

■ Tekst 1

Resisting royal change

Buckingham Palace's expected announcement this week that the rules about minor royals making money from commercial activities are only to be finely tuned is a victory for the Duke of Edinburgh and a blow for common sense. The fine line between being a working royal and cashing in on connections should have been replaced by a clear-cut distinction, as the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal wanted. If Prince Edward and his wife wish to continue their business ventures, they should make their own way in the world without the props of monarchy to support them.

The Queen's advisers know this. Lord Luce, the lord chamberlain, wanted a more radical shake-up but Prince Philip's crusty influence has prevented it. Unless the young Wessexes take much greater care than they have done so far, the result will be another self-inflicted wound by the royal family and further damage to a battered monarchy.

Philip thinks the controversy is spurious and all got up by the media.

25 The Queen has shown herself open to change by accepting all these reforms and other breaches with the past. The royal yacht Britannia is dry-docked, saving millions. Buckingham Palace has become a summer tourist attraction, raising millions. Now the palace garden will be another crowd-puller when it is opened to the public. These changes have helped to rebuild a better image of the monarchy. 30 Why spoil these advances for the sake of a privileged couple on the periphery of the throne? The danger is that change will eventually be forced on the monarchy after another scandal involving a perceived clash of interests. So far Downing Street is keeping quiet but its occupants may be tempted to take a more active role. The Queen would do well to listen to her own advisers and her older children and take 45 steps to end further conflicts.

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*Let op: beantwoord een open vraag altijd in het Nederlands, behalve als het anders is aangegeven.
Als je in het Engels antwoordt, levert dat 0 punten op.*

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- In regels 35-37 wordt gesproken over “a privileged couple on the periphery of the throne”.
- 2p 1 Wie worden hiermee bedoeld?
Noteer twee aanduidingen die de tekst elders voor hen gebruikt.