

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Higher interest rates beginning to bite on retail trade and housing market.

Express says Chancellor is planning a shake up of the tax system in the Budget to encourage saving.

Telegraph, commenting on public spending round, says MoD can contribute substantially to its own salvation by selling off surplus land, buildings etc.

Independent says stalemate over defence spending should be settled this week without Star Chamber.

Times gives composition of Star Chamber.

Paddy Ashdown describes you as "a great Prime Minister" but "hates" your policies.

Kenneth Clarke refuses to meet nursing unions on pay - says we can't go on negotiating for ever.

Midwives vote nearly 2-1 against strikes.

Labour survey claims nearly two-thirds of LEAs have teacher vacancies they can't fill.

Bishop of Bradford disturbed at efficiency proposals by Conservative controlled council.

Lord Young says Barlow-Clowes report will be no whitewash - the most open report Government has ever issued.

Ford to announce new £700 car engine plant for South Wales today.

Scottish & Newcastle reject £1.6billion bid by Elders; calls for bid to be referred to MMC.

Labour MPs accuse British Aerospace of asset stripping Royal Ordnance and Rover plants they took over; want an inquiry into privatisations.

Today says Government should forget any idea of gagging IRA and other terrorist organisations.

Brent Council, in turmoil, advertises for a £30,000 a year public relations chief.



PRESS DIGEST

Case of £110 a week bus driver who ran up £80,000 debts by taking advantage of instant credit schemes. Mirror leader says checks on people's ability to pay back loans are inadequate.

Police and Customs ambush French fishing boat in Devon and seize 2 tons of cannabis worth £5million.

UN conference told ozone layer deteriorating faster than predicted.

Controversy over Duchess of York taking another two weeks' separation from her baby. Mirror asks: Does she know what she is doing?

BBC launches BBC TV Europe satellite channel which has been bought by 6 Cable networks.

Today claims BBC told producers to enliven a TV series about girl detectives with sex scenes.

Star says SAS and Spetsnaz have met to discuss dealing with terrorism.

Heysel Stadium trial opens amid scenes of chaos involving defence counsel and judge.

5 Britons feared to have died in Uganda Airways crash at Rome airport; 3 others escape.

~~Sir~~ James Black wins Nobel Prize for medicine for developing beta blockers.

Opinion poll puts Bush streets ahead.

William Rees-Mogg, in Independent, says Bush has done nothing to prepare the American public for measures next president must take to deal with avalanche of debt. He has built himself into a financial box the shape of a coffin.

Ligachev no longer Soviet leader's official deputy.

Rumania scraps plans to bulldoze 7000 villages inhabited mainly by people of Hungarian or German ethnic origin.



PRESS DIGESTSOUTH AFRICA

Sun says merger of black and white Rugby boards is a step forward. Yet in Britain anti-apartheid movement says it will still protest against visits by South African team. To help blacks they will stop blacks playing here.

Guardian leader says both sides - ANC and South Africa Rugby Union - may be congratulated on this unexpected pragmatism: Dr Craven for recognising however late in the day that apartheid ruins sport and the ANC for seeing their cause can be served at least as well by subtlety as by dogmatism.

Independent says the agreement forms part of a drive by the ANC's moderate leadership to strengthen its credibility.

Times says no-one should expect too much too soon from the agreement but its potential as a catalyst for change is very clear. Two entrenched groups have shifted their ground.