Coalition Update: 15-21 March

The AV referendum

Miliband brands Clegg a 'vote-loser' as AV vote row gets personal (Independent, 15 March)
Ed Miliband refuses to share a platform with Nick Clegg

Not faking straight (Telegraph, 16 March)
Julian Astle responds to Danny Finkelstein's rejection of AV: AV isn’t just about the way in which “marginal seats are allocated” … It is about creating more marginal seats – more seats where MPs need to worry about whether or not they will get re-elected; more seats where MPs might be punished by the voters for complacency or corruption. In short, more seats where MPs are properly accountable to those they represent.

Charles Kennedy can share pro-AV platform with Labour leader (Guardian, 18 March)
Former Lib Dem leader to stand with Ed Miliband at joint alternative vote campaign rally after Nick Clegg drops objection

The Centre

Edward Timpson MP appointed to strengthen Number 10's relations with 'Class of 2010' (ConservativeHome, 15 March)
Deceptive title: Tim Montgomerie updates his earlier piece on No 10 Downing Street

One week to get a grip: It was meant to be a routine budget. Now Osborne looks like the government's last chance (PoliticsHome, 17 March)
James Forsyth on the obstacles the centre faces: officials, Europe, the judiciary--all this threatens a loss of momentum. Hope lies with George Osborne and the budget

The proposed NHS reforms

The increasing divide between the Lib Dem grassroots and their MPs (TotalPolitics, 16 March)
NHS reform is the latest issue to demonstrate the distance between what Lib Dem party members want and what their MPs deliver in the Commons

NHS reforms leave health ministers under attack from all sides (Guardian, 17 March)
Ministers have already lost the support of the Lib Dems, the BMA and the former health secretary Alan Milburn

Liberal Democrats seek changes to health reforms (Guardian, 20 March)
Officials drawing up plans to turn motions passed at party's spring conference into amendments to health and social care bill.

Intra-party relations

Too soon for a wobble, Lib Dems (Bagehot, 17 March)
Straightforward discussion of the Lib Dems' current dilemma: stay the course or begin to assert the party's distinctiveness? Bagehot advocates the former.
Party Members expect Tory MPs to "normally support" the Government in Commons votes and call on regular rebels to be disciplined (ConservativeHome, 18 March)

Jonathan Isaby discusses a recent poll of Conservative Party members

**Inter-party relations**
Labour is playing snog/marry/avoid with the Lib Dems (TotalPolitics Blog, 15 March)
Instead of worrying about its relations with the Lib Dems, Labour needs to focus on its own priorities

Nick Clegg's effort at team-building with Tory MPs ends in farce (Evening Standard, 17 March)
Attempts by the DPM to connect with Tory MPs fail

**Libya: a non-issue?**
Libya: This is only the first step along an unpredictable and hazardous road (Observer, 20 March)
The durability of the international coalition behind the Libyan intervention will be tested in the crucible of conflict: Lib Dem leadership in agreement with Cameron

Parliament debates Libya: what Liberal Democrat MPs have been saying (LibDem Voice, 21 March)
Mark Pack provides selections from Lib Dems on the debate in Parliament so far on the United Nations resolution on Libya and subsequent military action

**Miscellaneous**
Osborne’s long game (Financial Times, 18 March) ££
Expected to be hated for his policies, Osborne comments: "I hadn't reckoned on Nick Clegg"

Clegg's coup (Spectator, 18 March)
Fraser Nelson argues that Nick Clegg has just won a powerful victory over the Conservatives, appointing a Bill of Rights commission which is certain to leave the ECHR intact.

The Liberal Democrats should be judged on how we deliver our own agenda (Observer, 20 March)
"We may not have won the general election outright, but we are on course to deliver all four of our main priorities from our election manifesto."

Chris Huhne: Nuclear power may become less attractive option for UK (Observer, 20 March)
Energy Secretary discusses the difficulty of investment in nuclear power after Japan’s troubles.