Cabinet split on how to cut the oil cash cake

Ministers have failed to agree on how Britain's new oil wealth should be spent.

A White Paper to be published before Easter will merely list options without giving specific decisions. The options include investment in industry, energy savings, tax cuts and better use of the social services.

The lack of definite commitment probably stems from division of opinion within the Cabinet.

The Energy Secretary, Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, is known to favour greater Government intervention in industry, while the Chancellor, Mr. Denis Healey, is more cautious.

The two men prepared a joint paper which began overnightnv Cabinet debate but the result appears to be that Ministers are no further forward.

Another reason for the non-committal of the White Paper may be the growing fear among Ministers that their hopes of a big give-away Budget, backed by North Sea oil in what is likely to be an election year, are proving unrealistic.

It is generally accepted that North Sea oil this year and next will provide Britain with only a little more than expected for the balance of payments, and less tax revenue as well.

This setback, plus growing fears about world trade, may have lead the Cabinet to avoid producing a White Paper promising specific "bites of the cake" when there may not be as big as once hoped.

But the Chancellor should be able to cut tax by up to £2,000 million in his April budget, probably by raising personal allowances and giving more than £1 a week to standard rate taxpayers.

Angry Tories condemn bishops on immigration

By PETER GAVAN

Attacks by two Church of England bishops on Mrs. Margaret Thatcher's immigration remarks brought the wrath of her supporters upon their heads last night.

Mr. Norman Tebbit, the Conservative MP for Chingford and one of Mrs. Thatcher's closest aides, said: "I am surprised that anyone should regard the issue of immigration as being one that may be treated as too important for people to discuss in public.

The attitude of the bishops is reminiscent of the attitude of the Church in the past that sex was too important and too emotional to be discussed in public. They will be proved wrong again."

Dr. Rhodes Boyson, a Shadow Education spokesman, told party workers in his North Brent constituency: "The attacks compare very unfavourably with the almost total silence of the Church in defence of the Lebanese Christians fighting for their lives against the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Syrians."

On Saturday, the Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt. Rev. Kenneth Skelton, told his diocesan synod that he did not welcome Mrs. Thatcher's comments.

"It could not have been said if we had been doing our job as Christian communicators," he said. "If fantasies and lies and hatred are being sedulously spread by others, cannot we as sedulously spread truth and charity?"

He warned of the dangers of recruitment of the young to the National Front. "The National Front is now seeking to enlist the young and it is the young who can have no memories of what happened in Germany in the 1930s.

'Dangerous game'

"Many of us have, but we must just not remember those events with distaste, but with a realisation that they happened because Christian witness to truth and charity was weak, dishonorous and ineffective."

The Bishop of Ripon, the Rt. Rev. David Young, warned politicians: "You are playing a dangerous game. You are fostering emotions and feelings of prejudice, fear and hatred which can only be destructive to our society."

He wanted to hear politicians and people talking about the central issue, living together in a multi-racial society.

The appearance on the political field by the two bishops, while irritating Conservatives, will be welcomed by Cabinet Ministers who mounted an orchestrated campaign over the weekend against Mrs. Thatcher.

Mr. Roy Hattersley, the Prices Secretary, addressing a Muslim festival in Birmingham, accused Conservatives of playing the "race relations numbers game."

He said that increasingly Britain's black population was composed of people brought up in this country. There could be no debate about whether they should go home. "They are home already."

He added: "They need adequate resources concentrated on the needs of the inner cities where so many of them live. They need the implementation of our plans for positive discrimination in favour of the less well endowed schools.

"They need organisations and individuals working on their behalf as they struggle with the bureaucracy in their attempts to be reunited with their wives and families. They need our conscious support in their daily working lives, in our pubs and in our clubs."

Mr. David Ennals, the Social Services Secretary, speaking in Woking, said: "Whatever Mrs. Thatcher may say, she has given aid and comfort to the National Front. Her utterances have given a push to division and conflict, as opposed to integration and harmony."

And Mr. Joel Barnett, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said in Rochdale: "We now know that many of the decent civilised elements in our society, fought for over much of the last century, would be in serious jeopardy if this country were ever to have the misfortune of seeing her as Prime Minister."

Code breach

Any government wanting to cut back hard on immigration from the New Commonwealth and Pakistan could not do so without putting Britain in breach of a European human rights code, according to the findings of the Runnymede Trust.

It is not possible to end or substantially reduce the flow "without curtailing the rights of families to be united and of young British citizens to marry whom they please," the independent organisation says in a paper published yesterday.

"Any attempt to limit them in law would, apart from the obvious humanitarian considerations, put Britain in breach of Article 8 and possibly Article 12 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms.

Israel refuses to stop Jewish settlement in Arab territory

The Israeli Government shied away yesterday from calling a halt to Jewish settlement in occupied Arab territory.

It said that it would carry on as before, but informed sources in Jerusalem said that the decision — or lack of it — appeared to be paving the way for an eventual climbdown.

This issue has earned Israel strong hostility abroad and has proved a major obstacle in peace negotiations with Egypt.

A decision to freeze new settlement had been widely expected from yesterday's Cabinet meeting. It was the second session within a week devoted largely to the question.

The case for no new settlement was reported to have been strongly urged by the Defence Minister, Mr. Ezer Weizman. But a communique after the meeting said simply: "The Cabinet had a discussion concerning political questions and the question of settlements. The Cabinet decided it does not need any new decisions concerning these two items."

The political questions referred to the new Egyptian proposals brought from Cairo by the U.S special envoy, Mr. Alfred Atherton, on formulating the elusive declaration of principles on a Middle East peace agreement.

The Cabinet spokesman Mr. Arye Naor, said that the Government statement meant that Israel would pursue its policy of setting up new settlements on the West Bank of the Jordan.

But he said that settlements would be limited to the three already planned and they would be established inside existing army camps.

In Sinai, too, it appeared that the Government would stick to its policy of expanding existing settlements, but would not start new ones.

Fighting

The American view that Jewish settlement in Arab territory is illegal, and an obstacle to peace, is shared by Dr. David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, who arrived in Jerusalem yesterday for talks with Israeli leaders.

Dr. Owen said at Tel Aviv airport, that without the participation of King Hussein of Jordan in the present talks there could be no development on the subject of peace in the Middle East, nor negotiations about the future of the West Bank. — Reuter.

2m are jobless, says Scargill

Mr. Arthur Scargill, the militant leader of the Yorkshire miners, yesterday claimed that Britain's unemployment figure is two million, not 1.5 million.

Speaking at the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs weekend school in Scarborough, he said it was costing £72 per person a week for everyone out of work. "How can any nation justify that?"

Mr. Scargill said that while 1.5 million signed on unemployed, two million were actually seeking work and, he said: "This represents a most backward looking society."

He attacked what he described as the hypocrisy of trade union leaders like Jack Jones, and said: "I is sad that he should have been one of the architects of the social contract, because those who supported it would never have accepted it under a Tory Government.

"I object in the strongest possible way to being used as a political pawn to sustain a Labour Government, particularly when it is advocating Tory policies," he said.

"With the approval of the TUC, every working man and woman has had living standards reduced by 25 per cent — in some cases 30 per cent — in the last three years," he said.

"The way ahead is very simple. Either fight for free collective bargaining or accept State intervention for perpetuity," he added.

Trade union leaders should be questioning the morality of massive increases in company profits, said Mr. Scargill.

Varley faces steel wrath

Birmingham Post Political Staff

Mr. Eric Varley, the Industry Secretary, faces hostile questioning in the Commons today about British Steel, amid reports that the industry's financial crisis is worsening.

MPs from both major parties will cross-examine Mr. Varley in the light of the Select Committee report which caused him and Sir Charles Villiers, the British Steel Chairman, of acting too late in concealing the facts about the industry.

Mr. Varley can expect to be asked to confirm that the Corporation will still make losses of up to £300 million in 1978-79, despite manning reductions and plant closures.

If these reports are correct, the losses, coming on top of this year's £500 million, will increase the pressure on the Government to take swift and drastic action even if it is an election year.

Mr. Varley, who has made clear he will not resign, will defend himself, his colleagues and Sir Charles against the criticisms in the committee report.

He will repeat that the Government's statement on the future of the industry will be made before Easter. Then the Commons can debate it besides the Select Committee report.

IN BRIEF

Stamp of life for the dodo

The dodo meets its second sticky end in April — on a stamp to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Coronation.

Twenty countries will join to produce strips of three stamps each with a Peter Grugeon portrait of the Queen in the middle.

The stamp to the left of it depicts a Royal beast, and the one to the right a local beast, in the case of Mauritius, the dodo, both in heraldic form.

The beasts and mantling are shown in simulated stonework and the stone carvings of the Royal beasts, on which the designs are based, are at Windsor, Hampton Court and Kew.

The stamps are being produced in sheets of six, with two strips of three stamps separated by a gutter featuring a line drawing of the gold coach and horses in the Coronation procession.

Notes on the origin of the Royal beast and brief facts on the local one are included.

Mrs. Mills dies

Mrs. Mills — the 15-stone wizard of the piano — died on Saturday at a Bucks nursing home. She was 55 and had been ill for several months.

She became an overnight star at the age of 40, but continually tried to avoid a life of stardom and for several years ran a public house near Loughborough, Leics.

Ghandi victory

Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister of India in her first electoral test since she was ousted in general elections almost a year ago, yesterday seemed assured of victory at the polls in the state of Karnataka.

Her wing of the divided Congress Party had captured 22 seats from the first 36 results declared for the 224-seat state assembly, with the other 14 going to India's ruling Janata Party. — Reuter.

Back to work

Work will resume at the two Triumph car plants at Speke, Liverpool, today — for the first time in 17 weeks. On Friday workers called off the strike, estimated to have cost Leyland more than £100 million.

Hikers perish

Eight Swedish hikers died when they were caught in a severe snowstorm in mountains near the Norwegian border. The sole survivor said emergency radio calls failed to bring help to the stranded hikers in time.

Doctor charged

Dr. Mario Jascalevich, an Argentinian, faces trial in Hackensack, New Jersey today charged with murdering five people a dozen years ago by injection with lethal doses of curare, a muscle relaxant.

Birthday visit

The Queen took advantage of a weekend in Scotland to pay birthday visits on her two younger sons at Gordonstoun school. Prince Andrew was 18 last weekend and Prince Edward is 14 on March 10.

Warbler worry

One of Britain's rarest birds, the Dartford Warbler faces extinction after recent arctic weather. Only 12 pairs survived the last big freeze in 1962, since when, numbers rose to about 560 pairs.

Pub kidnap

The Mountainview Tavern in Belfast's loyalist Shankill Road was destroyed by a bomb early yesterday, shortly after the manager had been kidnapped by an armed gang. He was later pushed out of a van unharmed.

Troops defused a bomb at the Lake Glen Hotel in Andersonstown, after it was found hanging on a meat hook beside an emergency exit. The Provisional I R A has denied responsibility for both incidents.

China's aim

China aims to reach the front rank of world powers by the end of the century, Mr. Hua Kuo-Feng, the Premier and Communist Party chairman, said yesterday.

But he told 3,456 deputies to the country's first Parliament in Peking for three years that China "will never seek hegemony or strive to be a superpower." — Reuter.

Short change

After the coffee shortage and the tea shortage, Britain now has another famine ... a serious shortage of 50p pieces.

There are more than 340 million in circulation, but shops, banks and post offices report a scarcity. The Federation of Sub-Postmasters said the postage is causing "concern and inconvenience" to members.

Genocide fear

The Conservative MP Mr. Julian Amery, who has been in Somalia with his colleague, Mr. Winston Churchill, since Friday, said yesterday that any Somali retreat in the face of the Ethiopian counter-offensive would "invite genocide in the area."

Dr. Hugh Montefiore, the new Bishop of Birmingham who officially takes up his duties next Saturday, was busy settling in at his new residence, Bishop's Croft, Harborne, at the weekend.

£50,000 Bond

The weekly £50,000 Premium Bond prize was won by Bond number 6QS 943222.

The winner lives in Derbyshire. £1,000 winners were:

7BN	739117	8QZ	439059
DZ	311839	11BN	868844
6DS	711743	3SS	736327
13HZ	736498	8SL	138565
2JL	038983	7L	311641
7JL	969188	7TZ	431545
9KK	397139	11VN	989968
9KL	115495	4WZ	246074
16KS	387581	14WZ	299181
7LN	415869	2YB	431183
10PZ	840043	14ZT	867977
11PP	118402	15ZF	788878
11PL	863637		

Poisonous gas cloud kills six

Six people died when poisonous chlorine gas escaped from a derailed goods train in Florida.

Thirty-four others are in hospital after the accident forced the evacuation yesterday of an area north of Panama City, a Gulf of Mexico resort.

The greenish-yellow gas drifted slowly southward, dissipating slightly as morning fog lifted.

Five of the dead were found near a swamp into which several tanker wagons fell.

Some of the victims were rescue workers, including a sheriff's deputy whose air supply tank ran out. Others were motorists unaware of the danger.

Meanwhile, in Waverly, Tennessee, experts successfully pumped 20,000 gallons of propane gas from a derailed tanker wagon at the weekend to avert a major explosion similar to the one which killed nine people and severely burned more than 50 others on Friday.

Some 2,000 residents, a third of Waverly's population, were evacuated before transfer work began.

An explosion at a proposed petrochemical development in Fife, Scotland, would be 10,000 times greater than the blast on Friday at Waverly, opponents of the scheme claimed yesterday.

The Aberdour and Dalgety Bay Action Group, which is fighting Shell/Esso's £400 million Scottish development, hopes to send a technical representative to Waverly today to study the blast.

Deportee wants to return to Britain

Tam Kwai-Yuk, aged 18, deported from Britain on Friday after being refused a permanent resident visa, arrived back in Hong Kong yesterday and said she would apply to return to England.

Miss Tam came to Britain last December to live with her brother Paul in Scarborough. He said he was appalled by her living conditions in Hong Kong.

At a brief Press conference on arrival at Hong Kong airport she said: "I have no idea what I'm going to do in Hong Kong. I want to go back to England. I think I will re-apply for a British visa."

Miss Tam, a former factory worker, refused to talk about allegations that she had been mistreated by her stepmother and stepbrothers in Hong Kong.

"I don't want to talk about things in the past. I hope they won't affect my future," she said.

Miss Tam was met at the airport by two social welfare department officials and a number of relatives. "Of course I would like the deportee to come home. But my main aim is to go back to England," she said.

She drove away from the airport with her brother's mother-in-law. Her brother-in-law, Mr. Ng Wai-Chung, said he was also willing to take her in if she had no where else to go. — Reuter.

Days of crisis that inspired the EEC

Desperate attempts to make Britain and France one nation after the German victory in the spring of 1940 are recalled in a book published today by written by one of the authors of the plan.

Mr. Jean Monnet, the French statesman, tells how, Churchill and de Gaulle battled to evacuate the French Government and a large part of its armed forces to Africa to continue the struggle.

The process could have changed the course of the war, says M. Monnet, who later became one of the founders of the Common Market.

When Germany over-ran Northern France and took Paris, urgent negotiations began between Whitehall and the refugee French Government in Bordeaux.

De Gaulle read out by telephone to M. Paul Reynaud's Government a message saying that the "Governments of the United Kingdom and the French Republic make this declaration of indissoluble union . . . that they shall no longer be two nations, but one Franco-British Union."

But Reynaud resigned and the defeatists in Bordeaux won the day. Monnet became one of the heads of the war and Petain ruled in France.

Memoirs, by Jean Monnet, Collins, £13.

Woo voters plan

Mr. Peter Walker, MP for Worcester, spelt out yesterday a six-point programme for the Conservatives to woo traditional Labour voters at the next General Election.

In a message to his constituents, the former Cabinet Minister said that his programme would also help the nation.

It comprised: a new deal for living council house tenants to buy their homes a Conservative taxation policy to restore incentive to work harder and longer or to save, and to encourage earnings and savings in a radical way; a tax credit system.

Bringing the police force fully up to establishment; positive measures to eliminate teenage unemployment and prevent a new generation of criminals; and by recognising the dangers of disarmament, spell out the urgent action to be taken.

Peter Brookes, aged 17, of Davyhulme, Manchester, is carried to an ambulance after a dart hit him between the eyes as he watched the Liverpool - Manchester United clash at Anfield. The dart was removed in hospital, and as Peter was allowed home, police were hunting the culprit.

It was one of several incidents during another weekend of soccer stupidity which led Mr. Ted Croker, the F A Secretary to call on magistrates to "hammer" rowdies.

At Upton Park a spectator jumped the barriers and pushed Malcolm Macdonald after he had scored Arsenal's second goal against West Ham.

It is the second time this season a player has been attacked at West Ham. The first occasion involved Manchester City's Willie Donachie — but luckily for the club, referee Ron Crabb did not see the latest incident.

Croker confirmed that the Hammers would not face action purely on the strength of newspaper reports. "We would have to have the facts corroborated," he said.

Hammer the rowdies, Croker tells courts

"If the spectator concerned was arrested we will wait and see what action the courts take against him. These incidents happen, yet when the people concerned go to court they look pleasant enough, and by that time they probably are, and get let off," he added.

"Instead, they should be hammered. I am sure soccer's problems would ease if we saw stronger action by the courts."

NUT ex-president reveals Left plot

Mr. Max Morris, a past president of the National Union of Teachers, claimed yesterday that two Left-wing factions were making a joint attempt to win six key seats on the union executive.

Mr. Morris said evidence published in the official journals of two Trotskyite groups, Rank and File, and the Socialist Teachers Alliance, proved that the two groups had tried to do a deal.

The aim was to win both seats in inner London and four in the outer Metropolitan district, which are coming up for election.

Splinter

The plan, claimed Mr. Morris, was for the ultra Left-wing groups to support certain agreed candidates, rather than weaken and splinter the far Left vote.

"In this way they hope to win all six seats instead of the present two which they hold," said Mr. Morris.

But the alliance had proved abortive because the two sides had failed to agree. But he claimed it was a deliberate plot to get rid of responsible leaders on the executive including himself and Mr. Sam Fisher, chairman of the union's education committee.

It was also aimed at stopping the return of Mr. Rob Richardson, secretary of the Inner London Teachers Association, who is trying to get back in inner London, said Mr. Morris.

Mr. Morris said yesterday: "Teachers will bitterly resent the blatant interference by squabbling Trotskyite sects and their allies in the affairs of the union as though the seats on the executive were theirs to dispose of.

"Their crude manoeuvres to capture executive seats in inner and outer-London are now revealed for all to see and will create a sharp reaction."

Voting is currently taking place for all 44 places on the N U T executive; closing date is March 15. Rank and File only hold two seats, Mr. Dick North in Inner London, who is standing again, and Miss Beth Stone, in Outer London, who is not standing for re-election.

Teachers' unions will today turn down a nine per cent pay offer made to them in secret last week. The unions' original claim was for 12½ per cent.

Britons lead the way to sci-fi hell, claims author

By KEITH BRACE

British science is leading a logical revolution that could end the horrors of science fiction today, it is claimed today.

The American journalist, Vance Packard, author of *The Hidden Persuaders* and *The Naked Society*, describes the danger in his new book, *The People Shapers*, published today.

Projects for re-shaping Man as envisaged by Packard include manufacturing living organs, programming behaviour, altering the natural processes of birth, old age and death and manipulating genes.

Britain's lead in this dangerous field is outlined by Packard. It was mainly British scientists who broke the genetic code, and the U.K. is far advanced in the test tube creation of humans (cloning), presexing babies, transplanting and freezing embryos, cell fusion and in greatly extending the human lifespan.

The Biological Revolution is as British as was the Industrial Revolution. And it is likely to be as decisive over the next 150 years as the coming of industry has been since 1750.

Some of the innovations for manipulating behaviour, however, have been peculiar American, Packard adds. He refers to behaviour modification by conditioning techniques, using drugs to pacify schoolchildren and prisoners, and electricity to modify mood and personality.

Other American techniques include the use of surgery to alter personality, the use of cameras and computers for mass surveillance and drugs to modify intelligence.

"Most of these techniques are being introduced into the British Isles," Packard warns. "Possibly Americans would be more likely than the British to make plans to put transmitters on people they want to keep track of, but the British can't feel smug, and nor can any advanced nation in the world today."

What happens to the ancient concept of the sanctity of the individual, he asks, if surgeons can transplant a head, biologists can double the size of the head and psychologists put electrical machinery inside it?

Packard describes recent efforts in Britain and America to set up bodies to supervise and make moral decisions on the direction that biological engineering is taking.

He writes: "Groping starts have been made to exercise some kind of social control over some of the activities aimed at manipulating human behaviour and development. Other areas have been virtually neglected, except for the influence of public opinion."

Packard believes there should be a commission in every country with absolute power over the creation of new forms of life.

The People Shapers, by Vance Packard, Macdonald & Jane's, £5.50.

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