

L'usage de tout système électronique ou informatique est interdit dans cette épreuve

Traduire en français le texte ci-dessous.

Cabinet drop-out

A good teacher, but a dunce at top-level politics. Critics had plenty to say about Estelle Morris, the increasingly forlorn-looking education minister who resigned on October 23rd. Her own verdict on her performance was even harsher. It was, she said, «not quite good enough.»

It would have been much better had she remained as junior minister for schools, for which she was better suited. Hard-working, decent and experienced, she could criticise the prickly teaching profession more effectively than others.

But those same qualities, as she tacitly admitted in a touchingly honest resignation letter, did little to equip her to run a sprawling department. She seemed in thrall to the malevolently change-resistant educational establishment, gullibly accepting whatever advice it and her officials gave her. She displayed little intellectual confidence and readily retreated into a miserable education-speak jargon. That the teaching unions should express great sorrow at her departure is the kind of double-edged compliment that a supposedly reforming minister might prefer not to receive. The customers – pupils and parents – are much less sorry.

There were blunders galore. Most recently, she misled Parliament about an earlier promise to meet new standards of literacy and numeracy by 2002. Ms Morris first claimed she had said no such thing. Then, confronted with the evidence, she admitted that she had.

The real problems with the government's education policy are not just about leadership or money, but the ideas behind it. For all Ms Morris's integrity and her niceness, she added to the powerful impression that the government doesn't really know what it's doing. Teachers are groaning under piles of silly paperwork. The dumbing-down of A-levels in pursuit of better-looking results is a scandal. There are far too many tests. The main new skill pupils are acquiring under Labour is how to pass exams, rather than how to think. Higher education is bursting at the seams thanks to the government's ill thought out notion that half the country's young people should go to «university» (and never mind what they find there).

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