (C) K'dine
Sir Antony Buck (C) Colchester N
George Buckley (Lab) Hemsworth
Nicholas Budgen (C) W'hmptn SW
Alistair Burt (C) Bury N
Christopher Butler (C) Warr'ton S
Richard Caborn (Lab) Sheffield C
Jim Callaghan (Lab) Heywood & M
Menzies Campbell (L) Fife NE
Ronald Campbell (Lab) Blyth Valley
Dale Campbell-Savours (Lab) Workington
Alex Carlile (L) Montgomery
Matthew Carrington (C) Fulham
Michael Cartiss (C) G. Yarmouth
John Cartwright (SDP) Woolwich
Dr Michael Clark (C) Rochford
Sir William Clark (C) Croydon S
Tom Clarke (Lab) Monklands W
David Clelland (Lab) Tyne Br
Ann Clwyd (Lab) Cynon V
Michael Colvin (C) Romsey & W
Frank Cook (Lab) Stockton N
Simon Coombs (C) Swindon
Patrick Cormack (C) Staff. S
Julian Critchley (C) Aldershot
Stan Crowther (Lab) Rotherham
Bob Cryer (Lab) Bradford S
Lawrence Cunliffe (Lab) Leigh
John Cunningham (Lab) Copeland
David Curry (C) Skipton & R
Tam Dalyell (Lab) Linlithgow
Alistair Darling (Lab) Edinburgh C
Quentin Davies (C) Stamford & S
Ron Davies (Lab) Caerphilly
Terry Davis (Lab) B'ham Hodge Hill
Steven Day (C) Cheadle
Tim Devlin (C) Stockton S
Donald Dewar (Lab) Garscadden
Geoffrey Dickens (C) Littleborough
Frank Doran (Lab) Aberdeen S
Stephen Dorrell (C) Loughborough
Den Dover (C) Chorley
Albert Duffy (Lab) Attercliffe
James Dunnachie (Lab) Glasgow P
Gwyneth Dunwoody (Lab) Crewe
Hugh Dykes (C) Harrow E
Ken Eastham (Lab) Manchester B
David Evans (C) Welwyn & H
John Evans (Lab) St Helens N
Harry Ewing (Lab) Falkirk E
Margaret Ewing (SNP) Moray
Ronald Fearn (L) Southport
Barry Field (C) Isle of Wight
Terry Fields (Lab) L'pool Br
Mark Fisher (Lab) Stoke Central
Paul Flynn (Lab) Newport W
Clifford Forsythe (UUP) Antrim S
Sir Marcus Fox (C) Shipley
Cecil Franks (C) Barrow & F
John Fraser (Lab) Norwood

NO

Tony Baldry (C) Banbury
Dr John Blackburn (C) Dudley W
Sir Peter Blaker (C) Blackpool S
Peter Bottomley (C) Eltham
Julian Brazier (C) Canterbury
Simon Burns (C) Chelmsford
John Butterfill (C) Bournemouth W
Alan Clark (C) Plymouth S
Anthony Coombs (C) Wyre F
James Couchman (C) Gillingham
Denzil Davies (Lab) Llanelli
Frank Dobson (Lab) Holborn & St P
Sir Geoffrey Finsberg (C) Hmpstd
Dr Alan Glyn (C) Windsor & M
John Gorst (C) Hendon N
Thomas Graham (Lab) Renfrew
Harry Greenway (C) Ealing N
Patrick Ground (C) Feltham
Neil Hamilton (C) Tatton
David Heathcoat-Amery (C) Wells
John Heddle (C) Staffs Mid
Maureen Hicks (C) W'hampton NE
Kenneth Hind (C) Lancs W
David Hunt (C) Wirral W
Michael Jack (C) Fylde
Robert Jackson (C) Wantage
Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith (C) Wealden
Ieuan Jones (PC) Ynys Mon
Dame Jill Knight (C) Edgbaston
Edward Leigh (C) Gainsborough
Mark Lennox-Boyd (C) Morecambe
David Lightbown (C) Staffs SE
Peter Lloyd (C) Fareham
Michael Lord (C) Suffolk C
Robert McCrindle (C) Brentwood
Sir Michael McNair-Wilson (C) Newbury
Keith Mans (C) Wyre
Hal Miller (C) Bromsgrove
Andrew Mitchell (C) Gedling
Roger Moate (C) Faversham
Charles Morrison (C) Devizes
Dave Nellist (Lab) Coventry SE
Michael Neubert (C) Romford
Emma Nicholson (C) Devon W&T
Cranley Onslow (C) Woking
Phillip Oppenheim (C) Amber V
James Paice (C) Cambs SE
John Patten (C) Oxford W Abingdon
Elizabeth Peacock (C) Batley & S
Sir Julian Ridsdale (C) Harwich
Wyn Roberts (C) Conwy
William Ross (UUP) Londonderry E
Tom Sackville (C) Bolton W
David Shaw (C) Dover
Sir Michael Shaw (C) Scarborough
Gillian Shephard (C) Norfolk SW
Michael Shersby (C) Uxbridge
Roger Sims (C) Chislehurst
Sir Trevor Skeet (C) Bedfordshire N
Dennis Skinner (Lab) Bolsover
Tim Smith (C) Beaconsfield
Keith Speed (C) Ashford
Tony Speller (C) Devon N
Jim Spicer (C) Dorset W
Michael Stern (C) Bristol NW
Andrew Stewart (C) Sherwood
John Stokes (C) Halesowen & S
David Sumberg (C) Bury S
Teddy Taylor (C) Southend E
Peter Thurnham (C) Bolton NE
Neville Trotter (C) Tynemouth
George Walden (C) Buckingham
Dennis Walters (C) Westbury
Ann Winterton (C) Congleton
Nicholas Winterton (C) Macclesfield
Mark Wolfson (C) Sevenoaks
Timothy Wood (C) Stevenage
Mike Woodcock (C) Ellesmere P&N
Tim Yeo (C) Suffolk S
Sir George Young (C) Ealing A

DON'T KNOW

Harry Barnes (Lab) Derbyshire NE
John Cummings (Lab) Easington
Christopher Gill (C) Ludlow
Alastair Goodlad (C) Eddisbury
Bruce Grocott (Lab) The Wrekin
Terence Higgins (C) Worthing
Tim Janman (C) Thurrock
John Lee (C) Pendle

Maria Fyfe (Lab) Glasgow Maryhill
Sam Galbraith (Lab) Strathkelvin
Roger Gale (C) Thanet N
George Galloway (Lab) Hillhead
George Gardiner (C) Reigate
John Garrett (Lab) Norwich S
Ted Garrett (Lab) Wallsend
Dr John Gilbert (Lab) Dudley E
Sir Ian Gilmour (C) Chesham & A
Dr Norman Godman (Lab) Greenock
Llin Golding (Lab) N'castle-u-Lyme
Sir Philip Goodhart (C) Beckenham
Teresa Gorman (C) Billericay
Bryan Gould (Lab) Dagenham
Ian Gow (C) Eastbourne

YES: Bryan Gould

Sir Raymond Gower (C) Vale of Glamorgan
Sir Anthony Grant (C) Cambs SW
Bernie Grant (Lab) Tottenham
John Greenway (C) Rydale
Conal Gregory (C) York
Nigel Griffiths (Lab) Edinburgh S
Peter Griffiths (C) Portsmouth N
Wyn Griffiths (Lab) Bridgend
Michael Grylls (C) Surrey NW
Archie Hamilton (C) Epsom & E
Dr Keith Hampson (C) Leeds NW
Jeremy Hanley (C) Richmond & B
John Hannam (C) Exeter
Peter Hardy (Lab) Wentworth
Andrew Hargreaves (C) B'ham HG
Ken Hargreaves (C) Hyndburn
Harriet Harman (Lab) Peckham
David Harris (C) St Ives
Alan Haselhurst (C) Saffron Walden
Roy Hattersley (Lab) Sparkbrook
Christopher Hawkins (C) High Peak
Jerry Hayes (C) Harlow
Frank Haynes (Lab) Ashfield
Robert Hayward (C) Kingswood
Eric Heffer (Lab) Liverpol Walton
Douglas Henderson (Lab) Newcastle
Michael Heseltine (C) Henley
Robert Hicks (C) Cornwall SE
James Hill (C) Southampton T
David Hinchliffe (Lab) Wakefield
Norman Hogg (Lab) Cumbernauld
Stuart Holland (Lab) Vauxhall
Jimmy Hood (Lab) Clydesdale
Sir Peter Hordern (C) Horsham
George Howarth (Lab) Knowsley N
Geral Howarth (C) Cannock & B
David Howell (C) Guildford
Denis Howell (Lab) Small Heath
Geraint Howells (L) Ceredigion
Doug Hoyle (Lab) Warrington N
John Hughes (Lab) Coventry NE
Robert Hughes (Lab) Aberdeen N
Robert G. Hughes (C) Harrow W
Roy Hughes (Lab) Newport E
Sean Hughes (Lab) Knowsley S
Simon Hughes (L) Southwark & B
John Hume (SDLP) Foyle
John Hunt (C) Ravensbourne
Eric Illsley (Lab) Barnsley C
Adam Ingram (Lab) East Kilbride
Michael Irvine (C) Ipswich
Charles Irving (C) Cheltenham
Greville Janner (Lab) Leicester W
Toby Jessel (C) Twickenham
Brynmor John (Lab) Pontypridd
Sir Russell Johnston (L) Inverness
Barry Jones (Lab) Alyn & D
Martyn Jones (Lab) Clwyd SW
Robert B Jones (C) Hertfordshire W
Elaine Kellett-Bowman (C) Lancstr
Charles Kennedy (SDP) Ross, C&S
Robert Key (C) Salisbury
James Kilfedder (Pop U) Down N
Roger King (C) Birmingham N'field
Timothy Kirkhope (C) Leeds NE
Archie Kirkwood (L) Roxburgh & B
Roger Knapman (C) Stroud
David Knox (C) Staffs Moorlands
David Lambie (Lab) Cunn'hame S
James Lamond (Lab) Oldham C&R
Michael Latham (C) Rutland
Ivan Lawrence (C) Burton
Ted Leadbitter (Lab) Hartlepool
Ron Leighton (Lab) Newham NE
Jim Lestor (C) Broxtowe
Joan Lestor (Lab) Eccles
Terry Lewis (Lab) Worsley
Robert Litherland (Lab) M'chester C
Ken Livingstone (Lab) Brent E
Richard Livsey (L) Brecon & R
Sir Ian Lloyd (C) Havant
Tony Lloyd (Lab) Stretford
Geoffrey Lofthouse (Lab) Pontefract
Eddie Loyden (Lab) Liverpool G
John McAllion (Lab) Dundee E
Thomas McAvoy (La/Co) Rutherglen
Ian McCartney (Lab) Makerfield
Robert McCrea (DUP) Ulster Mid
Harold McCusker (UUP) Upper Bann
John McFall (La/Co) Dumbarton
Edward McGrady (SDLP) Down S
Allen McKay (Lab) Barnsley W&P
William McKelvey (Lab) Kil'nock
David Maclean (C) Penrith & B
HB McLeish (Lab) Fife C
Patrick McLoughlin (C) W Derbys
Patrick McNair-Wilson (C) New Forest
Kevin McNamara (Lab) Kingston-upon-Hull N
Robert McTaggart (Lab) Glasgow C
Max Madden (Lab) Bradford W
David Madel (C) Beds SW
Ken Maginnis (UUP) Fermanagh
Alice Mahon (Lab) Halifax
Humfrey Malins (C) Croydon NW
Seamus Mallon (SDLP) Newry & A
John Maples (C) Lewisham W
Dr John Marek (Lab) Wrexham
Paul Marland (C) Gloucs W
Tony Marlow (C) Northampton N
David Marshall (Lab) Shettleston
Jim Marshall (Lab) Leicester S

YES: Humfrey Malins

John Marshall (C) Hendon S
Michael Marshall (C) Arundel
Michael Martin (Lab) Glasgow Spr
Eric Martlew (Lab) Carlisle
John Maxton (Lab) Glasgow Cath
Robin Maxwell-Hyslop (C) Tiverton
Alan Meale (Lab) Mansfield
Sir Anthony Meyer (C) Clwyd NW
Alun Michael (Lab) Cardiff S&P
Bill Michie (Lab) Sheffield Heeley
Ray Michie (L) Argyll & B
Iain Mills (C) Meriden
Norman Miscampbell (C) Bl'pool N
Austin Mitchell (Lab) Gt Grimsby
David Mitchell (C) Hants NW
James Molyneaux (UUP) Lagan V
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Sir Fergus Montgomery (C) Alt'ham
Dr Lewis Moonie (La/Co) Kirkcaldy
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Alfred Morris (Lab) M'chester Wy
John Morris (Lab) Aberavon
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Marjorie Mowlam (Lab) Redcar
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WOMAN'S JOURNAL
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BEDTIME STORIES

PHOTOGRAPH/JOHN SWANNELL.
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NIGHTDRESS/DICKINS & JONES

What exactly is a good night's sleep? And is it really so good for you? Valued as a cure for all kinds of ailments, from emotional stress to physical illness, proper sleep can also be maddeningly elusive. Anne Britton sheds some light on the facts and fiction told after dark

Myth One
everyone needs at least eight hours' sleep a night

The average amount of time spent asleep varies from seven to nine hours per night according to various studies among adults. Only a tiny proportion said they slept less than four hours or more than 10. And there does seem to be a surprising connection between length of sleep and mortality rates. A huge study conducted in the Sixties in the United States, involving over one million people, indicated that mortality rate was lowest among those who slept between seven and eight hours a night, yet was one and a half to two times higher among the 10-hour brigade, and two and a half times higher among the extremely short-term sleepers (less than four hours). The mortality rate among frequent users of sleeping pills was double that of people who didn't take any medication.

Yet research carried out at Loughborough University by leading sleep researcher Dr Jim Horne has shown that normal seven to eight-hour sleepers can successfully adapt to one and a half to two hours' less sleep daily with no impairment of mental or physical ability. Feeling sleepy first thing in the morning does not necessarily indicate insufficient sleep. Jim Horne points out that allowing people two extra hours can still produce feelings of tiredness on waking; some of us, he concludes, need an hour or so to get going, the same kind of routine that's needed, in reverse, between wakefulness and sleep. It's also perfectly healthy to split periods of sleep into two, if it suits you. In the Mediterranean, for example, it's quite

normal for sleep to be divided into a two-hour siesta at midday, followed by a four or six-hour period of sleep which may not begin until the early hours.

The myth that eight hours equals perfection is debunked even further when you consider successful minimal sleepers. Margaret Thatcher, for instance, needs only four hours, Anita Roddick of Body Shop fame thrives on five hours, while, incredibly, Harriet Harman, Labour MP and spokesperson for health, expertly juggles her parliamentary and family duties on a mere three hours a night.

It is actually possible, by gradually cutting down on the hours spent asleep, for healthy human beings to train themselves to do with less sleep, with no ill effects whatsoever.

Myth Two

lost sleep needs to be made up

It used to be thought that the body needed sleep in order to restore and repair the cells. But recent research from Loughborough seems to disprove this theory.

The key stimulus to body restitution is the absorption of amino acids through the gut after eating, argues Jim Horne. Sleep is a fasting state; the body is more likely to repair itself during times of relaxed wakefulness. What is known is that some sleep is needed by the brain to repair the effects of waking wear and tear on the cerebral cortex. However, the amount needed may not be very much at all. Studies with volunteers at sleep laboratories have shown that, when deprived, subjects only made up one third of their lost hours when the experiments were over. Randy Gardner, a 17-year-old American college student who holds the world record for going without sleep, needed only 14 hours, 40 minutes to recover from an amazing 264 hours and 12 minutes of wakefulness! The reason why we 'sleep in' at weekends is not so much because we need the extra rest, but simply because the opportunity is there—and we enjoy it.

Myth Three

sufferers of insomnia lie awake all night

The perceived quality of sleep is very much a subjective impression. Insomnia is, in fact, one of the few human disorders that can only be self-diagnosed. However, it's interesting and content with the amount of rest they had had. One hypothesis suggests that some insomniacs' body functions remain activated after they have fallen asleep—so they don't experience it as sleep, but as wakefulness. Most people go through transient periods of sleep disorders from time to time. They are more common among women than men, and become more frequent with age.

The most commonly reported sleep disorders are difficulty in falling asleep, waking frequently during the night, and waking up too early in the morning. However, there is absolutely no medical evidence whatsoever that sleep disorders will have a bad effect on general physical health. What usually happens is a kind of self-fulfilling prophecy—having experienced one or two bad nights, the non-sleeper then begins to dread going to bed and not sleeping. This vicious circle of anxiety and sleeplessness often leads to the doctor's surgery for sleeping tablets, which in themselves can lead to much more complicated problems. Sleep deprivation can, on the other hand, be used positively to correct poor sleeping patterns.

Myth Four

feeling tired during the day means lack of the right kind of sleep

Not true: tiredness and lethargy can be due to a great many factors such as inactivity, boredom, stress and depression. Stimulants such as nicotine, alcohol, coffee and tea, as well as poor eating habits, can lead to low blood sugar levels, producing a characteristic feeling of exhaustion. The weather plays a part too: very low or very high barometric pressure can induce feelings of sleepiness (a factor well worth considering in a climate as variable as ours).

It used to be thought that there was a special kind of sleep that was vital for physical and mental health. This type of sleep occurs as part of the sleep cycle and is known as Rapid Eye Movement (REM) sleep, which is characterised by blinking, twitching movements. When deprived of this part of the cycle, it used to be said, the body needed to restore it, because it was vital 'dream' sleep. However, more research at Loughborough and in other sleep laboratories has shown that REM sleep is not the only dream sleep: it occurs at other times as well.

Studies are more concerned with a particular type of sleep which has been called SWS—Slow Wave Sleep—characterised by long, slow delta brain waves. Jim Horne prefers to divide sleep into two types—Core Sleep, which consists of the first few hours of sleep, plus Deep Sleep and some REM sleep. This is the part that is needed for the brain. Another type of sleep, Optional Sleep, fills in the time and is easily modified. aspects of general physiology. Both can be changed—but over a period of time. Altering a circadian rhythm can actually benefit people who have difficulty getting off to sleep. The secret here is not to go to bed earlier, but later. Dr Elliot Wertzman of the Montefiore Hospital in New York has successfully treated insomniac patients this way. A patient who could never get to sleep before 4am was advised to put bedtime further and further forward over a period of seven days. Respectively, bedtimes were 5am, 8am, 11am, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm, 11pm. He was allowed to sleep eight hours each time during the treatment period. At 11pm, he stopped—and has now permanently stabilised his 'dropping off' time.

Dr Jim Horne has also advised that deliberate sleep deprivation can be a useful therapy for insomniacs. People who are 'owls'—those who are grumpy and sleepy in the morning, but the life and soul of the party in the evening—seem to have more adaptable circadian rhythms than 'larks'. No one knows if these morning or evening personalities are inherited or have adapted. Owls tend to become larks with age, whereas larks may become more flexible about their sleep/awake cycles.

Myth Six

dreaming is vital for good health

Despite a great deal of psychiatric research into the subject of dreams, no one has been able to prove that the mind needs them for good health. What is known is that dreams occur in all stages of sleep, not just REM or SWS sleep, so it is unlikely that anyone could suffer from dream-sleep deprivation. Dietrich Lehmann and Marta Koukkou of the University of Zurich suggest that in sleep we combine ideas and ways of thinking that have originated in childhood with information we have acquired more recently. Dreams are therefore considered to be a reinterpretation of the data stored in the brain's memory bank. Other theories have suggested that we dream in order to forget—a kind of clean-up mechanism in the brain to eliminate useless information and keep the nervous system functioning efficiently. Dr Jim Horne has described dreaming as 'the cinema of the mind': an entertainment that keeps the sleeping brain occupied.

Myth Seven

catnaps are helpful for troubled sleepers

Although it has been documented that eminent figures such as Winston Churchill conserved and maintained their energy with a regular daytime 40 winks, there is no evidence that taking a nap in the middle of

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GUINNESS PUBLISHING

UTURE

rait – we put names to the faces and give their views on clothes for House work ▷

Front row, left to right: Jo Richardson, Dame Peggy Fenner, Janet Fookes, Dame Jill Knight, Margaret Thatcher, Joan Lestor, Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman, Betty Boothroyd, Lynda Chalker.
Middle row, left to right: Ann Widdecombe, Ann Clwyd, Gwyneth Dunwoody, Ann Taylor, Angela Rumbold, Elizabeth Peacock, Marion Roe, Margaret Ewing, Dr Marjorie Mowlam, Mildred Gordon, Llin Golding, Gillian Shephard, Clare Short.
Back row, left to right: Margaret Beckett, Edwina Currie, Teresa Gorman, Joan Ruddock, Joan Walley, Ann Winterton, Virginia Bottomley, Emma Nicholson, Diane Abbott, Rosie Barnes

Edwina Currie
Conservative MP for Derbyshire South, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Dept of Health
Born: October 13, 1946
Married
Outfit: 'I think this blue suit was from Richard Shops in Burton upon Trent. I buy most of my clothes in the Christmas sales, particularly in Rackham's in Birmingham.'

Teresa Gorman
Conservative MP for Billericay
Born: September 1941
Married
Outfit: 'The jacket and skirt are Cache d'Or and the blouse is probably from M&S. I think that MPs should look smart and neat. It's quite common for male MPs to notice what we're wearing, probably because there are so few of us, and they're very complimentary. When I want a speaking spot in the Commons, I try to wear something bright – I love bright colours – stunning saffron yellow or brilliant pink stripes – because it catches the Speaker's eye. I'm almost convinced that the Speaker notices a spot of colour, like a little humming-bird. I seem to have been lucky when I've leapt up on the benches at the same time as everyone else. I love sewing and I get a kick out of something I've thrown together, especially evening outfits. Rather than spend £400, I go to a fabric shop, buy some curtain material and knock something up which people say is "utterly ravishing".'

Joan Ruddock
Labour MP for Lewisham, Deptford
Born: December 28, 1943
Married
Outfit: 'I never discuss my clothes because what I'm wearing is irrelevant. I don't recall what I was wearing on that day. It's obvious I'm interested in clothes but it detracts from the politics.'

Joan Walley
Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent North
Born: January 23, 1949
Married
Outfit: 'Silk.'

Four Labour faces – (from top) Dawn Primarolo, Harriet Harman, Alice Mahon, Audrey Wise – complete the roll call of women MPs

Ann Winterton
Conservative MP for Congleton
Born: March 6, 1941
Married
Outfit: 'It's my standard black suit, Windsmoor, which I bought at the Army & Navy store last autumn. I bought the jacket first for a wedding last November and, ever practical, bought the skirt later.'
Virginia Bottomley
Conservative MP for Surrey South West, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Dept of Environment
Born: March 12, 1948
Married
Outfit: 'No idea. Moderately interested in clothes.'
Emma Nicholson
Conservative MP for Devon West and Torridge
Born: October 16, 1941
Married
Outfit: 'My dark navy serge quality Jaeger suit, very plain jacket and it has two skirts, one flared and high waisted, one box. It's very like a school uniform. I bought it from Number Five, the best local shop, opposite the Conservative Club in Bideford.'
Diane Abbott
Labour MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington
Born: September 27, 1953
Single
Outfit: 'Suit made by one of my favourite designers, Jenny Fletcher-Simms, a black haute couture designer based in Hackney. The scarf was picked up on a shopping trip. The pearls are one of my favourite pieces of jewellery.'
Rosie Barnes
SDP MP for Greenwich, Party Spokesperson on Health and Education
Born: May 16, 1946
Married
Outfit: 'Not special for the occasion. An inexpensive skirt and blouse from M&S. For more formal occasions I treat myself to posh suits. The pendant is one my husband gave me at Christmas several years ago and it's one of my favourites.'

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