

BRIAN GRIFFITHS

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DAVID OWEN LETTER

Heseltine's and the Opposition's game throughout the Westlands saga has been to feed the press by extracting the story drip by drip. As each charge is made and then rebutted, they move on to the next. If David Owen is given a reply in advance of the debate, then the attack will merely move from the leak inquiry to some new topic. It is already highly probable that Michael Heseltine will offer some new objet trouvé to feed the appetite of the back-benchers; and rebutting the charges currently outstanding will make this a certainty.

Moreover, the Opposition when they hear the true story are bound to say it is unbelievable. If you already have this story, then this must be the line that Kinnock takes. There is no satisfactory answer in the House. Either you repeat the story, which will sound unconvincing; or you ignore the charges and go on to a different speech, which will sound equally bad.

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PETER WARRY