

PART 6

MT

SECRET

Confidential Filing

Legislative Programme.

PARLIAMENT

Part 1 : May 1979

Part 6 : October 1981

| Referred to | Date | Referred to | Date | Referred to | Date | Referred to | Date |
|---------------------|------|--------------------|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|
| 30.10.80 | | 5.2.81 | | | | | |
| 3.11.80 | | 6.2.81 | | | | | |
| 11.11.80 | | 12.2.81 | | | | | |
| 13.11.80 | | 20.2.81 | | | | | |
| 17.11.80 | | 24.2.81 | | | | | |
| 21.11.80 | | 25.2.81 | | | | | |
| 10.12.80 | | 26.2.81 | | | | | |
| 12.12.80 | | 4.3.81 | | | | | |
| 15.12.80 | | 5.3.81 | | | | | |
| 22.12.80 | | 12.3.81 | | | | | |
| 30.12.80 | | 13.3.81 | | | | | |
| 31.12.80 | | 17.3.81 | | | | | |
| 5.1.81 | | 20.3.81 | | | | | |
| 13.1.81 | | 31.3.81 | | | | | |
| 16.1.81 | | <u>ENDS</u> | | | | | |
| 22.1.81 | | | | | | | |
| 23.1.81 | | | | | | | |
| 29.1.81 | | | | | | | |

PREM 19/555

PART 6 ends:-

LPS to Home Sec 31/3

PART 7 begins:-

Lab office to Home Office 1/4

TO BE RETAINED AS TOP ENCLOSURE

Cabinet / Cabinet Committee Documents

| Reference | Date |
|--|----------|
| QL (80) 10 | 25.11.80 |
| QL (80) 5 th Meeting, Minutes | 1.12.80 |
| L (80) 75 | 3.12.80 |
| QL (81) 2 | 14.1.81 |
| QL (81) 1 st Meeting, Minutes | 19.1.81 |
| CC (81) 3 rd Meeting, Minute 1 | 22.1.81 |
| L (81) 27 | 23.1.81 |
| CC (81) 44 th Conclusions, Minute 1 | 29.1.81 |
| CC (81) 5 th Conclusions, Minute 1 | 5.2.81 |
| CC (81) 8 th Conclusions, Minute 2 | 24.2.81 |
| H (81) 20 | 24.2.81 |
| L (81) 7 th Meeting, Minutes | 25.2.81 |
| QL (81) 3 | 11.3.81 |
| QL (81) 4 | 11.3.81 |
| QL (81) 5 | 12.3.81 |
| CC (81) 11 th Conclusions, Minute 1 | 12.3.81 |
| QL (81) 2 nd Meeting, Minutes | 17.3.81 |
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The documents listed above, which were enclosed on this file, have been removed and destroyed. Such documents are the responsibility of the Cabinet Office. When released they are available in the appropriate CAB (CABINET OFFICE) CLASSES

Signed *On Wayland*

Date 16 August 2011

PREM Records Team

*Parliament*

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1

31 March 1981

R. Willis,

Thank you for your letter about the 1981/82 Legislative Programme outlining the position as far as FCO Bills are concerned. I am replying in Peter Carrington's absence.

I was glad to see that the Committee felt that it would be right in principle to reserve a place in the main programme for the proposed Territorial Sea Bill, and I hope that this place can be maintained. While developments at UNLOSC are becoming even more unpredictable, I think it most unlikely that we shall wish these developments to hold up our plans to extend the territorial sea. If, as is currently recommended, we make an announcement in May of our intention to extend, it will be important to follow this up with legislation reasonably promptly. We have noted your point about the timing of instructions to Parliamentary Counsel: draft instructions covering nearly all the points in the proposed Bill have already been circulated to interested Departments. Therefore, with the cooperation of other interested Departments, we should have no difficulty in getting instructions to Parliamentary Counsel before the summer recess.

As regards the Bill to enable us to ratify the Convention Against the Taking of Hostages, we have already circulated draft instructions to
/Parliamentary

The Rt Hon William Whitelaw CH MC MP
Home Secretary
Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9AT

CONFIDENTIAL



Parliamentary Counsel and hope to have these ready shortly. The Bill should not be contentious and should be suitable for Second Reading Committee procedure in the Commons. I hope therefore that this Bill can be added to the supplementary list as you suggest.

As for the rest, we are content. We have already asked that the Belize Independence Bill be taken in the summer and you will be aware that the Canada Bill may well have to be taken this session. We accept that the Diplomatic Privileges (Special Missions) Bill together with the one dealing with the Disposal of Russian Assets should be dropped from the 1981/82 programme.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours
✓
/a

CONFIDENTIAL

HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

010
NBPM

1. MAP to SA

2. PA

MS

*With the
Lord Chancellor's Compliments*

313

[Large handwritten signature]



L62/196/17

HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

30 March 1981

My dear Willie:

Legal Aid Bill

A decision to defer the Legal Aid Bill to a later Session would be a serious set-back to my plans for containing criminal legal aid whose cost will on present figures increase by almost 40% to over £85m in 1980/81.

The Bill would be short, technical and unlikely to be seriously contentious. It would enable arrangements to be made to integrate legal advice, assistance and representation in criminal proceedings. It would also resolve doubts as to the need for defence lawyers to attend formal committals for trial in those cases where neither the court nor the parties require their presence which could achieve savings of £1.5m. It can be got ready in time. I would like to have the Bill on the basis that its inclusion in the programme is conditional on its being accepted by the Opposition as a Second Reading Committee Bill.

The Bill would not alter the criteria for legal aid or restrict its availability. In addition to resolving the doubts I have referred to, it could increase receipts of contributions, improve the supervision of legally aided proceedings and provide a proper basis for duty solicitors. In particular:-

- (a) Contributions would be assessable and payable (if necessary by instalments) at the outset (when

The Right Honourable
William Whitelaw, CH, MC, MP.,
Secretary of State for the Home Department.

there is an incentive to pay) subject to a discretion to review the whole matter at the end of the case. Advice and assistance contributions are presently payable at the outset whilst representation contributions are ordered at the end of the case subject to a discretion to require a down payment on account of any order that might be made.

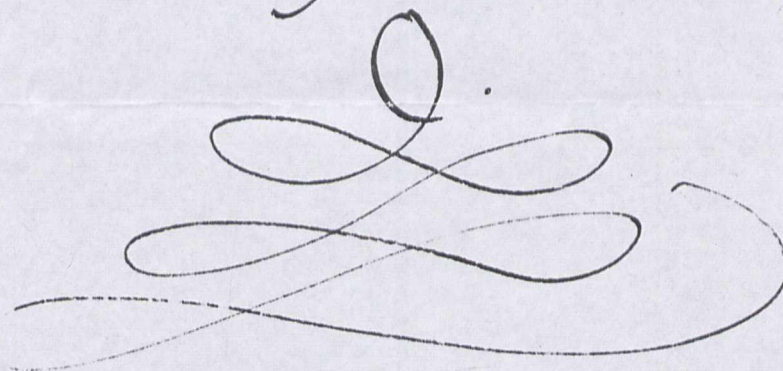
(b) Legally aided proceedings would be supervised by appropriate authorities (courts and/or committees of lawyers) to the extent that they would be given power to probe applications for separate representation or change of solicitor thus reducing unnecessary duplication.

These changes cannot be made without legislation.

If it is not possible to accommodate the Bill as a Second Reading Committee Bill on the basis I have suggested, I would like to press very strongly for the inclusion of the resolution of doubts provision in the Criminal Justice Bill in order to save the £1.5m to which I have referred above.

I am copying this letter to members of QL Committee and to Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Henry Rowe.

yrs :



MR. DUGUID

76 JS
Parliament
c.c. Mr. Lankester

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME: 1981/82

I am sorry not to have responded before now to your minute to Tim Lankester about the possibility of legislation next session on trade union reform.

The Department of Employment have not put in a bid for next year's programme on this matter. Their only legislative bids are on dockwork regulation, equal pay, and employment of the disabled. Of these, only the first two are likely to survive.

Pressure on the programme next year is likely to be at least as heavy as it has been this year. There will therefore be little prospect of adding major legislation, such as a further employment bill, at a late stage. If you wish to raise the issue with the Prime Minister, now is the time to do it.

N. J. SANDERS

31 March 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

12 MARCH 1981

MR LANKESTER

cc Mr Sanders

TRADE UNION REFORM

1. As you know, the deadline for the Green Paper consultative exercise is 30 June. In our notes to the Prime Minister of 28 November 1980 and 15 December 1980, we expressed concern that this timescale might effectively rule out even the possibility of taking a further legislative step during the 1981/2 session. The Chancellor expressed the same anxiety in his letter to Mr Prior of 8 December.
2. Department of Employment suggested that the June deadline did not preclude action during the 1981/2 session, although Mr Prior told us he thought it might turn out to be a better tactic to use the prospect of further legislation as a Sword of Damocles, until the next Manifesto was written. No decision was taken on timing; by implication it was left to be considered in the summer.
3. Could you tell me whether the contingency need for legislation - for which the Chancellor and, I think, the Prime Minister are convinced - is reflected in the arrangements for forthcoming legislation, including the contingency arrangements? If not, do you not think we should consult the Prime Minister about this?



ANDREW DUGUID

27th March 1981

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

(i) Second Reading

- Deep Sea Mining (Temporary Provisions) (L)
∅ English Industrial Estates Corporation (L)
∅ Film Levy Finance (L)
Finance
∅ Judicial Pensions (L)
∅ National Film Finance Corporation (L)
Petroleum and Continental Shelf
∅ Public Passenger Vehicles (L)
Town and Country Planning (Minerals) (L)

(ii) Special Standing Committee

Education

(iii) Select Committee

Armed Forces

(iv) Standing Committee

Atomic Energy (Misc Prov)
British Nationality
Contempt of Court (L)
Education (Scotland) (No 2)
Employment and Training
Iron and Steel
Ports (Financial Assistance)
Social Security
Transport

(v) Report and Third Reading

British Telecommunications
Criminal Attempts
Energy Conservation (L)
Forestry
Insurance Companies
Parliamentary Commissioner (Consular Complaints) (L)

∅ Consolidation

✓
MS

| (vi) | <u>Orders and Regulations</u> | <u>Date Laid</u> | <u>Whether Controversial</u> | <u>Date Required</u> |
|------|--|------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | *British Nuclear Fuels Ltd | 9/3 | No | By 31/3 |
| | Financial Assistance to Industry (ICL) | 24/3 | Maybe | Dept wd like in w.c. 12/4 |
| | London Docklands Development Corporation | 27/11 | Maybe | Subject to Lords |
| | Queen's University of Belfast (NI) | 25/2 | No | For Debate 2/4 |
| | *Rating of Industry (Scotland) | 13/3 | No | By 31/3 |

LORDS

- ∅ Animal Health (L)
- Companies (No 2) (L)
- Fisheries
- Local Government (Misc Prov) (Scotland)
- Matrimonial Homes (Family Protection) (Scotland) (L)
- Statute Law (Repeals) (L)
- ∅ Supreme Court (L)
- Water
- Wildlife and Countryside (L)

Awaiting Royal Assent

- International Organisations (L)
- Merchant Shipping (L)

*SI Committee

∅ Consolidation

Bills awaiting introduction (Either House)

(Date of Legislation Committee)

Belize Independence

?

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (10)

Anguilla 1980

Consolidated Fund (No 2) 1980

Consolidated Fund 1981

European Assembly Elections 1981

Gas Levy 1981

House of Commons Members' Fund and Parliamentary
Pensions 1981

Industry 1981

Iron and Steel (Borrowing Powers) 1981

Redundancy Fund 1981

Social Security (Contributions) 1981

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

VMS

- (i) Second Reading
- Deep Sea Mining (Temporary Provisions) (L)
Finance
∅ Judicial Pensions (L)
Petroleum and Continental Shelf
Ports (Financial Assistance)
Town and Country Planning (Minerals) (L)
- (ii) Special Standing Committee
- Education
- (iii) Select Committee
- Armed Forces
- (iv) Standing Committee
- Atomic Energy (Misc Prov)
British Nationality
Contempt of Court (L)
Education (Scotland) (No 2)
Employment and Training
Energy Conservation (L)
Iron and Steel
Social Security
Transport
- (v) Report and Third Reading
- British Telecommunications
Criminal Attempts
Forestry
Insurance Companies
International Organisations (L)
Local Government (Misc Prov) (Scotland)
Merchant Shipping (L)
Parliamentary Commissioner (Consular Complaints) (L)
- (vi) Orders and Regulations
- | | <u>Date Laid</u> | <u>Whether Controversial</u> | <u>Date Required</u> |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| *British Nuclear Fuels Ltd | 9/3 | No | By 31/3 |
| Enterprise Zones (NI) | 3/3 | Maybe | For debate 26/3 |
- *SI Committee
∅ Consolidation

(vi)

| <u>Orders and Regulations</u> | <u>Date Laid</u> | <u>Whether Controversial</u> | <u>Date Required</u> |
|--|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| London Docklands Development Corporation | 27/11 | Maybe | Subject to Lords |
| *Mortgaging of Aircraft | 4/3 | No | By 3/4 |
| Planning Blight (Compensation) (NI) | 16/2 | No | For Debate 26/3 |
| Public Order (NI) | 13/1 | No | For Debate 26/3 |
| Queen's University of Belfast (NI) | 25/2 | No | No dead-line |
| *Rating of Industry (Scotland) | 13/3 | No | By 31/3 |
| *Supplementary Benefit | 3/3 | No | By 27/3 |
| Transport Boards | 3/3 | No | For Debate 25/3 |

LORDS

∅ Animal Health (L)
Companies (No 2) (L)
∅ English Industrial Estates Corporation (L)
∅ Film Levy Finance (L)
Fisheries
Matrimonial Homes (Family Protection) (Scotland) (L)
∅ National Film Finance Corporation (L)
∅ Public Passenger Vehicles (L)
Statute Law (Repeals) (L)
∅ Supreme Court (L)
Water
Wildlife and Countryside (L)

*SI Committee

∅ Consolidation

Bills awaiting introduction (Either House)

(Date of Legislation Committee)

Belize Independence

?

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (10)

Anguilla 1980

Consolidated Fund (No 2) 1980

Consolidated Fund 1981

European Assembly Elections 1981

Gas Levy 1981

House of Commons Members' Fund and Parliamentary
Pensions 1981

Industry 1981

Iron and Steel (Borrowing Powers) 1981

Redundancy Fund 1981

Social Security (Contributions) 1981



FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE
HOUSE OF LORDS

MAP + JCA + PA
MS

19 March 1981

Dear Norman,

Thank you for your letter of 3 March in which you suggest that Lord Skelmersdale might assist you with the Transport Bill, prior to its arrival in the Lords.

I have discussed your proposal with the Chief Whip who has in turn raised the matter with Roger Skelmersdale. We are all content with your suggestion and believe that it will serve a useful purpose, particularly in view of the difficulties which can be expected in the Lords on the Transport Bill later in the year.

It is however, only right for me to point out that the normal duties of a Lord in Waiting, which include regular attendance at the House, must take priority over Departmental work, especially if this work does not relate directly to the Business of the House. As you will therefore appreciate, it is very unlikely that Roger Skelmersdale will be able to devote one complete day a week to the Bill. His availability will inevitably be somewhat piecemeal.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours ever

SOAMES

Christoph

The Rt Hon Norman Fowler MP

NEXT YEAR'S LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME

QL are to meet on Tuesday to look for the first time at the legislative programme for 1981/82. You might like to look through the proposals as they stand at the moment.

QL(81)4 summarises the position and lists the recommended Bills

- QL(81)4 - (at Flag A) and those recommended for exclusion from the programme (at Flag B). QL(81)3 gives the details of all the Bills.

I am afraid that I share the view expressed in paragraph 6 of the Chancellor of the Duchy's paper, that there is little in next year's programme which will generate any fresh enthusiasm. Almost all of the proposals are familiar ones, and many of them are dull. You should note, however, that the Bills proposed include legislation on young offenders, employers' statutory sick pay, data protection and some privatisation measures.

The list of rejected Bills does not include many of greater popular appeal. I should point out, though, that the Further and Higher Education Bill, which would implement the proposals for a national body for non-university higher education, is in the list of excluded Bills. The proposals are due to come to H again at the end of this month. If policy approval is agreed then (which is by no means certain) I suggest that we might press the Chancellor of the Duchy to bring that Bill forward next year. Mark Carlisle would very much like to get on with it, and I think he is right.

ms

MS

CONFIDENTIAL



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB

The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1

✓
MS
12 MAR 1981

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Heseltine".

LEGISLATION AND PRIVATISATION

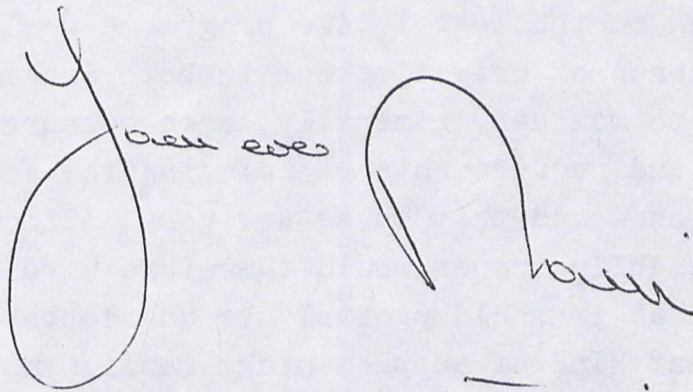
I have seen a copy of your letter of 5 February to Christopher Soames about general enabling legislation on privatisation. I agree that any reasonable steps which reduced the burden on the legislative programme would be helpful. But my experience of privatisation in both Sessions of this Parliament suggests to me that, generally, each measure has its own special features and requirements - including the amendment of primary legislation - and that these are very difficult to foresee. Any general enabling power would therefore have to be so widely drafted that it would probably be unacceptable. It is difficult to see what kind of supplementary Parliamentary procedure for each case would allow effective Parliamentary Scrutiny; it does not, for instance, seem likely that affirmative resolution of unamendable orders would leave sufficient scope for scrutiny of a substantial or complex undertaking. In addition, I do not anticipate that my main ideas for further privatisation could readily be covered by general enabling legislation.

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I would not object to officials looking at the possibilities; but my view is that their time would be best employed on a relatively unambitious version of the proposal, at least in the first place: for example, the design of powers to enable research and development institutions to develop trading with private capital.

I am copying this to the Prime Minister and other members of Cabinet, First Parliamentary Counsel and Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'N' followed by the name 'Fowler' written in a cursive script.

NORMAN FOWLER

A circular red stamp with numbers 1 through 12 arranged around the perimeter, and a central number 11.

12 MAR 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY
ASHDOWN HOUSE
123 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1E 6RB

TELEPHONE DIRECT LINE 01-212 3301
SWITCHBOARD 01-212 7676

Secretary of State for Industry

10 March 1981

The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP
Secretary of State for the
Environment
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3EB

John Major

LEGISLATION ON PRIVATISATION ETC

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 5 February to Christopher Soames.

You may recall that last year Michael Marshall was asked by E(DL) to consider the possibility of the Government introducing a general enabling bill giving it powers to create and dispose a nationalised industries' subsidiaries. In his minute to me of 22 October, copied to members of E(DL), he concluded against it for both constitutional and legal reasons. I believe the same conclusion was reached in respect of a similar proposal relating to quangos following Sir Leo Pliatzky's report.

Although I am of course in full sympathy with your objectives, I share the doubts that have been expressed about the enabling bill. I do not think we should be setting a precedent which could encourage legislation to renationalise in the same way.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

John Major

CONFIDENTIAL

6th March 1981

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

(i) Second Reading

Consolidated Fund (No 2)
Deep Sea Mining (Temporary Provisions) (L)
Iron and Steel
∅ Judicial Pensions (L)
Petroleum and Continental Shelf

(ii) Special Standing Committee

Education

(iii) Select Committee

Armed Forces

(iv) Standing Committee

Atomic Energy (Misc Prov)
British Nationality
Contempt of Court (L)
Education (Scotland) (No 2)
Employment and Training
Energy Conservation (L)
International Organisations (L)
Merchant Shipping (L)
Parliamentary Commissioner (Consular Complaints) (L)
Social Security
Transport

(v) Report and Third Reading

British Telecommunications
Criminal Attempts
Forestry
Insurance Companies
Local Government (Misc Prov) (Scotland)

| (vi) <u>Orders and Regulations</u> | Date Laid | <u>Controversial</u> | Date Required |
|------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Appropriation (NI) | 20/2 | No | For Debate 9/3 |
| *Carriage by Air Acts | 25/2 | No | By 16/3 |
| Enterprise Zones (NI) | 3/3 | Maybe | By PC Mtg on 13/4 |

* SI Committee

∅ Consolidation

| (vi) <u>Orders and Regulations</u> | Date Laid | Whether Controversial | Date Required |
|--|-----------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| * Export Guarantees | 27/1 | No | a.s.a.p. |
| Local Government (NI) | 29/1 | No | For debate 10/3 |
| London Docklands Development Corporation | 27/11 | Maybe | Subject to Lords |
| *Maximum Number of Judges | 16/2 | No | By PC Mtg on 18/3 |
| Merseyside Development Corporation | 27/11 | Maybe | Subject to Lords |
| Mortgaging of Aircraft | 4/3 | No | By 3/4 |
| Planning Blight (Compensation) (NI) | 16/2 | No | By PC Mtg on 18/3 |
| Prevention of Terrorism | 24/2 | Yes | By 24/3 |
| Public Order (NI) | 13/1 | No | |
| Queen's University of Belfast (NI) | 25/2 | No | No deadline |
| Supplementary Benefit | 3/3 | No | By 27/3 |
| Transport Boards | 3/3 | No | By 31/3 |

LORDS

- ∅ Animal Health (L)
- Companies (L)
- ∅ English Industrial Estates Corporation (L)
- European Assembly Elections
- ∅ Film Levy Finance (L)
- Fisheries
- Gas Levy
- House of Commons Members' Fund and Parliamentary Pensions
- Industry
- Matrimonial Homes (Family Protection) (Scotland) (L)
- ∅ National Film Finance Corporation (L)
- ∅ Public Passenger Vehicles (L)
- Statute Law (Repeals) (L)
- ∅ Supreme Court (L)
- Town and Country Planning (Minerals) (L)
- Water
- Wildlife and Countryside (L)

Awaiting Royal Assent

Redundancy Fund

- *SI Committee
- ∅ Consolidation

Bills awaiting introduction (Either House)

(Date of Legislation Committee)

Belize Independence

?

Ports (Financial Assistance)

11/3

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (4)

Anguilla 1980

Consolidated Fund (No 2) 1980

Iron and Steel (Borrowing Powers) 1981

Social Security (Contributions) 1981

Parliament

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON S.W.1



From the Minister

VMS

CONFIDENTIAL

The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1 3EB

5 March 1981

LEGISLATION ON PRIVATISATION ETC

I am joining in the correspondence which has followed your letter of 5 February to Christopher Soames because the Lord Chancellor has referred in his letter of 23 February to an idea which I advanced some time ago. This idea was to frame an enabling Bill under which quangos could be abolished by order. The Bill would have been in essence two schedules - one listing or describing the bodies to which the Bill applied and the other spelling out the provision that could be made in relation to each.

The present suggestion is quite different in character: it would try to cover everything that might be required for privatising activities at present carried on by Government. David Howell in his letter of 20 February suggests taking power to create quangos. In view of our professed attitude to quangos I cannot see our supporters in the House or in the country reacting with any enthusiasm. In any event it would only take us part of the way. In some cases we could surely disengage without creating a new body to discharge the function.

Generally, I share the doubts expressed by Francis Pym in his letter of 12 February and by Christopher Soames in his letter of 20 February. Even if (which seems highly doubtful) a Bill could be drafted, it would be a most dangerous precedent. Moreover use of its powers could result in a string of orders which would certainly have to be subject to affirmative resolution and might be hybrid. So I would even doubt the value of putting officials to work on the possibility - particularly as we still have to decide just what is to be privatised.

/I am.....

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON SW1



MS

CONFIDENTIAL

The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the House of Commons, other Cabinet colleagues, First Parliamentary Counsel and Sir Robert Armstrong.

PETER WALKER

Generally, I share the doubts expressed by Francis Pym in his letter of 20 February and by Christopher Soames in his letter of 23 February. Even if (which seems highly doubtful) a Bill could be drafted, it would be a most dangerous precedent. Moreover, use of the powers could result in a string of orders which would certainly have to be subject to strict judicial review and might be upheld. So I would even doubt the value of any attempt to work on the possibility - particularly in relation to the fact that it is to be privatised.

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-68-MAR-1984

PRIME MINISTER

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

Next week's Business is of course dominated by the Budget. You will see that it is also proposed to take a Guillotine Motion on the Transport Bill, and that this should be done on Monday. You will be aware that the Bill has been making very slow progress indeed in Committee.

It is just possible that someone may raise the problems facing the Wildlife and Countryside Bill. There is a dispute between Mr. Walker and Mr. Heseltine about the provisions of the Bill on Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Arrangements are being made for a meeting of Ministers to try to resolve the issues, and I think that it would not be sensible to take them up in Cabinet. Perhaps you might say that you understand the question is to be discussed elsewhere [Hon Friday morning]

4 March 1981

FINAL

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Business for next week will be as follows:-

Monday
9th March

6.30 =

Consideration of a Timetable Motion on the Transport Bill.
Motion on the Appropriation(Northern Ireland) Order.

11.30 =

Tuesday
10th March

My Rt Hon and Learned Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer will open his BUDGET STATEMENT.

European Community Documents 10444/80, and the un-numbered Annual Report on the Economic Situation in the Community(1980) and the Economic Policy Guidelines for 1981, will be relevant.

4.30 =

Motion on the Local Government, Planning and Land (Northern Ireland) Order.

The Chairman of Ways and Means has named Opposed Private Business for consideration at 7 o'clock.

10p- =

Wednesday)
11th March)
and)
Thursday)
12th March)

Continuation of the Budget Debate.

Friday
13th March

Private Members' Motions.

Monday
16th March

Conclusion of the debate on the Budget Statement.

///



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 March 1981

The Prime Minister has seen a copy of your Secretary of State's letter of 3 March to the Lord President. She would be quite content for Lord Skelmersdale to assist the Department during the passage of the Transport Bill through the House.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Jim Buckley, Lord President's Office.

M. A. PATTISON

Anthony Mayer, Esq.,
Department of Transport.

R



CABINET OFFICE
70 WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AS

XXXXXXXXXXXX

233 8595

K 073

3 March 1981

J F Halliday, Esq.,
P/S to Home Secretary,
Home Office,
50 Queen Anne's Gate.

Dear John,

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE: PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

1. As you know, when Legislation Committee consider the handling of Private Members' Bills their conclusions often turn on the chances of a Bill being reached for debate, which, in turn, depends on its place in the order for Second Reading on a given day. At the last meeting of Legislation Committee the Chief Whip pointed out that some recent departmental memoranda to the Committee had not given this information. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, as Chairman of L Committee, has asked that in future the first paragraph of any memorandum on Private Members' Bills submitted to the Committee should include not only a brief description of the Bill but the date when it appears on the Order Paper for Second Reading and its place in the order on that day.

2. We should be grateful if you and the Private Secretaries to other members of the Cabinet, to whom I am copying this letter, could bring the point to the attention of those preparing draft memoranda. I am also copying this letter to the Private Secretaries of other members of L Committee and to David Wright, Cabinet Office.

Yours

W N Hyde

W N-HYDE

Telephone
01-212 3751

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
2 MARSHAM STREET
SW1P 3EB



*With the Compliments of the
Secretary of State for Transport*



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB

Prime Minister
Content for had
Skelmersdale to be
asked to help out at
Transport, whilst Mr
3 March 1981
Clarke is tied up
with their Bill?

The Rt Hon The Lord Soames GCMG GCVO CH CBE
Lord President of the Council and
Leader of the House of Lords
Civil Service Department
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1

Yes no
Yes
Mr Clarke

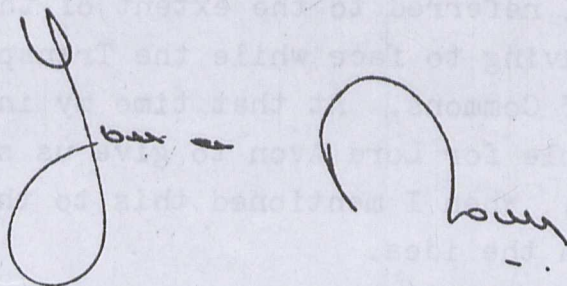
MJP
3/3

In the course of a conversation a few weeks ago with the Prime Minister I referred to the extent of the workload Kenneth Clarke is having to face while the Transport Bill goes through the House of Commons. At that time my intention was to see if it was possible for Lord Avon to give us some assistance with correspondence. When I mentioned this to the Prime Minister she was content with the idea.

However, in the light of Lord Avon's present commitments, I wonder now whether this is something Lord Skelmersdale might appropriately do, subject to the views of the Prime Minister, yourself and the Lords Chief Whip. What I have in mind would amount to about a day's work a week. We would find this a great help, and it would, I think, also give Lord Skelmersdale a useful introduction to transport matters - in particular with an eye to the time when the Transport Bill goes to the House of Lords. We would of course provide him with an office and secretarial help in 2 Marsham Street.

I should be most grateful to know if I may approach Lord Skelmersdale to see if something could be arranged on these lines - while I would hope it would be possible for him as a Lord in Waiting to sign letters on my behalf, I would not propose to involve him in any Commons business or dealings directly with Members of Parliament.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, Lord Bellwin and Lord Avon.



NORMAN FOWLER

3 MAR 1981

11 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

CONFIDENTIAL



Parliament
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

28 February 1981

Dear Christopher

LEGISLATION ON PRIVATISATION ETC

Michael Heseltine sent me a copy of his letter to you of 5 February about the possibility of some general enabling legislation in the fields of privatisation and the abolition of quangos. I have also seen your response of 20 February and the responses of our colleagues.

It may be helpful to record that I am seeking a legislative opportunity to abolish the Fire Service College Board and also the Advisory Committee on Radio Interference; these decisions were announced in the Report on Non Departmental Public Bodies. As to manpower reductions, while the principal option I am currently exploring - privatisation of domestic services at Home Office residential training establishments - does not require legislation, there are other options which do. I have in mind for example savings - albeit comparatively small - arising from reductions in central controls over the Probation Service, which would require some 20 or so minor amendments to the Powers of Criminal Courts Act 1973.

These might have been candidates for the sort of Bill that Michael has suggested. I recognise, however, and share your (and Francis Pym's) misgivings about the practicability of such a measure and await the further advice you propose to offer.

I am sending copies of this to the recipients of Michael Heseltine's letter.

*James
Littler*

The Rt Hon Lord Soames CH GCMG GCVO CBE

CONFIDENTIAL

019
Prime Minister

2

You might like to
know of this guidance

MP 22/2

Cabinet Office,
70, Whitehall,
London, SW1

27th February, 1981

PS(81) 5

Dear Private Secretary,

The Lloyds Bill

You are probably aware that a Private Bill on the activities and procedures of Lloyds is currently before the House. A number of Ministers who are "names" at Lloyds have enquired what position they should take over this Bill. I should be grateful, therefore, if you could warn any Ministers in your Department who are "names" at Lloyds or who have other links with it of the need to take particular care before taking a position in the House over this Bill. It is for Ministers themselves to decide whether the nature of their interests at Lloyds is such that, for instance, they might run the risk of their vote being challenged over this Bill were they to cast it. But clearly any Minister who has close links with Lloyds and is in any doubt about his course of action would be best advised to abstain from voting or from becoming involved in any other way in the proceedings in the House over the Bill.

Although the Department of Trade have not taken up a formal position over the Bill, they expect to be asked for an expression of view, either at Second Reading or by the Private Bill Committee and in general they support the self-regulatory policies embodied in the Bill. The Department are watching developments closely and have suggested that any Minister who has links with Lloyds and wishes to keep in touch with the development of Government thinking over the Bill should discuss it informally with the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Mr. Reginald Eyre.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to all members of the Cabinet, with a request that it should be drawn to the attention of all the Ministers in their Departments, and to Murdo MacLean, Chief Whip's Office, and Mike Pattison, No. 10.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) D. J. WRIGHT

PERSONAL



✓
MS

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

TELEPHONE 01-218 9000
DIRECT DIALLING 01-218 6169

D/S of S/94/81

27th February 1981

Dear Jock.

Thank you for your letter of 24th February about the Trident decision taken by the Government, and our intention to seek endorsement of it on Tuesday next. I am very grateful to you for giving me notice of your concern.

This is, of course, a major and complex issue. The Prime Minister made clear in public, before we were elected to office, that we intended to maintain Britain's strategic nuclear capability in the long term. This was also a Manifesto commitment. It was clear then, as it is now, that the job could not be done for nothing, and that money spent on this was money not spent on other things. But the amount of money spent on defence effort other than strategic nuclear capability will continue to grow steadily; and you will be aware of the public commitment to the sustained improvement of our conventional effort which the Prime Minister made on the Government's behalf when she signed the exchange of letters with the US President on Trident. That commitment stands.

To claim that our capability "re-duplicates" that of the US and France (an opinion which neither of those countries shares, either privately or publicly) is surely to ignore the essential point of our effort, sustained by Governments of both

Jock Bruce-Gardyne Esq MP

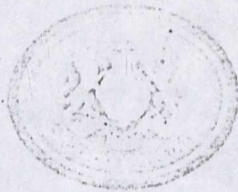


parties since the 1950s and explained very clearly by Francis Pym in the January debate last year and in the thorough memorandum he published in July. And to dismiss it as relevant only "in extremis" is, I would respectfully suggest, to misinterpret the meaning and working of deterrence. At a moment when the Soviet Union is steadily increasing its nuclear superiority over the West I cannot think that this is the time for Britain to opt out of this aspect of our defence effort.

Of course, our defence effort, as with all our Alliance partners, is under resource pressures. But the suggestion that we are "stripping the forces of proper equipment" and it is "impossible for them to use the equipment they have got" is quite untrue. It would be more true to say that we have too wide a range of R & D commitments when we might have concentrated them on a narrower range. But, together, these equipment programmes are far larger than the total estimated cost of Trident - (and some of them are individually larger). Trident, of course, is a big bill; but you are wrong in supposing that 3% of the defence budget in the investment period and 1½-2% thereafter would create a major transformation of our effort in the far more expensive conventional fields where we contribute to the Alliance. You do, I am sure, recognise as nonsense such suggestions as those of Alun Chalfont in the Lords last Thursday, about what the money would buy elsewhere.

Your letter implies that your quarrel is with the basic role rather than with the choice of Trident to fulfil it. But in case you are in doubt on the latter point, I can say that when I arrived here one of my first tasks was to brief myself on all the detailed background to the choice of Trident, and I am absolutely convinced that it is right. Trident is by far the most cost-effective choice.

PERSONAL



I shall, of course, be presenting the case in the debate. I am confident that when you have heard all the arguments, as I am sure you intend to, you will accept that it would be very damaging for the Government if you, in particular, were to dissociate yourself from Government policy on this key matter.

I am sending a copy of this letter, as you did of yours, to the Chief Whip.

Samson
John.

John Nott

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

- V
MS
- (i) Second Reading
 Contempt of Court (L)
 Deep Sea Mining (Temporary Provisions) (L)
 Iron and Steel
 ∅ Judicial Pensions (L)
 Petroleum and Continental Shelf
- (ii) Special Standing Committee
 Education
- (iii) Select Committee
 Armed Forces
- (iv) Standing Committee
 Atomic Energy (Misc Prov)
 British Nationality
 British Telecommunications
 Education (Scotland) (No 2)
 Employment and Training
 Energy Conservation (L)
 Forestry
 Insurance Companies
 International Organisations (L)
 Merchant Shipping (L)
 Parliamentary Commissioner (Consular Complaints) (L)
 Social Security
 Transport
- (v) Report and Third Reading
 Criminal Attempts
 Fisheries
 Local Government (Misc Prov) (Scotland)
- | (vi) <u>Orders and Regulations</u> | <u>Date Laid</u> | <u>Whether Controversial</u> | <u>Date Required</u> |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Appropriation (NI) | 20/2 | No | For Debate 9/3 |
| Carriage by Air Acts | 25/2 | No | By 16/3 |

| (vi) | <u>Orders and Regulations</u> | <u>Date Laid</u> | <u>Whether Controversial</u> | <u>Date Required</u> |
|------|--|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| | *Export Guarantees | 27/1 | No | a.s.a.p. |
| | IDA | 20/2 | No | For Debate 4/3 |
| | Local Government (NI) | 29/1 | No | For debate 9/3 |
| | London Docklands Development Corporation | 27/11 | Maybe | Subject to Lords |
| | *Maximum Number of Judges | 16/2 | No | By PC Mtg on 18/3 |
| | Merseyside Development Corporation | 27/11 | Maybe | Subject to Lords |
| | Planning Blight (Compensation) (NI) | 16/2 | No | By PC Mtg on 18/3 |
| | Prevention of Terrorism | 24/2 | Yes | By 24/3 |
| | Public Order (NI) | 13/1 | No | |
| | Queen's University of Belfast (NI) | 25/2 | No | No deadline |
| | Town and Country Planning | 17/2 | Yes | For Debate 3/3 |
| | Town and Country Planning (Scotland) | 18/2 | Yes | For Debate 3/3 |

LORDS

- ∅ Animal Health (L)
- Companies (L)
- ∅ English Industrial Estates Corporation (L)
- European Assembly Elections
- ∅ Film Levy Finance (L)
- Gas Levy
- House of Commons Members' Fund and Parliamentary Pensions
- Industry
- Matrimonial Homes (Family Protection) (Scotland) (L)
- ∅ National Film Finance Corporation (L)
- ∅ Public Passenger Vehicles (L)
- Redundancy Fund
- Statute Law (Repeals) (L)
- ∅ Supreme Court (L)
- Town and Country Planning (Minerals) (L)
- Water
- Wildlife and Countryside (L)
- *SI Committee
- ∅ Consolidation

Bills awaiting introduction (Either House)

(Date of Legislation Committee)

Belize Independence

?

Ports (Financial Assistance)

?

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (4)

Anguilla 1980

Consolidated Fund (No 2) 1980

Iron and Steel (Borrowing Powers) 1981

Social Security (Contributions) 1981



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1
Telephone 01-~~XXXXXX~~ 218 6169

MO 18/1/3

25th February 1981

Dear David,

I write to confirm our telephone conversation of this afternoon that the following Motion for next Tuesday's debate has been agreed by my Secretary of State, the Leader of the House and the Chief Whip.

X/ This House endorses the Government's decision to maintain a strategic nuclear deterrent and the choice of the Trident missile system as the successor to the Polaris force. /X

I am copying this letter to Nick Sanders (No 10) and to Murdo Maclean in the Chief Whip's Office.

Yours ever,

Henry

(D T PIPER)

David Heyhoe Esq

Department
Drafted by
(Block Capitals)
Tel. Extn.

OUTWARD
TELEGRAM

Security Classification
UNCLASSIFIED
Precedence
IMMEDIATE
DESKBYZ

FOR
COMMS. DEPT.
USE

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(Date)
(Time)Z

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AND TO (precedence/post)

AND SAVING TO

REPEATED TO (for info)

SAVING TO (for info)

Distribution:-

[TEXT]

Following for Alexander, Prime Minister's Party, on arrival, from Sanders, 10 Downing Street.

Begins

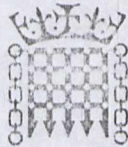
You might like to know that Mr. Nott and the business managers have agreed the following motion for the Commons debate next Tuesday:

"This House endorses the Government's decision to maintain a strategic nuclear deterrent and the choice of the Trident missile system as the successor to the Polaris force."

Copies to:-

Message ends
25 February 1981

Jock Bruce-Gardyne, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

24th February 1981

2

PRIME MINISTER

You should see this: the attached reply is a draft.

You might discuss with the Chief Whip on Monday?

MS
27/2

Rt Hon John Nott, M.P.,
Secretary of State,
Ministry of Defence,
Whitehall,
London SW1

Dear John

I am very worried about the debate on March 3rd on Trident. As you know, I remain profoundly sceptical about our ability to absorb the cost of purchasing Trident and building the delivery system in the later years of this decade without a disastrous impact on the conventional equipment of the armed forces. I don't for a moment doubt that Trident is the most effective weapon-system available to us for the purpose. But I find it hard to believe that the defence of the realm is best secured by the preservation of one gigantic weapon to re-duplicate those already held by the US and France for use in extremis, and the stripping of the rest of our armed forces of proper equipment plus the imposition upon them of financial constraints which make it increasingly impossible for them to use the equipment they have got. I don't honestly see how I could support this on March 3rd.

*Yours
Jock*

Copy of the chief Whip:

PERSONAL



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

TELEPHONE 01-218 9000
DIRECT DIALLING 01-218 6169

D/S of S/94/81

27th February 1981

~~DRAFT~~

Thank you for your letter of 24th February about the Trident decision taken by the Government, and our intention to seek endorsement of it on Tuesday next. I am grateful to you for giving me notice of your concern.

This is, of course, a major and complex issue. The Prime Minister made clear in public, before we were elected to office, that we intended to maintain Britain's strategic nuclear capability in the long term. This was also a Manifesto commitment. It was clear then, as it is now, that the job could not be done for nothing, and that money spent on this was money not spent on other things. But the amount of money spent on defence effort other than strategic nuclear capability will continue to grow steadily; and you will be aware of the public commitment to the sustained improvement of our conventional effort which the Prime Minister made on the Government's behalf when she signed the exchange of letters with the US President on Trident. That commitment stands.

To claim that our capability "re-duplicates" that of the US and France (an opinion which neither of those countries shares, either privately or publicly) is to ignore or utterly to misunderstand the essential point of our effort, sustained by



Governments of both parties since the 1950s and explained very clearly by Francis Pym in the January debate last year and in the thorough memorandum he published in July. And to dismiss it as relevant only "in extremis" is wholly to misinterpret the meaning and working of deterrence. Frankly, I find it extraordinary that a member of the Conservative Party should, as your letter implies, think that in today's world - and for what we can conjecture of tomorrow's - the time has come for Britain to opt out of this aspect of defence effort.

Of course, our defence effort is under resource pressures. But hyperbole about "stripping the forces of proper equipment" and "impossible for them to use the equipment they have got" is quite untrue, and serves no possible cause - or none, I hope, that commends itself to you and me. Trident, of course, is a big bill; but you are mistaken if you suppose that 3% of the defence budget in the investment period and 1½-2% thereafter would transform, or its absence emasculate, our effort in the far more expensive conventional fields where we contribute to the Alliance. You can, I am sure, recognise as the utter nonsense they are such suggestions as those Alun Chalfont made in the Lords last Thursday about what the money would buy elsewhere.

Your letter implies that your quarrel is with the basic role rather than with the choice of Trident to fulfil it. But in case you are in doubt on the latter point, I can say that when I arrived here one of my first tasks was to brief myself on all the detailed background to the choice of Trident, and I am absolutely convinced that it is right. Trident is by far the most cost-effective choice; indeed, it is questionable whether the other options would be worth spending money upon at all.



I shall, of course, be presenting the case at more length in the debate. I am confident that when you have heard me fairly, as I am sure you intend to, you will accept that it would be quite wrong for you to dissociate yourself from Government policy on this key matter.

I am sending a copy of this letter, as you did of yours, to the Chief Whip.

Draft

John Nott

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION✓
MS(i) Second Reading

Armed Forces
 Atomic Energy (Misc Prov)
 British Nationality
 Criminal Attempts
 Education (Scotland) (No 2)
 Forestry
 Insurance Companies
 Water

(ii) Standing Committee

British Telecommunications
 Fisheries
 Local Government (Misc Prov) (Scotland)
 Transport

(iii) Committee of the Whole House

European Assembly Elections

(iv) Report and Third Reading

Industry

| (v) | <u>Orders and Regulations</u> | <u>Date Laid</u> | <u>Whether Controversial</u> | <u>Date Required</u> |
|-----|---|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Building Societies and Tax (NI) | 5/11 | No | For Debate 22/1 |
| | Clean Air (NI) | 28/10 | No | For Debate 22/1 |
| | Firearms (NI) | 14/7 | No | For Debate 22/1 |
| | Fisheries Amendment (NI) | 10/12 | No | By Easter |
| | Highlands and Islands Shipping (3) | 5/12 | No | For Debate 19/1 |
| | Housing (NI) | 5/11 | No | For Debate 22/1 |
| | Housing Support Grant (Scotland) (3) | 12/1 | No | For Debate 21/1 |
| | Judgements Enforcement (NI) (2) | 1/12 | No | By 31/1 |
| | Leasehold (Enlargement and Extension) Amendment (NI) | 12/11 | No | For Debate 22/1 |

| (v) | <u>Orders and Regulations</u> | <u>Date Laid</u> | <u>Whether Controversial</u> | <u>Date Required</u> |
|-----|--|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Local Authority Grants | 11/12 | No | For Debate 19/1 |
| | London Docklands Development Corporation | 27/11 | Maybe | Subject to Lords |
| | Merseyside Development Corporation | 27/11 | Maybe | Subject to Lords |
| | Motor Vehicles | 13/1 | No | a.s.a.p. |
| | Public Order (NI) | 13/1 | No | By PC mtg on 18/2 |
| | Rate Support Grant (Scotland) | 18/12 | Yes | For Debate 21/1 |
| | Representation of the People | 14/1 | No | By mid April |
| | Road Traffic (NI) | 11/11 | No | For Debate 22/1 |
| | Road Traffic (NI Consequential Amendments) | 11/11 | No | For Debate 22/1 |
| * | Sheep Variable Premium | 28/11 | No | By 23/1 |
| | Weights and Measures (NI) | 13/1 | No | By PC mtg on 18/2 |

LORDS

- ∅ Animal Health (L)
- Contempt of Court (L)
- Deep Sea Mining (Temporary Provisions) (L)
- Energy Conservation (L)
- ∅ English Industrial Estates Corporation (L)
- International Organisations (L)
- ∅ Judicial Pensions (L)
- Merchant Shipping (L)
- Parliamentary Commissioner (Consular Complaints) (L)
- Social Security (Contributions)
- ∅ Supreme Court (L)
- Town and Country Planning (Minerals) (L)
- Wildlife and Countryside (L)

* SI Committee

∅ Consolidation

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (2)

Anguilla 1980

Consolidated Fund (No 2) 1980

FROM:

THE RT. HON. LORD HAILSHAM OF ST. MARYLEBONE, C.H., F.R.S., D.C.L.



HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

CONFIDENTIAL

23rd February, 1981

The Right Honourable
Michael Heseltine, MP
Secretary of State,
Department of the Environment,
2 Marsham Street,
London,
SW1P 3EB.

✓
MS

Dear Michael:

Legislation on Privatisation, Etc.

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 5th February to Christopher Soames in which you propose general enabling legislation next Session to deal with Quangos and privatisation.

I seem to recall this idea being broached by Peter Walker soon after we came to Office. I was not particularly keen on the idea then and, if I may say so, am not persuaded that it is a course we ought to be following now. In fact I agree with the reasoning in Francis Pym's letter of 12th February of which I have seen a copy.

Copies of this go to the recipients of yours.

yrs.

CONFIDENTIAL

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

Parliament

- (i) Second Reading
- Contempt of Court (L)
 - Energy Conservation (L)
 - International Organisations (L)
 - ∅ Judicial Pensions (L)
 - Merchant Shipping (L)
 - Parliamentary Commissioner (Consular Complaints) (L)
 - Petroleum and Continental Shelf
 - Social Security
- (ii) Special Standing Committee
- Criminal Attempts
 - Education
- (iii) Select Committee
- Armed Forces
- (iv) Standing Committee
- Atomic Energy (Misc Prov)
 - British Nationality
 - British Telecommunications
 - Education (Scotland) (No 2)
 - Employment and Training
 - Forestry
 - Insurance Companies
 - Local Government (Misc Prov) (Scotland)
 - Transport
- (v) Committee of the Whole House
- Gas Levy
- (vi) Report and Third Reading
- Fisheries
- (vii) Orders and Regulations
- | | <u>Date Laid</u> | <u>Whether Controversial</u> | <u>Date Required</u> |
|--|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| European Communities (Medical, Dental and Nursing Professions) | 11/2 | No | For Debate 24/2 |
| * Export Guarantees | 27/1 | No | a.s.a.p. |
- *SI Committee
∅ Consolidation

| (vii) | <u>Orders and Regulations</u> | <u>Date Laid</u> | <u>Whether Controversial</u> | <u>Date Required</u> |
|-------|--|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Local Government (NI) | 29/1 | No | By PC Mtg on 18/3 |
| | London Docklands Development Corporation | 27/11 | Maybe | Subject to Lords |
| | Maximum Number of Judges | 16/2 | No | By PC Mtg on 18/3 |
| | Merseyside Development Corporation | 27/11 | Maybe | Subject to Lords |
| | Planning Blight (Compensation) (NI) | 16/2 | No | By PC Mtg on 18/3 |
| | Public Order (NI) | 13/1 | No | |
| | Town and Country Planning | 17/2 | Yes | By 20/3 |
| | Town and Country Planning (Scotland) | 18/2 | Yes | By 20/3 |

LORDS

- ∅ Animal Health (L)
- Companies (L)
- Deep Sea Mining (Temporary Provisions) (L)
- ∅ English Industrial Estates Corporation (L)
- European Assembly Elections
- ∅ Film Levy Finance (L)
- House of Commons Members' Fund and Parliamentary Pensions
- Industry
- Iron and Steel (Borrowing Powers)
- Matrimonial Homes (Family Protection) (Scotland) (L)
- ∅ National Film Finance Corporation (L)
- ∅ Public Passenger Vehicles (L)
- Redundancy Fund
- Statute Law (Repeals) (L)
- ∅ Supreme Court (L)
- Town and Country Planning (Minerals) (L)
- Water
- Wildlife and Countryside (L)

- ∅ Consolidation

Bills awaiting introduction (Either House)

(Date of Legislation Committee)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Belize Independence | ? |
| Iron and Steel (No 2) ? | 4/2 |

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (3)

Anguilla 1980

Consolidated Fund (No 2) 1980

Social Security (Contributions) 1981



2PP

Richard

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

TELEPHONE 01-218 9000
DIRECT DIALLING 01-218 2111/3

MO 20/17/9

20th February 1981

VMS

Dear Christopher

I would support Michael Heseltine's proposal in his letter to you of 5th February that officials should look into the possibility and value of one or more pieces of general enabling legislation for privatisation. It would also be helpful to have guidance on where legislation is necessary.

I cannot at the moment offer a definitive list of the areas of work in the Ministry of Defence for which privatisation might be the right solution (they could range from Ordnance Factories and Dockyards to Museums) so I cannot say whether legislation would be required. But it would be most useful to know

- a. where is legislation mandatory;
- b. are there general guidelines which can cover transfer of functions and assets and do they differ as between the public and private sector;
- c. what legislative powers are needed to cover the transfer of people and of superannuation rights;



d. where do we stand legally in respect of arrangements which do not provide undertakings that the staff concerned would not be worse off (such undertakings were I believe given in respect of the Civil Aviation Authority and the transfer of AWRE from the Atomic Energy Authority).

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, Francis Pym and Michael Heseltine; and to Sir Henry Rowe and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever
John

John Nott

PS I am, of course, very conscious of the political objections to such a wide enabling measure. But I think that we should examine it. It would help me here

JN



Civil Service Department
Whitehall London SW1A 2AZ
01-273 4400

The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine, MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
2 Marsham Street
LONDON SW1P 3EB

✓MS

20 February 1981

Dear Secretary of State,

LEGISLATION ON PRIVATISATION ETC

Thank you for your letter of 5 February about the possibility of introducing an enabling Bill which would allow activities to be privatised and quangos to be abolished without the need for separate pieces of legislation in each case. If I have understood correctly, what you have in mind is that, once the enabling Bill had been passed, Ministers would be able to proceed by means of statutory instrument.

I entirely share your concern about the implications for the legislative programme of our policies on quangos, privatisation and the size of the Civil Service. So any ideas are welcome that would reduce the need to find space in the programme for separate Bills to achieve our objectives. But I also share the doubts that Francis Pym has expressed about whether the approach you suggest would be practicable.

An enabling Bill of the kind you outlined would be bound to run into difficulties on a number of fronts. For example, the Bill would have to be drafted so broadly as to give Ministers something of a blank cheque to override specific statutory powers and duties. This would be strongly criticised on constitutional grounds as reducing the scope for proper Parliamentary scrutiny of the Government's legislative proposals, in both Houses. Moreover, Francis Pym has pointed out the dangers of creating an undesirable precedent which could be used in different contexts by our political opponents; I need not elaborate the point. Finally, I understand that the sheer range and complexity of the existing statutory provisions governing quangos and the various activities which we might wish to privatise would make it formidably difficult - if not impossible - to draft an enabling Bill. For instance, the terms "privatise" and "quango" are unknown to the law and I am assured that the chances of drafting anything like workable definitions are remote in the extreme.

CONFIDENTIAL

For these reasons, attractive as your idea seemed, I do not think it would be profitable to pursue the idea of general enabling legislation of the kind suggested in your letter. But I am at one with you in the search to find ways to avoid a log-jam of legislation on privatisation and quangos and to help us to achieve our objectives. I shall be in touch with colleagues about this shortly.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours sincerely,
Juckley
(Private Secretary)

SOAMES

(Dictated by the Lord President
and signed on his behalf)

CONFIDENTIAL

Parliament

H.F.

01 211 6402

R

The Rt Hon Lord Soames PC GCMG GCVO CBE
Lord President of the Council
Civil Service Department
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AZ

Mr

20 February 1981

1
Dear Anthony

I support the suggestion in Michael Heseltine's letter of 5[✓] February 1981 for general enabling legislation to be promoted to secure more readily changes in the status of various parts of Government work which are crucial to achieving our objective of reducing civil service numbers. I hope you will agree to it.

As you know, I propose to hive off the work of the Gas Standards Branch and the Electricity Meter Examination service from my Department to an independent self-financing body. I see this as a highly desirable objective in its own right and am confident that it could be presented to and would be seen as such by both Parliament and the public. A far from unimportant corollary is the attainment of my Department's 1 April 1984 manpower target and Michael Heseltine's proposal could help in meeting that timetable.

The central enabling legislation would need to give me the power to make instruments dealing with the following matters:

- a. the establishment of the new statutory corporation and the prescribing of its constitution;
- b. the conferring of appropriate functions of the new corporation;
- c. the prescription of the financial powers and duties of the Secretary of State and the new corporation;
- d. the transfer of property, rights and liabilities to the new corporation;
- e. the acquisition of land by the new corporation;
- f. the adaptation of existing statutes to take account of the new corporation;
- g. transitional provisions in respect of employment and rating.

To proceed by central enabling legislation, followed by a supplementary procedure for each case, would save both Parliamentary time and manpower within each Department who would otherwise be promulgating separate bills.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the recipients of Michael Heseltine's letter.

*Yours
Dair*

D. A. R. HOWELL

13th February 1981

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

VMS

(i) Second Reading

Energy Conservation (L)
Gas Levy
House of Commons Members' Fund and Parliamentary Pensions
International Organisations (L)
Iron and Steel (Borrowing Powers)
Merchant Shipping (L)
Parliamentary Commissioner (Consular Complaints) (L)
Petroleum and Continental Shelf
Redundancy Fund
Social Security

(ii) Special Standing Committee

Criminal Attempts
Education

(iii) Select Committee

Armed Forces

(iv) Standing Committee

Atomic Energy (Misc Prov)
British Nationality
British Telecommunications
Education (Scotland) (No 2)
Employment and Training
Fisheries
Forestry
Insurance Companies
Local Government (Misc Prov) (Scotland)
Transport

(v) Report and Third Reading

Water

| (vi) | <u>Orders and Regulations</u> | <u>Date Laid</u> | <u>Whether Controversial</u> | <u>Date Required</u> |
|------|--|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Agricultural Trust (NI) | 3/2 | Maybe | For debate 18/2 |
| | European Communities (Medical, Dental and Nursing Professions) | 11/2 | No | By 12/3 |

| (vi) | <u>Orders and Regulations</u> | <u>Date Laid</u> | <u>Whether Controversial</u> | <u>Date Required</u> |
|------|--|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Export Guarantees | 27/1 | No | By end of Feb |
| | Local Government (NI) | 29/1 | No | By PC Mtg on 18/3 |
| | London Docklands Développement Corporation | 27/11 | Maybe | Subject to Lords |
| | Merseyside Développement Corporation | 27/11 | Maybe | Subject to Lords |
| | Museums (NI) | 3/2 | Maybe | For Debate 18/2 |
| | Public Order (NI) | 13/1 | No | |
| | *Shipbuilding | 19/1 | No | No deadline |
| | *Shipbuilding (NI) | 20/1 | No | No deadline |

LORDS

- ∅ Animal Health (L)
- Companies (L)
- Contempt of Court (L)
- Deep Sea Mining (Temporary Provisions) (L)
- ∅ English Industrial Estates Corporation (L)
- European Assembly Elections
- ∅ Film Levy Finance (L)
- Industry
- ∅ Judicial Pensions (L)
- Matrimonial Homes (Family Protection) (Scotland) (L)
- ∅ National Film Finance Corporation (L)
- ∅ Public Passenger Vehicles (L)
- Statute Law (Repeals) (L)
- ∅ Supreme Court (L)
- Town and Country Planning (Minerals) (L)
- Wildlife and Countryside (L)

* SI Committee

∅ Consolidation

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (3)

Anguilla 1980

Consolidated Fund (No 2) 1980

Social Security (Contributions) 1981



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

Polaner

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

12th February 1981

VMS

Dear Michael,

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 5th February to Christopher Soames about the possibility of general enabling legislation next Session on privatisation.

I would certainly not want to seem too dismissive of anything which could ease the excessive weight of legislation brought forward so far in this Parliament. I am, however, rather doubtful whether your approach will prove to be a practicable one. It might work for the straightforward abolition of a group of quangos, but I think we shall find that the differences between the other types of privatisation measures which we might want to introduce would mean that any general enabling power would have to be in much wider terms than either House would be willing to contemplate, and would create a highly undesirable precedent for future Administrations of different persuasions from our own. Even if the enabling power could eventually be obtained, its exercise on each individual occasion would be a matter of great controversy, which could well occupy as much Parliamentary time as the passing of separate Bills.

I have no objection to a very quick interdepartmental examination at official level of your suggestion being organised if colleagues feel that that would be helpful, but we are already well into the planning of the 1981/1982 legislative programme, and I would not want any uncertainty about what would obviously be a major piece of legislation, with implications for other Bills, to persist for very long.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

*Yours ever
Francis*

FRANCIS PYM

The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP
Secretary of State for the
Environment



10 DOWNING STREET

MR WHITMORE

The meeting to discuss Trident: Public Attitudes, is to be on Tuesday, 10 February at 1030 hrs. Any further briefing required?

ed.

6 February, 1981

Miss Stephens

ed. 6/2

Thank you.

No reply required;

and is John Nott part of it?

anything on your part.

ed 6/2

SECRET



10 DOWNING STREET

(3) Feb. 05 / Defence
0 1 hour.
(2) by USA.

From the Principal Private Secretary

5 February 1981

Dear Roman,

Trident: Public Attitudes

The Prime Minister has read with interest your Secretary of State's minute of 2 February 1981 about the public relations aspects of the Trident decision.

She would like to discuss the points raised by Mr. Nott with him and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary when they meet to hear his preliminary assessment of our longer term commitments and of the changes which it may be necessary to make to bring the defence programme back into line with the resources likely to be available for it in the longer term. We will be in touch with you to arrange a time for this meeting.

In the meanwhile, the Defence Secretary may like to know that the Prime Minister has commented that it really should be possible for two Defence Ministers to master the strategic options and the philosophical arguments affecting Trident.

I am sending copies of this letter to John Halliday (Home Office), George Walden (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) John Wiggins (HM Treasury) and Robin Birch (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office).

Yours sincerely,

Alvin Whitehouse.

B.M. Norbury Esq
Ministry of Defence

SECRET

SR



2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB

My ref:

Your ref:

5 February 1981

✓ MS

John Christopher

LEGISLATION ON PRIVATISATION ETC

I mentioned to you the other day that I had been wondering whether there was a case for some general enabling legislation in the field of privatisation, abolition of quangos, etc, and promised to write so that colleagues could also offer their views.

One of my bids for next session's legislative programme will need to be a vehicle for legislation in this area in my field of responsibility. Among the items that may need to be covered (though on some of them I have not yet finally decided on the precise course of action) are:

- (i) changes of status for parts of my Department eg. Hydraulics Research Station, Building Research Establishment, Ordnance Survey;
- (ii) abolition of, or changes to quangos eg. New Towns Commission, Development Commission.

It occurs to me that many of our colleagues are likely to need legislation for similar purposes during the remainder of the Parliament and that the pressure on the legislative programme may be considerable if we have to proceed with a large number of separate Bills which will in any case very likely raise similar issues and require similar provisions. Nonetheless failure to legislate will have significant consequences for our objectives of reducing civil service numbers, purging quangos, and generally rolling back the frontiers of the public sector.

So it seemed to me that this might be a case where we ought to be thinking of some piece of general enabling legislation (promoted by you or some other central colleague) which would enable Ministers to secure more readily and with less pressure on the Parliamentary timetable - though with proper Parliamentary scrutiny - our manpower and other objectives in this area. For example, the legislation might cover the principles and any matters that can be dealt with on an across-the-board basis and might envisage a supplementary Parliamentary procedure for each case which would allow effective Parliamentary scrutiny of individual

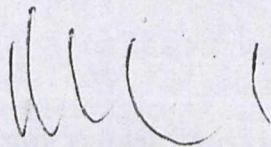
C O N F I D E N T I A L

proposals but be less onerous and time-consuming than a lot of individual bills. It would, I think, be important that any legislation of this kind should be next session and should not hold up action that is already going forward.

I should be interested to know whether you and colleagues think that this idea is worth pursuing. Subject to their views, officials of the Departments concerned might get together quickly to look at the possibilities.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister, the leader of the House of Commons, other Cabinet colleagues, First Parliamentary Counsel and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yes *un*



MICHAEL HESELTINE

The Rt Hon Lord Soames

C O N F I D E N T I A L

010
12 DOWNING STREET,
S.W.1.

CLIVE ✓ MW
to see
MS
6:11

With

The Private Secretary's

Compliments

PA
MS



Potham

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

5 February 1981

Thank you for your letter of 4 February about a debate on Trident. I will, of course, try to ensure that the programme is kept clear during the week of 3 March.

As you will appreciate it is not possible, given the vagaries of Parliamentary business, to give an absolute commitment to 3 March but I do not see any difficulties at this stage with this arrangement. You may be interested to learn that Sir Frederick Bennett mentioned to me yesterday that he would prefer to have the debate during the week of 3 March if it cannot be in the week of 16 February, since a number of Conservative Members of the Select Committee on Defence would be in Turkey in the week commencing 23 February.

I am sending copies of this letter to the recipients of yours.

(M. MACLEAN)

B M Norbury Esq
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
SW1



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1
Telephone 01-~~267022~~ 218 2111/3

MO 18/1/4

4th February 1981

Dear Mr MacLean,

I am writing to confirm my understanding that, following the Chancellor of the Duchy's reply to my Secretary of State (Mr Pym's letter of 29th January and Mr Nott's of 23rd January) about a debate on Trident, it has been agreed that a one day debate should be arranged on 3rd March. My Secretary of State would propose to open and close this debate himself.

My Secretary of State will be having a word with Sir John Langford-Holt, the Chairman of the Select Committee on Defence, about both the timing of this Debate and about his own appearance before the Committee to give evidence on Trident.

I am sending copies of this letter to Clive Whitmore at No 10 and to the Private Secretaries to the Home Secretary, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Lord Privy Seal; and to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

*Yours and
Brian*

(B M NORBURY)

M MacLean Esq



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 February 1981

Thank you for your letter of 28 January, about Lord Avon's proposed role in the Department during the passage of the Transport Bill.

I confirm that the Prime Minister is content with the arrangements set out in your letter.

I am sending copies of this letter to Jeremy Colman (Civil Service Department) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

M. A. PATTISON

Anthony Mayer, Esq.,
Department of Transport.

HS



Prime Minister. 3

I shall be delighted to have 45 mins with J.N. & P.C. on the Trident decision on a paper to be read now - 1. The Trident presentation, not only the overall balance of the defence programme but also the Trident issue. Do you agree? If you do, we shall need 45 minutes, I suggest.

MO 18/1/1

PRIME MINISTER

TRIDENT PUBLIC ATTITUDES

JAL
2ii

I am hoping that I may have 45 minutes of your time, in the presence of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, before your departure to Washington, so that I can give you my first, tentative, assessment of our longer term commitments and of where we may need to make changes to bring them back into relationship with our likely longer term resources.

2. Having put to bed, albeit temporarily, the controversy about defence expenditure in 81/82, I wanted, in the meantime, to tell you of the wider and more difficult public relations problems we face, and of how I intend to proceed. As Francis Pym would, I think, also recognise, we are losing the defence/deterrence argument at present. The CND campaign is gathering strength but much more importantly, there is growing scepticism among a much wider and thinking section of the population about the correctness of the Trident decision. If we lose the Trident argument it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to sustain the wider defence posture of the government. I am convinced that Trident was the correct decision. But I must tell you that this is not, in my judgement, the general view of your Ministers, nor the unanimous view of the Ministry of Defence. Only the Defence Committee of our party seem free of doubts. We must win the argument in Whitehall, if we are to have any chance of convincing the outside world.

3. Part of the problem, as I see it, lies in the need, now, to convince people of the validity of a decision already taken, and

X



announced on behalf of the government, as opposed to seeking to persuade them to agree in advance to a course of action which is then adopted in the light of all views expressed during the period of decision taking. Unless we now bring the problems, arguments and facts more into the open, I think we will lose the debate, and that would be very serious for our security, and for the Alliance; it would also, indeed, be damaging to the Conservative Party. We are not warmongers conducting preparations in secret, but men and women of peace - faced by the threat of nuclear and conventional blackmail.

4. I am trying, through Francis, to arrange for a Parliamentary Debate on Trident in the first week in March. I need time personally to think about the strategic, military and moral issues - and the options - before the debate takes place. I shall be doing this through internal seminars within MOD and in talks with expert outsiders. In the Debate I shall open myself. I would like to make it mainly a debate on the philosophy of the strategic deterrent, rather than just an argument about resource allocation. I do not think that two Ministers can be expected to have the time to master the strategic options and philosophical arguments so that, unless there are strong objections, I feel that I must also wind up the debate personally.

5. Over the period around the Debate (starting in the third week of February) I am arranging for a substantial number of in-depth interviews on television and in the papers. We have had many useful requests to enter a serious debate on the moral and strategic issues. Francis may have views on how we can make a major comeback, in order to stop the thing slipping away. I wanted you to know at this stage, that I am aware of the problem - a major one, in my view - and that I am planning to meet it. But there will have to be a period of partial silence for a few weeks until I am ready to launch the counter-attack in a measured and coherent way.

SECRET



I am copying this minute on a personal basis to the Home Secretary, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

JN .

Ministry of Defence

2nd February 1981

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION(i) Second Reading

Armed Forces
 Atomic Energy (Misc Prov)
 Education
 Education (Scotland) (No 2)
 Employment and Training
 House of Commons Members' Fund and Parliamentary Pensions
 Insurance Companies
 International Organisations (L)
 Merchant Shipping (L)
 Parliamentary Commissioner (Consular Complaints) (L)
 Redundancy Fund

✓
MS(ii) Special Standing Committee

Criminal Attempts

(iii) Standing Committee

British Nationality
 British Telecommunications
 Fisheries
 Forestry
 Local Government (Misc Prov) (Scotland)
 Transport
 Water

(iv) Report and Third Reading

Industry

(v) Orders and Regulations

| | <u>Date Laid</u> | <u>Whether Controversial</u> | <u>Date Required</u> |
|--|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| British Railways Board | 28/1 | No | By the Budget |
| Export Guarantees | 27/1 | No | By end of Feb |
| Fisheries Amendment (NI) | 10/12 | No | For Debate 3/2 |
| Legal Aid (NI) | 28/1 | No | By PC Mtg on 18/2 |
| Local Government (NI) | 29/1 | No | By PC Mtg on 18/3 |
| London Docklands Development Corporation | 27/11 | Maybe | Subject to Lords |
| Merseyside Development Corporation | 27/11 | Maybe | Subject to Lords |

| (v) | <u>Orders and Regulations</u> | <u>Date Laid</u> | <u>Whether Controversial</u> | <u>Date Required</u> |
|-----|---|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| * | Motor Vehicles | 13/1 | No | a.s.a.p. |
| | Northern Ireland (Variation of Limits of Candidates' Election Expenses) | 19/1 | No | For Debate 3/2 |
| | Public Order (NI) | 13/1 | No | By PC Mtg on 18/2 |
| * | Representation of the People | 14/1 | No | By mid April |
| | Shipbuilding | 19/1 | No | No deadline |
| | Shipbuilding (NI) | 20/1 | No | No deadline |
| | Weights and Measures (NI) | 13/1 | No | By PC Mtg on 18/2 |

LORDS

- ∅ Animal Health (L)
- Contempt of Court (L)
- Deep Sea Mining (Temporary Provisions) (L)
- Energy Conservation (L)
- ∅ English Industrial Estates Corporation (L)
- European Assembly Elections
- ∅ Judicial Pensions (L)
- ∅ Supreme Court (L)
- Town and Country Planning (Minerals) (L)
- Wildlife and Countryside (L)

* SI Committee

∅ Consolidation

Bills awaiting introduction (Either House)

(Date of Legislation Committee)

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Belize Independence | ? |
| Companies | 28/1 |
| Gas Rental Levy | 21/1 |
| Iron and Steel | 4/2 |
| Petroleum and Continental Shelf | 11/2 |
| Social Security | 11/2 |

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (3)

Anguilla 1980

Consolidated Fund (No 2) 1980

Social Security (Contributions) 1981



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB

Prime Minister
Can I confirm that
this is correct?

Mike Pattison Esq
Private Secretary to
the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

Yes Mr

MAJ

28 January 1981 29/

N.17 - I assume he is entitled to

to see all relevant

Dear Mike,

Ministerial background press
by virtue of being a Lord
spokesman in the House.

When Mr Fowler saw the Prime Minister last Thursday they briefly discussed the idea that Lord Avon should sign Ministerial letters on behalf of the Department during the passage of the Transport Bill. The Prime Minister said that she was content with this proposal. I thought I should write to you now to confirm this.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to Sir Ian Bancroft and Sir Robert Armstrong. My Secretary of State wants to write to Lord Soames and Michael Heseltine himself.

Yours Sincerely,
Anthony Mayer

R A J MAYER
Private Secretary

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION✓
MJS(i) Second Reading

Armed Forces
 Atomic Energy (Misc Prov)
 British Nationality
 Education
 Education (Scotland) (No 2)
 Employment and Training
 Forestry
 House of Commons Members' Fund and Parliamentary Pensions
 Insurance Companies
 International Organisations (L)

(ii) Special Standing Committee

Criminal Attempts

(iii) Standing Committee

British Telecommunications
 Fisheries
 Local Government (Misc Prov) (Scotland)
 Transport
 Water

(iv) Report and Third Reading

Industry

(v) Orders and Regulations

| | Date Laid | Whether Controversial | Date Required |
|---|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Fisheries Amendment (NI) | 10/12 | No | By Easter |
| Judgements Enforcement (NI) (2) | 1/12 | No | For Debate 28/1 |
| London Docklands Development Corporation | 27/11 | Maybe | Subject to Lords |
| Merseyside Development Corporation | 27/11 | Maybe | Subject to Lords |
| * Motor Vehicles | 13/1 | No | a.s.a.p. |
| Northern Ireland (Variation of Limits of Candidates' Election Expenses) | 19/1 | No | By PC Mtg on 18/2 |
| Prisons | 22/1 | Yes | For Debate 27/1 |
| Public Order (NI) | 13/1 | No | By PC Mtg on 18/2 |

* SI Committee

| <u>Orders and Regulations</u> | <u>Date Laid</u> | <u>Whether Controversial</u> | <u>Date Required</u> |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| * Representation of the People | 14/1 | No | By mid April |
| Shipbuilding | 19/1 | No | No deadline |
| Shipbuilding (NI) | 20/1 | No | No deadline |
| Weights and Measures (NI) | 13/1 | No | By PC Mtg on 18/2 |

LORDS

- ∅ Animal Health (L)
- Contempt of Court (L)
- Deep Sea Mining (Temporary Provisions) (L)
- Energy Conservation (L)
- ∅ English Industrial Estates Corporation (L)
- European Assembly Elections
- ∅ Judicial Pensions (L)
- Merchant Shipping (L)
- Parliamentary Commissioner (Consular Complaints) (L)
- Social Security (Contributions)
- ∅ Supreme Court (L)
- Town and Country Planning (Minerals) (L)
- Wildlife and Countryside (L)

* SI Committee

∅ Consolidation

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (2)

Anguilla 1980

Consolidated Fund (No 2) 1980

PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Affairs

Next Week's Business

The business for next week has changed since you saw the provisional timetable on Monday. The business managers have, however, left the Nationality Bill in on Tuesday, despite the risk of a scene because of the unemployment figures. This is because they want to go to the Committee of Selection on Wednesday and not lose another week in getting the Committee stage launched. I am sure that that is right, but there will certainly be a scene on Tuesday because the Opposition have formally requested a statement from Mr. Prior on the unemployment figures. I assume that you will not be disposed to agree to this, since it would lead automatically to a demand for a statement every month from now on; but the Chancellor of the Duchy should raise the question with Cabinet.

We shall have to watch the statements' timetable for the next few days in any case. Subject to Cabinet's views, Keith Joseph will make his BL statement tomorrow afternoon or on Monday. The Chancellor has also proposed a statement on Monday, on cash limits. There are no Government proposals for statements on Tuesday, and we will of course seek to avoid any statements then. Keith Joseph also plans to make his Quicksilver statement on Thursday 29 January.

Legislative Programme

As you know, QL failed to agree about the Petroleum and Continental Shelf Bill. This will be raised at Cabinet. A Cabinet Office brief is attached.

MJS

21 January 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Affairs: Legislative Programme 1980-81

BACKGROUND

On 19th January, QL Committee considered a memorandum by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in which he argued that delays in bringing forward some of the major outstanding programme Bills for this Session had made it extremely difficult for the business managers to fit the programme into the Parliamentary time available without an undesirably extended spillover period of the kind which proved necessary at the end of last Session. He proposed that in order to give the business managers more room for manoeuvre, and to allow some margin of safety in case time had to be found for additional legislation later in the Session, the Health and Social Services and Petroleum and Continental Shelf Bills should be dropped from the 1980-81 Session, and the Companies Bill confined to those provisions needed to enable the Department of Trade to achieve the required manpower and public expenditure savings, principally through the abolition of the Register of Business Names.

2. The Committee reached agreement on dropping the Health and Social Services Bill, and decided to leave the Chancellor of the Duchy to pursue the question of the shortening of the Companies Bill separately with the Ministers concerned. The Secretary of State for Energy was, however, unable to accept the view of the majority of the Committee that the Petroleum and Continental Shelf Bill should be dropped. He argued that both you and he were now publicly committed to the introduction of the Bill, which was specifically mentioned in The Queen's Speech, this Session. Any further delay in seeking powers to permit the introduction of private capital into BNOC would provide ammunition to the Opposition, and cause dismay among the Government's own supporters. If the Bill were deferred until next Session, the Government would probably not be ready to offer shares in BNOC until 1983-84. It might then be found that the market would not be suitable for the sale of BNOC shares until after the next General Election. The Secretary of State for Energy also pointed out that the

CONFIDENTIAL


CONFIDENTIAL

Bill would deal with a number of subsidiary issues, including the improvement of safety standards in the North Sea, which would be widely welcomed and which ought not to be delayed. He gave notice of his intention to raise the matter at Cabinet under Parliamentary Affairs, and the Home Secretary subsequently reported the outcome of the meeting to you in his minute of 20th January.

HANDLING

3. You may wish to begin by asking the Home Secretary to outline the position reached in QL Committee, and then to ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Paymaster General to explain the difficulties he sees in proceeding with the Bill this Session. Are the business managers being over-cautious? QL agreed to some lightening of the programme last December to take account of the late start to the Session and the time unexpectedly used for the Social Security (Contributions) Bill. The late delivery of some Bills has undoubtedly caused problems, but it was not entirely unforeseen; the Bill to patriate the Canadian Constitution may not take up very much time in the House of Commons if it is unamendable; will not the dropping of the Health and Social Services Bill and the possible shortening of the Companies Bill give the business managers enough elbow room, without having to put off yet again one of the Bills central to the Government's economic strategy? Does it matter if the autumn spillover has to be rather longer than was originally hoped? The Lord President and the Chief Whip may also wish to comment.

4. The Secretary of State for Energy will be able to explain why he is reluctant to see the Bill put off yet again. Would postponement involve any financial penalties? Whatever happens, it is unlikely that shares in BNOC can be offered for sale before 1982-83; would delaying the introduction of the Bill by a further 8 or 9 months necessarily affect this timetable? How would the Opposition and the Government's own supporters receive an announcement that the Bill would not now be introduced this Session, but would be brought forward as a matter of priority at the beginning of the 1981-82 Session? The Chancellor of the Exchequer may have views to offer on the timing of the sale of shares in BNOC.


CONFIDENTIAL

CONCLUSION

5. If the Cabinet decide that the political objections to dropping the Bill from this Session's programme override the timetable difficulties identified by the Chancellor of the Duchy, you will wish to guide them to the conclusion that it should be introduced as soon as possible after it has been considered by Legislation Committee at their meeting on 28th January. If, on the other hand, Cabinet decide that the need to avoid the risk of a repetition of the difficulties experienced at the end of the last Session justify the dropping of this Bill in addition to the action already taken on the Health and Social Services and Companies Bills, you may wish to guide the Cabinet to invite the Secretary of State for Energy to consider with the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Paymaster General how best to minimise the political embarrassment which might be caused by the announcement of the further postponement of the Bill.

RIA

Robert Armstrong

21st January 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

2 PRIME MINISTER



My own view (shared by most of the officials concerned) is that Mr Pym is being over-cautious in pressing for deferral of the BNOB Bill - but Cabinet will have to decide MS 20/1

PRIME MINISTER

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1980/1981

(minutes attached)

At a meeting held under my chairmanship on 19th January, QL Committee carried out a further review of the legislative programme for 1980/1981 on the basis of a memorandum circulated by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Paymaster General. The Chancellor of the Duchy pointed out that the continuing delay in bringing forward a number of outstanding major programme Bills had prevented the business managers from using the legislative time at their disposal as efficiently as they had hoped, and that unless some further action was taken to lighten the programme, a substantial spillover of the kind which we experienced at the end of the last Session, with all its attendant difficulties, would be almost inevitable. The business managers were already faced with the problem of finding additional time for legislation to raise the financial limit of the Redundancy Fund, while other Bills not in the current programme might have to be brought forward at short notice, and the possible need for legislation on the patriation of the Canadian Constitution remained an ever present threat to the timetable. The Opposition could be expected to adopt an increasingly obstructive attitude as the Session went on, and the Chancellor of the Duchy and the other business managers had concluded that it was essential to think in terms of abandoning the Health and Social Services and Petroleum and Continental Shelf Bills, and of confining the Companies Bill to the abolition of the Register of Business Names, the only part of a long Bill which offered the prospect of some useful savings in manpower and public expenditure.

The Committee were grateful to the Social Services Secretary for agreeing to relinquish the Health and Social Services Bill for this Session, in spite of the considerable departmental problems which this might cause him. The Chancellor of the Duchy agreed to discuss further with the Minister of State, Department of Trade and Civil Service Department, the scope of reducing the length of the Companies Bill so that it concentrated on areas where some financial or manpower savings might be made.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

The majority of the Committee also felt that the Petroleum and Continental Shelf Bill should be postponed to next Session. The Bill, originally planned for the 1979/1980 Session, should have been introduced last November, but was delayed because of the need to consider representations from our own supporters, and will not now be coming to Legislation Committee until 28th January. The Minister of State, Treasury, told the Committee that the Bill would not generate substantial benefits to the Exchequer, and this, combined with the delays which had already occurred, the highly controversial nature of the Bill, and the fact that shares in the British National Oil Corporation could not be offered for sale before 1982/83 or possibly 1983/84, led most members of the Committee to conclude that it would be better for the Bill to have priority at the beginning of next Session rather than to be allowed to impede the current programme. The Secretary of State for Energy, however, with support from the Minister of State, Treasury, resisted this approach. He pointed out that the principles of the Bill were now enthusiastically supported by our own back benchers, and that both he and you had already given a firm commitment that the Bill would be introduced this Session. Any further delay would be seen both by the Opposition and by our own supporters as a political climb-down. If the Government were not ready to arrange for the introduction of private capital into BNOC before 1983/84, the imminence of the next General Election might well mean that the share market would not be in a suitable state for sale to be offered in the lifetime of the present Parliament. The Energy Secretary pointed out that the Bill was also intended to deal with other highly desirable subjects, such as the improvement of North Sea safety.

The Committee were unable to resolve this conflict between the needs of the legislative programme and the political and other arguments against postponement of the Petroleum and Continental Shelf Bill to which the Energy Secretary had drawn attention, and, after further discussion, agreed that the Energy Secretary should raise the matter at Cabinet next Thursday under Parliamentary Affairs before a final decision was taken.

CONFIDENTIAL

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I am sending a copy of this minute to all members of the Cabinet and QL Committee, to Sir Henry Rowe, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

hs 110

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January, 1981

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CONFIDENTIAL



From the Secretary of State

The Rt Hon Francis Pym MC MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
and Paymaster General
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
London, SW1A 2AT

2
PRIME MINISTER

These are some other
papers on the future of the
legislative programme in
your other box: this is
the expected protest from
Mr Biffen.

16 January 1981

MS

16/1

Dear Chancellor,

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1980/81

I shall be in India next week and Cecil Parkinson will have to represent me at your meeting of QL on Monday.

I am therefore writing to let you know of the serious objections I see to your proposal to drop the full Companies Bill and substitute a short Bill to abolish the Registry of Business Names.

As far as I can judge, the compromise which you suggest would not make any significant saving in time on the floor of the House. The full Bill will occupy perhaps a day for Second Reading and at most a couple of days for Report. Like all Companies Bills there will be a lengthy but basically manageable process in Committee.

By contrast, a Bill limited to the abolition of the Registry of Business Names would be contentious in the extreme, as much with our own supporters as with the Opposition.

You recognise that this part of the Bill is essential to the Department's staff-saving targets for April 1982, and I see that your suggested compromise is intended to safeguard this. I seriously doubt if it would do the trick. We have to save staff by changing the law on company names, as well as by abolishing the business names registry. As part of a balanced Companies Bill I am satisfied that there is a reasonable chance that we can get all these provisions through. If the



From the Secretary of State

Bill is to be limited to the abolition of the Registry there must be real doubt whether we can carry it, at least in the House of Lords. This doubt, indeed, makes it problematical whether the Bill should be introduced in the Lords. If, however, it is to be opened up to cover other company law points then we have a problem on scope, especially in the Lords. I need hardly say that nothing would be more disastrous to my staff saving programme than the loss of an RBN Bill which would lumber me with the indefinite retention of the registry.

I must therefore press very strongly for the retention of the full Bill in the programme, on the lines already agreed. The Bill is ready and I would like it to be considered by L Committee on 28 January with a view to immediate introduction.

I am copying this to the Prime Minister, to other members of QL, the Chancellor, the Secretary of State for Industry, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas McInnes

PP JOHN BIFFEN

*(Approved by the Secretary of State
and signed in his absence)*

CONFIDENTIAL



SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY

THAMES HOUSE SOUTH
MILLEBANK LONDON SW1P 4QJ

01-211-6402

Rt Hon Francis Pym MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
and Paymaster General
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
London SW1A 2AT

15 January 1981

Dear Chancellor,

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1980-81

Before we meet in QL on Monday, I should like to express my concern at the comments on the Petroleum and Continental Shelf Bill in your paper on the legislative programme for this Session (QL(81)2).

Work on this Bill is now well-advanced and I plan to circulate it in its final form to L Committee for our meeting on 28 January as the Lord Chancellor has asked. There are now no major outstanding points of policy to be resolved; and though detailed drafting is still being finalised this is not unusual at this stage of a Bill.

The Annex attached to your paper makes it clear that slippage on the Bill is by no means exceptional. Indeed, given the late date at which some major policy issues have been resolved, progress has been good. There is no reason to single it out on these grounds.

I accept that the clauses dealing with the disposal of shares in BNOC's oil-producing operations may prove controversial. But colleagues in E Committee were well aware of this when they agreed in September that the Bill should include enabling powers, and were prepared that my proposals should be put to Parliament. To have second thoughts now, when we are publicly committed to legislation, would be very damaging.

We have already had to delay legislation on BNOC once. Following our manifesto commitment to review BNOC's activities, I announced in September 1979 that we would be introducing legislation later in the 1979-80 Session, but we subsequently decided to withdraw from this.



If we drop the legislation a second time it will be seen as a major retreat, by our supporters as well as our opponents. We are now even more firmly committed to legislation, by my speech at Brighton, by the Queen's Speech and by the Prime Minister's references to the Bill in the House and elsewhere. There is backbench support for our proposals and a widespread expectation that we will press ahead. I do not agree that the Bill does not inspire confidence but if we drop it now it will indeed create a loss of confidence in the momentum of this Government at a time when maximum firmness is needed in adhering to our long-term objectives.

There are other strong grounds for proceeding with the Bill from a Departmental point of view. The new financial arrangements for BNOc are needed to meet criticisms by the Public Accounts Committee. The extension of our safety regime in the North Sea to new categories of installation and vessel is also important. If an accident were to occur to a British accommodation installation following the "Alexander Kielland" disaster on the Norwegian Shelf last year we should face severe criticism for not having introduced the legislative measures we propose in the Bill to improve our safety regime.

The case for retaining the Petroleum and Continental Shelf Bill in the programme is powerful. I urge you and colleagues to accept that it should stay.

I am copying this to the Prime Minister, to other members of QL, the Secretaries of State for Industry, Employment, Trade, Education and Science, and the Minister of State, DHSS and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely,

S. P. Ue

PA D A R HOWELL

(approved by the Secretary of State and signed in his absence)



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

13 January 1980 1981.

Rt Hon James Prior MP
Secretary of State for Employment
Caxton House
Tothill Street
LONDON
SW1H 9NA

VMS

Dear Sir,

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1980/1981: REDUNDANCY FUND

*will request
if required.*

You wrote to Norman St John Stevas on 2 January about the need for legislation to raise the borrowing limit on the Redundancy Fund before the end of April.

We must obviously find some way of raising the limit on the Fund, but I am very reluctant, in the present state of the legislative programme, to agree to the addition of another Bill to it unless there is no other way of meeting the position; indeed, I shall be asking colleagues at QL next week to agree to the deletion of one or more major Bills already in this Sessions programme. On the other hand, in view of the slippage which has already occurred in the timetable for the introduction of the Employment and Training Bill, I do not think that it would be wise to plan on the assumption that it will receive Royal Assent by Easter. I understand that it might be possible to extend the timetable by a few weeks by paying certain other receipts into the Redundancy Fund, and that they might give us enough elbow room to get the main Bill through in time. It is, however, obviously difficult for the business managers to form a view on whether this is a realistic timetable without having seen the Bill.

Subject to the views of Geoffrey Howe and our other colleagues concerned on the policy point, therefore, I think that the best course would be for you to include an increase in the borrowing limit in the Employment and Training Bill, and for us to review the prospects of passing the Bill soon after Easter at Legislation Committee on 21 January. If we then come to the conclusion that your timetable cannot be achieved, we shall have to consider whether the problem could be met in another way including, in the last resort, by a separate Bill.

I am copying this letter to members of E and L Committees, to Sir Henry Rowe, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

James Prior
Francis Pym

FRANCIS PYM



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OI- 233

CABINET OFFICE
70 WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AS

✓ms

12 January 1981

Dear Don,

SOCIAL SECURITY BILL

Thank you for your letter of 5 January about the preparation of the Social Security and Health and Social Services (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bills. I have now also seen Michael Pownall's letter of 9 January to me and the letter your Secretary of State wrote to the Lord Chancellor on 5 January. - will request if required

I note that the delays on policy clearance will now make it impossible for the Social Security Bill to be considered by Legislation Committee on 21 January. I understand from Parliamentary Counsel that, if a meeting of Legislation Committee were to be arranged for 4 February, the Bill could be ready in time for the Committee to consider it then, although the possibility of further delays could not be ruled out.

I also note that it is hoped to have the Health and Social Services Bill ready for consideration by Legislation Committee on 21 January. We shall be putting it on the agenda for that meeting.

I should be grateful if you would let me know if any difficulty is envisaged in keeping to this revised timetable for these two Bills.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Whalley

R M WHALLEY

D Brereton Esq
Principal Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State
Department of Health and Social Services
Alexander Fleming House
Elephant and Castle



✓ MS

FROM THE PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE
AND THE CHIEF WHIP

9th January 1981

Dear Bob,

SOCIAL SECURITY BILL 1981

with NTS?

I have seen a copy of Don Brereton's letter to you of 5th January in which he indicates that the draft Bill cannot now be brought before Legislation Committee before 4th February at the earliest.

In the light of this development, I must express concern at the implications for the Bill's parliamentary timetable. In the first place, the delay makes it that much more difficult to make long-term plans for the Spring and Summer. Without seeing the final draft, it is impossible to give more than a tentative guess at the amount of time which will be needed on the floor of the Lords. More important, I can already see very real difficulties in achieving Royal Assent by the first week in July. I had assumed that the Bill's deadline of July 1981 meant in effect the summer recess, but this is clearly not the case.

It is not for me to say when the Bill might complete its passage through the Commons but, unless it arrives in the Lords during the week beginning Monday 4th May, there can be little hope of completing consideration in the Lords in time for Royal Assent by the first week in July. It is worth noting that last Session's Social Security (No.2) Bill received a First Reading in the Lords on 22nd May and Royal Assent on 17th July. This was a most difficult and congested timetable and had an adverse effect on the passage of other key legislation before the Lords at the same time. It could not have been achieved if the Bill had been amended in the Lords.

I thought it worth pointing out these potential difficulties in the Lords at this stage, although handling of the Bill will, of course, be discussed at Legislation Committee in due course.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of Don Brereton's.

Yours ever
Michael Pownall

M.G. POWNALL

R. Whalley, Esq.
Cabinet Office

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1980/81

PA
(CF file)
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ESSENTIAL

Armed Forces
Energy Conservation
Wildlife and Countryside
Anguilla
Health and Social Services (Miscellaneous Provisions)
Industry
Iron and Steel
Contempt
Companies
Insurance Companies

PROGRAMME

Forestry (Sale of Land)
Fisheries (Miscellaneous Provisions)
Members Fund and Pensions
Education (Special Educational Needs)
Employment and Training (Amendment)
Petroleum and Continental Shelf (BNOC)
Gas Rental Levy
Radiochemical Centre
Social Security
European Assembly Elections
Nationality
British Telecommunications
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions)(Scotland)
Education (Scotland)
Transport
Jurisdiction and Foreign Judgements
Supreme Court
Town and Country Planning (Minerals)
International Organisations
Parliamentary Commissioner (Consular Complaints)

Water

Deep Sea Bed Mining

Vagrancy Act (Amendment)

British North America Acts

SECOND READING COMMITTEE

Merchant Shipping

SCOTTISH GRAND COMMITTEE

Civic Government (Scotland)

Matrimonial Homes (Rights of Occupancy)(Scotland)

Town and Country Planning (Scotland)

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"For Information"

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NJS O/R
P. [unclear]



CABINET OFFICE
70 WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AS

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
01-233 7665

V
MS

5 January 1981

Dear Private Secretary

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1981/82

I am writing to ask you for your Minister's proposals for legislation in the 1981/82 session of Parliament.

2. I should be grateful if you could let me have four copies of your Department's summary of proposals, set out as in the pro forma at Annex A, together with four copies of the pro forma at Annex B for each Bill. I enclose notes of guidance on the completion of the pro forma. We should be grateful if you would follow these closely, and if we can give you any further elucidation we shall be glad to do so. You should assume a session of normal length, starting in the autumn of 1981, and should include, if required, any Bills put forward for 1980-81 but not now likely to be enacted this session.
3. You will know of the pressures on the legislative programme in both the present session and the previous one. As a result a number of Bills originally proposed for 1980/81 have had to be deferred and QL Committee has already noted them as candidates for 1981/82. Ministers will be looking for a lighter legislative burden next session, and may well aim for a programme containing less than the two dozen major bills originally planned for the present session. The number of long or controversial bills that can find a place in the programme will therefore be very limited, and it would avoid unnecessary work, and raising false expectations, if Departments pruned their bids accordingly. (We have deliberately not asked for bids for a "reserve" list).
4. One other general, and familiar, point. Bills which can be got ready at, or very near, the beginning of the session are likely to be preferred to others. Bills which are not ready early run the risk that insufficient time will be available for their enactment; furthermore, they tend to jeopardise the whole programme for the session. It is important, therefore, that Departments should indicate the likely state of preparedness of the

Private Secretary to:
Prime Minister

Bill and give the best realistic estimates of the dates when the Bill will have completed each of its preparatory stages (see paragraph 7 of the notes of guidance). Experience has repeatedly shown that there is nothing to be gained by making unrealistic and over-optimistic estimates of when a Bill is likely to be ready. This leads to Parliamentary time being lost and can prejudice a Bill's place in the programme. We should be most grateful for the co-operation of Departments in this respect.

5. I should be grateful to receive replies not later than Friday, 6 February 1981.

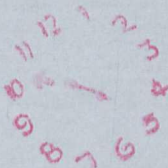
Yours sincerely

R. M. Whalley

R M WHALLEY

ENCS

-5 JAN 1981



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ANNEX A

DEPARTMENT'S BILLS PROPOSED FOR THE
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1981-82

Please list each Bill in its proposed category and in its order of priority within that category.

CATEGORY

TITLE OF BILL

LENGTH

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ANNEX B

OUTLINE PRO FORMA FOR EACH BILL PROPOSED FOR 1981-82 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME

1. DEPARTMENT
2. TITLE OF BILL
3. LENGTH OF BILL
4. PURPOSE OF BILL
5. PROPOSED CATEGORY
6. DEPARTMENTAL PRIORITY
7. STATE OF READINESS
8. TIMING
9. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE
10. THE POLITICAL DIMENSION
11. PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS
12. EUROPEAN COMMUNITY(EC) IMPLICATIONS

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NOTES ON COMPLETING THE PRO FORMA FOR
EACH BILL PROPOSED FOR 1981-82 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME

1. DEPARTMENT

2. TITLE OF BILL

3. LENGTH OF BILL

An estimate of the length of the Bill is needed so that the demands on drafting capacity and Parliamentary time can be assessed at the earliest possible stage. An accurate forecast of the number of clauses and schedules will not normally be possible, but some indication such as "very short" (not more than 3-4 clauses), "short" (up to, say, a dozen clauses), "medium" (12-25 clauses), "substantial" (25-30 clauses), or "long" (over 50 clauses) would be useful.

4. PURPOSE OF BILL

Please list the various topics in the Bill (with a brief indication of the purpose of each). The list should cover all the topics likely to be included in the Bill. There is likely to be resistance by the business managers and other members of Legislation Committee to substantial additions at a later stage to the Bill as described in the pro forma.

5. PROPOSED CATEGORY

Where a Bill would cover more than one distinct topic, the appropriate category should be indicated separately for each topic.

The categories for proposed Bills are -

I Essential. Bills which must be enacted during the Session - eg because existing powers or finance would otherwise expire or because of treaty obligations. Please give the reason(s). This category should not be used simply to reflect a high political priority. Additional non-essential items can sometimes be included in an essential Bill, but consideration will need to be given to the length of the Bill and to the need to avoid controversial provisions which might affect the Bill's enactment.

II Contingent. Bills which might during the Session become Essential as defined above.

III Programme. Bills which can already be identified as being needed for enactment during the 1981-82 Session. The reasons for wishing Bills to be enacted then should be stated and any specific disadvantage in delay made clear. (See also 10 below.)

IV Other. Bills which do not have sufficient priority for the Programme category but which there would be advantage in enacting in 1981-82 if Parliamentary time could be found. Any which might be suitable for a Private Member should be separately identified.

6. DEPARTMENTAL PRIORITY

Please mark each of your bids for legislation with the strict order of priority within each category.

7. STATE OF READINESS

We need to have the best possible estimates of the date by which -

- a. Ministers' collective policy clearance will be sought (ie from the appropriate Ministerial Cabinet Committee):
- b. complete instructions will be ready for Parliamentary Counsel;
- c. the Bill is expected to be ready for introduction.

It is important to have accurate estimates in order to plan for the best use of Parliamentary time in the coming session. Over-optimistic timetables are unhelpful all round. In cases of doubt, earliest and latest dates for each stage of the Bill's preparation should be given.

8. TIMING

Please give, with reasons, the date by which Royal Assent is needed for Essential and Contingent Bills, and where appropriate, target dates for the enactment of Bills in other categories. It would be helpful to distinguish between Bills for which Royal Assent before the end of the session is desirable and those for which Royal Assent by a certain date is likely to be essential, eg because borrowing limits will otherwise be exceeded.

9. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

A Bill may be suitable for special forms of Parliamentary procedure. Please state whether it might be suitable for any of the following -

- a. Second Reading Committee procedure in the Commons - that is, the Bill is likely to be accepted on all sides of the House as uncontroversial and of little or no political significance;
- b. Special Standing Committee Procedure - that is, consideration by a Standing Committee empowered to hold up to three evidence-taking sessions within a limited period before detailed consideration of the Bill. Would the Bill be a suitable candidate for this procedure if the experiment for the current session were to be repeated? Bills for Special Standing Committee Procedure should be of some significance, but should not be controversial in a party political sense.
- c. Scottish or Welsh Grand Committee procedure in the Commons;
- d. Offering to a Private Member successful in the ballot - that is, short, simple, non-constitutional, non-controversial and without significant financial implications.

10. POLITICAL ASPECTS

Please state whether the Bill arises from a Manifesto commitment or from established party policy and whether any firm public commitments have been given about its introduction or timing. Please also cover briefly -

- its likely reception in the House;
- whether there is pressure from groups representing particular interests;
- whether it will be controversial politically or for any other reasons;
- whether it will appeal to or be strongly opposed by any particular sections of the community;
- what the attitude of the official Opposition to it will be;
- whether it will arouse particular interest in the House of Lords.

11. PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS

Please indicate the effect on central and local government expenditure and manpower of the proposed Bill for the PESC period, and whether PESC provision has been made for any necessary expenditure. Any separate implications for the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR) should also be mentioned, especially if they affect the date by which Royal Assent is required (see 8 above).

12. EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC) IMPLICATIONS

Please say whether the Bill is required to fulfil any European Community (EC) commitments. If so, any relevant timing considerations should be mentioned under 8 above.



From the Secretary of State

The Rt Hon Lord Hailsham of
St Marylebone, CH, FRS, DCL
House of Lords
London SW1P 0PW

Parliament
R.
31/12
31 December 1980

Dear Quintin

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1980/81

Thank you for your letter of 22 December.

I have now seen a print of the Companies Bill which covers virtually all the ground. I have noted Sir Henry Rowe's view that Legislation Committee on 13 January is impracticable and his estimate that it will take a fortnight longer to get a satisfactory print. Like the draftsman, I can certainly confirm that, so far as my Department is concerned, every effort is being made to complete the work, and if possible to improve on this estimate.

I am sending copies of this letter to recipients of yours.

Yours ever
John

JOHN NOTT



Parliament

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
ELIZABETH HOUSE, YORK ROAD, LONDON SE1 7PH
TELEPHONE 01-928 9222
FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

The Rt Hon Lord Hailsham of St
Marylebone HC FRS DCL
House of Lords
LONDON
SW1A 0PW

h
30/12

30 DEC 1980

Dear Lord Chancellor,

Thank you for your letter of 22 December about progress on the Education (Special Educational Needs) Bill.

When H Committee considered the White Paper on this subject on 22 July, the minutes record that I then said that the Bill would be introduced soon after Christmas.

My Department and I are directing our energies to ensure that we have the Bill ready in time for consideration at Legislation Committee on 21 January.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the members of QL and L Committees, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Henry Rowe.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Casbon.
(Private Secretary.)

pp. MARK CARLISLE
(Agreed by the Secretary of
State and signed in his
absence)

CONFIDENTIAL

Parliament ✓ MS

Office of the Parliamentary Counsel 36 Whitehall London SW1A 2AY

Telephone Direct line 01 273 5288
Switchboard 01 273 3000

P K J Thompson Esq
Lord Chancellor's Department
House of Lords
London SW1A 0PW

22 December 1980

Dear Thompson

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1980-1981

As a recipient of copies of the Lord Chancellor's letters of today addressed respectively to the Secretaries of State for Trade, Employment, Energy and Social Security and the Chancellor of the Duchy I think I ought to say how the position appears from here. My purpose is to help Ministers in arriving at a realistic assessment of what is and what is not practicable. First I will refer to each of the proposed Bills in turn. The date in brackets is the date the Lord Chancellor wishes to have confirmed as the date on which the Bill will be considered by Legislation Committee.

The Gas Rental Levy Bill (13 January).

Instructions for this Bill have not yet been received.

The Companies Bill (13 January). The proposed date is impracticable. It is too early to give a firm date but we hope to have a satisfactory, though not perfect, print available for consideration on January 28.

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The Health and Social Services (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

(13 January). A final draft of the remaining provisions is being sent to DHSS and it should be possible to have the Bill considered by Legislation Committee on 21 January.

The Employment and Training Bill (21 January). New provisions about the Redundancy Fund are in contemplation but the rest of the Bill is in an advanced state of preparation and we are confident that the proposed date can be achieved.

The Education (Special Educational Needs) Bill (21 January). Some matters are still under discussion but it is hoped to achieve the proposed date.

The Petroleum and Continental Shelf Bill (28 January). Provided all outstanding issues are resolved it should be possible to achieve the proposed date.

The House of Commons Members' Fund Bill (21 January). If this Bill is to include provisions about the remuneration of Ministers in the Lords the date on which it can be brought before Legislation Committee will depend on the date when the necessary policy decisions are taken. If the Bill is to be confined to its original purpose 21 January may be possible.

I can see no possibility of getting any of these Bills ready before the time indicated above. There should be no need to assure Ministers that every effort is being made on our part to complete work on all of them. Even so dates cannot be guaranteed. In the first four weeks of the Session twenty-two programme Bills were introduced (not counting Scottish Bills) some of which were very long, some very complex and some both. Although in some cases Ministers were disappointed at not having

CONFIDENTIAL

their Bills published earlier, even the dates actually achieved were dependent on the maintenance of good health among my colleagues. This remains essential if the remaining Bills are to come forward for publication at the earliest possible time. No less essential is reasonable freedom from interruption of orderly work on them. Attempts to get a Bill printed for Legislation Committee before it can be got into a state fit for publication are bound to delay the completion of its final text and, because of pressure on the printers, to interfere with work on other Bills.

I am sending copies of this letter to the recipients of the Lord Chancellor's.

Yours sincerely

H. P. Rowe.

H P ROWE

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM:

THE RT. HON. LORD HAILSHAM OF ST. MARYLEBONE, C.H., F.R.S., D.C.L.



Parliament
HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

C O N F I D E N T I A L

22nd December, 1980

The Right Honourable
Mark Carlisle, QC MP
Secretary of State,
Department of Education
and Science,
Elizabeth House,
York Road,
London,
SE1 7PH.

6 pps ✓ ms (all 6)

22/12

My dear Mark:

Legislative Programme 1980/1981

I think I should tell you that at the meeting of Legislation Committee on 17 December, Michael Jopling expressed dismay at the delays which had occurred in the preparation of a number of Bills for the current legislative programme, as a result of which six Bills which the Cabinet had been told in May would be ready in time for introduction before the Christmas recess would now be too late to meet that timetable. This made the task of the business managers in both Houses extremely difficult, and I reminded the Committee that Departments which were late coming forward with their Bills ran the risk that insufficient Parliamentary time would be available in the current Session for their enactment. Legislation Committee invited me to convey in the strongest possible terms their anxiety to the Ministers concerned.

When Cabinet considered the Legislative Programme for the current session on 15 May, it was thought that the Education (Special Educational Needs) Bill would be ready for introduction in November. Drafting authority was given on 15 August. I am now informed that arrangements are in hand for this Bill to be considered by Legislation Committee at their meeting on 21 January. I should be grateful if you could confirm that every effort is being made to guarantee that the Bill will be available in time for consideration at that meeting. If any further slippage is envisaged, I should be grateful if you would be good enough to inform me and Norman St. John-Stevas at once.

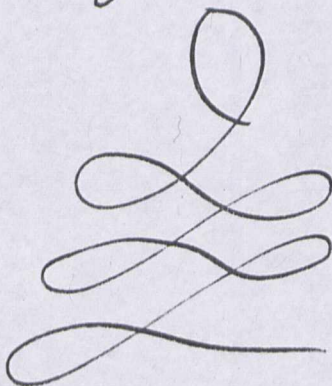
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C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the members of QL and L Committees, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Henry Rowe.

YRS!

A highly stylized, cursive handwritten signature consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal tail.

FROM:

THE RT. HON. LORD HAILSHAM OF ST. MARYLEBONE, C.H., F.R.S., D.C.L.



HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

C O N F I D E N T I A L

22nd December, 1980

The Right Honourable
David Howell, MP
Secretary of State,
Department of Energy,
Thames House South,
Millbank,
London,
SW1P 4QJ.

My dear David

Legislative Programme 1980/1981

I think I should tell you that at the meeting of Legislation Committee on 17 December, Michael Jopling expressed dismay at the delays which had occurred in the preparation of a number of Bills for the current legislative programme, as a result of which six Bills which the Cabinet had been told in May would be ready in time for introduction before the Christmas recess would now be too late to meet that timetable. This made the task of the business managers in both Houses extremely difficult, and I reminded the Committee that Departments which were late coming forward with their Bills ran the risk that insufficient Parliamentary time would be available in the current Session for their enactment. Legislation Committee invited me to convey in the strongest possible terms their anxiety to the Ministers concerned.

When Cabinet considered the Legislative Programme for the current session on 15 May, it was thought that the Petroleum and Continental Shelf Bill would be ready for introduction in November. Drafting authority was given on 18 September. I am informed that arrangements are in hand for this Bill to be considered by Legislation Committee at their meeting on 28 January. I should be grateful if you would confirm that every effort is being made to guarantee that the Bill will be available in time for consideration at that meeting.

I should also be grateful if you could confirm that the Gas Rental Levy Bill (which, I am told, needs to receive Royal Assent by March 1981) will be ready in time for consideration by Legislation Committee on 13 January. If further slippage on either Bill is envisaged, I should be grateful if you would be good enough to inform me and Norman St. John-Stevas at once.


/Contd.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the members of QL and L Committees, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Henry Rowe.

yrs :

L. H.


FROM:

THE RT. HON. LORD HAILSHAM OF ST. MARYLEBONE, C.H., F.R.S., D.C.L.



HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

C O N F I D E N T I A L

22nd December, 1980

The Right Honourable
Norman St. John-Stevas, MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of
Lancaster,
Privy Council Office,
68 Whitehall,
London, SW1A 2AS.

My dear Norman:

Legislative Programme 1980/1981

As you know, at the meeting of Legislation Committee on 17 December, Michael Jopling expressed dismay at the delays which had occurred in the preparation of a number of Bills for the current legislative programme, as a result of which some six Bills which the Cabinet had been told in May would be ready in time for introduction before the Christmas Recess would now be too late to meet that timetable. This made the task of the business managers in both Houses extremely difficult, and I reminded the Committee that Departments which were late coming forward with their Bills ran the risk that insufficient Parliamentary time would be available in the current Session for their enactment. Legislation Committee invited me in the strongest possible terms to convey their anxiety to the Ministers concerned.

When Cabinet considered the Legislative Programme for the current Session on 15 May, it was hoped that the House of Commons Members Fund and Parliamentary Pensions (Transfers) Bill would be ready for introduction in December. I am told that arrangements are in hand for it to be considered by Legislation Committee at their meeting on 21 January. I know that consideration is still being given to the issue of including in the Bill provision to deal with the remuneration of Ministers in the House of Lords, and I hope that that can be resolved quickly. If any more slippage is envisaged, I should be grateful if you would inform me at once. You are, of course, particularly well placed to assess the consequences of any further delay, but, for this very reason I hope you will support me in my approach to our colleagues by seeing that no further slippage occurs.

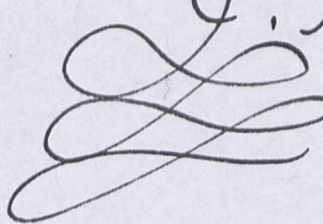
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C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the members of QL and L Committees, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Henry Rowe.

yrs:

Q. H.


Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?

FROM:

THE RT. HON. LORD HAILSHAM OF ST. MARYLEBONE, C.H., F.R.S., D.C.L.



HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

C O N F I D E N T I A L

22nd December, 1980

The Right Honourable
James Prior, MP
Secretary of State,
Department of Employment,
Caxton House,
Tothill Street,
London,
SW1N 9NA.

My dear Jim

Legislative Programme 1980/1981

I think I should tell you that at the meeting of Legislation Committee on 17 December, Michael Jopling expressed dismay at the delays which had occurred in the preparation of a number of Bills for the current legislative programme, as a result of which six Bills which the Cabinet had been told in May would be ready in time for introduction before the Christmas recess would now be too late to meet that timetable. This made the task of the business managers in both Houses extremely difficult and I reminded the Committee that Departments which were late coming forward with their Bills ran the risk that insufficient Parliamentary time would be available in the current Session for their enactment. Legislation Committee invited me to convey their anxiety to the Ministers concerned.

When Cabinet considered the Legislative Programme for the current session on 15 May, it was thought that the Employment and Training Act 1973 (Amendment) Bill would be ready in time for introduction before Christmas. I know that there have been some policy problems with the Bill, and that its scope was not finally decided until after the meeting of QL Committee on 1 December. I believe that arrangements are in hand for it to be considered by Legislation Committee at their meeting on 21 January. I should be grateful if you could confirm that every effort is being made to guarantee that the Bill will be available in time for consideration at that meeting. If any further slippage is envisaged, I should be grateful if you would be good enough to inform me and Norman St. John-Stevas at once.

/Contd.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the members of QL and L Committees, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Henry Rowe.

yrs:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

FROM:

THE RT. HON. LORD HAILSHAM OF ST. MARYLEBONE, C.H., F.R.S., D.C.L.



HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

C O N F I D E N T I A L

22nd December, 1980

The Right Honourable
Patrick Jenkin, MP
Secretary of State for
Social Services,
Department of Health and
Social Security,
Alexander Fleming House,
Elephant & Castle,
London, SE1 6BY.

My dear Patrick:

Legislative Programme 1980/81

I think I should tell you that at the meeting of Legislation Committee on 17th December, Michael Jopling expressed dismay at the delays which had occurred in the preparation of a number of Bills for the current legislative programme, as a result of which six Bills which the Cabinet had been told in May (C(80) 27) would be ready in time for introduction before the Christmas recess would now be too late to meet that timetable. This has made the task of the business managers in both Houses extremely difficult, and I reminded the Committee that Departments which were late coming forward with their Bills ran the risk that insufficient Parliamentary time would be available in the current Session for their enactment. Legislation Committee invited me to convey in the strongest possible terms this anxiety to the Ministers concerned.

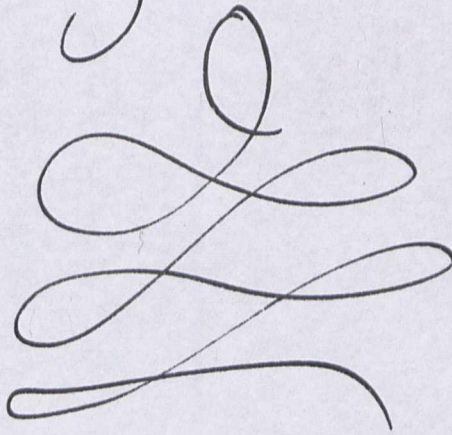
When Cabinet considered the Legislative Programme for the current session on 15 May, it was thought that the Health and Social Services (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill would be ready for introduction in December. I realise that policy clearance took longer than expected (I myself was very doubtful about your proposal to include provisions on the registration of private children's homes) and that the length of the Bill was not resolved until the meeting of QL Committee on 1 December. I am informed that arrangements are in hand for the Bill to be considered by Legislation Committee at their meeting on 13 January. I should be grateful if you could confirm that every effort is being made to guarantee that the Bill will be available in time for consideration at that meeting (which means that it must reach the Cabinet Office for circulation by mid-day on 8 January). If any further slippage is envisaged, I should be grateful if you would be good enough to inform me and Norman St. John-Stevas at once.

/Contd.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the members of QL and L Committees, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Henry Rowe.

Yrs:


C O N F I D E N T I A L

FROM:

THE RT. HON. LORD HAILSHAM OF ST. MARYLEBONE, C.H., F.R.S., D.C.L.



HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

C O N F I D E N T I A L

22nd December, 1980

The Right Honourable
John Nott, MP
Secretary of State for Trade,
Department of Trade,
1 Victoria Street,
London,
SW1H 0ET.

My dear John:

Legislative Programme 1980/81

I think I should tell you that at the meeting of Legislation Committee on 17 December, Michael Jopling expressed dismay at the delays which had occurred in the preparation of a number of Bills for the current legislative programme, as a result of which six Bills which the Cabinet had been told in May would be ready in time for introduction before the Christmas recess would now be too late to meet that timetable. This has made the task of the business managers in both Houses extremely difficult, and I reminded the Committee that Departments which were late coming forward with their Bills ran the risk that insufficient Parliamentary time would be available in the current Session for their enactment. Legislation Committee invited me to convey in the strongest possible terms their anxiety to the Ministers concerned.

At their meeting on 29 April QL Committee invited you to speed up the preparation of the Companies Bill so that it was ready in time for Second Reading before Christmas. When Cabinet considered the Legislative Programme for the current session on 15 May, it was thought that the Bill would be ready for introduction in December with a view to Second Reading before the Christmas Recess. I am informed that arrangements are in hand for this Bill to be considered by Legislation Committee at their meeting on 13 January but that even then further work will be required thereafter before it can safely be introduced. I should be very reluctant for the Committee's consideration of the Bill to be deferred until later in January and I should be grateful if you could confirm that every effort is being made to guarantee that a satisfactory print of the Bill will be available in time for consideration at the meeting on 13 January. If any further slippage is envisaged, I should be grateful if you would be good enough to inform me and Norman St. John-Stevas at once.

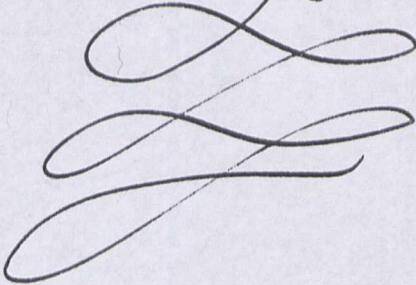
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C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the members of QL and L Committees, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Henry Rowe.

yrs :

L. H.


C O N F I D E N T I A L

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION(i) Second Reading

Armed Forces
 Atomic Energy (Misc Prov)
 Criminal Attempts
 Education (Scotland) (No 2)
 Fisheries
 Forestry
 Insurance Companies
 Transport
 Water

✓
MS

(ii) Standing Committee

British Telecommunications
 Industry
 Local Government (Misc Prov) (Scotland)

(iii) Committee of the Whole House

European Assembly Elections

| (iv) <u>Orders and Regulations</u> | <u>Date Laid</u> | <u>Whether Controversial</u> | <u>Date Required</u> |
|--|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Building Societies and Tax (NI) | 5/11 | No | |
| Clean Air (NI) | 28/10 | No | |
| Firearms (NI) | 14/7 | No | |
| Fisheries Amendment (NI) | 10/12 | No | By Easter |
| Highlands and Islands Shipping (3) | 5/12 | No | For Debate 12/1 |
| Housing (NI) | 5/11 | No | |
| Judgements Enforcement (NI) (2) | 1/12 | No | By 31/1 |
| Leasehold (Enlargement and Extension) Amendment (NI) | 12/11 | No | |
| Local Authority Grants | 11/12 | No | For debate 12/1 |
| London Docklands Development Corporation | 27/11 | Maybe | Subject to Lords |
| Merseyside Development Corporation | 27/11 | Maybe | Subject to Lords |
| Motor Vehicles | 8/12 | No | a.s.a.p. in New Year |
| Rate Support Grant (3) | 16/12 | Yes | For Debate 14/1 |

| <u>Orders and Regulations</u> | <u>Date Laid</u> | <u>Whether Controversial</u> | <u>Date Required</u> |
|--|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Rate Support Grant Report (England) | 16/12 | Yes | For Debate 14/1 |
| Rate Support Grant (Scotland) | 18/12 | Yes | For Debate 19/1 |
| Rate Support Grant Report (Wales) | 16/12 | Yes | For Debate 14/1 |
| Road Traffic (NI) | 11/11 | No | |
| Road Traffic (NI Consequential Amendments) | 11/11 | No | |
| * Sheep Variable Premium | 28/11 | No | By 23/1 |

LORDS

Contempt of Court (L)

Deep Sea Mining (Temporary Provisions) (L)

Energy Conservation (L)

International Organisations (L)

∅ Judicial Pensions (L)

Merchant Shipping (L)

Parliamentary Commissioner (Consular Complaints) (L)

Social Security (Contributions)

∅ Supreme Court (L)

Town and Country Planning (Minerals) (L)

Wildlife and Countryside (L)

* SI Committee

∅ Consolidation

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (2)

Anguilla 1980

Consolidated Fund (No 2) 1980



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

15 December 1980

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

Parliament
R.
✓ms

De Francis

Thank you for your letter of 5 December.
I understand that arrangements have been made,
as you suggest, for the Armed Forces Bill
to be considered at Legislation Committee
on 17 December.

I am sending copies of this letter to the
recipients of yours.

Francis Pym

The Rt Hon Francis Pym MC MP



Parliament

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

12 December 1980

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP.,
Secretary of State for the Environment

2/12/80

You wrote to the Leader of the House on 5 December about the timetable for statements on housing and rate support grant.

On housing, there are a number of issues in which the Treasury has a strong interest. My officials are working with yours with the aim of finalising outstanding matters in time for a Monday Statement. However, there are aspects which still require clarification. A particular concern is the housing moratorium, on which you have yet to write. Until I see what you have to say I cannot guarantee that your proposals to discuss the matter outside E Committee will be acceptable.

A related consideration is the text of your statement itself. It would I am sure facilitate matters if I could have an early sight of what you are likely to say.

On the handling of RSG announcements I am content with your proposal as revised in Cabinet today, although again I would like to see the drafts of your statements as soon as possible.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, to other members of Cabinet, to Norman Fowler, Michael Jopling and Sir Robert Armstrong.

GEOFFREY HOWE



Minister of State

The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP
Secretary of State
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
LONDON SW1P 3EB

Parliament
Civil Service Department
Whitehall London SW1A 2AZ
Telephone 01-273 3000

VMS

11 December 1980

Jean Theobald

I see that in your letter of 5 December to Norman St John-Stevas you referred to certain printing difficulties with HMSO in connection with the Government's reply to the Select Committee on the Environment.

I have consulted the Controller of HMSO about this. He is unaware of any difficulties with the production of this Command Paper, although publication of it was deferred - at the request of your Department. Could you let me know what difficulties you had in mind? I will then look into them straightaway.

I am sending a copy of this to the recipients of yours.

PAUL CHANNON

Y-
Paul

E.R.
Admiral
Legislation

PRIME MINISTER

STATEMENTS NEXT WEEK

As far as we can tell this morning, the timetable for Statements and important Written Answers early next week now looks like this.

| | <u>Statements</u> | <u>Written PQs</u> | |
|-------------------|--|---------------------|---|
| Monday 15 Dec. | <i>Yellowlees</i> Housing (England) | Yellowlees | <i>Sailed to Am. Cap. Howard Preston Greenwich Countdown Nordis</i> |
| Tuesday 16 Dec. | <i>1. RSG (England) - 2. Housing and RSG (Wales) - 3. Textiles</i> | <i>T.S.G. read.</i> | <i>60% - 3p. Bl. Grant - Dealing: Need.</i> |
| Wednesday 17 Dec. | <i>1. Fish - 2. RSG (Scotland)</i> | Gas Pipeline | |

The only question remaining to be decided, provided that no-one raises unexpected objections to this timetable, is whether we should have three Statements on Tuesday. The textiles Statement will not be able to contain full information about the position because negotiations will still be going on. There was some feeling in the Cabinet Office yesterday that it might be sensible to defer the textiles Statement because it might turn out to be rather flat, but Mr. Nott very much wants to do it next week.

*Overseen
Counter-
productive
in Brussels*

I suppose that the only alternative would be to take it on Thursday 18 December, but that is very late in the week for an important Statement. *Doing it on Monday is possible, but we should need*

the business managers' views on the impact on the guillotine (if we need one).

M S

You might remit the whole this to the business managers - rather

11 December 1980

than try to reach final decisions today.

*Parliamentary
Legislation*

PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Affairs

Monday and Tuesday next week may be difficult. This is because there are several controversial statements and Written Answers to be given, in addition to the business itself. I have listed these announcements on the Business Note attached. What is more, we may have to take the Guillotine Motion on the Social Security (Contributions) Bill on Monday 15 December if we do not get the Bill through before the weekend.

All of the arrangements which have been made have been drawn up in close consultation with the business managers, and I do not * think there is any reason to query them. The Home Secretary, however, may wish to raise the question of his announcement on the Yellowlees Report which is at present scheduled as a Written Answer on Monday. He and the Secretary of State for Social Services have not yet reached final agreement about the terms of the Answer, and the Foreign Secretary has of course an interest in this matter as well.

You might perhaps also remind colleagues that in the present Parliamentary situation it is essential they should avoid, wherever possible, making important announcements on the last couple of days before the Recess, and that they should keep in touch with the business managers and the Paymaster General about the timing of announcements next week, since there may well be a fair number of minor announcements which Departments might want to make before Christmas.

MS

* The CDL is (late this evening) now arguing that the RSG statement should be oral, because of Opposition feelings at the moment. Mr Heseltine may be prepared to agree without difficulty, but we need to confirm whether or not
10 December 1980
Wales and Scotland will also make oral statements, and if so when.



*Ce Press office + PA
MS*

SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

Parliament

The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 3EB

10 December 1980

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 5 December about the series of announcements which you are due to make before the Recess.

I have no comments on the arrangements which you propose to follow in making the various announcements.

Following our recent discussions I have now arranged to hold the Scottish rate support grant settlement meeting on 17 December. I shall be conveying the details to Parliament by Written Answer on that day. I entirely agree that it would be inappropriate to depart from precedent by giving an oral statement.

As to the Housing moratorium I am interested in the issue which you recently raised at E Committee and look forward to seeing your proposals.

I am sending copies of this letter to the recipients of yours.

GEORGE YOUNGER

✓ MR SANDERS

cc Mr Birch
Mr Maclean
Mr Millar
Mrs Scott
Mr Prescott

VMS

Go Pass Office + PA

Statements before Christmas - update

1. My minute of 5th December refers. The position is now as follows:

Firm Bids

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 10 December | [REDACTED] Forestry Policy Review | Scottish Office |
| 15 December | Housing etc Housing etc | Environment Welsh Office |
| 17 December | Council of Fisheries Ministers | MAFF |

Possible Bids

2. Some of the "possibles" recorded in my earlier minute have now dropped out; others have become rather less tentative.

Home Office - Prison Officers Dispute

(an emollient statement formerly proposed as a preliminary to further talks with Union Leaders [REDACTED] is not now proposed for 11 December and Home Office see any statement at all as "most unlikely".

Energy

Next steps in Gas gathering pipeline (you have suggested to the Private Secretary that this might appropriately be handled by means of a written PQ; no statement is now requested on the 7th Round of North Sea Licensing)

Northern Ireland

Hunger Strikes (only if there are new developments)

Trade

Import Controls on US synthetic fibres. (Subject to Cabinet approval later this week, a tentative bid has been made for

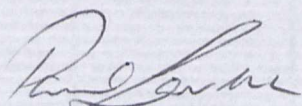
16 December to announce, probably, the end of Import Controls).

Other Statements "In the Wind"

3. Only one of the four recorded in my minute of 5 December still remains in this category; the Environment and Scottish Office statements have not materialised, while the Welsh Office statement on housing is now firmly scheduled for 15 December.

Home Office

The Yellowlees Report (subject to Mr Whitelaw's consultation with Mr Hattersley today).



PAUL LAWRANCE
Private Secretary

PS As you will be aware, the MAFF bid for today was withdrawn, pending the resumption of the Agriculture Ministers' Council on 18 December. It will be for consideration whether anything of sufficient importance comes out of the resumed Council meeting to justify a statement on 19th December, the last day before the recess.

Extra

It seems impossible to get out this minute fully up-to-date!

There are 2 developments:-

- 1/ The DOT statement on US fibres - a letter containing a formal 'bid' for Tuesday 16th is on its way;
- 2/ DoI may come under pressure next week for a statement on BSC's corporate plan.

R

12.30 p.m.

10 Dec '80



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

9 December 1980

De Reuch.

Thank you for your letter of 5 December about the various major issues on which you wish to inform Parliament before the Christmas recess; Michael Jopling and I have had a discussion on the points you cover and are most grateful to you for giving us ample notice of potential areas of difficulty.

Broadly, we agree with the distinction in treatment which you propose between housing and RSG issues and support your proposals for the comprehensive oral statement dealing with housing matters on 15 December. We agree that this should include everything to which you refer to in your first paragraph except the Rate Support Grant Statement itself, and in particular we think it of great importance that if this is at all possible the future of the moratorium on new housing commitments should be included in the oral statement and not deferred to a subsequent day as is implied on page 2 of your letter.

On the RSG, I think that there is a distinct risk that there will be enough adverse comment over the next week relating to what is proposed to force us to reconsider the view which Michael and I at present share with you that a written statement would be appropriate on Tuesday 16. It would however be highly inconvenient to have an oral statement not only because it would be a breach with precedent but because an oral statement for Wales would be required on the same day and one for Scotland on Wednesday 17 December. It therefore seems important to bend all efforts to resisting pressure for an oral statement and in order to help us in this I suggest that you consider making advance reference to the RSG written answer in your statement on Monday and also say that there will be an early debate on the RSG statement after the Christmas recess. I will also lay a trail on this subject when I see the Lobby this Thursday and should be grateful for urgent briefing to enable me to do so.

On the timing of your written answer on RSG, I understand that you will be meeting the Consultative Council on Local Government Finance at 3.00 pm on 16 December and that the Press Conference will follow. It is of the essence that the Press Conference should not occur until after the written question has been answered and Michael and I strongly



advise you therefore to arrange for this question to be answered at 3.30 pm. No doubt the Welsh RSG will be dealt with similarly in parallel and the Scottish RSG on the following day.

With respect to the comprehensive housing statement, I understand that there is no Scottish dimension but we shall need to consider the Welsh aspect. Either we can proceed by a joint statement by yourself on behalf of Wales and England, with the Welsh Minister on the Bench to answer Welsh questions, or, if the Welsh statement needs to be distinctively different it may be better to consider two statements on 15 December. I understand that Nicholas Edwards will be writing on this point.

I see no objection to what you propose about the December Joint Manpower Watch, or about the publication of the reply to the Select Committee on the Environment. In relation to the comprehensive but succinct briefing which you propose for Ministerial and Parliamentary colleagues and the media, it is of course essential that nothing should be published on the record until relevant Parliamentary answers have been given.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and all members of the Cabinet, to Norman Fowler, Michael Jopling and Sir Robert Armstrong.

ever yours
N. P. Heseltine

The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
SW1

*Europe
Public Ex
1/4/80*

Mr Ingham



Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 01-233 3000 (Switsfwrdd)
01-233 6106 (Linell Union)

WELSH OFFICE
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 01-233 3000 (Switchboard)
01-233 6106 (Direct Line)

Oddi wrth Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru The Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards MP *From The Secretary of State for Wales*

*2
PRIME MINISTER*

I am sure that A is right. It remains to be

8 December 1980

seen whether we can get away with B.

See also the attached note from the CDE ^{MS} 9/12

CONFIDENTIAL

Michael

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 5 December about major decisions which have to be made before Christmas. It will be essential to ensure that England, Wales and Scotland keep in step on all these issues.

My own time-table is complicated by the fact that we have a debate on housing in the Welsh Grand Committee (WGC) this Wednesday, 10 December, and First Order Questions next Monday, 15 December. In the WGC debate I will want to say that I will be making a statement "shortly" about the determination of the local contributions (council house rent levels); this statement will need to follow yours on 15 December. I am clear that Welsh Opposition Members will insist on this. Clearly we must keep each other informed of what we propose to say. I will send you as soon as possible a copy of my speaking notes and would be grateful to have at least an outline of what you propose to say on 15 December before I speak on 10 December.

A

It will, of course, be necessary for one of my Welsh Office Ministerial colleagues to attend the Housing Consultative Committee on 10 December, to make sure that the statutory consultation requirement is satisfied so far as Wales is concerned. In view of the clash with the Welsh Grand Committee debate I have asked Michael Roberts to attend.

B As regards the rate support grant, I am sure it is right to follow established precedent in the way we handle the settlement and I agree with

/your proposals.

The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
LONDON



your proposals. Accordingly I intend to announce the Welsh settlement at the statutory meeting with the Welsh Consultative Council on Local Government Finance, followed by a press conference, on 16 December. On the same day I will announce the Welsh settlement to Parliament also by written answer and will lay the Welsh RSG Report and place copies of my announcement to the Welsh Consultative Council in the Library.

/ I am copying this letter to those who received copies of yours.

John

Near

-9 DEC 1980





PA
MS

MR SANDERS

cc Mr Birch
Mr MacLean
Mr Millar
Mrs Scott
Mr Prescott

STATEMENTS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

1. Firm Bids

| | | |
|---------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 9th December | Arrangements for Paying Social Security Benefits | DHSS |
| 10th December | Agriculture Council and UK Forestry Policy | MAFF Scottish Office |
| 15th December | Housing (including rents, Housing Investment Programme and reply to Select Committee Report) (to be followed on 16 December by a written statement on RSG) | Department of the Environment |
| 17th December | Fisheries Council | MAFF |

2. Possible Bids

Departments are contemplating the following five statements before the recess:-

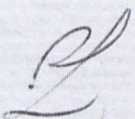
| | |
|------------|--|
| Energy | - Awards of 7th Round of Licensing and Next Steps in Gas Gathering Pipeline |
| Home | - Prison Officers' Dispute (only if strike ends after Commons debate on, maybe, 15 December) |
| N. Ireland | - Hunger Strikes (only if there are new developments) |
| Trade | - Reimposition of Import Controls on US synthetic fibres |

3. Other Statements "in the wind"


Departments may be forced to add the following statements, of which we are already aware, but which they did not mention in my "trawl" of Departments today:-

- DHSS - Pensions for Local Authority Part-time workers
- Home - The Yellowlees Report
- Scots) - Additional statements on Housing and Rates to
Welsh) supplement that by Department of the Environment.

Clearly, not all of these subjects are of equal importance and, if many of them turn into firm bids for statements, we shall have to assess the relative merits of the bids and may well find ourselves in the position of being unable to find time for certain statements.


PAUL LAWRANCE
PS/Leader of the House

5th December 1980

P.S. Treasury has come up with another "long-shot" -
Cash Limits in the Public Sector - which they
say is "very unlikely" to need a statement. 



C O N F I D E N T I A L

PAms

2

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB

MF
Mc Lytle

Mr. Heseltine

Mr. Heseltine

My ref:

Your ref:

5 December 1980

There is lots of scope for trouble here. Mr Heseltine is planning to include both the new rent guidelines and legal action against 2 recalcitrant Labour authorities. We will consult with the business managers and come back to you.

Mr Heseltine is planning an oral statement on housing and RSG on 15 Dec. The 7/10

TRouble →
TRouble →
TRouble →
TRouble →
LOTS OF TRouble →

There are a number of major issues, most of them affecting the preparation of local authority budgets, on which I have to announce decisions before Christmas: the rate support grant settlement, the housing investment programme capital allocations; the determination of the local contribution (council house rent levels); the future of the moratorium on new housing commitments; the publication of the White Paper containing the Government's replay to the Select Committee on the Environment; and the steps I am having to take to ensure the sale of council houses in the areas of some recalcitrant authorities.

This is the day for the NI guillotine

Subject to your agreement and to the views of my colleagues, I propose to deal with the outstanding housing issues in a single oral statement on Monday, 15 December. As you will see, many deal with sensitive matters on which the House would clearly expect to be informed. A single statement would be preferable to a series of as many as three statements before the Christmas recess.

TRouble →
TRouble →

In the case of the rate support grant I propose to announce the settlement to the statutory meeting of the Consultative Council on Local Government Finance on 16 December, followed by a press conference. I will announce the settlement to Parliament by means of a Written Answer which has been the practice for the last 5 years. In addition I shall be laying the Report on the settlement and placing copies of my announcement to the Consultative Council in the Library. It would not be appropriate to depart from the well established precedent by giving an oral statement to the House on 16 December which I am sure would lead to similar pressures on George Younger and Nicholas Edwards for oral statements on their RSG settlements.

The only occasion in recent years when an oral statement was made about the rate support grant settlement was in January 1974 by Geoffrey Rippon when he published a White Paper announcing the settlement and explaining the introduction of regression analysis. Special arrangements were needed in that year because local government reorganisation was due to take effect in April 1974, and because the financial arrangements to be adopted depended on the enactment of the Local Government Bill which had not at the time of the settlement completed its passage through Parliament. These were wholly exceptional circumstances and I do not think they provide any precedent for an oral statement on this occasion. There will be a full debate on this year's settlement shortly after the Christmas recess and that will be the appropriate occasion for Parliamentary discussion.

I propose to announce the December Joint Manpower Watch results by means of a Written Answer, also on 16 December. This is the usual practice.

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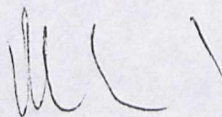
Decisions on the future of the moratorium on local authority housing capital expenditure may present difficulties over timing. Following the decision at E Committee and consultation with the local authority associations, I am at present seeking up to date figures from local authorities about likely levels of expenditure. The results will not be available until the latter part of next week. In the circumstances I would propose to write to my colleagues to let them know the up-to-date position and to seek agreement to the way we should proceed. Should difficult questions remain to be resolved, I hope it will be possible to settle the matter by discussion outside E Committee, which will not be meeting until later in the week beginning 15 December.

I shall be circulating advance copies of the Command Paper giving the Government's reply to the Select Committee on the Environment to Cabinet colleagues shortly before publication in accordance with normal procedure. I shall let the Select Committee have advance copies on Thursday, 11 December; and as is customary, my Department will provide Confidential Final Revise copies to the Lobby correspondents on the morning of Monday 15 December. This is subject to the resolution of printing difficulties with HMSO.

I intend to ensure that comprehensive but succinct briefing is provided on all the matters mentioned in this letter to Ministerial and Parliamentary colleagues and to the media.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, to all members of the Cabinet, the Minister of Transport and to Sir Robert Armstrong. Because of the immense amount of preparation involved, I should clearly find it helpful to be given an early indication of views: could I ask for colleagues' agreement to proceed on the lines set out above by, say, close of play on Tuesday, 9 December?

Yours ever



MICHAEL HESELTINE

One last thought - if Mr Kaufman should turn out to be Shadow Environment spokesman, he is going to have a big day with all this

MS

Parliament
Legislation



✓ MS

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

TELEPHONE 01-218 9000
DIRECT DIALLING 01-218 6169

D/S of S/2/2/1

5th December 1980

Mr Norman,

In my letter of 29th October I undertook to bring the Armed Forces Bill 1981 to Legislation Committee as soon as possible. I am now informed that Parliamentary Counsel take the view that the final print will not be ready in time to allow consideration by Legislation Committee on 10th December as we had previously hoped. This further slippage is most regrettable but for the reasons I set out in my earlier letter the sooner we can arrange the introduction and Second Reading of this Bill the sooner the Select Committee can be appointed and start its consideration of the detail. I understand that the Bill could be taken by Legislation Committee at their meeting on 17th December and I would be grateful if this could be done, thus allowing the Bill to be introduced before the recess.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, to other Members of the Cabinet, the Minister of Transport, the Chief Whips of both Houses, Sir Henry Rowe and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Francis Pym

Francis Pym

The Rt Hon Norman St-John Stevas MP.



CONFIDENTIAL

2

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB

Ann Throth

G. W. Light

Just to note that the intention

will be issuing a memorandum My ref:

on local authority capital Your ref:

spending controls next Wednesday 5 December 1980

This follows the recent decisions in E.C. Committee

R. 7/12

Dear Chancellor of the Exchequer

Thank you for your letter of 2 December. I totally accept your view that the delivery of the national cash limit must be of paramount importance. I accept also your comments on the difficulty that we would face if we were to be forced to impose a capital moratorium. But this has to be set against the outcry that would face us if we now go back on the clear promises which we have made about the use of accumulated capital receipts.

I am delighted therefore to find that we do not need to take any direct action to reduce capital expenditure allocations to local authorities or to reduce authorities' ability to add accumulated capital receipts to their expenditure allocations. Our officials have discussed this with the local authority associations and are satisfied that there is no significant risk to the delivery of the national cash limit. Furthermore, they have persuaded the associations, who also accept that the national cash limit must not be exceeded, to agree to provide monthly information from which we could monitor the cash limit.

Local authorities have had for several years now a real incentive to use capital receipts (other than housing receipts) to increase expenditure in the face of progressively reducing levels of borrowing approvals, particularly in the locally determined sector, but they have not in fact used their capital receipts in that way to any significant extent. On the contrary, the very high level of accumulated capital receipts is evidence that local authorities prefer to hold on to their capital receipts as an insurance for the future. There is no reason to believe that they will behave differently in 1981/82. They will, of course, be subject to severe constraints on current expenditure in that year as a result of the forthcoming rate support grant settlement, the block grant provisions and the pressure on rates and, as this will reduce their ability and willingness to accommodate the revenue consequences of new capital expenditure, it will further diminish the possibility that they will use accumulated capital receipts in order to increase their capital spending.

Local authorities will, of course, be able to use their new capital receipts in 1981/82 to cover additional capital expenditure. On the basis of what the associations told our officials this morning, I would expect this to be more than enough for their needs and make it unnecessary for them to draw to any great extent on their accumulated receipts. Nevertheless, individual authorities will see their freedom to use accumulated receipts as a valuable feature of the new system - as indeed it may be for a few authorities - and I believe that we can allow it to remain for the present, subject to careful

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monthly monitoring.

The local authority associations have recognised and totally accept the Government's need to be concerned about the cash limit and have accepted that there should be a simple monitoring return made to my Department at the end of May, July and August next year. This will be in addition to the capital payments returns in June, September, December and March. This will mean that we shall, after the second month have monthly figures which we can use to monitor the national cash limit. This is satisfactory to my officials and to yours. It is intended that the form of the new return will be agreed with the local authority representatives in the Working Group on Local Government Financial Statistics.

Our officials also discussed with the associations the other ways in which local authorities could cause the cash limit to be exceeded, for example, by the use of trading profits, or leasing etc, and agreed that the amounts involved appear to be small enough to be fitted within the head room of the cash limit. Again, the associations did not dissent from the need to secure the national cash limit.

In view of this, I now intend to issue my own capital expenditure allocations and I assume that other colleagues will do likewise. I propose also that we shall not, at this stage, interfere with the right of authorities to use accumulated capital receipts to supplement their capital allocations. In these circumstances, I propose to issue the capital controls memorandum on 10 December, unless you or other colleagues disagree.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of my letter of 2 December and to John Biffen with whom I discussed this matter, after yesterday's meeting of the Consultative Council on Local Government Finance.

Jusices

John Biffen

For MICHAEL HESELTINE

(letter approved by the
Secretary and signed
in his absence)



2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB

2

PRIME MINISTER

My ref:

cc Mr Ingham

Your ref:

*A little more provocation
to add to the DOE*

5 December 1980

statement proposed for 15 December

MS

Dear Robin

PUBLICATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY TO THE ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE

My Secretary of State wrote to the Chancellor of the Duchy earlier today setting out his proposals for DOE statements in the last week of the session. The housing statement would cover our reply to the Environment Select Committee. It may be helpful for colleagues to know that the Committee published its first report on 29 July 1980, enquiring into "Implications of the Government's expenditure plans 1980/81 to 1983/84 for the housing policies of the DOE".

The Report concluded that there would be a cumulative shortfall of new dwellings approaching half a million dwellings in Great Britain by the mid-1980s and criticised the Government for failing to make public details of the working assumptions on which its future housing policies were based.

The reply will not give the Committee the information they are seeking. It maintains the line taken by the Secretary of State for the Environment in his oral evidence to the Committee broadly that it is not useful to make available the working assumptions behind the Public Expenditure White Paper figures that the Committee are seeking (eg on the breakdown of future capital and ^{resource} spending) since these depend on decisions relating to the current economic situation that need to be taken year by year. Further, it is not possible to make forecasts of the balance between future housing need and demand in the way sought by the Committee, since such forecasts would be based on doubtful assumptions and the results would be too uncertain to be of value. This uncertainty will increase in future because of the wider range of opportunities introduced by the Government for people to move into low-cost home-ownership and because of the policy to make a better use of the housing stock.

The text of the Government's reply has been cleared with H Committee; a copy is attached.

I am copying this to the Private Secretaries to all Cabinet Members, the Minister of Transport, and Sir Robert Armstrong.

J JACOBS
Private Secretary

Robin Birch Esq

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file copy

*Proof copy
4 100 corrections
in 915.*



**DEPARTMENT OF THE
ENVIRONMENT**

The Government's reply to the First Report from the
Environment Committee, Session 1979-80, HC714

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State
for the Environment
by Command of Her Majesty
December 1980*

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
[price]

Cmd.

CONFIDENTIAL

**GOVERNMENT REPLY TO THE FIRST REPORT FROM THE SELECT
COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, SESSION 1979-80 :**

**IMPLICATIONS OF GOVERNMENT'S EXPENDITURE PLANS
1980-81 TO 1983-84 FOR THE HOUSING POLICIES OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

1. The Government make the following observations on the First Report from the Select Committee on the Environment on "The Implications for the Housing Policies of the Department of the Environment of the White Paper on the Government's Expenditure Plans 1980-81 to 1983-84".

Public Expenditure White Paper Totals for Housing

2. The Committee considered that much of the value of the Public Expenditure White Paper would be lost if the practice continued of giving as little information for future years as was presented this year in Table 2.7. They did not consider the uncertainties surrounding future housing spend justified a refusal to provide further breakdown (paragraph 8(e)). In addition, the Committee felt that it would have helped if the working assumptions on which the White Paper was based were disclosed (paragraph 13) and recommended that in future White Papers information on a number of likely changes in expenditure should be given.

3. The Government remain of the view that a detailed breakdown of the public expenditure total for housing over the medium term is bound to be unreliable and accordingly decisions on the allocation of resources among the components of the programme must be taken year by year, in the light of developing circumstances.

4. The Government also remain of the view that the Committee would not have been helped by publication of assumptions underlying the figures. The actual outturn of expenditure will depend on the aggregate of decisions by individual local authorities, since it is entirely for them to decide how much of their housing investment programme allocations they will devote to different types of housing investment. Authorities will have even greater freedom in making such decisions in 1981-82 and subsequent years when they will, for practical purposes, have a single capital allocation for all their services.

5. The Government do not accept, therefore, the Committee's view (paragraph 11) that the announcement of the Government's "forward thinking" and their "intentions on the division of housing expenditure between investment and subsidy" would reduce uncertainty and "achieve more predictable levels of investment". As the Secretary of State for the Environment has already made clear to the Committee, such "forward thinking" and "intentions" would be based on assumptions which might well prove as false as they have in recent years.

Assessments of Need and Demand for Housing

6. The Committee urged the Secretary of State for the Environment to prepare and publish a review of projected housing demand and need updating that contained in the 1977 Green Paper on Housing Policy (paragraph 32).

7. The Government consider that the 1977 Green Paper made an exhaustive attempt to predict future housing prospects but the authors themselves recognised that conclusions based on many different, and often sensitive, assumptions must be treated with great caution.

8. The Government further believe that the calculations involved depend upon assumptions, which may or may not hold true over time. For example, assumptions as to the number of people wishing to enter the public rented sector at any one time are dependent on the interplay between the different sectors of the housing market, on the relative price of obtaining accommodation in the different sectors which will in turn be affected by wider economic circumstances and the priority that households attach to satisfying their needs in terms of what they consider to be value for money.

9. Any assumptions underlying figures of demand and need will be even more questionable than in the past because of the wide range of the Government's various initiatives to promote low cost home-ownership and to make better use of the existing housing stock. This is being achieved in the following ways.

Promoting low cost home-ownership

10. Under the 1980 Housing Act 6 million Council tenants, new town tenants and tenants of non-charitable housing associations have been given the right to buy their houses and flats and the right to a mortgage.

11. Tenants of Charitable Housing Associations will not have the right to buy but these Associations have been given powers to sell to their tenants if they wish. Co-ownership societies have also been given powers to sell.

12. To help other first-time buyers the Government has launched a new improvement for sale scheme for both local authorities and housing associations. Under this scheme the Government may provide an Exchequer contribution of up to £3,250 per local authority dwelling and up to £5,000 per housing association dwelling towards any losses incurred in improving for sale older homes in poor condition.

13. To encourage building societies to lend on older, run-down houses, local authorities and the Housing Corporation will have a new and comprehensive power to guarantee building society mortgages on such dwellings.

14. Authorities are being encouraged to sell unimproved dwellings for improvement by the purchaser on the lines of the GLC's homesteading scheme, and the Housing Act enables local authorities to waive interest payments on mortgages for homesteading schemes for up to 5 years.

[The work carried out in 1977 provides an illustrative background of the housing problems and in view of its existence, and the scepticism with which its authors regarded it, the Government do not think it appropriate to go through the exercise again at this time.]

15. The construction of starter homes will be encouraged both by authorities selling land to builders for such developments and by entering into partnership with builders to construct starter homes under licence on council-owned land.

16. To help people move to full home ownership via shared ownership, local authorities, new towns and housing associations will be able to offer shared ownership as an alternative to outright purchase in any of their home purchase schemes—including the right to buy, building for sale, improvement for sale, and homesteading schemes. A model shared ownership scheme was circulated to local authorities and new towns on 15 October 1980, and a similar scheme suitable for housing associations will be circulated by the Housing Corporation.

17. In addition, in order to promote low cost home ownership further:—

(a) the Government has published the house price limits which will apply when the first benefits of the Homeloan scheme come to be paid from 1 December 1980. The benefits of the scheme are available to first-time buyers who fulfil the savings conditions of the scheme and buy a property within the appropriate price limit. They are designed to allow about two-thirds of first-time buyers to qualify.

(b) Authorities have been given more discretion over the amount they may lend for mortgages for house purchase by the introduction of the one block HIP system. The maximum individual advance limit has been reviewed and increased to £25,000, and the Department's recommended priority categories of borrower have been strengthened to underline the need for Councils to concentrate their mortgage lending on those in greatest need, and extended to include individual members of self-build groups.

(c) The threshold for payment of stamp duty has been raised from

£15,000 to £20,000

~~£15,000~~

Making better use of the existing stock

18. The Government sees scope for making better use of the existing stock both through private renting and in the public rented sector.

19. The private rented sector has been in decline for years but it is a decline that has been accelerated and sustained by legislation that gives little or no encouragement to landlords to let. To improve the availability of private rented accommodation the following changes have been brought about by the 1980 Housing Act:

(a) a new form of shorthold tenancy has been created giving landlords the right to let for between one and 5 years with a guaranteed right of repossession. There will be safeguards for tenants. The tenant will have security of tenure during the period of the tenancy plus a further year's tenancy if the landlord does not give notice of repossession before the end of the shorthold period. Fair rents will apply;

for the Government

- (b) The period between reviews of fair rents has been reduced from 3 to 2 years, with a corresponding reduction in phasing of rent increases between reviews, to reflect rates of inflation in recent years;
- (c) It has been made easier for absent owner occupiers, the owners of retirement homes and servicemen to let their homes temporarily with the certainty of being able to regain possession;
- (d) It enables landlords approved by the Secretary of State to build new dwellings for rent at freely negotiated (i.e. market) rents under the new assured tenancy provisions;
- (e) It makes it easier for owner occupiers who let their spare rooms to regain possession.

20. In the public rented sector better use of the existing stock should flow from the right of tenants to take in lodgers and to sublet under the Tenants Charter provisions of the Housing Act.

21. Taken together the sum of these measures can be expected to affect significantly the opportunities which people have to move between the different housing sectors. The Government do not therefore think it possible to make meaningful forecasts of the kind the Committee proposes.

Shortfall of Dwellings by the mid-1980s

22. The Committee concluded that there will be a cumulative short-fall by the mid-1980s against levels of new construction compared with the 1977 Green Paper forecast approaching half a million dwellings (paragraph 31).

23. The Committee appear to have misunderstood the Green Paper. It did not provide any target for building houses with which any other figure can be compared. It simply attempted to give some indication about what might happen if trends in the recent past were continued over the next 10 years. The forecasts, estimates and projections "are not policy statements of any kind, nor are any of the figures targets" (~~underlined~~ words italicised in the original Technical Volume Part I, page 110, of the Green Paper).

24. In the Government's view the Committee's attempts to relate figures of future housing provision to need merely illustrate the great difficulty of the task and the inevitably uncertain nature of any such results which do not take into account the state of the national economy, wage and price levels, people's attitudes to their housing conditions and their own perceptions of their changing priorities.

Removal of Constraints on the Private Sector

25. In the Committee's view specific action on constraints affecting the construction industry, especially land availability, is required to increase the sector's contribution to housebuilding (paragraph 8 (f)).

26. On taking up office the Government gave very high priority to taking a number of steps to remove unnecessary constraints and ensure an adequate supply of land. The Community Land Act has been repealed; registers of unused and underused land in public ownership are being introduced under provisions in the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980. The provisions include a power for the Secretary of State for the Environment to direct the release of registered land where a case for its retention has not been made. The procedures for making and altering structure and local plans have been speeded up. The Department issued a circular to local authorities on 15 April 1980 urging them to maintain a 5 year supply of land related to structure plan and local plan policies and to ensure that land earmarked for housing really is available for development. A range of detailed measures is being introduced to streamline the development control and appeals procedure, and measures have already been introduced to relax certain controls over the disposal and appropriation of public land. Substantial land sales are being undertaken by New Town Development Corporation, the PSA and the Housing Corporation.

27. In addition, the rate of Development Land Tax has been reduced to a single, fixed rate of 60 per cent. and the initial exemption threshold raised from £10,000 to £50,000. This, together with other measures to improve the operation of the tax has removed a great deal of uncertainty that was hanging over the land market.

Compensatory Capital Provision for Certain Local Authorities

28. The Committee recommended that compensatory provision should be made to local authorities where receipts from sales will not reflect needs, particularly those having a high proportion of flats in their housing stock (paragraph 23).

29. The Government does not accept some of the premises on which this recommendation is based. First, because a council house is sold, it does not follow that it needs to be replaced. The Secretary of State considers that, as set out in the financial appraisal, in the representative case the need to replace a council house which has been sold will not arise for many years. Second, it is not clear what assumptions the Committee have made when they estimate that an average of between five and ten houses will need to be sold in order to build one replacement. The average sale price of a council house net after discount is currently about £9,000. It would certainly not cost £90,000 nor even £45,000 to replace it. If the Committee mean that it will need the cash inflow by way of mortgage repayments from the sale of 5 to 10 houses to cover the cost of loan charges in respect of one new house it is again difficult to comment without knowing the Committee's precise assumptions. Third, because the incidence of receipts may vary somewhat from one authority to another the Government has decided that authorities should be able to undertake additional expenditure to their allocation to the extent of 50 per cent. of their receipts from sales of council dwellings to sitting tenants. The remaining 50 per cent. will be taken into account in determining the national total for HIP allocations. Authorities will however retain 100 per cent. of the cash they receive from their capital receipts.

30. Accordingly the Government does not agree that the envisaged compensatory provision should be made.

Recommendations Concerning the Presentation of Housing Expenditure in the Public Expenditure White Paper

31. The Committee recommends that a much fuller explanation of the conventions and definitions in the White Paper should be given in a convenient form (paragraph 33). If the Committee will indicate the respects in which they consider the present explanatory and technical notes (Part 6 of Cmnd. 7841) to be inadequate, the Secretary of State for the Environment, in consultation with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will be glad to consider their views.

32. One particular point raised by the Committee (paragraph 34) was the treatment of repayments of principal from housing revenue accounts. Table 2.7 of the White Paper shows gross capital investment and receipts, and also the deficit on housing revenue accounts which falls to be met either by subsidy or by rate fund contributions. The treatment is consistent with the presentation of housing in the national accounts. However the concern of the Committee has been drawn to the attention of the Treasury, who are considering the points that have been made. The outcome will be reported to the Committee.

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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through booksellers*

Parliament
Jan 20

PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Affairs

Next week's business will be difficult, because of the problem of getting the Social Security (Contributions) Bill through the House.

You will see from the note attached that the plan is to take the Second Reading on Monday and all the remaining stages on Thursday. The Opposition have already formally requested the Government to change their minds about this, and there seems to be no real prospect of taking the Bill through all its stages - even, I would guess, if we were prepared to go on right through the weekend.

The plan is, therefore, to take a guillotine motion on the Bill at 7 o'clock on Monday 15 December and to follow that motion with all the remaining stages of the Bill, so that it will clear the House on 15 December. *- or possibly on Tuesday 16 December, Murdo says now.* MS

These tactics will of course affect the atmosphere of the House from now right through to Christmas, but we have no choice but to proceed in this way if we are to get the Bill through in time.

Members' Pay

The Chancellor of the Duchy's proposals are set out in the attached letter. I do not think that you need raise them with your colleagues at Cabinet, but we will let you know if there are any dissenting voices when they have all had a chance to read them.

MS

3 December 1980



From the Secretary of State

NBPA

Paul

Andrew Hardman Esq
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State for Employment
Department of Employment
Caxton House
Tothill Street
London, SW1H 9NA

25 November 1980

Dear Andrew

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE (MARITIME) SESSION 1976 -
CONVENTION NUMBER 147 CONCERNING MINIMUM STANDARDS IN MERCHANT
SHIPS

Please refer to your letter of 21 November to Paul Lever, FCO.

My Secretary of State is content that HMG should ratify this Convention and I can confirm that any additional legislation necessary to meet the obligations imposed thereby is well in hand and will be enacted before entry into force.

Mr Nott is most anxious that the instrument of ratification should be lodged with the ILO on Friday to enable Mr Tebbit to announce the ratification at the European Ministerial Conference on Maritime Safety meeting in Paris on 1 December as you suggest. I therefore hope you can agree that ratification should proceed on this basis unless other Departments indicate dissent by telephone before the end of tomorrow.

I am sending copies of this letter to recipients of yours.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Capon

Catherine Capon
Private Secretary

CS

010
TL



~~A. Hardman~~

Caxton House Tothill Street London SW1H 9NA

NBAM

Telephone Direct Line 01-213 6400

Switchboard 01-213 5000

GTN 213

TL

24/11

Paul Lever Esq
Private Secretary
Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Whitehall
London SW1

20 November 1980

Dear Paul,

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE (MARITIME) SESSION 1976 - CONVENTION NO 147
CONCERNING MINIMUM STANDARDS IN MERCHANT SHIPS

The United Kingdom Government now appears to be in a position to formally ratify Convention No 147 concerning Minimum Standards in Merchant Ships. In the White Paper (CMND 7163) presented to Parliament in April 1978, it was stated that it was the wish of the Government, with the full support of shipowners and seafarers' organisations in the United Kingdom, to ratify the Convention as soon as it was satisfied that all shipboard conditions of employment were in every case covered by laws and regulations or by collective agreements.

The attached note explains the developments since that date which have removed the obstacles to ratification. Agreement has been reached after consultation at official level with departments most concerned. A list of those consulted is attached.

My Secretary of State would be glad to know whether the Foreign Secretary and the other Ministers concerned are content that the Government can now ratify the Convention. The decision to ratify would be announced in Parliament by the Parliamentary Question procedure. The meeting of Maritime Ministers in Paris on 1 and 2 December would be an ideal opportunity to announce to other countries that the UK had ratified the Convention or was in the process of doing so.

I am sending copies of this letter and its enclosures for comment to the private secretaries of the Secretaries of State for Trade; Health and Social Services; Northern Ireland; Scotland; Agriculture and Fisheries; Wales and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Copies go, for information only to the private secretaries to other members of Cabinet (including the Minister of Transport), the Attorney General, the Lord Advocate, the Secretary to the Cabinet and to the Chief Press Secretary at No 10 Downing Street.

Andrew Hardman

ANDREW HARDMAN
Private Secretary

CONVENTION NO 147 CONCERNING MINIMUM STANDARDS IN MERCHANT SHIPS

In the White Paper (CMND 7163) presented to Parliament in April 1978, it was stated that it was the wish of the Government, with the full support of shipowners and the seafarers' organisations in the United Kingdom, to ratify the Convention as soon as it was satisfied that all shipboard conditions of employment were in every case covered by laws and regulations or by collective agreements.

The United Kingdom has already signified compliance with some requirements of the Convention by virtue of its ratification of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974, the International Convention on Load Lines 1960 and the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 and of the following underlying conventions referred to in the Appendix to Convention No 147:

- Minimum Age (Sea) Convention 1920 (No 7)
- Sickness Insurance (Sea) Convention 1936 (No 56)
- Accommodation of Crews Convention (revised) 1949 (No 92)
- Food and Catering (Ships' Crews) Convention 1946 (No 68)(Article 5)
- Seamen's Articles of Agreement Convention 1926 (No 22)
- Freedom of Association and Protection of the right to Organise Convention 1948 (No 87)
- Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention 1949 (No 98)

and by acceptance of the Vocational Training (Seafarers) Recommendation, 1970.

The remaining requirements of the Convention will be met by:

- i The Merchant Shipping (Certification of Deck Officers) Regulations 1977 (SI 1977 No 1152) (as amended by SI 1978 No 1430) and The Merchant Shipping (Certification of Marine Engineer Officers) Regulations 1977 SI 1977 No 2072 (as amended by SI 1979 No 599) which will come into force on 1 September 1981 and The Merchant Shipping (Repatriation) Regulations 1979 (SI 1979 No 97);
- ii Regulations which are being made under Sections 19 and 21 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1970 and under Section 21 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1979 relating to the appointment of safety officers, the employment of young persons, medical examinations and hours of watch-keeping; and

iii Administrative Action

Subject to any views expressed, we therefore propose to ratify the Convention.

OFFICIAL CONTACTS

| | |
|------------------|--|
| D H Forward | Dept. of Trade (Marine Div) |
| C G Lane Esq | Foreign and Commonwealth Office (OLAD) |
| R Ralph Esq | Foreign and Commonwealth Office (UND) |
| Miss J Mckenzie | Department of Health and Social Security |
| E Perkins Esq | Northern Ireland Office |
| A Arbuthnot Esq | Department of Manpower Services (Northern Ireland) |
| Miss C Bell | Scottish Home and Health Department |
| E Miller Esq | Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (Scotland) |
| Mrs E A Taylor | Welsh Office |
| Dr J Rickard | Cabinet Office |
| D C Butcher Esq | Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food |
| Miss E M Startin | Treasury |



cc Mr Ingham

PRIME MINISTER

The Rt Hon William Whitelaw, CH, MC, MP
 Secretary of State
 Home Department
 Queen Anne's Gate
 London SW1

This is an important attempt to restrain the Cabinet from getting us into real difficulties with the legislative programme next year. We will report to you further if necessary.

MS
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HOME SECRETARY

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1980/81

When you presented QL Committee's proposals for the legislative programme for 1980/81 to the Cabinet on 15 May this year, you explained that QL had been concerned that the load of legislation on Parliament should be lighter than in the 1979/80 Session. The programme of 31 Bills had been designed to fit a Session of normal length with reasonable recesses and the minimum spillover in the autumn of 1981. Since then, there have been a number of developments which have led us to have grave doubts about whether the programme as it stands at the moment can be carried out.

The postponement of State Opening by a fortnight and the fact that the Social Security (Contributions) Bill will take up a considerable amount of time on the Floor of the Commons between 8 December and the Christmas Recess means that we have effectively lost three working weeks from the time QL expected to be available. On top of that, several major Bills have already been added to the programme agreed by the Cabinet. Apart from the Social Security Bill, we have to find extra time for Bills on Deep Sea Mining, Belize Independence, your own 'sus' reform, and, probably, the Canadian Constitution, while the Local Government (Scotland) Bill will now have to have its Second Reading on the Floor of the Commons instead of in Scottish Grand Committee as originally intended. There will be other demands on legislative time as a result of decisions taken by Cabinet last Wednesday. Although some of the additional Bills have admittedly been brought forward from the contingency category, and some Bills will not now come forward, the fact remains that we are now faced with a heavier programme to be fitted into less time than anyone expected last May, and unless we take urgent steps to lighten the programme we could easily run into virtually insuperable problems both in the Lords and on the Floor and in Committees in the Commons by the spring of next year.

Contd...

We have discussed the position in detail with the two Chief Whips, and we have come to the conclusion that we shall have to press the colleagues concerned to abandon two Bills for this Session, and to take steps drastically to reduce the length of some others. Bills which have already been approved for introduction by L Committee should of course remain intact, but we are writing to other Ministers whose Bills have not yet come forward with proposals for making reductions in the total Parliamentary time which their Bills will demand. We believe these problems merit discussion by Ministers collectively, and cannot be so satisfactorily considered on the basis of bilateral consultations. If you agree, we intend to circulate an urgent note to QL Committee setting out in more detail our proposals for lightening the programme without significantly affecting the pursuit of our main policy objectives. We shall need to reach very early decisions on these matters, and although we shall continue our contacts with individual Ministers, we should be very grateful if you would agree to hold a meeting of QL next week so that we can collectively review the programme and, if necessary, put proposals for revising it to an early meeting of the Cabinet.

We are copying this minute to the Prime Minister, to the Lord Chancellor and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

SOAMES

N St J S

(Approved by the Lord President of the Council and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and signed in their absence)

21 November 1980

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From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

CONFIDENTIAL



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

21 November 1980

Dear Robin,

in Mr's Box

The Home Secretary has seen the minute of today's date jointly sent by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Lord President. He agrees to the reconvening of QL Committee to consider a paper on the legislative programme. Separate arrangements are being made to find a convenient time.

I am sending copies of this letter to Michael Pownall, Nick Sanders, Michael Collon, David Wright and Wilfred Hyde.

*Yours,
S W Boys Smith*

(S W BOYS SMITH)

R A Birch Esq

CONFIDENTIAL

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Parliament

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The attached record of what happened to Government Bills in the last session may be of interest. The final total was:

49 "Programme" Bills
6 Financial Bills
16 Consolidation Bills

W N H

W N HYDE

Cabinet Office
20 November 1980

| Title | L | Intro- duction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Intro- duction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Final | R.A. |
|---|--|----------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|----------|----------|-------------------|----------|-----------|---------|----------|-------|----------|
| 1. Education (July 1979) | 16.5.79 | Commons 17.5.79 | 19.6.79 | S.C.A. 28.6.79 - 5.7.79 | 12.7.79 | 16.7.79 | Lords 17.7.79 | 17.7.79 | 19.7.79 | 24.7.79 | 24.7.79 | - | 26.7.79 |
| 2. Kiribati* (July 1979) | 16.5.79. | Commons 17.5.79 | 24.5.79 | 11.6.79 | 11.6.79 | 11.6.79 | Lords 12.6.79 | 14.6.79 | 19.6.79 | 19.6.79 | 19.6.79 | - | 19.6.79 |
| 3. European* Assembly (Pay and Pensions) (July 1979) | 23.5.79. | Commons 24.5.79 | 22.6.79 | 16.7.79 | 16.7.79 | 16.7.79 | Lords 17.7.79 | 23.7.79 | - | - | 26.7.79 | - | 26.7.79 |
| 4. Coal Industry* (July) | 23.1.80 | Commons 18.4.80 | 17.6.80 | S.C.B. 24.6.80 - 15.7.80 | 24.7.80 | 24.7.80 | Lords 24.7.80 | 31.7.80 | - | - | 6.8.80 | - | 8.8.80 |
| 5. Energy, Efficiency and Safety, Etc.* (July 1980) | Not now to be introduced this Session | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. Wildlife and Countryside* (April 1981) | Withdrawn | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7. New Towns Money* | Transferred to Local Government Planning and Land (Bill 25) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. European Communities (Greek Accession)* (March 1980) | 16.10.79 | Commons 23.10.79. | 30.10.79. | 14.11.79 | 14.11.79 | 14.11.79 | Lords 15.11.79 | 27.11.79 | 11.12.79 | - | 18.12.79 | - | 20.12.79 |

| Title | L | Intro- duction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Intro- duction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Final | R.A. |
|--|-----------|----------------------|----------|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------|----------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|
| 9. Health Services * | 20.11.79 | Commons 7.12.79 | 19.12.79 | S.C.G. 7.2.80 - 1.4.80 | 15.5.80 - 9.6.80 | 9.6.80 | Lords 12.6.80 | 23.6.80 | 10.7.80 - 17.7.80 | 28.7.80 | 1.8.80 | 7.8.80 | 8.8.80 |
| 10. Broadcasting* | 30.1.80 | Commons 5.2.80 | 18.2.80 | S.C.E. 6.3.80 - 24.4.80 | 24.6.80 | 24.6.80 | Lords 26.6.80 | 24.7.80 | 8.10.80 - 20.10.80 | 3.11.80 | 6.11.80 | 11.11.80 | 13.11.80 |
| 11. Shipbuilding* (January 1980) | 16.10.79 | Commons 23.10.79. | 1.11.79 | 14.11.79 | 14.11.79 | 14.11.79 | Lords 15.11.79 | 4.12.79 | 11.12.79. | - | 20.12.79 | - | 20.12.79 |
| 12. Companies* (December 1979) | 13.6.79 | Lords 14.6.79 | 25.6.79 | 2.7.79 | 16.7.79 | 23.7.79 | Commons 23.7.79. | 22.10.79 | S.C.A. 6.11.79 - 11.12.79 | 26.2.80 27.2.80 | 27.2.80 | 15.4.80 | 1.5.80 |
| 13. Companies* | WITHDRAWN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14. Insurance Com- panies* | 16.10.79 | Lords 23.10.79 | 1.11.79 | 15.11.79 | - | 22.11.79 | Commons 22.11.79. | { ^{2RC} 20.2.80) 22.2.80 | S.C.H. 27.3.80 | 15.4.80 | 15.4.80 | 16.4.80 28.4.80 | 1.5.80 |
| 15. Port of London (Financial Assistance)* (March 1986) | 27.11.79. | Commons 27.3.80 | 16.4.80 | 6.5.80 | 6.5.80 | 6.5.80 | Lords 7.5.80 | 2.6.80 | - | - | 5.6.80 | - | 30.6.80 |
| 16. Bees | 18.7.79 | Commons 23.7.79 | 25.10.79 | S.C.H. 4.12.79. | - | 21.1.80 | Lords 22.1.80 | 28.1.80 | 18.2.80 | 25.2.80. | 3.3.80 | 11.3.80 | 20.3.80 |

| Title | L | Introduction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Introduction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Final | R.A. |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---|----------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|--|----------------------|---------|---------|----------|
| 24. Housing (July 1980) | 18.12.79 | Commons 19.12.79 | 15.1.80 | S.C.F. 29.1.80 - 30.4.80 6.16.4.80 | 19.5.80 - 22.5.80 | 22.5.80 | Lords 2.6.80 | 9.6.80 | 26.6.80 30.6.80 2.7.80 3.7.80 4.7.80 | 21.7.80 - 22.7.80 | 30.7.80 | 6.8.80 | 8.8.80 |
| 25. Local Government, Planning and Land (See Bill 50) | (20.11.79) 27.11.79 | Lords 29.11.79 | Not to be proceeded with | | | | | | | | | | |
| 26. Consular Fees | 16.10.79 | Commons 25.10.79 | 6.3.80 | 6.3.80 | 6.3.80 | 6.3.80 | Lords 11.3.80 | 24.3.80 | - | - | 21.4.80 | - | 1.5.80 |
| 27. International Organisations (Amendment) | WITHDRAWN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 28. Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa and Nauru (Miscellaneous Provisions) | 24.10.79 | Commons 30.10.79 | 15.11.79 | 28.11.79 | 28.11.79 | 28.11.79 | Lords 29.11.79 | 13.12.79 | 15.1.80 | - | 22.1.80 | - | 31.1.80. |
| 29. Pensioners' Payments and Social Security | 13.6.79 | Commons 20.6.79 | 29.6.79 | 29.6.79 | 29.6.79 | 29.6.79 | Lords 4.7.79 | 12.7.79 | 12.7.79 | 12.7.79 | 12.7.79 | - | 26.7.79 |
| 30. Social Security (May 1980) | 27.11.79 | Commons 29.11.79 | 20.12.79 | S.C.F. 22.1.80 - (G 25.2.80) | 18.3.80 - 19.3.80 | 19.3.80 | Lords 24.3.80 | 1.4.80 | 15.4.80 - 22.4.80 | 6.5.80 | 15.5.80 | 22.5.80 | 23.5.80 |

| Title | L | Intro- duction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Intro- duction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Final | R.A. |
|--|-----------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|----------------------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------------|----------|
| 39. Limitation Amendment | 13.6.79 | Lords 14.6.79 | 25.6.79 | 16.7.79 | 23.7.79 | 26.7.79 | Commons 26.7.79 | 26.10.79 | S.C.H. 18.3.80 | 2.4.80 | 2.4.80 | 22.4.80 | 1.5.80 |
| 40. Charging Orders | 13.6.79 | Lords 14.6.79 | 2.7.79 | 19.7.79 | 23.7.79 | 26.7.79 | Commons 26.7.79 | 26.10.79 | S.C.D. 6.11.79 | 20.11.79 | 20.11.79 | 21.11.79 27.11.79 | 6.12.79 |
| 41. Competition | 11.7.79 | Commons 12.7.79 | (23.7.79) 23.10.79 | S.C.B. 30.10.79 - 13.12.79 | 22.1.80 | 22.1.80 | Lords 23.1.80 | 4.2.80 | 19.2.80 | 3.3.80 | 17.3.80 | 2.4.80 | 3.4.80 |
| 42. Protection of Trading Interests (December 1979) | 24.10.79 | Commons 31.10.79 | 15.11.79 | S.C.F. 4.12.79 | 20.12.79 | 20.12.79 | Lords 15.1.80 | 24.1.80 | 7.2.80 | 21.2.80 | 28.2.80 | 11.3.80 | 20.3.80 |
| 43. Transport (June 1980) | 14.11.79 | Commons 15.11.79 | 27.11.79 | S.C.H. 11.12.79 - 11.3.80 | 24.3.80 - 25.3.80 | 25.3.80 | Lords 26.3.80 | 24.4.80 | 13.5.80 - 19.5.90 | 5.6.80 - 6.6.80 | 19.6.80 | 25.6.80 26.6.80 30.6.80 | 30.6.80 |
| 44. Civil Aviation | 24.10.79 | Commons 31.10.79 | 19.11.79 | S.C.B. 15.1.80 - 29.3.80 | 30.6.80 7.7.80 | 23.7.80 | Lords 24.7.80 | 7.8.80 | 16.10.80 | 23.10.80 | 31.10.80 | 6.11.80 | 13.11.80 |
| 45. Merchant Shipping Liner Conferences | WITHDRAWN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 46. Southern Rhodesia (November 1979) | 31.10.79 | Commons 7.11.79 | 8.11.79 | 8.11.79 - 12.11.79 | 12.11.79 | 12.11.79 | Lords 13.11.79 | 13.11.79 | 13.11.79 | 13.11.79 | 13.11.79 | - | 14.11.7 |
| 47. Zimbabwe (December 1979) | 27.11.79 | Commons 6.12.79 | 12.12.79 | 12.12.79 | 12.12.79 | 12.12.79 | Lords 13.12.79 | 17.12.79 | 17.12.79 | 17.12.79 | 17.12.79 | - | 20.12.7 |

| Title | L | Intro- duction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Intro- duction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Final | R.A. |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|----------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|--------------------|----------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|----------|--------------|
| 48. Petroleum Revenue Tax (February 1980) | 27.11.79 | Commons 5.12.79 | 10.12.79 | S.C.A. 18.12.79 | - | 15.1.80 | Lords 16.1.80 | 28.1.80 | Money | Money | 31.1.80 | - | 31.1. |
| 49. New Hebrides (March 1980) | 16.1.80 | Lords 23.1.80 | 4.2.80 | 12.2.80 | - | 19.2.80 | Commons 19.2.80 | 6.3.80 | 19.3.80 | - | 19.3.80 | - | 20.3.8 |
| 50. Local Government, Planning and Land (No 2) (July 1980) | 23.1.80 | Commons 24.1.80 | 5.2.80 | S.C.D. 12.2.80 - 21.5.80 | 3.7.80 8.7.80 15.7.80 | 15.7.80 | Lords 21.7.80 | 5.8.80 | 6.10.80 15.10.80 | 24.10.80 31.10.80 | 5.11.80 | 13.11.80 | 13.11. 80 |
| 51. Films (July 1980) | 11.3.80 1.4.80 | Commons 3.4.80 | 25.4.80 | S.C.A. 7.5.80 - 13.5.80 | 6.6.80 | 6.6.80 | Lords 9.6.80 | 25.6.80 | 8.7.80 | - | 14.7.80 | - | 17.7. 80 |
| 52. Social Security (No. 2) (July 1980) | 26.3.80 | Commons 28.3.80 | 15.4.80 | S.C.B. 22.4.80 - 12.5.80 | 21.5.80 | 21.5.80 | Lords 22.5.80 | 2.6.80 | 16.6.80 - 17.6.80 | 1.7.80 | 16.7.80 | - | 17.7. 80 |
| 53. National Health Service (Invalid Direction) Act 1980. | Cabinet | Commons 4.3.80 | 11.3.80 | 12.3.80 | 13.3.80 | 13.3.80 | Lords 14.3.80 | 18.3.80 | - | - | 20.3.80 | - | 20.3.80 |
| 54. Gas | 1.4.80 | Commons 2.4.80 | 14.5.80 | 14.5.80 | 14.5.80 | 14.5.80 | Lords 15.5.80 | 16.6.80 | 25.6.80 | - | 30.6.80 | - | 30.6. 80 |
| 55. New Towns | 23.4.80 | Commons 24.1.80 | 5.2.80 | S.C.D. (8.5.80) 13.5.80 | 6.6.80 | 6.6.80 | Lords 9.6.80 | 23.6.80 | - | - | 30.6.80 | - | 30.6. 80 |

| Title | L | Intro- duction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Intro- duction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Final | R.A. |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-------|----------|
| 56. Sea Fish Industry | 23.4.80 | Commons 24.4.80 | 14.5.80 | 14.5.80 | 14.5.80 | 14.5.80 | Lords 15.5.80 | 10.6.80 | 19.6.80 | - | 26.6.80 | - | 30.6.80 |
| 57. Iran (Temporary Powers) (17 May 1980) | 7.5.80 | Commons 8.5.80 | 12.5.80 | 13.5.80 | 13.5.80 | 13.5.80 | Lords 14.5.80 | 15.5.80 | 15.5.80 | - | 15.5.80 | - | 15.5.80 |
| 58. Imprisonment (Temporary Provisions) | Cabinet 23.10.80 | Commons 28.10.80 | 28.10.80 | 28.10.80 | 29.10.80 | 29.10.80 | Lords 29.10.80 | 29.10.80 | 29.10.80 | 29.10.80 | 29.10.80 | - | 29.10.80 |

| Title | L | Intro- duction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Intro- duction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Final | R.A. |
|---|--|--------------------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|---|--------------------|----------|---------|----------|
| 1. Bail, etc. (Scotland) | 13.6.79 | Commons 14.6.79 | Grand Committee 26.6.79 | First Scottish 10.7.79 - 12.7.79 | 25.10.79 | 25.10.79 | Lords 30.10.79 | 6.11.79 | 20.11.79 | 6.12.79 | 13.12.79 | 15.1.80 | 31.1.80 |
| 2. Tenants' Rights Etc. (Scotland) | 27.11.79 | Commons 5.12.79 | 14.1.80 | First Scottish 29.1.80 - 1.4.80 | 10-11.6.80 | 11.6.80 | Lords 13.6.80 | 24.6.80 | 15.7.80 - 16.7.80 | 29.7.80 | 1.8.80 | 7.8.80 | 8.8.80 |
| 3. Criminal Justice (Scotland) | 18.12.79 | Lords 18.12.79 | 15.1.80 | 29.1.80 & 5.2.80 | 26.2.80 4.3.80 | 27.3.80 | Commons 27.3.80 | 14.4.80 | First Scottish 22.4.80 - 24.6.80 | 22.7.80 23.7.80 | 23.7.80 | 5.11.80 | 13.11.80 |
| 4. Blind Persons (Optical Charges) (Scotland) | Transferred to Health Services | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. Highlands and Islands Air Services (Scotland) | 5.12.79 | Commons 6.12.79 | Grand Committee 18.12.79 | 4.3.80 | 4.3.80 | 4.3.80 | Lords 5.3.80 | 25.3.80 | - | - | 1.4.80 | 1.4.80 | 3.4.80 |
| 6. Valuation and Rating (Scotland) | Transferred to Local Government, Planning and Land | | | | | | | | | | | | |

SCOTTISH BILLS

| Title | L | Intro- duction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Intro- duction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Final | R.A. |
|---|--|------------------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|---------------------|------------------------------|---|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| 7. Remuneration of Teaching Staff (Scotland) | | to be proceeded with this session. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. Civic Government (Scotland) | Withdrawn | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9. Matrimonial Homes (Rights of Occupancy) (Scotland) | Not now to be proceeded with this session. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10. Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) | 13.6.79 | Lords 14.6.79 | 3.7.79 | 17.7.79 | 23.10.79 | 1.11.79 | Commons 1.11.79 | Grand (4.12.79) 8.7.80 | First Scottish 17.7.80 - 22.7.80 | 30.7.80 | 30.7.80 | 21.10.80 | 29.10.80 |
| 11. Tenants' Rights, Etc. (Scotland) Amendment Bill. | Corres. | Lords 9.10.80 | 21.10.80 | 23.10.80 | 29.10.80 | 30.10.80 | Commons 30.10.80 | 5.11.80 | 5.11.80 | 5.11.80 | 5.11.80 | 6.11.80 | 13.11.80 |

FINANCE BILLS

| Title | L | Intro- duction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Intro- duction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Intro- duction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | R.A. |
|---|---|---------------------|----------|--|----------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|-----------|--------|----------|-------------------|----------|-----------|--------|---------|----------|
| 1. Finance (No. 2) | - | Commons 18.6.79. | 27.6.79. | 3.7.79 - 10.7.79 | 18.7.79 | 18.7.79 | Lords 19.7.79 | 24.7.79 | - | - | 24.7.79 | - | 24.7.79 | - | - | - | 26.7.79 |
| 2. Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) (No. 2) | - | Commons 17.7.79. | 26.7.79 | 26.7.79 | 26.7.79 | 26.7.79 | Lords 27.7.79 | 27.7.79 | - | - | 27.7.79 | - | 27.7.79 | - | - | - | 27.7.79 |
| 3. Consolidated Fund (No 2) | - | Commons 13.12.79 | 18.12.79 | 18.12.79 | 18.12.79 | 18.12.79 | Lords 19.12.79 | 20.12.79 | - | - | 20.12.79 | - | 20.12.79 | - | - | - | 20.12.79 |
| 4. Consolidated Fund Act 1980. | - | Commons 10.3.80 | 13.3.80 | 13.3.80 | 13.3.80 | 13.3.80 | 13.3.80 | 18.3.80 | - | - | 18.3.80 | - | 18.3.80 | - | - | - | 20.3.80 |
| 5. Finance (No 2) | - | Commons 1.4.80 | 8.5.80 | S.C.A. 15.5.80- 3.7.80 [2-4.6.80] | 16.7.80 - 17.7.80 | 17.7.80 | Lords 24.7.80 | 31.7.80 | - | - | 31.7.80 | - | 31.7.80 | - | - | - | 1.8.80 |
| 6. Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) (No 2) | - | Commons 31.7.80 | 4.8.80 | 4.8.80 | 4.8.80 | 5.8.80 | Lords 6.8.80 | 8.8.80 | - | - | 8.8.80 | - | 8.8.80 | - | - | - | 8.8.80 |

| Title | L | Intro- duction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Intro- duction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Final | R.A. |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|----------|------------------------|---------|----------|---------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. Sale of Goods | 14.6.79 L(79) 18 | Lords 13.6.79 | 21.6.79 | (11.7.79) 5.11.79 | - | 8.11.79 | Commons 8.11.79 | 28.11.79 | 28.11.79 | 28.11.79 | 28.11.79 | 29.11.79 | 6.12.79 |
| 2. Justices of the Peace | 11.6.79 L(79) 17 | Lords 13.6.79 | 21.6.79 | (18.7.79) 5.11.79 | 8.11.79 | 15.11.79 | Commons 15.11.79 | 28.11.79 | 4.12.79 | 4.12.79 | 4.12.79 | 5.12.79 | 6.12.79 |
| 3. Residential Homes | 9.7.79 L(79) 38 | Lords 18.7.79 | 23.7.79 | (14.11.79) 27.11.79 | - | 29.11.79 | Commons 29.11.79 | 29.1.80 | 19.2.80 | 19.2.80 | 19.2.80 | 28.2.80 | 20.3.80 |
| 4. Child Care | 11.7.79 L(79) 39 | Lords 17.7.79 | 23.7.79 | (31.10.79) 20.11.79 | - | 29.11.79 | Commons 29.11.79 | 29.1.80 | 29.1.80 | 29.1.80 | 29.1.80 | 30.1.80 | 31.1.80 |
| 5. Foster Children | 4.7.79 L(79) 27 | Lords 17.7.79 | 23.7.79 | (31.10.79) 20.11.79 | - | 29.11.79 | Commons 29.11.79 | 29.1.80 | 29.1.80 | 29.1.80 | 29.1.80 | 30.1.80 | 31.1.80 |
| 6. Reserve Forces | 2.11.79 L(79) 69 | Lords 14.11.79 | 20.11.79 | (28.11.79) 22.1.80 | - | 29.1.80 | Commons 29.1.80 | 19.2.80 | 5.3.80 | 5.3.80 | 5.3.80 | 18.3.80 | 20.3.80 |
| 7. Slaughter of Animals (Scotland) | 23.11.79 L(79) 92 | Lords 27.11.79 | 6.12.79 | (12.12.79) 24.1.80 | 7.2.80 | 21.2.80 | Commons 21.2.80 | 5.3.80 | 5.3.80 | 5.3.80 | 5.3.80 | 18.3.80 | 20.3.80 |
| 8. Highways | 29.1.80 L(80) 7 | Lords 26.2.80 | 3.3.80 | (18.3.80) 25.4.80 | 2.7.80 | 7.7.80 | Commons 7.7.80 | 28.7.80 | 12.11.80 | 12.11.80 | 12.11.80 | 13.11.80 | 13.11.80 |
| 9. Water (Scotland) | 6.2.80 L(80) 12 | Lords 21.2.80 | 28.2.80 | (12.3.80) 13.5.80 | - | 5.6.80 | Commons 5.6.80 | 28.7.80 | 28.7.80 | 28.7.80 | 28.7.80 | 29.7.80 | 1.8.80 |

| Title | L | Intro- duction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Intro- duction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Final | R.A. |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------|----------|----------------------|--------|---------|--------------------|----------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| 10. Statute Law Revision (Northern Ireland) | 22.2.80 L(80) 13 | Lords 26.2.80 | 3.3.80 | (7.5.80) 19.6.80 | - | 25.6.80 | Commons 26.6.80 | 30.10.80 | 30.10.80 | - | 30.10.80 | - | 13.11.80 |
| 11. Education (Scotland) Bill. | 19.3.80 L(80)18 L(80)22 | Lords 3.4.80 | 15.4.80 | (23.4.80) 13.5.80 | - | 5.6.80 | Commons 5.6.80 | 28.7.80 | 28.7.80 | - | 28.7.80 | 29.7.80 | 1.8.80 |
| 12. Magistrates' Courts Bill. | 8.4.80 L(80) 21 L(80) 29 | Lords 1.5.80 | 15.5.80 | (4.6.80) 23.6.80 | - | 7.7.80 | Commons 8.7.80 | 24.7.80 | 24.7.80 | - | 24.7.80 | - | 1.8.80 |
| 13. Criminal Appeal (N Ireland) Bill. | 24.3.80 L(80)17 L(80) 24 | Lords 31.3.80 | 14.4.80 | (25.6.80) 15.7.80 | - | 17.7.80 | Commons 17.7.80 | 28.7.80 | 28.7.80 | - | 28.7.80 | 29.7.80 | 1.8.80 |
| 14. Overseas Development and Co- operation Bill | 25.4.80 L(80) 19 L(80) 35 | Lords 1.5.80 | 15.5.80 | (21.5.80) 19.6.80 | - | 25.6.80 | Commons 26.6.80 | 30.10.80 | 6.11.80 | 6.11.80 | 6.11.80 | 13.11.80 | 13.11.80 |
| 15. Social Welfare (Local Services) | L(80) 34 L(80) 80 15.5.80 | Lords 21.5.80 | 1.7.80 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16. Solicitors (Scotland) | L(80) 37 L(80) 41 19.5.80 | Lords 22.5.80 | 3.6.80 | (11.6.80) 1.7.80 | - | 8.7.80 | Commons 8.7.80 | 28.7.80 | 28.7.80 | - | 28.7.80 | 29.7.80 | 1.8.80 |

| Title | L | Intro- duction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Intro- duction | Second R | Committee | Report | Third R | Final | R.A. |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|----------|---------------------|--------|---------|--------------------|----------|-----------|--------|----------|-------|----------|
| 17. Limitation | 19.6.80 L(80) 42 L(80) 44 | Lords 19.6.80 | 1.7.80 | (9.7.80) 24.7.80 | - | 29.7.80 | Commons 29.7.80 | 30.10.80 | 30.10.80 | - | 30.10.80 | - | 13.11.80 |

*With the Compliments
of the
Secretary of State*

*Scottish Office,
Dover House,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1 A 2AU*



Parliament

SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

CONFIDENTIAL

The Rt Hon Norman St John-Stevas MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 7AT

✓
MS
17 November 1980

Dear Chancellor,

Thank you for your letter of 11 November in which you again pressed me to drop the Planning and Countryside (Scotland) Bill and the Civic Government (Scotland) Bill in 1980-81.

This puts me in particular difficulty as regards the Civic Government Bill. The main difficulty over that Bill appears to arise in relation to the House of Lords and I wrote on 13 November to Christopher Soames. I do not think I can add to what I said in my letter to Christopher. I can only reiterate that the administrative and political difficulties which its omission from the programme would cause make it quite unacceptable ~~able~~ from my point of view not to proceed with this Bill in 1980-81. I very much hope therefore that, despite the difficulties which I fully appreciate may arise for the business managers, you and Christopher will agree that this Bill should be retained.

But I am prepared to concede the Planning and Countryside Bill. I understand why you have felt unable to agree to my putting the countryside provisions from there into the Wildlife and Countryside Bill. But I would wish to explore the possibilities of a Private Members' Bill in either the Commons or the Lords. It would, I think, be best to determine tactics when we know the result of the Commons ballot for Private Members' Bills which will take place on 27 November. If a Scottish backbencher were to get a reasonably high place and was looking for a Bill, I might offer him the countryside provisions. These would form a modest non-controversial Private Member's Bill which could easily pass through Second Reading on a Friday and go on to Second Scottish Standing Committee. If it got that far, it would then have every chance of completing the Commons' stage and it should have at least as good a chance of success in the Lords.

Should the result of the ballot on 27 November not open up this possibility, an alternative would be to find a sponsor to introduce the Bill in the Lords. Either of these courses would mean that the Bill would in effect

be Government supported in whichever House it originated but it would not impose on Government time.

As to the planning provisions, these would have to secure a place in the legislative programme in 1981-82. Whether this would be as a Planning (Scotland) Bill or as part of a more general Bill need not be decided at the moment, provided I have your assurance that these important provisions which I am agreeing to defer in the forthcoming session will be given a place in the legislative programme for the following session. I may be able to dispose of some of the provisions, namely those relating to planning relaxations, which could fit readily and inconspicuously into the Local Government (Scotland) Bill. I would prefer to determine this before the introduction of the Bill (which has already been agreed by Legislation Committee) and accordingly I am writing to the Chairman and Members of the Committee seeking their agreement in this course.

I am copying this reply to the recipients of the earlier correspondence.

Your sincerely,

J.S. White

(Approved by the Secretary
of State and signed in
his absence.)



CONFIDENTIAL

Parliament

SCOTTISH OFFICE

WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

✓
MS

The Rt Hon Lord Soames CH, GCMG, GCVO, CBE
Lord President of the Council
Civil Service Department
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AZ

13 November 1980

Dear Christopher,

CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL

I refer to Norman St John-Stevas' letter to me of 11 November about Scottish programme Bills for 1980-81.

I am considering what he had to say about the Planning and Countryside Bill and I shall be replying to him shortly. On the question of the Civic Government Bill I have thought it best to write to you because it is clear from Norman's letter that the main problem over this Bill arises in relation to the Lords. (In the Commons all stages except Report and Third Reading can be taken in Scottish Committees.)

As to the importance of the Civic Government Bill, I remain in no doubt that it ought to go ahead early in the new Session on grounds of practical administration which are important for Scottish local authorities; and for several more general reasons. Indeed I may have failed to emphasise sufficiently both the technical difficulties and the political embarrassment that will arise if we fail to get this Bill on the statute book in 1980-81.

I concede that the Bill is long, but our consultation points to its being much less contentious than once seemed likely - particularly following our decision to drop the main SUS provisions and in the absence, if the Bill is introduced soon, of any provisions about the control of public processions.

Deferment will only lead to greater difficulties in 1981-82. It is already clear to me that we will then need legislation then to deal with the recommendations of the Stodart Committee on Local Government in Scotland, whose report will be with me within the next few weeks. Because this will implement a Manifesto pledge, it is politically essential that the legislation is on the statute book during 1982 and made effective as soon as possible thereafter. In addition to that Bill (which may be controversial), I will need a non-controversial Roads Bill which will have to be enacted before the expiry of the existing legislation at the end of 1982. To add to these in 1981-82 a deferred Civic Government Bill and thus have three Bills on local government matters seems to me to be unrealistic; it would give business management difficulties and would offer an unbalanced and unattractive Scottish programme. The Civic Government legislation is ideal "mid-term" legislation with little immediate electoral appeal which should be got out of the way sooner rather than later.

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Norman suggested I might divert displeasure about the proposed deferment on to the business managers. But our stance on devolution has been that Westminster can cope with all reasonable Scottish legislative needs. If we say now that only two or three Bills can be taken in this Session and that a long needed and useful piece of legislation has had to be deferred yet again because of pressures of non-Scottish business, we will lay ourselves wide open to justifiable Scottish criticism that Westminster is unable to cope with the day-to-day Scottish legislative needs. I would regard this as very damaging.

Norman asked whether I could continue the existing legislation without new primary legislation. I cannot. I could insert an appropriate clause in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill. But this would undoubtedly add to the pressures on and controversiality of that Bill which we are anxious, because of the financial provisions, to have on the statute book as near as possible to the beginning of the next financial year. Moreover, it would mean that we would be doing, with less justification, exactly what we criticised the previous Government for doing in 1978. It is a course to which I would be most opposed and it would expose us to maximum political attack from the Opposition.

Meanwhile the drafting of the Bill has made good progress and I am now ready to circulate it to Legislation Committee. I hope they can consider it soon; and we would then be ready to make the earliest possible progress in the Lords. I do hope you will be able to agree to this.

I am copying this letter to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the other recipients of my letter to him of 30 October.

Yours very,
George

CONFIDENTIAL

Parliament



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

11 November 1980

2

PRIME MINISTER

To see

MJS

12/11

M

Mr Gage

Thank you for your letter of 30 October about the Scottish Bills in the 1980/1981 legislative programme.

I am grateful to you for your offer to drop the Planning and Countryside (Scotland) Bill for next session. I am afraid, however, that I see very great difficulties about transferring the countryside provisions into Michael Heseltine's Wildlife and Countryside Bill. It was agreed at the last meeting of the Legislation Committee that there should be no additions to the England and Wales Bill as introduced. If it were simply a matter of making a few amendments to apply some or all of the England and Wales provisions in Scotland without significant alteration, I doubt whether any of our colleagues would seriously object. But if, as I assume to be the case, you would intend to add a number of specifically Scottish measures to the Bill, I am sure that you would run into considerable opposition not only from the business managers but from other members of the Legislation Committee as well. It is unfortunate that an undertaking has been given to the Countryside Commission that the countryside provisions would become law in 1980/1981, but I must nevertheless press you to agree that the Bill should be deferred to the 1981/1982 programme.

As far as the Civic Government Bill is concerned, I must, of course, accept your assessment of the difficulties which a postponement would cause for the reorganisation of local government in Scotland. On the other hand, the Bill is a very long and, in parts, contentious one, and Christopher Soames' view is that if there are to be emergency Bills requiring passage through both Houses before or shortly after Christmas, the Civic Government Bill would be bound to suffer delays in the Lords. He already expects the Lords to be fully occupied in January and February, and agrees with me that the Civic Government Bill should if at all possible be dropped. I do not know whether it would be possible to prolong the life of the local Acts to which you refer without primary legislation, but if not I wonder whether you could meet the problem by adding an "expiring laws continuance" clause or schedule to your Local Government Bill. If this was done by way of amendment at Committee Stage or on Report, it would give you an opportunity to explain the reasons why we were unable to proceed with the Civic Government Bill

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Contd...



next session; and if you felt it right to deflect some of the displeasure which will undoubtedly be felt by the Scottish local authorities on to the business managers I could not complain.

I am sorry to have to press you further on these two Bills, but the other business managers and I are becoming increasingly alarmed by the prospect of further demands for the addition of essential Bills to the programme, and unless we make some space now we are going to find ourselves in very serious difficulties quite early on in the new year. I should be very grateful if you could have another look at the position on the Scottish legislative programme, and then, if you are still unhappy about dropping your Planning and Civic Government Bills, have a word with Christopher Soames and me about how we might meet the problem.

I am copying this letter as before.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'John A. G.' with a horizontal line underneath.

The Rt Hon George Younger, MP
Secretary of State for Scotland
Scottish Office
Whitehall
London
SW1

*ce A Duguid
Parliament*



Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SWIA 2ER
Tel. 01-233 3000 (Switsfwrdd)
01-233 6106 (Llinell Union)

WELSH OFFICE
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SWIA 2ER
Tel. 01-233 3000 (Switchboard)
01-233 6106 (Direct Line)

Oddi wrth Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru The Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards MP *From The Secretary of State for Wales*

✓
3 November 1980

Da Jim

AS

You wrote to Geoffrey Howe on 16 October reporting that you did not now propose to take further your ideas of putting the Scottish and Welsh Committees of the Manpower Services Commission on a statutory basis.

I can see why you have come to this conclusion and indeed I agree with you that we should not pursue this specific issue further at present. But separately I remain worried about the effectiveness of the Welsh Committee under present arrangements and I would like to see it acting much more positively in its advisory role than it has been able to do in the past. There is considerable interest within Wales in the work of the Commission and the Welsh Committee, an interest sharpened by the current unemployment problems. I was questioned at some length by the Welsh Affairs Select Committee on 10 June and when I gave evidence I had to say that it was not possible for me, from my own experience, to express complete satisfaction with the status quo.

To take one example only, this year we have had to make judgements on the Commission's Corporate Plan without seeing in any detail what it implied for Wales and without the opportunity to have advice from the Wales Committee.

There are however some prospects for change. The Chairman of the Commission has told my Permanent Secretary recently that he wants the Commission to discuss ways of giving the Welsh Committee a better job of work to do. I regard this as a welcome and timely suggestion which will incidentally, enable us to respond constructively on this point to the Welsh Affairs Committee (and I will soon be circulating a draft reply to the Committee's first comprehensive Report).

/It is

The Rt Hon James Prior MP
Secretary of State for Employment
Department of Employment
Caxton House
Tothill Street
LONDON



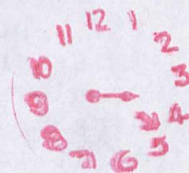
It is against this background that I am content not to press for any specific provisions in the Employment and Training Bill. But I remain in the firm belief that better information and earlier consultation is required if I am to discharge my supervisory responsibilities effectively. I hope the present round of discussions will in fact lead to substantial improvement, but if for any reason this does not happen I would want to re-open with you this general question of how the Commission and the Committee for Wales carry out their job in the Principality.

/ I am sending copies of this letter to those who received yours.

J. C. M.

N. C. M.

3 NOV 1980



CONFIDENTIAL

Parliament



SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

The Rt Hon Norman St John Stevas MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
LONDON SW1

✓
MS
30 October 1980

Dear Chancellor,

Thank you for your recent letter about Scottish Bills in the 1980-91 legislative programme.

I have proposed that the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Bill should have Second Reading on the Floor of the House as well as the Education (Scotland) Bill. It is still possible that the Opposition might agree that the Local Government Bill could go for Second Reading in Scottish Grand Committee but this must be considered doubtful. It was for that reason I thought it right to warn you of the probability of Second Reading on the Floor and I appreciate your acceptance of this, despite the extra problem it will give you.

As you know, the draft Local Government Bill was considered by Legislation Committee on 29 October and I am hoping to circulate a draft of the Education Bill for consideration by the Committee on or about 26 November. I am sorry that, as foreshadowed in my letter of 6 October, there has been some delay with the Education Bill. This arises from the complexity of the provisions relating to admission to school which break new ground and interact with other statutory requirements. We also need to agree some of the Warnock provisions with DES. The revised timetable will nevertheless enable the Local Government Bill to be introduced at the very start of the new Session and the Education Bill shortly thereafter and I hope that both Bills can have Second Reading before Christmas.

You accept that these two Bills and the Matrimonial Home (Rights of Occupancy)(Scotland) Bill should survive but ask me to consider deleting from the programme the Civic Government (Scotland) Bill and the Planning and Countryside (Scotland) Bill.

As to the second of these Bills, I need to ensure that the countryside provisions become law in 1980-81, having given an assurance to the Countryside Commission. It would, however, be possible to ensure this if the provisions were to be included in other legislation - Michael Heseltine's Wildlife and Countryside Bill being the most obvious and the most appropriate vehicle. If you and Michael were able to agree to this proposal and if you can agree now to a Scottish Planning Bill in 1981-82, I would readily agree to deleting the Planning and Countryside (Scotland) Bill from next Session's programme. (I have not overlooked my earlier suggestion that some of the countryside provisions of this Bill might be suitable for a Private Member but this is something that we cannot decide until we have assessed the position after the Ballot and I should not wish to found on this possibility as a satisfactory safety net.)

CONFIDENTIAL

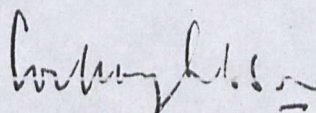
That leaves the Civic Government Bill, which you also ask me to postpone until 1981-82, in parallel with the England and Wales Bill. However, the comparison with Michael Heseltine's Bill is misleading. Modernisation of the Burgh Police and local Acts is an essential part of the re-organisation of local government in Scotland which a previous Conservative Administration initiated. The Bill has already been twice deferred and further deferment would give the local authorities severe difficulties in setting up the new licensing and regulatory system for various trades. And more importantly, it would be impossible for them to take their complementary local legislation through Parliament after the passage in 1981-82 of the Civic Government Bill and before the expiry of the existing legislation at the end of 1982. Furthermore (in my letter of 11 December 1979) I agreed to deferment last year only on condition that I would give local authorities detailed indication of legislation proposed in 1980-81. This took the form of a White Paper containing a draft Bill published in July 1980. Our credibility and goodwill with Scottish local authorities is therefore also at stake.

While the Bill is lengthy and it will provoke interest and debate, comments on the consultation White Paper have confirmed that it should be non-controversial in a party sense; and the possibility of reducing the number of clauses in the Bill is being explored. Furthermore deferment of this Bill would not contribute to solving the problem particularly concerning Christopher Soames - easing congestion in the Lords later in the Session. As you noted in your letter of 21 October, the Bill is proposed for introduction in the Lords and early in the Session. There is no reason why it should not proceed smoothly and expeditiously through that House. When it reaches the Commons, Second Reading can be taken in Scottish Grand Committee (not on the Floor as stated in the Cabinet minutes) so that its incidence on the Floor late in the Session will be minimal. Drafting of the Bill is very far advanced and it is still my hope to circulate it to Legislation Committee about the middle of November.

For all these reasons I must resist deferment of this Bill for a further year. Its deletion would leave the Scottish legislative programme for next Session looking decidedly thin and I would find it very difficult to defend the position in which I would be placed.

I am copying this reply to the recipients of yours. It deals also with the points raised in Christopher Soames letter of 23 October and your letters of 21 and 28 October to Willie Whitelaw.

Yours sincerely,



Approved by the Secretary of State and signed in his absence

RESTRICTED



✓
MS

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

TELEPHONE 01-218 9000
DIRECT DIALLING 01-218 6169

D/S of S/2/2/1

29th October 1980

Mr Norman

In your letter of 21st October to the Home Secretary you asked to be informed immediately if there was any doubt that a Bill due to be ready for introduction at the beginning of the new Session would be able to meet its timetable.

As you know the quinquennial Armed Forces Bill, which has a place in the Essential category of the next Session's legislative programme was planned for introduction at the very beginning of the Session, following policy approval given by the Home and Social Affairs Committee in correspondence in June. Instructions were passed to Parliamentary Counsel on the first of August. The first draft of the Bill was printed on the 17th October. It is now being urgently considered both by my officials and by those other Government Departments but I am informed that the draftsman considers that two or three further prints are likely to be required before a final draft is ready. This, regrettably, suggests that we will not be able to submit the Bill to Legislation Committee before the end of November or early December.

I assume that this slippage makes a Second Reading before Christmas difficult to guarantee, especially in view of the postponement of the new Session by one week. The Armed Forces Bill continues, however, to be essential since it maintains the Army Act 1955, the Air Force Act 1955 and the Navy Discipline Act 1957 (which provide the statutory authority for discipline in the Armed Forces and which, without the Bill, will expire at the end of 1981) for a further 5 years. Moreover, as Armed

The Rt Hon Norman St John-Stevan MP

RESTRICTED



Forces Bills are traditionally remitted to a Select Committee after Second Reading in the House of Commons it remains important that the Bill receives its Second Reading at as early a stage in the new Session as possible. I am, of course, conscious that this slippage in timetable will cause difficulties for you and I will, therefore, do my best to ensure that the Bill is brought forward to Legislation Committee as soon as possible.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, to other Members of the Cabinet, the Minister of Transport, the Chief Whips of both Houses, Sir Henry Rowe and Sir Robert Armstrong.

James Laker

Francis Pym

Francis Pym



DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY
ASHDOWN HOUSE
123 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1E 6RB

TELEPHONE DIRECT LINE 01-212 3301
SWITCHBOARD 01-212 7676

PS / Secretary of State for Industry

29 October 1980

J W Stevens Esq
Private Secretary to the
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Privy Council Office
Whitehall SW1A 2AT

VMS

Dear Private Secretary,

My Secretary of State has seen a copy of the Chancellor of the Duchy's letter of 21 October to the Home Secretary which contained a list of those Bills which should be ready for the beginning of the session. The list did not mention the British Telecommunications Bill although, as you may recall, drafting approval was given on the understanding that the Bill would be ready for the start of the session.

2 In fact, Cabinet Office has asked that the Bill go to Legislation Committee on 18 November and, unless there are any unforeseen difficulties, it is our intention to keep to that timetable, which is in keeping with that suggested in the Chancellor of the Duchy's letter. This would allow introduction very early in the new session if, as my Secretary of State very much hopes, the pressures on Parliamentary time were to permit.

3 I am copying this letter to the private secretaries to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Trade, the Lord President, the Chief Whips of both Houses, Sir Henry Rowe and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours, sincerely,
Richard Riley

RICHARD RILEY
Private Secretary



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB

The Rt Hon Norman St John Stevas MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Privy Council Office
70 Whitehall
LONDON SW1

20 October 1980

Norman

P45

11
You sent me a copy of your letter of 21 October to Willie Whitelaw about the timing of the introduction of new Bills in the next session. As you know, I have always intended to introduce a Transport Bill as soon as possible after the beginning of the new session. The Bill will provide for a number of major issues in the transport field and its drafting undoubtedly has involved a lot of work for Parliamentary Counsel. Nonetheless, Sir Henry Rowe and his colleagues have produced in a very short time draft clauses on most of the provisions and my officials are very hopeful that the remainder of the drafting process can be completed without too much difficulty. I am impressed with the speed and economy with which Counsel has met our requirements. I certainly hope, therefore, that I will be able to keep to my original proposal and to introduce the Bill in time for Second Reading before Christmas.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, to members of Cabinet, the Chief Whips of both Houses, Sir Henry Rowe and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours

NORMAN FOWLER

S E C R E T



h. Mr Sanders 2
v. P. Smith 1

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

R.
v. w.

28 October 1980 *ms.*

The Rt. Hon. Patrick Jenkin, MP
Secretary of State for Social Services

Dr Patrick

We have had a preliminary word about one of the options I am considering for reducing the PSBR in 1981-82. This would be to reduce the Treasury Supplement to the National Insurance Fund and make up the loss of revenue to the Fund by increasing employees' contributions. This would require primary legislation which, because it will affect contributions paid from 1 April 1981, and because we need to give employers at least two months' notice so that they can adjust their payroll systems, will have to be introduced as soon as the new Session starts and, if possible, receive Royal Assent before Christmas.

I have by no means reached a decision on this option. But, so that we do not close it off and are in a position to introduce the legislation to the timetable indicated if we decide to, I should like my officials to discuss with yours the administrative and legislative steps that need to be taken.

I am sending copies of this letter to Norman St. John Stevas and Michael Jopling so that they are aware of what is proposed. I should like our officials to discuss with theirs the mechanics. In particular we shall want to know how much notice would be required for Parliamentary Counsel to draft the necessary legislation in time. If the amending legislation is confined to the adjustment in the Treasury Supplement and the promulgation of new contribution rates the amendments to the Social Security Act 1975 need not be more than two or three short clauses.

/I am also

S E C R E T

S E C R E T



I am also sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister for information.

[Handwritten signature]

GEOFFREY HOWE

PART

5

ends:-

Ld Soames to 's Scotland 23.10.80

PART

6

begins:-

Ch Ex to 's DHSS 28.10.80