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Comment

Entrepreneurs in another class

THE fact that Enterprise Week has gone global this year neatly illustrates what can be achieved when you put entrepreneurial types in charge of a public policy.

Four years since its inception, the domestic campaign should see half a million people take part this week – all designed to encourage us to be more entrepreneurial.

Some 77 leaders have signed up, including French President Nicolas Sarkozy, California's governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Gordon Brown. As Richard Lambert, the CBI's director general argues on page 6 today, it is the efforts of individual entrepreneurs that will pull Britain out of recession not promises from politicians.

For its part, the Government must do more to promote entrepreneurship and support those taking this risky path. It starts in schools, making sure the tens of millions already allocated for teaching teenagers the fun and intellectual challenge of learning about business is ring-fenced so it's actually spent on that and not on other priorities, like mending a leaky roof. The commitment extends to those setting up in

business, who put their reputation, their home and their health on the line in the pursuit of a vision. What they don't need is a Government that says one thing and does another.

Lord Mandelson, the Business Secretary, told an audience of young entrepreneurs in London yesterday: "You are the wealth creators of tomorrow. The dynamic and innovative businesses you create will be vital to our economy as we come out of this difficult period ready to make the most of immense opportunities from the global economy over the decades ahead." If he means what he says, he will convince Alistair Darling to use the Pre-Budget Report to make life easier, not harder, for entrepreneurs. The Chancellor could start by reversing his decision to raise corporation tax on smaller companies.

