

**Monday, May 15**

## ON THIS DAY



▲ **2003:** The art collection of the bankrupt Enron Corporation fetched \$1.31m at auction in New York. Claes Oldenburg's *Soft Light Switches* was the top seller, realising \$405,000

**1718:** London lawyer James Puckle patented the first machine gun

**1940:** Nylon stockings went on sale throughout America; 780,000 pairs were sold on the first day alone

**1991:** Edith Cresson was appointed France's first woman prime minister

**1999:** Russian president Boris Yeltsin survived an attempt by the Duma, the lower house of parliament, to impeach him