

BOOST FOR SPENDING Healey gets set for a sunny Budget

By Gordon Jackson, political correspondent
A HIGH-SPEED Budget was being introduced in the Commons this afternoon by Mr Dennis Healey, operating under a terse "win the election" order from Mr Wilson.

BUDGET RAY OF HOPE FOR RATES

By Alan Marshall and David Todball
GOVERNMENT plans to ease the rates burden are likely to be announced within the next 48 hours. This news comes as Berkshire finance chiefs warned that the county faces another huge rate increase over the next year if the Government does not cough up.

The first hint of Government's plans to help ratepayers was expected to come today with Chancellor Dennis Healey's mid-Budget announcement. An Environment Secretary Mr Tony Crosland — the Cabinet Minister responsible for local government — has promised a statement early this week.

Mr Crosland's promise of a statement, probably on Wednesday, follows a series of meetings with representatives of county councils and the major cities in England and Wales. At these meetings the county councils led by Mr Derek Pichering, chairman and also finance chief of the Association of County Councils — proposed a £400m rescue scheme for councils.

This suggests that the Government should pay at least 90 per cent of the increased costs of councils because of inflation.

In Berkshire a total of £2.6m set aside as a "rainy day" fund in this year's £88m budget was already fully earmarked after just five days of the council's financial year. By year-end inflation has probably cost the council a total close to £5m.

Rates action is vital — special report — Page 9

Peacemaker Kissinger steps in — and does it again

CEASEFIRE IN CYPRUS

THE threat of all-out war between Greece and Turkey was fading this afternoon as a ceasefire began in Cyprus. And once again it was peacemaker Dr Henry Kissinger who stepped in personally to get final agreement.

Boy, 12, burnt by cable after climbing pole

By Tom Doyle
A READING boy was in the special burns unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, near Aylesbury, today after being thrown from an overhead electricity cable yesterday afternoon.

Terry Henderson, 12, of Thornbridge Road, was playing with two friends when he decided to climb a pole near the Post House, Basingstoke Road.

His best friend, Tommy Chamberlain, 13, of Bladford Road, Whitley, said: "There was a terrific bang and he fell to the floor. I thought he was dead."

At first we were mucking about climbing the trees and then we climbed that tree before me and he started to get up the pole. He put up the top before me. I was three-quarters of the way up — and I heard a bang, a cracking noise like a firework. He tumbled down and saw him on the floor. I can't remember being hit or being checked to see if his heart was beating.

But he was OK. I phoned up the ambulance from the Post House and people in the tennis courts looked after him. He wasn't conscious when I first looked at him, but when the ambulance came he turned his eyes open and said he was burning. The pain's killing me, Robert Cooper, 12, of Bladford Road, was also playing with the boys but did not climb the pole.

Jumped
Terry's mother, Mrs Doris Henderson, today went to Ashbury to see the teachers about the incident and to find out why her son was not at school.

Terry's sister, Sharon, 14, said: "He goes climbing trees and things quite a lot. A few years ago he broke his legs when he was playing Batman and jumped out of a garage window. He was 'quite satisfied' today."

Winchester again... The decision had taken her completely by surprise for the court had been told that her son had been moved to a hostel in Kidlington because, in the opinion of a social worker, Mr Winchester was "totally inadequate" for him.

My mother, who has seven other children, "He will not be able to take the five or six weeks he may have to stay there till he comes up for sentence."

Tears
"The home at Winchester is just like a prison, and when he came out of there the last time, after only being there for a week, he was a nervous wreck."

When magistrate Mr Philip Sizer told the youth on Friday that he was to be sent to his mother's burst into tears and shouted: "Oh, God, not Winchester again."

But when he appeared before Reading magistrates on Friday for an offence of maliciously wounding a 12-year-old boy, it was a court decision to send him to a remand home.

By Neil Dinwiddie
A NEWBURY mother fears her son could turn into a "hardened criminal" because of a court decision to send him to a remand home.

The 15-year-old boy had already been moved from Winchester remand home to a hostel at Kidlington because "the home was having a bad effect on him."

But when he appeared before Reading magistrates on Friday for an offence of maliciously wounding a 12-year-old boy, it was a court decision to send him to a remand home.

FAMILIES ARRIVE IN 'DUNKIRK' EVACUATION

THE TOURISTS' Dunkirk of pliful, exhausted evacuees, who have fled the battle-torn island of Cyprus, continued to stream into Britain today.

There were families, many with young children being welcomed and crying after a holiday in the sun that turned into an unforgettable nightmare.

As soon as they landed at Fairford, Gloucestershire, and Lynton, Wiltshire, many rushed to telephone friends and relatives that they were safe.

Meanwhile, a mid-Dunkirk operation to take off an estimated 500 British and foreign tourists from a beach near Kyrenia was being delayed until safety guarantees were given.

They will be ferried by helicopters and powered rubber dinghies to two boats at Fairford soon after the operation has started at dawn.

"Once assurances have been given that the evacuation ships are safe, we will be able to start the operation," said a Ministry of Defence spokesman in London.

Exodus

The first of two VC10s carrying 123 evacuees landed at Fairford soon after 8am, and the passengers were taken to Brize Norton, Oxfordshire. Mr Kenneth Brett, 37, a management consultant from Sandhurst, Berkshire, was living at Kyrenia, close to a Turkish base with his wife, Margaret, and their two sons, Warren, six, and Russell, four.

As the fighting intensified, the family decided to make for Britain. But they saw Turkish paratroopers dropping a few miles ahead, and decided to take the route to the coast.

It was likely to be reflected in reaction this afternoon, when Foreign Secretary Mr James Callaghan was due to make a statement about the weekend events in the Commons.

There is a strong feeling that Britain has lost out on the diplomatic offensive when, on the Cyprus issue at least, the Government should have taken a more positive attitude.

Several MPs are worried that in handing over the initiative to the United States, Britain has forfeited world opinion.

They see this as the direct result of being too outspoken about the internal affairs of Greece in the past, when the present situation requires delicate negotiations which rely for success on goodwill and personal contact.

Napalm — latest weapon in the age-old conflict

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Remand will turn my son into criminal, says mother

By Neil Dinwiddie
A NEWBURY mother fears her son could turn into a "hardened criminal" because of a court decision to send him to a remand home.

MAN DIES ON M4

A 38-year-old motorist was killed on the M4 between Winchester and Three Mile Cross yesterday.

The man, who had not been identified this morning, was driving a Volkswagen saloon on the Western-bound carriageway when his truck hit a central crash barrier.

Police said it is not clear what was involved.

Mr Hutchings switched on and Mr Hutchings saw petrol dripping in a tray and catching fire. Minutes later, he gave the alarm.

Turn to back page



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Callaghan may face salvo in Commons

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Weather
Tomorrow: Dry, sunny spells. Warm.
Outlook: Some rain, with sunny spells. Temperatures near normal.
Lights: 9.30pm to 4.11am.
Local news — 24 hours to 10am today — as supplied by the Met Office, Bracknell.
Rainfall: 12.2 in.
Max temp: 24.4C 76F
Min temp: 12.2C 54F
Forecast temperatures today: 24C 75F
Minimum: 14C 57F

Yacht to the rescue — then cruiser explodes SEA DRAMA AS FAMILY ABANDONS SHIP
By Brent Sadler
A PARTY of four men and three women in horror as their hire cruiser blew up and sank in the Channel yesterday.

Mrs before Henley man Mr Victor Hutchings and his three children have been floating helplessly, bailing out water from a leaking rubber dinghy with friends.

They had abandoned the 42-foot sloop Amphion at about midnight after a petrol leak filled the cockpit with fumes and burst into flames.

The men pushed the child to safety through a forward hatch. They were adrift for about an hour before a yacht crew, competing in an international race, went to their rescue.

The drama began a few hours after architect Mr Hutchings, 48, of Harpsden Close, Henley, and children Martin, 21, Guy, 12 and Paul, 10, had set sail from Fowey, Cornwall, with friends.

They were heading for Brittany, and left Fowey under full power.

But a few hours out in the Channel, the Amphion crew realised they were too close to the yacht's competing in the One Ton Cup race, being run from Torbay.

Fourteen miles out from Cornwall the engine was

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TOMORROW
'BAN THE BENN...'
Evening Post industrial reporter Ray Bryant talks to ex-Tory Minister Michael Heseltine (above left), MP for Henley, who is spearheading a campaign against Labour's nationalisation plans — in particular, the view of Employment Secretary Tony Benn (above right).
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