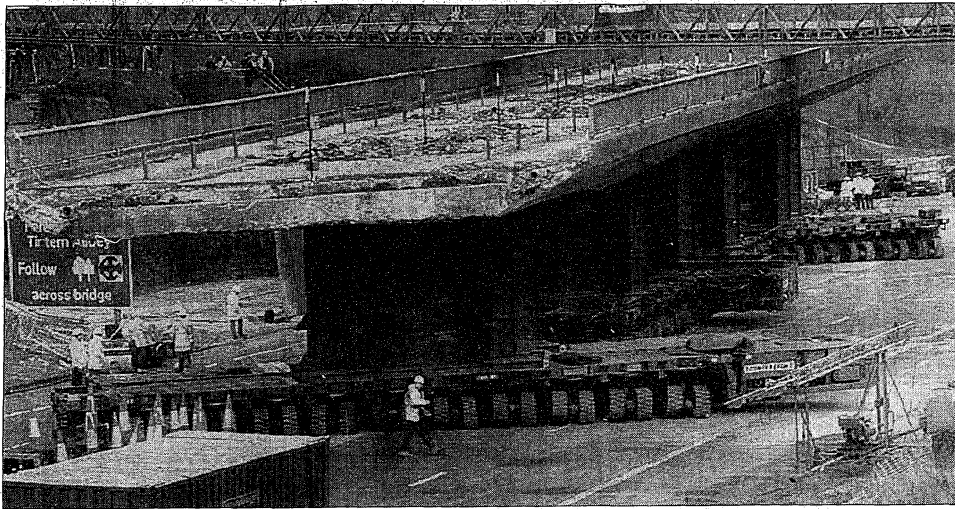


Thousands of motorists face delays as 2,000-tonne bridge gets stuck on motorway



HUSH FINNEY

In the slow lane: engineers working on the 79-metre bridge yesterday. They will try to move it at midday and hope to reopen the motorway late this afternoon

Removal lorry grinds to a halt

By PETER VICTOR

MOTORISTS face severe congestion on the M4 today after a complete 2,000-tonne bridge found to a halt as it was being moved. A two-million tonne of the M4 east of the Severn Bridge crossing between Almondsbury and Aust was closed for the removal operation and engineers hope that it will reopen late this afternoon. The removal of the 79-metre Ingsi Road bridge showed the pinnacle of modern engineering as the heaviest load transported by road, but it has been affected by technical hitches. After it was free and loaded on to multi-wheeled computerised transporters, its weight caused the wheels

TODAY IN THE TIMES

NIGHTMARE ON ELM ST



Was JFK killed by his bodyguard? Life & Times Page 1

ROOMS WITH A VIEW



Dick Whittington and the art of healing Life & Times Page 5

THE ELEPHANT



Africans who want to kill out of kindness Pages 7 & 14

INSIDE

£250,000 to sit at home

A London paediatrician has been paid more than £250,000 to do nothing since being suspended nine years ago. Now the health department is reviewing procedures for handling such cases.

Bosnia votes to go it alone

An overwhelming majority of Croats and Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina have voted for independence, and the republic expects immediate recognition. Montenegro is likely to cement ties with Serbia to build a new Yugoslavia.

Target missed

Many parents have never received a leaflet sent to schools as part of a £2 million campaign to explain government education reforms, a Times survey discloses.

Man hunted

Police are searching for a neighbour of Adele James, who was found strangled in Pembroke. The killer is believed to have broken into her home and forced her to leave her sleeping child.

Iraq warned

Britain has warned Iraq that it faces renewed military action to destroy the country's Scud missile factories.

England draw

Rain denied England's cricketers a third World Cup victory. After dismissing Pakistan for 74, England reached 24 for one before the downpour forced a draw.

Mansell wins

Nigel Mansell won the opening grand prix of the Formula One season in South Africa. The world champion, Ayrton Senna, was third.

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Cabinet rules out big giveaway Budget

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR ministers yesterday ruled out a big giveaway Budget next week amid growing concern that deep tax cuts financed by huge borrowing could further jeopardise the Tories' opinion poll lead on economic management. The move to reduce expectations of a Budget that could well be the springboard for an April 9 election came as the latest opinion poll suggested that the Conservatives were still ahead on the economy, although Labour had narrowed the gap and had a one-point lead overall. The Mori survey for Times Newspapers gave the Tories a 12-point advantage on the issue of economic competence, compared with 16 in January. John Major's lead over Neil Kinnock as the better manager of the economy has also been cut, although he still has a healthy advantage.

A separate Mori finding added that 60 per cent of three wanted higher spending on public services in preference to tax cuts. Yesterday's cabinet intervention, said to reflect the thinking of Mr Major and Norman Lamont, was aimed at quelling speculation that a proposed £5 billion Budget giveaway, paid for by a public sector borrowing requirement of £30 billion, would jeopardise what the Tories believe is their reputation for 'good housekeeping'. Sources spoke of the Chancellor giving the economy no more than a 'twack'. Tory MPs will see this as a signal that Mr Lamont is unlikely to cut the basic rate of income tax by more than 1p. His aim will be to borrow less than £25 billion. The monetarist Liverpool group of economists, led by Professor Patrick Minford, yesterday added to concern that voters did not want to be



Prof Minford: no case for cutting taxes bribed with their own money. It said in a report that the government was embarked on tax cuts 'just when, as a result of their laxity in public expenditure, there is no longer any case for doing so'. The Tories were determined to wreck the Republicans, the group said. Margaret Thatcher and her former party chairman, Cecil Parkin, are

believed to share these concerns. Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, said that voters realised that tax cuts would be the Tories' gold, money that disappeared in their hands as soon as the Tories clawed the borrowed money back by raising value-added tax. 'The British people will not be bribed,' he said. Ministers sought to steady Tory nerves over the Budget by insisting that the most important thing was for the government to maintain a reputation for economic prudence. 'We are not going to give away our biggest card,' one source said. Against this background, ministers insisted that there was still scope for small cuts in personal taxation and extra help for business. The Conservatives will today launch a nationwide poster campaign attacking Mr Kinnock's economic policies. Labour will renew its claims that the Conservatives would put up VAT after an election victory and that they are planning to borrow to bribe voters. On Wednesday, the Liberal Democrats will unveil a budget calling for higher capital investment in schools, housing and railways plus lower business rates paid for by substantially greater borrowing. With the polls pointing to a hung Parliament, the Liberal Democrats insisted that they would not deal with any party that denied them proportional representation. They renewed their threat to vote down the Queen's Speech and provoke a second general election unless their demands were met. Charles Kennedy, their president, said that PR was the key to constitutional reform in Scotland and Wales) and to getting a stable four-year government.

Corpses litter hills in Karabakh

Anatoli Lieven comes under fire while flying with Azerbaijan forces to investigate the alleged mass killings of refugees by Armenian troops

As we swooped low over Nagorno-Karabakh we saw the scattered corpses. Apparently, the refugees had been shot down as they ran. An Azerbaijani film of the mass killings. Suddenly there we flew over, shown to journalists afterwards, showed dozens of corpses lying in various parts of the hills. The Azerbaijanis claim that as many as 1,000 have died in a mass killing of Azerbaijanis fleeing from the town of Khojaly, seized by Armenian last week. A further 4,000 are believed to be wounded, frozen to death or missing. Armenia has denied these claims. Seven of us squatted in the cabin of an Azerbaijan M24 anti-helicopter as we flew to investigate the claims of the mass killings. Suddenly there was a thump against the underside of the aircraft, a red flash of tracer ripped part the starboard wing, and the helicopter rocked sharply. We swung round, and there was a burning burst of fire from the cannon underour arms as the helicopter crew returned fire.

We had been fired on from an Armenian anti-aircraft post. We swung round, tipped to starboard and appeared to dive straight down into a valley. The brown earth swooped around our heads, the helicopter swung round again and followed the contours of the ground. Our cannon fired repeated blasts. Later it emerged that a civilian helicopter, which had landed successfully at Nakhichevan, had been shot down by a plump driver-in-law, he came plodding through the sand...

The Star refused to print the piece because Clemenceau's opinion was complimentary things to say about Canada's effort in the first world war when Hemingway suggested that Clemenceau's reference to Canada constitutes the most interesting part of the interview. I don't think we should use it at all, although I hate to pass up your excellent colour.

IRA bomb fails to deter 28,000 football fans

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 28,000 football supporters ignored an IRA bomb threat and went to the Rumbelows Cup semi-final between Tottenham Hotspur and Nottingham Forest yesterday, even though a small device had been found at White Hart Lane station. The bomb was defused hours before the station was due to receive thousands of supporters. A second alert delayed the start of the match by 90 minutes as staff were moved out of the ground and fans were marshalled in surrounding streets. The alert came after the IRA threatened a continued campaign of mainland violence to force the issue of Ulster high on the political agenda during the general election and admitted responsibility for three London bombings in less than 72 hours.

Anti-terrorist squad officers were working on the device when, at 10.09 am, St Pancras Hospital, north London, received a telephone call with a coded warning of a bomb at the station timed to explode in an hour. The device was made safe at 10.40 am. Stephen Coates, the station manager, said the bomb was made safe at 10.40 am. Stephen Coates, the station manager, said the bomb was made safe at 10.40 am.

Yesterday's alert began when the small device was noticed by a member of the public standing on a platform at White Hart Lane station at about 9.20 am. Police believe bombers climbed an embankment to put the explosive on the track. Mr Kinnock's economic policies. Labour will renew its claims that the Conservatives would put up VAT after an election victory and that they are planning to borrow to bribe voters. On Wednesday, the Liberal Democrats will unveil a budget calling for higher capital investment in schools, housing and railways plus lower business rates paid for by substantially greater borrowing. With the polls pointing to a hung Parliament, the Liberal Democrats insisted that they would not deal with any party that denied them proportional representation. They renewed their threat to vote down the Queen's Speech and provoke a second general election unless their demands were met. Charles Kennedy, their president, said that PR was the key to constitutional reform in Scotland and Wales) and to getting a stable four-year government.

Hemingway prose ended on editor's spike

FROM JOHN BEST IN OTTAWA



ERNEST Hemingway no doubt hated to admit it in later life, but a Canadian paper yesterday revealed that he, too, had been the victim of the editor's 'spike' as a young reporter. The Sunday Star of Toronto published a collection of tongue-in-cheek newspaper stories by the youthful Hemingway, a number of them 'spiked', or discarded as unusable at the time, or issued under pseudonyms. The articles, including an interview with Georges Clemenceau in 1922 rejected by the Star managing editor, are from the period 1920 to 1923 when the American novelist worked at the newspaper. They were not included in an anthology of Hemingway's Star dispatches, titled *Dispatches Toronto*. Some were without a byline, others appeared under the Hemingway pen name, Peter Jackson. A reporter, William Burrill, has spent more than a year unearthing the collection, digging through Hemingway papers in libraries in Boston, at Princeton University and in Paris, in addition to the Star archives. Hemingway worked for the Star first as a freelance, then as a staff writer and began work on the Star in 1920, when he was 21. He left the newspaper at the end of 1923, having made sure of collecting a welcome to Lloyd George by the New York City mayor. After leaving Toronto, Hemingway went to New York and then called to Paris, where he began work on *The Sun Also Rises*, which propelled him to fame and fortune. Hemingway's interview with Clemenceau shows how he was moving away from ordinary reporting and toward a short-story form of writing, portraying a man in dramatised vignettes. 'A bulky man, thickened by age, wearing a brown tweed suit, a funny, flat cap, his face as brown as an Ojibway, his white moustache drooping, his white eyes brows bushy, looking the tiger his picture show him, his eyes twinkling as he talked to his plump daughter-in-law, he came plodding through the sand...'

The Star refused to print the piece because Clemenceau's opinion was complimentary things to say about Canada's effort in the first world war when Hemingway suggested that Clemenceau's reference to Canada constitutes the most interesting part of the interview. I don't think we should use it at all, although I hate to pass up your excellent colour.

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