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Despite the recent scandals, more competition is still needed
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Boardroom greed
Why can't people who earn that much pay their own rent?
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EchoStar
Is DirecTV slipping out of the grasp of Charlie Ergen?
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BUSINESS

AMP troubles claim chief executive and chairman

Difficulties at AMP's UK insurance division culminated in the resignations of the chief executive and chairman of the Australian financial services group Page 25, Lex, Page 24, Background, Page 31

EDS shares hit by fears of huge loss
Shares in Electronic Data Systems plunged for a second time on investor concern about a possible huge loss on hedging activities Page 25

British Land feud with Laxey reopens
British Land made its first share buyback in more than 10 years as its feud with dissident shareholders Laxey Partners reopened Page 25

Microsoft buys UK games company
Microsoft, the world's largest software company, announced it was acquiring Rare, the British computer games developer, for \$375m (£240m) in cash Microsoft cautious, Page 32

Hiscox's £110.5m issue opposed
Hiscox, the Lloyd's of London insurer, is facing opposition to a planned £110.5m rights issue from its biggest shareholder Page 26

Growth at House of Fraser slows
A slowdown in sales growth at House of Fraser led the department store group to become the latest retailer to report tough trading Page 27, Lombard, Page 26, Observer, Page 22

Clinton Cards talks up the returns
Clinton Cards is making bumper profits with the help of recordable cards Page 27

Asbestos litigation fears hit Wolseley
Shares in Wolseley, the builders and plumbers' merchant, fell 12 per cent over asbestos litigation worries Page 28, www.ft.com/lex

Banks highlight trading decline
Wall Street's growing dependence on trading was highlighted as Goldman Sachs reported a 12 per cent rise in profits and Lehman Brothers a 37 per cent fall Page 30, Lex, Page 24

GENERAL

Chancellor set to boost industry in run-down areas

Chancellor Gordon Brown's pre-Budget report, due in November, will set out more measures to help businesses in run-down areas Page 6

EVIDENCE 'OVERWHELMING' • CHEMICAL WEAPONS 'COULD BE DEPLOYED IN 45 MINUTES' • MORE THAN 50 MP'S REBEL

Saddam is two years from bomb, says dossier

By Stephen Fidler and James Biltz in London and Richard Wolfe in Washington

Lony Blah outlined what he called an "overwhelming" case against Saddam Hussein yesterday, releasing a report that said the Iraqi leader could deploy chemical and biological weapons at 45 minutes' notice.

The report said the policy of containing Iraq's nuclear ambitions appeared to be working but Mr Hussein could develop a nuclear bomb within two years should he secure essential components from foreign sources.

The report was published ahead of a one day recall of the Commons and last night 53 Labour MPs opposed a technical motion to adjourn the emergency debate - a symbolic protest against any military action in Iraq.

The number of rebels was at the top end of expectations, making it one of the biggest revolts by Labour MPs since the party came to power in 1997. But the list contained no surprises.

Eleven MPs from opposition

parties - nearly all Scottish and Welsh nationalists - joined the Labour dissenters.

The long-awaited, 50 page dossier said Iraq had resumed production of chemical and biological weapons and had tried to purchase "significant quantities" of uranium from Africa. Mr Blair told a packed House: "We know from our history that diplomacy not backed by the threat of force has never worked with dictators and never will work."

He fell short of endorsing Washington's policy of seeking the downfall of Mr Hussein, telling MPs regime change in Iraq "would be a wonderful thing", but the UK's priority was getting rid of its weapons of mass destruction.

President George W Bush welcomed the report, hailing the prime minister as "a very strong leader". The White House has been closely coordinating its message with Downing Street in recent weeks as it has campaigned to win public support for ending Mr Hussein's regime.

While House officials have said they expect Mr Blair to

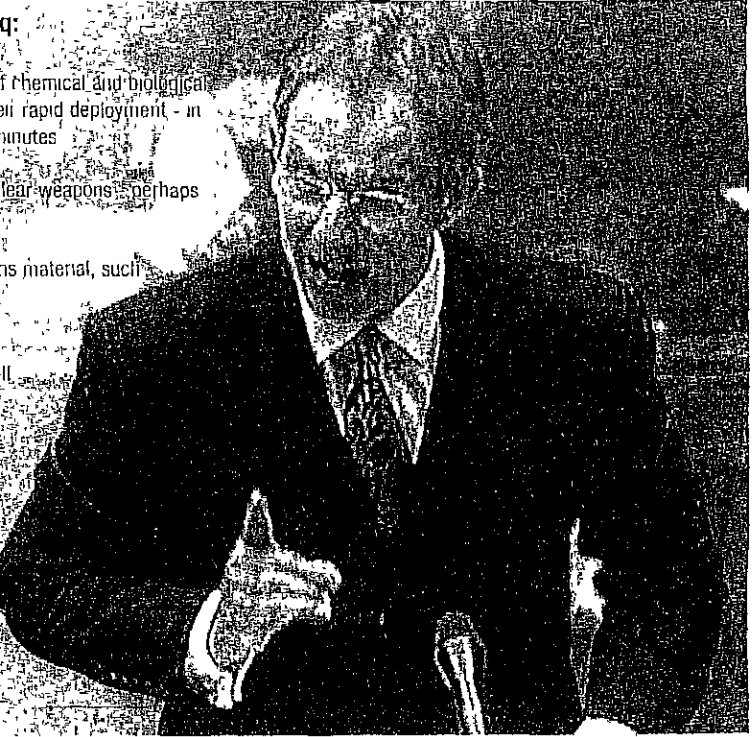
The case against Iraq:

- Continuing production of chemical and biological agents and plans for their rapid deployment - in some cases within 45 minutes
- Close to developing nuclear weapons - perhaps within two years
- Seeking nuclear weapons material, such as uranium from Africa
- Planning to extend the range of its missiles well beyond UN-imposed limits
- Planning to conceal equipment and documentation should weapons inspectors return
- Systematically abusing human rights

INSIDE and ONLINE

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play a similar role in lobbying the international community, as he did during the build up to the war in Afghanistan last year. Mr Blair said intelligence services in recent months had painted a picture of Iraq that



had 'become more not less worrying', he continued. "I am in no doubt that the threat is serious and current, that he has made progress [on weapons of mass destruction] and that he has to be stopped."

The document contained new evidence suggesting imminent military action was essential. But the International Atomic Energy Agency, the nuclear watchdog in Vienna, said the document contained some information of which it had been unaware. That related to Iraq's efforts to procure uranium in Africa, as well as items that could be used to make highly enriched uranium. "We would encourage

the UK government to provide us with further detailed information," said Melissa Fleming of the agency.

Hamed Yousif Hummadi, the Iraqi culture minister, described Mr Blair's dossier as 'baseless'. Downing Street said last night the main concern was to see the drafting of a resolution condemning Mr Hussein's regime, with the focus on getting Russia's support.

EU states threaten credibility of deficit pact

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