

John Problem around and about Westminster.

The Prime Minister now manages three teams:

The Cabinet, of course,
The No.10 Policy Unit, and
The Business Council.

Elsewhere in this month's issue are comments on the lack of experience in the portfolio of Cabinet members. (see 'A Meal chez Mr.and Mrs. Brown'). They are not alone.

The Policy Unit members are all from an 'advising' background, except for the man advising on aid and development - Justin Forsyth; he was with Oxfam.

The Business Council is, however, made up of businessmen - although retailers and bankers, mainly, with no representation of the Small -to-Medium Sized Enterprises which make up 92% of British companies. A super-hero of the private equity world will advise on....education, whilst Sir Alan Sugar will advise on ...skills.

Of note, however, is the ability of our leaders to learn:

Hilary Benn on the recent flooding:

“We'll reflect on the lessons to be learned.”

David Miliband on his time at Environment:

“I had a wonderful 15 months and will never forget the things I have learnt.”

Although some feel inadequate:

John Denham, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on tackling bugs in hospitals:

“As your local MP I could write a letter to the local health trust, but I can't make anything happen...”

Westminster awaits the next great peak in hyperbole, following the remarks made at Tony Blair's farewell party, at which:

Gordon Brown said:

“Whatever we achieve in the future will be because we are standing on your shoulders”.

To which David Miliband added:

“People will look back in a hundred years and see the achievements of the Prime Minister, which have changed this country for good. They are historic and enduring”.