Coalition Update: 20-26 September

Managing the Government

The Tory right declares war on Whitehall (New Statesman, 23 September)
Rafael Behr discusses the "arm wrestle" over the Open Public Services White Paper.

Promoting a Separate Identity

Nick Clegg's pandering to his base is out of political necessity... (Conservativehome, 20 September)
Anthony Browne claims that Nick Clegg attacks the Tories for political reasons, not out of conviction.

Baroness Williams warns Chris Huhne to stop bashing the Tories (Telegraph, 20 September)
Shirley Williams claims that Lib Dems are wrong to attack the Tories, calling it "unhelpful".

The significant part of Tim Farron's speech (LibDemVoice, 20 September)
Mark Pack highlights Tim Farron's defence of ministers unable to speak their mind, defending their behind the scenes influence.

Left Watch (Conservativehome, 20 September)
Tim Montgomerie claims Chris Huhne's attack on the Tories was motivated not by his desire to give his party a clearer identity, but his pitch to succeed Nick Clegg.
http://conservativehome.blogs.com/leftwatch/2011/09/huhne-has-already-compared-us-to-goebbels-now-were-as-bad-as-sarah-palin.html

Is fierce tribalism undermining the coalition? (TotalPolitics, 21 September)
Hannah Breeze claims that forging a separate identity does not make childish attacks on your coalition partners sensible or seemly.
http://www.totalpolitics.com/blog/259067/is-fierce-tribalism-undermining-the-coalition.html

What Clegg failed to mention (Spectator, 21 September)
David Blackburn criticises Nick Clegg for failing to mention the government's flagship education and welfare policies, despite the former being supported in opposition.
http://www.spectator.co.uk/coffeehouse/7256808/what-clegg-failed-to-mentioned.html

Now Cameron faces a new dilemma (Independent, 22 September)
Steve Richards discusses how Lib Dem attempts to show they are making a difference cause David Cameron problems.
The Balance of the Coalition
A party that doesn't realise the power at its disposal *(Independent, 20 September)*
Steve Richards claims that the Lib Dems do not recognise or wield their true power within the coalition.
http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/steve-richards/steve-richards-a-party-that-doesnt-realise-the-power-at-its-disposal-2357526.html

Lib Dems eye bigger role at Home Office in reshuffle *(Times*, September 21) **££**
Lib Dems feel exposed on law and order, and so are pitching for a beefed up position in the Home Office after the next reshuffle.
http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article3170235.ece

Time to show junior just who is in charge *(Mail*, 21 September)
The Mail's leader column claims the Lib Dems have used their power to frustrate the Tories or pursue a "fringe agenda".

Policy Differences
Cameron and Clegg clash over Palestinian recognition *(Times*, 21 September) **££**
Nick Clegg and David Cameron are reportedly at odds on statehood for Palestine.

Future Coalitions?
Nick Clegg needs another hung parliament or faces oblivion *(Guardian, 21 September)*
Jonathan Freedland claims that the Lib Dems can only survive as a party in the event of continual hung parliaments, which he does not deem likely.

A long unhappy marriage *(Economist, 24 September)*
The Economist claims the coalition could last ten years.
http://www.economist.com/node/21530109

Managing Parliament
What do you think the Government's Commons majority is? *(Ballots and Bullets, 21 September)*
Philip Cowley and Mark Stuart discusses the true size of the Government's Parliamentary majority.

The Role and Practices of Special Advisers
Michael Gove faces questions over department's use of private email *(Guardian, 20 September)*
The Information Commissioner is investigating information policy at the DfE following reports that special advisers there are using private email accounts to discuss government policy.

http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/sep/20/michael-gove-department-private-email

Spads seen as vital to government (FT, 21 September)
A discussion of the "essential" role of special advisers.
http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/cc8c721e-e454-11e0-b4e9-00144feabcd0.html#axzz1Y ZyD Jdl

Forming a Coalition
Nick Clegg's conference speech was vain, self-satisfied and downright honest (Telegraph, 21 September)
John McTernan claims that no other Liberal leader since the war could have formed a coalition with the Conservatives and that a confidence and supply arrangement would have been more appropriate.

Rebellions
Tory grassroots rebel against HS2 (Telegraph, 25 September)
David Cameron is to face opposition to HS2 at his party conference next week.

Miscellaneous
Gallows Humour (Economist, 24 September)
Bagehot reviews the Lib Dem conference.
http://www.economist.com/node/21530101

What Lib Dem members think... (LibDemVoice, 24 September)
A LibDemVoice poll of members sees Cameron far more popular than Miliband, for a variety of reasons.