

Did You See This?

The Editor's pick of letters, blogs and comments in the media and on the internet.

On the Government:

Look. Give them a break. They apologise for their 'mistakes' when caught out charging something they didn't order. That's nice, isn't it? I'm going to make a few mistakes today. Won't pay at the parking meter, won't pay the council tax, won't pay the TV licence, won't pay the NI contributions and won't pay the income tax. I'm going to book a trip to Nassau, Bermuda, Paris and Mauritius. And send the bill to the House of Commons Expenses office. Have a nice day.

Middle Britain can do nothing about our banana government's taxes. Can't kick the government out until June of 2010. Some democracy! The most unpopular Prime Minister, Cabinet and government ever - and we're stuck with them for another year. The people who brought us the smear campaign - paid for by the taxpayer! And we, Middle Britain, are on the rack, waiting for the tax torture. We should take to the streets like the French.

The problem with our Great Leader and his Cabinet is this - it's so difficult to understand what they mean when they address us. They talk of values and visions while scribbling out juvenile smears against the Opposition, of equality of opportunity while flying around first-class on 'fact-finding' trips, of transparency and integrity while hiding their expense chits under the bed. And that smasher - 'drawing a line under this matter and getting on with the important job of running the country and helping the hard-working British family.'

To give our leaders their due, one must marvel at their ingenuity, their creativity, their working outside the envelope, the sheer guts with which they tackle financial problems - such as whether or not £5.51 spent on nappies, £3.49 and £3.99 on bottles of red wine (even though alcohol is not allowed under the 'rules') £5.96 on disposable bibs, £1.99, £1.60 and £1.55 on comics, £2.88 on baby wipes and a £5 ladies' jumper and so on, are chargeable to the taxpayer. If only such brain power had been unleashed on running our country! We would be the envy of the world!

On the Economic Situation.

If we bankers give cheap loans away right, left and centre, there won't be any dosh left for our bonuses. The financial motor of this country is bonusism. If Darling & Brown promised the banks they could have their bonuses, the banks would fall over themselves to lend to SMEs. I personally only got £10 million last year. Somebody said that would be a lot of useful money to lend to SMEs - £10 million. So what, I said. They're not my problem.

I'm doing OK on my greengrocery stall, so far. I've stopped importing expensive broccoli and started buying cheap local cabbages. Going like a bomb. At this rate I'll be the Lidl of the veg trade, and start expanding and give myself a special bonus. I'm going to move my barrow round to Downing Street and hope that the PM comes out for a photo-opportunity. I'll give him a cabbage to hold and tell him he's handled this little financial contre-temps, very well. It's not all bad news, is it?

C'mon guys! My net worth just went down by £238 mill and you expect me to feel bad about this financial hiccup? And pay back my bonuses? I'll tell you what it is. When you, losers all, can't pay your mortgage, and the bailiff is knocking at the door, and the telly has to go, then remember this. It was all legal, what we did. All legal, right? So gimme a break.

On the Opposition.

The Tory party is testing future ministers for aptness, in view of the expected success at the next election.

Here's how this testing works and the questions posed:

"Can you add up a restaurant bill?"

"Of course!"

"Then you can be Chancellor."

"What kind of car do you drive?"

"A Porsche Carrerra 4x4, actually."

"OK. You're Energy Minister."

"Read any good books, lately?"

"Er. No. Frankly I prefer rugger."

"You can be Culture Minister."

"Ever worked?"

"Not exactly."

"Good. You get the job of Business Minister."

"Where do you go on holiday?"

"Every year to Portofino, dear boy."

"Excellent. Foreign Ministry suit you?"

"Where were you educated?"

"Public school, Oxford, Harvard, Sorbonne, "

"You can be in charge of Wales, then."