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<1057/c>	<p>the reaction of the CBI to the proposal for a national minimum wage? Has he seen its estimates, which suggest that it would increase business costs by an extra £50 million and cut 150,000 jobs? Does he agree that to propose such a policy at this time is the economics of the mad house and that the Labour party should stop it at once? The Prime Minister I entirely agree with my hon. Friend and I have read reports of the CBI's views. The Labour party claims that it listens to the views of business. The views of the CBI could scarcely be clearer than they have been on the subject of the minimum wage. As I said a moment ago, even in the national health service that policy would cost £400 million to £500 million a year. I wonder what the Labour party would cut elsewhere in the health service to make up for that loss of revenue. Mr. John P. Smith To ask the Prime Minister if he will list his official engagements for Thursday 5 March. The Prime Minister I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply that I gave some moments ago. Mr. Smith The crime rate in the United Kingdom is the highest ever, the detection rate is the lowest ever and our prisons are the fullest ever. Would the Prime Minister explain why he thinks that deplorable situation exists? The Prime Minister I shall take lectures from the hon. Gentleman when he and the Labour party support the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989. Mr. John Browne I offer my sincere thanks to my right hon. Friend for the crucial personal role that he played in securing compensation for the three injured Grenadiers. Will he now look personally into the cases of some other very obvious cases of severe injuries to service men, in particular those of Mark Booth and Andy Konalyck of the Parachute Regiment and Martin Ketterick of the Royal Marines? In those obvious cases, they have not been compensated properly because they were not covered due to a lapse of cover in the law. Surely, it is time that some form of flexibility was introduced into the compensation legislation for armed services personnel who are severely injured in the course of their duties. The Prime Minister I am not aware of the particular cases to which my hon. Friend draws attention. He knows that wide-ranging compensation schemes are available. I will certainly ask to see the details of the cases that he mentioned. Mrs. Margaret Ewing To ask the Prime Minister if he will list his official engagements for Thursday 5 March. The Prime Minister I refer the hon. Lady to the reply that I gave some moments ago. Mrs. Ewing Does the Prime Minister accept that, when</p> <p><b><u>the people of Scotland</u></b></p> <p>vote for independence, <b><u>Scotland</u></b> will become an equal partner with England in the European Community? The Prime Minister I think that the hon. Lady is unwise to assume that <b><u>Scotland</u></b> will react as she proposes, but in any event, were that unlikely event to occur, <b><u>Scotland</u></b> would have to reapply for membership of the European Community. Every member state would have a vote on that application. The United Kingdom's existing membership of the European Community would continue, but <b><u>Scotland</u></b> would have to apply. House of Commons Monday 9 March 1992 The House met at half-past Two o'clock PRAYERS Mr. Speaker - in the Chair Oral answers to questions TRANSPORT Roads, Wiltshire Mr. Simon Coombs To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what is his current estimate of capital expenditure</p>
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	<p>on roads in Wiltshire in the next three years. The Minister for Roads and Traffic (Mr. Christopher Chope) Capital expenditure on trunk road schemes in Wiltshire in the next three years will be approximately £50 million. Mr. Coombs I am grateful to my hon. Friend for that most helpful and encouraging answer. Can he do anything to speed up the rate at which the link between the M4 at Swindon and the M5 at Gloucester is increased to dual carriageway status throughout its length? Will my hon. Friend also consider the roads to the south of Swindon through Marlborough and Devizes to Salisbury? If he saw those for himself, I am sure that he would agree that they are of low quality, given the volume of traffic using them every day. Mr. Chope The roads to the south of Swindon are the responsibility of the local authority - Wiltshire county council. The roads between Swindon and Gloucester, however, are the responsibility of my right hon. and learned Friend the Secretary of State. I am pleased to say that work on the Latton bypass is due to start next year, at a cost of about £17 million, and there are five other schemes on that road, at a total cost of £100 million. My hon. Friend's constituents will recognise that it is vital for the future prosperity of Swindon that those schemes be implemented as quickly as possible. They would be delayed, if not cancelled, were the Labour party to take control. A13 Mrs. Gorman To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he has any plans to accelerate the proposed work on the A13 between the M25 and outer London. Mr. Chope My right hon. and learned Friend has today announced his intention that a major advanced works contract on the A13 Wennington to Mar Dyke scheme should be started in the coming financial year, subject to satisfactory completion of remaining procedures. Mrs. Gorman I thank my hon. Friend for that reply</p>
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