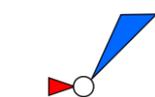


113 DA

bncdoc.id	K5M
bncdoc.title	The Scotsman: Foreign news pages.
bncdoc.info	The Scotsman: Foreign news pages. Sample containing about 270447 words from a periodical (domain: world affairs)
Text availability	Ownership has not been claimed
Publication date	1985-1993
Text type	Written books and periodicals
David Lee's classification	W_newsp_other_reportage

<113/e>	<p>important task of considering compulsory measures of care would remain firmly with the children's hearing. He gave warning that complacency could easily result in slippage of standards and loss of sensitivity to the complex needs of children and their families. The research project would not simply be an audit, nor was it being commissioned as an expression of lack of confidence. Main areas to be targeted by the research team would be decision-making by reporters and hearings on the children referred to them. The impact on the care and future lives of children from the decisions made by the hearings will also be assessed. Lord Fraser said: 'This is the first systematic research for a number of years on the operation of the hearings system. It will include study of how children and families perceive their experience of reporters and hearings.' In Scotland there is a total of 84 beds in secure accommodation, the minister said. That is a higher proportion of beds in relation to population than in England. The secure places are fully used, but secure accommodation is an expensive resource and one which has its role to play in the full range of provision. Scottish Secretary Ian Lang would be reviewing the use of secure accommodation based on an analysis of demand and use. The standard of provision would also be assessed by the Social Work Services Inspectorate. Alan Miller, secretary of the reporters' association, said there had already been talks about a major research project into the hearings system, and they welcomed Lord Fraser's announcement. 'There has been very little objective research into the work done by reporters and its effectiveness,' said Mr Miller. 'We think it is absolutely essential for the development of the service and for public confidence that we should have a sound research base. We will be happy to co-operate in the project and build on its findings.' Earlier conference delegates heard Fife's director of social work, Allan Bowman, claim juvenile crime had always been an area where facts were rarely permitted to obscure the more sensational aspects. The Home Secretary, Kenneth Clarke had referred to the need to do something about the really persistent, nasty little juvenile offenders. But Mr Bowman said Home Office figures showed there had been a 43 per cent reduction in crime by under-14s. 'Panics over juvenile crime have been a recurrent feature in Britain for at least the last 150 years,' Mr Bowman claimed. 'Each panic harks back to a mythical age of contentment and social order.' Nowadays, there was an expressed desire for a return to the values of the 1950s. Yet anyone who read the popular literature on the subject from the 50s found</p> <p>a massive denunciation of the welfare state which was blamed solely on the growing decline in parental responsibility</p> <p>. Mr Bowman warned a moral panic not based on a real perception of the situation, could lead to bad or ineffective legislation. ENDS. Councils misled Lang, says official By Marcello Mega ACCUSATIONS that district councillors in the Highlands used distortion to mislead the Scottish Secretary have been made by the region's planning chairman, Francis Keith. Mr Keith claimed yesterday that at a weekend presentation before Ian Lang on local government reform, the Association of District Councils sought to sway the argument in favour of smaller authorities. He said they used a map with incorrect information on it to suggest that travel times by road in the vast region were greater than they actually were. 'It was a deliberate</p>
---------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



Key:

[Footprint](#)

[ConEn1](#)

[Footprint](#)

[ConEn2](#)

[Footprint](#)

[ConEn3](#)

attempt to try to distort the size of Highland Region, he said. 'It is bad enough doing that to the uninitiated, but to do it to the Secretary of State is really beyond the pale - it's quite pathetic.' Mr Keith cited three examples of information on the map, prepared for the association, which he disputes: that it takes four-and-a-half hours to travel from his home town of Durness, in Sutherland, to Inverness; that from Dunvegan, on Skye, to Inverness, via Portree, takes four hours 45 minutes, and that Inverness to Dalwhinnie takes one hour 25 minutes. He said that the map showed the route from Durness to Inverness as passing by Dounreay, Thurso and Wick, a journey he would never undertake 'not even to boost my travel allowance.' He added that he could choose from several routes which allowed him to halve his travelling time. Of the time estimated for Inverness to Dalwhinnie he said: 'It's unrealistic unless you are travelling in a dustcart.' He was critical of the three councillors who made the presentation to Mr Lang - Alison Magee, convener of Sutherland district, Isobel Rhind, who serves on Ross and Cromarty District Council as well as the regional council, and John Young, the Caithness convener. Yesterday, Ms Magee said: 'Keith is clutching at straws in an effort to win the argument for a large authority. I don't find the sniping between regions and districts particularly helpful.' Ms Rhind said: 'I find it quite incredible that any authority or any member of an authority has to sink to such depths in order to try to make a case.' Last night, a spokesman for the association conceded that the map had contained a number of errors. He said: 'New figures have been submitted today to Ian Lang.' £250,000 backing for start-up fund By Frank Urquhart A LEADING north-east businessman has committed £250,000 to a scheme offering