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PART E

Part E.

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Begins: 14/7/89.
Ends: 29/9/89.

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Chancellor's (Lawson) Papers:
Treasury Parliamentary Business 1989.

DD'S : 25 Year

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[Handwritten signature]
FROM: Assistant Parliamentary Clerk
DATE: 14 July 1989
EXTN: 5007

PS/CHANCELLOR

[Handwritten signature]
cc PS/Chief Secretary
PS/Financial Secretary
PS/Paymaster General
PS/Economic Secretary
Mr Hibberd - EA1
Mr Ilett - FIM2
Mr Mercer - EC2
Mr Pirie - FIM1
Mr Gieve - IDT
Mr Dyer

FORTHCOMING TREASURY BUSINESS IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

You may wish to be aware that the current forthcoming Treasury business in the Lords is as follows:

ORAL QUESTIONS

Thursday 20 July The Lord Bruce of Donington - To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will provide details of the "wide range of proposals for combatting fraud" against European Community funds and particulars of "the Commission's forty-five point work programme" referred to by Lord Brabazon of Tara on 23rd June (HL Debs cols 418-9); and to report what progress has been made.

Government Spokesman: Lord Brabazon. EC2 in the lead

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TREASURY INTEREST QUESTIONS

Monday 17 July The Earl Alexander of Tunis - To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will investigate the supervision of the Lloyd's underwriting market.

Government Spokesman : Lord Young. DTI in the lead

The Lord Dean of Beswick - To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the balance of payments figures relating to our manufacturing industries over the last ten years.

Government Spokesman: Lord Young. DTI in the lead.

Monday 24 July The Lord Rippon of Hexham - To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they propose to take to stop or discourage banks, building societies and other financial institutions from mass canvassing their customers to borrow money at high rates of interest for purchases such as holidays.

Government Spokesman: Lord Strathclyde. DTI in the lead

Mari Rogerson

MARI ROGERSON

UNCLASSIFIED

Reference

To: PS/CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

- cc PS/Economic Secretary
- Mr Middleton Treasury
- Mr Burns Treasury
- Mr Sedgwick Treasury
- Mr Hibbert CSO
- Mr Ward BSO
- Mr Harvey DTI Sl
- Mr Dyer

From:
 C J SPILLER
 Head Branch 4
 Room 1.207
 BSO Newport
 GTN 1211 2403

18 July 1989

Handwritten: Blatant
 [Red circle around the word 'Blatant' and a signature]

Handwritten: Are you content for this to be a Government handout bill? I imagine it has practically zero chance of being taken any further. Dis

PROPOSED HANDOUT BILL ON STATISTICS OF TRADE

ISSUE

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RECOMMENDATION

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TIMING

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The proposal to allow release after at least 30 years of statistical information that is currently statute barred arose from the recommendations of the Wilson report on modern public records issued in March 1981 (Cmnd 8204) which was:

"We recommend that access arrangements for statute barred records should be reconsidered so that greater benefits can be derived from the material which departments hold. Initial material collected under the Statistics of Trade Act should be reviewed in conjunction with the CBI and others concerned with research use of the data."

In its response (White Paper, Modern Public Records (Cmnd 8531)) the Government agreed that greater public access was desirable provided that response rates did not suffer and that costs were kept reasonable. A later written reply to a 1985 Parliamentary Question asking about the implementation of Wilson stated:

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The amendment is therefore justified as representing the implementation of Government policy. The possibility of the statute barred legislation provided the opportunity to add the three other amendments concerned with the disclosure of information to certain bodies. The CBI have been consulted and are content with the package.

ARGUMENT

If the Bill were not proceeded with, the principal disadvantage would be that Government policy would not have been fully implemented. The beneficiaries of statute barred legislation, namely researchers, historians and those concerned with the wider issues of freedom of information would also suffer, as would the eventual - albeit at least 30 years away - national benefits from the resulting economic and social research.

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Although the measures included in the draft Bill can never be considered to have high priority, they nevertheless constitute a useful series of measures to carry out Government policy, and to regularise current statistical practices. The Bill is unlikely to arouse particular interest in Parliament, and the extra costs incurred are likely to be minimal.



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Mr J G Fuller
Home Affairs Secretariat
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LONDON
SW1A 2AS

19 July 1989

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Yours sincerely

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PS/Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury

cc PS/Economic Secretary
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Mr Burns Treasury
Mr Sedgwick Treasury
Mr Hibbert CSO
Mr Ward BSO
Mr Harvey DTI S1

4.13F

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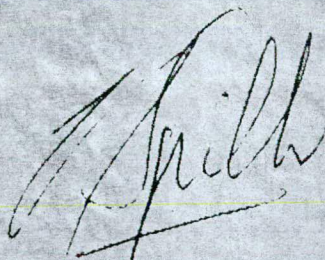
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PS/CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

From:

C J SPILLER
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Alex: This is original - you have the fax

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TO
CHEX
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CH/EXCHEQUER

18 JUL 1989

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

REC

19 JUL 1989

ACTION

Miss J. Simpson

COPIES TO

Mr S. Pickford

Mr. Bestall

Mr J. Shore

Ms. Lydie

Dear Geoffrey

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE WORKING OF SELECT COMMITTEES

I am grateful to you and colleagues for your full and helpful responses to my letter of 26 May asking for comments on Peter Emery's letter of 18 May. The attached draft Memorandum of Evidence is designed to cover most of the substantive points made in the correspondence.

As you will see, the draft places considerable emphasis on the need for Committee members to be fully in control of the work of the Committees, and makes some suggestions in paragraphs 24-6 for tightening things up. I believe this is the best approach to the points made by a number of colleagues about the undue influence of (and burdens imposed by) clerks and special advisers. Paragraph 26 is also intended to encourage Government backbenchers on Committees to block reports which are unnecessarily critical, or insist on minority reports.

I should welcome views on the suggestion made by Cecil Parkinson and incorporated at Paragraph 23 (iii) that Committees should be encouraged to take evidence from Ministers towards the end of enquiries. This would help to get criticisms rebutted before reports are finalised (or at least have rebuttals recorded in evidence, which can then be used in public exchanges), and would also allow us to deal with some of the wilder ideas Committees may float. But extra appearances would, of course, be another burden on Ministers and their departments.

I have also included, in Paragraph 25, Douglas Hurd's suggestion that the quorum levels should be re-examined, David Young's doubts notwithstanding. Poor attendance in Committees will tend to reduce their standing with the advent of television. And from the Government's standpoint, increasing the quorum levels supports the general line that Committees should be, and be seen to be, in control of their own business, for the reasons set out earlier in this letter. If Committees are frequently inquorate, there would no doubt be disruption for a while; but they would then either have to get their act together or be marginalised.

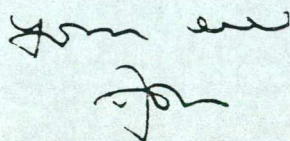
One of Peter Emery's questions relates to the problem of overlap between Select Committees, and with the PAC in particular. The problems in this field are well known, and I have been in separate discussion with Terence Higgins, Chairman of the Liaison Committee, about possible remedies. Tactically, I believe that the right approach at this stage is to make plain the importance of the problem and the need for a solution, but to then put the ball firmly into the House's court.

Contd 2/ . . .

67

Peter Emery's original letter asked for a memorandum this month. I should like if possible, to give our memorandum to Sir Peter at a meeting I will be having with him early next week, so I shall need to receive any comments from colleagues no later than close on Friday, 21 July. Detailed drafting points can be fed in directly at official level to Jonathan Spencer (270 6140) in the OMCS.

I am sending copies of this letter and attachment to the Prime Minister, other Cabinet colleagues, David Waddington, Richard Luce and Sir Robin Butler.



JOHN WAKEHAM

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AL

DEPARTMENTAL SELECT COMMITTEES

Introduction

The Chairman of the Procedure Committee's letter of 18 May 1989 sought a memorandum on certain aspects of the work of the Departmental Select Committees, as a contribution to the Procedure Committee's current enquiry on the Select Committee system as a whole. This memorandum sets out the Government's views.

2. The Government starts from the position that the system of Departmental Select Committees proposed by the Procedure Committee in 1978 and established in 1979 has become an indispensable part of the work of the House of Commons. The committees have established themselves as important contributors to the Parliamentary functions of scrutiny, investigation and influence over the work of the executive and the Departmental structure has proved both systematic and flexible. The Government therefore sees the requirement for the future as being one of refinement and detailed improvement, not wholesale change. The Government welcomes the Procedure Committee's enquiry, ten years after the establishment of the Departmental Select Committees as timely.

3. The rest of this memorandum considers in turn the seven points raised in the Chairman's letter of 18 May. Except where otherwise stated, the views expressed relate only to the Departmental Select Committees, and not to the rest of the Select Committee system.

i. Value to the House and to Ministers of Departmental Select Committees

4. Departmental Select Committees were established to complement, not supplant, the work of the Chamber of the House. They have established a real and additional contribution to the process through which Government is made accountable to Parliament, not least through the provision to them of Government information on a much greater scale than before.

5. The work of the Select Committees can contribute to the work of Government in a number of ways.

6. First, they provide a ready and public platform for the Government to explain and describe its policies, and the background to them, to Members of Parliament. This can contribute to better informed debate on the floor of the House, both by members of Committees, and through the briefing their reports provide for other members of the House. This in turn contributes to greater public awareness and understanding.

7. Second, they provide a better forum than the floor of the House for more detailed scrutiny of specialised or technical subjects, including in camera hearings concerning classified material. The testing of policy by the informed scrutiny of Select Committees, and the knowledge that such scrutiny can always take place, is a significant element in keeping the work of Government Departments up to a high standard.

8. Third, the evidence taken by Committees from non-governmental sources contributes to consideration of policy both in Parliament and within Government. The compilation and publication of a comprehensive and authoritative body of evidence from expert witnesses is a valuable contribution to the process of government, and can significantly influence and shape subsequent public debate.

9. Fourth, the recommendations made by a committee can reinforce Government policies which committees endorse; or on occasion can stimulate reconsideration of policy. However the proportion of committee recommendations accepted or rejected by Government should not be seen as the only or even the main test of their contribution to public life.

ii. Effectiveness of Departmental Select Committees

10. The preceding paragraphs set out the general ways in which the work of Select Committees has been of benefit. Experience in relation to individual Select Committee inquiries has naturally been variable, and the potential benefits have not always been realised. If Select Committee inquiries are to make a positive contribution to the work of Government or the House, the choice of subjects for investigation needs to be apt and well-defined; the timetable of the enquiry and degree of detail well matched to developments in the field concerned; and the committees themselves

sufficiently well-informed to make the most of the opportunities afforded by the cross-examination of those giving oral evidence. These matters are discussed in more detail below. But much rests on the Chairmen of committees in particular to ensure that the aspirations of 1979 are fulfilled in individual inquiries, and a return achieved for the considerable investment of time and energy made by Ministers, officials, and other witnesses.

11. As indicated above, the choice of subject for inquiry, its coverage and the timescale on which a Committee is operating, are all important in determining the value of the final outcome. An inquiry needs to be sufficiently focussed to allow an in-depth study that is not overtaken by events by the time it is complete. Quick reports on ephemeral issues of topical but short lived public interest are in general of lesser value. Inquiries of this latter type also tend to mean extra work for officials and Ministers already very busy on a live issue, to limited useful purpose.

12. The choice and type of inquiries must ultimately remain in the hands of the Committees themselves, and they will no doubt wish to retain a balanced mixture. A Committee's work is likely to be of greater value in the long run, in the Government's view, if it concentrates mainly on authoritative and well researched reports on issues of genuine significance to the public at large, with a bias towards the quality of their reports rather than their quantity.

13. As stated above, the success of Select Committees should not be judged solely on the number of their recommendations accepted or rejected by Government. Committee views and those of Government should be expected often to coincide, given that they will both have given serious consideration to the same questions and to a similar factual base. It does not follow that Government policy in such situations derives from committee recommendations, any more than it follows that the Committee's view was determined solely by persuasive Government evidence. Similarly, the rejection of recommendations by Government does not necessarily mean that a Committee's report has no influence either on Government or on the subsequent development of Government thinking.

iii. Impact on Government: Workload for Departments

14. The Government wishes to reaffirm its undertaking given in 1979 by the then Leader of the House (Hansard 25 June 1979, Col.45)

that the Government will make available to Select Committees as much information as possible, subject to certain safeguards for both Ministers and Committees. What follows should be read as within this overall approach.

15. There is a demonstrable impact in terms of increased workload through supplying memoranda and oral evidence and preparing the necessary briefing. Estimates of staff costs range from £5,000 to £50,000 per enquiry, with, for example, 360 staff hours in 2 weeks being required of the Inland Revenue and a similar effort from Customs and Excise for one recent inquiry. The increased scale and detail of committee inquiries also has a direct impact (for example the number of memoranda sought from the Ministry of Defence has gone up tenfold from 5 in 1984/5 to 53 in 1987/8). The direct cost of responding to Select Committee enquiries, although significant in absolute terms, is however small relative to the totality of public expenditure, or the totality of departmental running costs. For this reason, no new attempt has been made to assess the attributable costs in public expenditure terms of dealing with requests from Committees for evidence.

16. However, this approach conceals the true costs because the burden of dealing with Select Committee inquiries falls disproportionately on senior staff who have to be diverted from their normal work. These effects can be especially acute

- (a) when a Committee asks for information at short notice on an issue of current concern, when the officials in question are already likely to be under greater pressure than normal; or
- (b) when the officials in questions are faced simultaneously by enquiries from other Committees (including House of Lords Committees) or from the National Audit Office.

Because the opportunity cost of diverting senior officials away from their other duties is high, the Government believes that Select Committees should always consider whether all the information to be sought from departments is necessary for the inquiry in hand, and to what use it will be put. There have been instances when large amounts of wide ranging and detailed information have been

sought from Departments, which has then neither been followed up in oral questioning nor visibly used in the preparation of the Committee's final report. In these circumstances, the work required to prepare the initial evidence is compounded by the need for similarly detailed briefing, to be prepared for and absorbed by Ministers and/or senior officials, much of which then goes to waste. A similar situation can arise when a Committee starts an inquiry but fails to complete it. The question of overlapping inquiries is considered further below.

17. Separately, overseas visits impose a particular workload on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and diplomatic posts overseas. Good co-ordination between committees is needed to ensure that smaller posts are able to deal satisfactorily with the extra work involved, and if the larger, more frequently visited, posts are to avoid having the disruption of several visits in quick succession.

18. Both these types of problem can be eased by the customary good relations between Committees and Departments, and by the work of the clerks in particular.

19. In the Government's view, the key requirement for ensuring that Departments respond as they should and without complaint to requests for evidence is the direct and personal involvement of Committee members themselves at all stages. Ministers and officials can and do have no cause for complaint when Committees mount well focussed and well planned inquiries; seek written evidence that bears directly and substantially on the questions members wish to pursue; follow up the written evidence with oral questioning that develops further all the main aspects of the written evidence; and then produce well argued reports deriving accurately from the evidence obtained.

20. The increased scale of Select Committee activity, and the consequentially increased pressures on senior officials, mean that Ministers continue to attach considerable importance to the well established convention (see e.g. paragraph 7.8 of the Report of the Procedure Committee in 1977/8, and the memorandum by the Clerk of the House at Appendix C of that report) that they have discretion to decide which officials should give evidence on their behalf.

iv. Consideration of Recommendations by Government

21. The normal pattern is for officials to examine the recommendations initially and then to advise Ministers. Ministers will then consider both the recommendations and the advice, and any input from relevant public bodies, advisory committees or other interested parties. Ministerial colleagues will be consulted as necessary. In line with established practice, Departments aim to respond substantively within two months of publication of the Report, though this is not always possible if extensive consultation within and outside Whitehall is needed, or if the issue is one where other factors make an early reply difficult. The main concern is to produce a full and carefully considered response even if this means over-running the two month deadline. In such cases, Departments try to keep Committees fully informed so that they understand clearly the reasons for the delay.

v. Possible Changes in Practice or Procedure

22. The existing procedures and practices of Departmental Select Committees vary significantly, and a number of the following suggestions for consideration by the Procedure Committee would amount to the adoption generally of good practice already adopted by some Committees.

23. Planning of inquiries. With the consolidation of the place of the departmental committees in the work of the House, and the growth in the scale and impact of their work, there is a case for the committees taking steps to plan their forward work programmes in a systematic fashion. This might contain the following elements:

- (i) Committees could draw up forward work programmes each autumn for the session ahead, the details and timing of which could then be the subject of informal discussion with departments to mutual advantage, and the final versions forwarded to departments;
- (ii) where Committees wish to mount a potentially wide-ranging inquiry, there may be benefits in a two stage approach: an initial, fairly brief, inquiry across the whole range, followed by a second stage concentrating on a limited number of specific topics where a more in depth scrutiny would be of greater value to both the House and the Government;

- (iii) Ministers frequently give evidence early in Select Committee inquiries. Where this happens, and perhaps more generally also, there can be advantage in Ministers giving evidence again in the final stages, when the Committee is close to formulating its conclusions and recommendations. This could allow Committees to explore apparent conflicts of evidence and criticisms of Government made by other witnesses, and to test out any suggestions for future action made by others.

Such an approach would not, of course, rule out additional inquiries into subjects which gain public prominence in the course of a year.

24. Control by Committees of their work. In order to reaffirm the direct control of Committees over their own proceedings, to enable Ministerial and official witnesses to be as helpful as possible to Committees in their oral evidence and to help keep the briefing needed in departments in relation to oral evidence focussed on the essentials, the Committee might wish to consider the following suggestions:

- (a) Ministerial and official witnesses (and indeed other witnesses also) should be given a clear indication five or more days in advance of the main lines of questioning members will wish to pursue;
- (b) such lines of questioning should be issued to witnesses in the name of the chairman of the committee, as should requests for written memoranda;
- (c) additional lines of questioning should not be pursued without such indications.

This approach would build on the present well-established practice whereby clerks to committees often provide witnesses with an informal indication of the probable lines of questioning to be pursued, though hitherto such indications have been of variable reliability. It would help ensure that witnesses were able to answer the questions members actually wished to ask, and reduce wasted effort in Departments preparing briefing on topics not raised.

25. With the need for clear and effective control by Committees of their own proceedings in mind, the Government inclines to the view that the formation of sub-committees, other than the four already permitted under Standing Order 130, would detract from the effectiveness of the main Committees. It also follows that there should be no reduction in the quorum requirements of the Committees; there may indeed be a case for raising the present quorum minima, particularly with the advent of television in mind.

26. The Government has also been disquieted by occasional indications that members of committees are not always conversant with the contents of reports issued in their name, and even that members have disowned reports to which they are signatories. Whatever the truth in such reports, it is clearly essential for the credibility of the Select Committee system that members are willing and able to understand and defend the reports they adopt, and to decline to agree them if not. This is especially important with the growth in both the number and scale of Select Committee reports.

27. Policy issues. There is an increase apparent in the number of enquiries which address topics where it is known that Government is itself reviewing policy, or where negotiations are in progress either with the private sector or internationally. The Government has no objection in principle to inquiries in such circumstances, but Committees should recognise that Government evidence in such cases will be circumscribed by

- (a) the inherent difficulties in providing full answers to questions which seek access to consideration of policy issues in advance of collective Ministerial decisions;
- (b) the inhibitions which will prevent negotiators from revealing their full hand in advance of the conclusion of negotiations for fear of jeopardising the public interest, especially if other parties to the negotiations seek to use an inquiry as a means of exerting negotiating pressure themselves.

28. Member interests. With the increased role and influence of Select Committees likely to increase further with the televising of Parliament, some commentators have suggested that members of Select Committees, as bodies which examine the Government's expenditure, administration and policy, should accept an obligation going beyond the general requirement for MPs to declare their interests for

the purposes of the register of Members' interests, but are then free to air their views on the floor of the House. The Procedure Committee may wish to give consideration to this issue.

29. Similarly, the Government believes the standing and effectiveness of Select Committees would be diminished if members were to yield to the temptation to air personal or constituency concerns, again with radio and television especially in mind.

vi. Overlap between Committees and with the Public Accounts Committee

30. There are established procedures for avoiding unnecessary overlaps and duplications between different departmental select committees. Some co-ordinating departments (e.g. the FCO in relation to the European Community) can get involved in several simultaneous inquiries. But the arrangements generally work well, and provided this continues the Government sees no need for changes.

31. The main problem area, as the question acknowledges, lies between the departmental committees on the one hand and the work of the Public Accounts Committee and the National Audit Office on the other. This has grown substantially over the last five years with the development and major expansion of value for money audits, which themselves have placed a substantial new demand on the major spending departments. The combination of these demands with the requirements of an active Departmental Select Committee, as discussed in section (iii) above, can be substantial, particularly when the topics investigated substantially overlap. The most acute difficulties have been faced by the Ministry of Defence, but problems have also arisen for departments from time to time.

32. Duplication of this kind is unproductive for the departments concerned. In the Government's view it is also unproductive for the Committees, and liable ultimately to bring them into disrepute. Departments will respond to overlapping inquiries as resources permit, but there must be a risk that they will not be able to respond in the timescales requested if a Departmental Committee and the PAC/NAO mount inquiries on the same subject at the same time. The Government regards the question of improved demarcations and the avoidance of overlap and duplication between inquiries as primarily one for the House itself to resolve, either through the Liaison Committee or through the work of the present Procedure Committee.

vii. Overall Impact of the work of Select Committees on the House
as a whole

33. This must be primarily for the House itself to judge. The Government's perception is that the work of Select Committees has helped to make the wider work of the House better informed, and as such has been beneficial; but that improvements in the quality of Select Committee work are possible which would enhance their contribution further, both to the work of Government and the work of the House.

pur

FROM: ALLEN RITCHIE (EB)
DATE: 19 JULY 1989

MS WALLACE 13/2

cc Mr Peretz
Mr Gieve
Mr Pickford
Miss Higgins

PQ FROM JIM SILLARS

We spoke about this Ordinary Written PQ, which asks the Chancellor if he will "list his forward engagements when he expects to make a major speech on the economy". I attach a draft reply. Parliamentary Section want this back by Friday evening, so any comments by noon on Friday, please.

1 1/2 days!

2. Our collective memory in EB does not recall any similar questions from Mr Sillars or others, but we will check this out.

↓
Alex

Allen Ritchie
ALLEN RITCHIE

*This looks fine to me.
If you agree, I will tell
Mr R.*

Passed on Alex's comment.

M.

TREASURY

Scot Nat - Glasgow, Govan

25 Mr Jim Sillars

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will list his forward engagements when he expects to make a major speech on the economy.

DRAFT REPLY:

I will be speaking on a number of occasions over the next few months, including the IMF/IBRD meetings in Washington (26-28 September), the Conservative Party Conference (10-13 October) and at the Mansion House (19 October). ~~I anticipate that my next major speech on the economy to the House will be when I present my Autumn Statement.~~

ALLEN RITCHIE
EB DIVISION
X4549

MR JIM SILLARS

BACKGROUND NOTE

Mr Sillars is asking the Chancellor to list his engagements when he expects to make a major speech on the economy. The motivation for this question is obscure. Mr Sillars has not asked similar questions in the past [to be checked].

2. The draft reply lists the Chancellor's regular engagements, up to and including the Autumn Statement, which could provide an opportunity to make a major speech on the economy.



FROM: B O DYER (Parly Clerk)
DATE: 19 July 1989
EXTN: 4520

CHANCELLOR

cc Chief Secretary
Financial Secretary
Paymaster General
Economic Secretary
Mr J Gieve - IDT
Mrs J Chaplin
Mrs J Thorpe

CABINET : THURSDAY 20 JULY 1989
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

Following is the business proposed for the Commons next week:

Monday 24 July

2.30pm: Energy Questions

3.30pm: Electricity Bill - Consideration of Lords Amendments completed

7.00pm: Debate on Parliamentary Pensions arising on a motion for the Adjournment

Tuesday 25 July (Memo: Finance Bill all stages in Lords)

2.30pm: Health Questions

3.15pm: PMs Questions

3.30pm: Ten Minute Rule Bill - Jimmy Dunnachie: Ban on Imports (Child Labour)

3.40pm: Opposition 18th Allotted Day - subject to be announced

Wednesday 26 July

2.30pm: Environment Questions

3.30pm: Ten Minute Rule Bill - Roger Knapman: Industrial Disputes

3.40pm: A Miscellany of outstanding business: eg consideration of Lords amendments to the Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Bill, motions, orders, regulations etc

P.T.O



Thursday 27 July

2.30pm: MAFF Questions

3.15pm: PMs Questions

3.30pm: Business Statement

3.50pm: Motion for the Summer Adjournment (Lord President)

7.00pm: Proceedings on the Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill,
debates will continue until 8am (the result of the ballot
will be available on 25 July)

Friday 28 July

9.30am: Timed Adjournment Debates

[The House will rise today and return on Tuesday 17
October]

B O DYER

UNCLASSIFIED

Alex: pls speak
Brian hasn't yet
copied this round



FROM: B O DYER (Parly Clerk)
DATE: 19 July 1989
EXTN: 4520

APS/CHANCELLOR

- do you wish him to?

cc PS/Economic Secretary
Mr Sedgewick - EA
Mr Hibbert - CSO
Mr Spiller - BSO

PROPOSED HANDOUT BILL ON STATISTICS OF TRADE

You asked if I had anything to add to the advice contained in Mr Spiller's minute of 18 July.

2. I can see no technical or procedural constraints to prevent the Bill being included in the list of Government Handout Bills for Private Members next Session. The CBI have been consulted and are content; and the Bill has featured among the bids for a place in the legislative programme since the mid-1980s.

3. However, given its unsuccessful history, I am surprised that DTI did not give the Bill a trial run in the Lords last Session. There is no blocking mechanism in the House of Lords; and, with a little luck, the Bill might have subsequently slid through the Commons on an unopposed ticket. Even if it had foundered in the Commons, it would still have enhanced the Bill's prospects of a successful passage the following year.

The Way Ahead

4. The Ballot for Private Members' Bills is held on the second Thursday of the Session; and Members successful in the Ballot present their Bills on the fifth Wednesday in the Session. If the Bill has failed to attract a sponsor in the Commons by that date, and we remain keen to get it on the Statute, I suggest we seek the agreement of Legislation Committee to our asking a Government supporter in the House of Lords to sponsor the Bill.

B O DYER

DYER
TO
B/CHES
19/7

ppp

For Friday
Prayer Order
21/7

104 Mr Graham Allen (Nottingham North): To ask the Lord President of the Council, if he will consider seeking a change in standing orders to automatically unstar all oral questions drawn below 30th place.

Alex

Ch
I gather from Nigel Forman that
Smith is leaving today about agreement
- I'll get Nigel a plan to speak to you.

Put it on as →
for prayers (FRI) p12.
2. Can we not
transfer X & Y
to Environment?
I have no
industrial
responsibility
this, & no
matter has
discuss
@ No
Summit
by no
means
I shall
be sure
with
Finance
Min.

Burden of First Order PQs

Asked Pat
Sector & arrange
the AA
20/7
discuss
@ No
Summit
by no
means
I shall
be sure
with
Finance
Min.

Given the informal agreement with John Smith,
the Chancellor may like to be aware of the above written PQ
which the Lord President expects to answer today. I had
hoped he would refer to the Procedural Committee, but
understand he intends to reply: "I have no plans to do so."

Incidentally, 245 questions were tabled today
for our next First Order on 19 October. [†] Hopefully,
the bi-party agreement to withdraw questions below
a cut off line of, say, 30 to 50 will be honoured.

Brian Dyer
20/7

† Alas, only 2 Conservative Members
in the first 18 - see attached.

THURSDAY 19th OCTOBER

NOTE

★† Indicates a Question which was included in the random selection process. The number shows where the Question appeared in the selection.

Questions to the Prime Minister will start at 3.15 p.m.

1. ★†2 Mr Tom Cox (Tooting): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the costs to the Treasury of the underwriting for the sale of the water authorities. *ha*
2. ★†3 Mr Geoffrey Robinson (Coventry North West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the public spending planning total for 1989-90. *ha*
- X 3. ★†4 Joan Walley (Stoke on Trent North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met his Ministerial colleagues in G7 to discuss measures to protect the environment. *ha*
4. ★†6 Mr Tony Worthington (Clydebank and Milngavie): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many letters he has received from members of the public on the high level of interest rates or their impact on the cost of mortgages. *ha*
5. ★†8 Mr Malcolm Moss (North East Cambridgeshire): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the level of business investment for the latest full year for which figures are available. *Con*
6. ★†10 Mr Martin Redmond (Don Valley): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the rate of growth of exports over the last 10 years; and what has been the rate of growth of imports. *ha*
7. ★†11 Mr Bernie Grant (Tottenham): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the negative transfer of financial resources from the 17 most heavily indebted countries since 1983 to the latest available year. *ha*
8. ★†12 Mrs Ann Taylor (Dewsbury): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met Ministerial colleagues in the G7 to discuss third world debt. *ha*
- Y 9. ★†14 Mr Gareth Wardell (Gower): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met his Ministerial colleagues in G7 to discuss measures to protect the environment. *ha*
10. ★†15 Mr John McFall (Dumbarton): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the latest estimate of privatisation revenue. *ha*
11. ★†20 Mr David Lambie (Cunningham South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the current short-term interest rate in: (a) the United Kingdom and (b) Germany. *ha*
12. ★†22 Mr Allan Roberts (Bootle): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the United Kingdom base rate in May 1988; and what it is at the present time. *ha*
13. ★†30 Mr John Bowis (Battersea): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the current receipts from income tax; and what were the comparable figures for 1979. *Con*
14. ★†33 Mr Alan Williams (Swansea West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the Government's response to the International Monetary Fund's proposals by Mr Michel Camdessus for a quota increase. *ha*
15. ★†36 Mr Win Griffiths (Bridgend): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met the managing director of the International Monetary Fund and the President of the World Bank to discuss third world debt. *ha*



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS

Telephone 01-210 3000

From the Secretary of State for Social Services Security

mmp

The Rt Hon John Wakeham MP
Lord President and
Leader of the House of Commons
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AT

[Handwritten signature]

CH/EXCHEQUER	
REC.	21 JUL 1989
ACTION	FST
COPIES TO	

20 July 1989
✓ 21/7

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE ENQUIRY INTO THE WORKING OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Thank you for copying to me your letter to Geoffrey Howe of 17 July.

I agree with the general approach and tone of the draft memorandum. I would particularly endorse the proposals in paragraph 23(i) and (ii) on the planning of inquiries and paragraph 24 on the control of committee work, as these should ease the burden on Ministers and/or senior officials in preparing for Select Committee hearings.

It may be more helpful for Committees to take evidence from Ministers on some inquiries at a late stage and this may indeed offer opportunities to rebut criticism before a report is finalised, as suggested in paragraph 2(iii). But I do not warm to the notion that we should therefore offer Committees two rounds of Ministerial appearances. This would double the burden of such hearings and could create repeated embarrassment on politically sensitive issues.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister, other Cabinet colleagues, David Waddington, Richard Luce, and Sir Robin Butler.

[Handwritten signature]

JOHN MOORE

UNCLASSIFIED

FROM: MISS A J HIGGINS (EB)
DATE: 20 JULY 1989
X 5208

MR PICKFORD

cc: PS/Chancellor
PCC
MEG
Mr R I G Allen
Mr Beastall
Mr Harris
Mr T R H Luce
Mr Moore
Mr Mountfield
Mr Odling-Smee

Mr Tyrie
Mrs Chaplin

PS/IR
Mr Mc Nicol
PS/C & E
Mr Warr

mp

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE WORKING OF SELECT COMMITTEES

I attach a letter from John Wakeham asking for comments on the draft Memorandum of Evidence he proposes to send to the Chairman of the Procedure Committee setting out the Government's views on the Select Committee system.

2. I should be grateful for any comments you may have by lunchtime tomorrow, so that we can submit advice to the Chancellor tomorrow night.

AH

AMANDA HIGGINS

UNCLASSIFIED



CH/EXCHEQUER

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

18 JUL 1989

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

REC. 19 JUL 1989 1989

ACTION Miss. J. Simpson

COPIES TO Mr S. Pickford

Mr. Beestun

Mr J Shore

Mr T. Lydie

Dear Geoffrey

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE WORKING OF SELECT COMMITTEES

I am grateful to you and colleagues for your full and helpful responses to my letter of 26 May asking for comments on Peter Emery's letter of 18 May. The attached draft Memorandum of Evidence is designed to cover most of the substantive points made in the correspondence.

As you will see, the draft places considerable emphasis on the need for Committee members to be fully in control of the work of the Committees, and makes some suggestions in paragraphs 24-6 for tightening things up. I believe this is the best approach to the points made by a number of colleagues about the undue influence of (and burdens imposed by) clerks and special advisers. Paragraph 26 is also intended to encourage Government backbenchers on Committees to block reports which are unnecessarily critical, or insist on minority reports.

I should welcome views on the suggestion made by Cecil Parkinson and incorporated at Paragraph 23 (iii) that Committees should be encouraged to take evidence from Ministers towards the end of enquiries. This would help to get criticisms rebutted before reports are finalised (or at least have rebuttals recorded in evidence, which can then be used in public exchanges), and would also allow us to deal with some of the wilder ideas Committees may float. But extra appearances would, of course, be another burden on Ministers and their departments.

I have also included, in Paragraph 25, Douglas Hurd's suggestion that the quorum levels should be re-examined, David Young's doubts notwithstanding. Poor attendance in Committees will tend to reduce their standing with the advent of television. And from the Government's standpoint, increasing the quorum levels supports the general line that Committees should be, and be seen to be, in control of their own business, for the reasons set out earlier in this letter. If Committees are frequently inquorate, there would no doubt be disruption for a while; but they would then either have to get their act together or be marginalised.

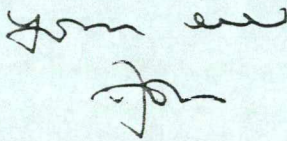
One of Peter Emery's questions relates to the problem of overlap between Select Committees, and with the PAC in particular. The problems in this field are well known, and I have been in separate discussion with Terence Higgins, Chairman of the Liaison Committee, about possible remedies. Tactically, I believe that the right approach at this stage is to make plain the importance of the problem and the need for a solution, but to then put the ball firmly into the House's court.

Contd 2/ . . .

67

Peter Emery's original letter asked for a memorandum this month. I should like if possible, to give our memorandum to Sir Peter at a meeting I will be having with him early next week, so I shall need to receive any comments from colleagues no later than close on Friday, 21 July. Detailed drafting points can be fed in directly at official level to Jonathan Spencer (270 6140) in the OMCS.

I am sending copies of this letter and attachment to the Prime Minister, other Cabinet colleagues, David Waddington, Richard Luce and Sir Robin Butler.



JOHN WAKEHAM

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AL

DEPARTMENTAL SELECT COMMITTEES

Introduction

The Chairman of the Procedure Committee's letter of 18 May 1989 sought a memorandum on certain aspects of the work of the Departmental Select Committees, as a contribution to the Procedure Committee's current enquiry on the Select Committee system as a whole. This memorandum sets out the Government's views.

2. The Government starts from the position that the system of Departmental Select Committees proposed by the Procedure Committee in 1978 and established in 1979 has become an indispensable part of the work of the House of Commons. The committees have established themselves as important contributors to the Parliamentary functions of scrutiny, investigation and influence over the work of the executive and the Departmental structure has proved both systematic and flexible. The Government therefore sees the requirement for the future as being one of refinement and detailed improvement, not wholesale change. The Government welcomes the Procedure Committee's enquiry, ten years after the establishment of the Departmental Select Committees as timely.

3. The rest of this memorandum considers in turn the seven points raised in the Chairman's letter of 18 May. Except where otherwise stated, the views expressed relate only to the Departmental Select Committees, and not to the rest of the Select Committee system.

i. Value to the House and to Ministers of Departmental Select Committees

4. Departmental Select Committees were established to complement, not supplant, the work of the Chamber of the House. They have established a real and additional contribution to the process through which Government is made accountable to Parliament, not least through the provision to them of Government information on a much greater scale than before.

5. The work of the Select Committees can contribute to the work of Government in a number of ways.

6. First, they provide a ready and public platform for the Government to explain and describe its policies, and the background to them, to Members of Parliament. This can contribute to better informed debate on the floor of the House, both by members of Committees, and through the briefing their reports provide for other members of the House. This in turn contributes to greater public awareness and understanding.

7. Second, they provide a better forum than the floor of the House for more detailed scrutiny of specialised or technical subjects, including in camera hearings concerning classified material. The testing of policy by the informed scrutiny of Select Committees, and the knowledge that such scrutiny can always take place, is a significant element in keeping the work of Government Departments up to a high standard.

8. Third, the evidence taken by Committees from non-governmental sources contributes to consideration of policy both in Parliament and within Government. The compilation and publication of a comprehensive and authoritative body of evidence from expert witnesses is a valuable contribution to the process of government, and can significantly influence and shape subsequent public debate.

9. Fourth, the recommendations made by a committee can reinforce Government policies which committees endorse; or on occasion can stimulate reconsideration of policy. However the proportion of committee recommendations accepted or rejected by Government should not be seen as the only or even the main test of their contribution to public life.

ii. Effectiveness of Departmental Select Committees

10. The preceding paragraphs set out the general ways in which the work of Select Committees has been of benefit. Experience in relation to individual Select Committee inquiries has naturally been variable, and the potential benefits have not always been realised. If Select Committee inquiries are to make a positive contribution to the work of Government or the House, the choice of subjects for investigation needs to be apt and well-defined; the timetable of the enquiry and degree of detail well matched to developments in the field concerned; and the committees themselves

sufficiently well-informed to make the most of the opportunities afforded by the cross-examination of those giving oral evidence. These matters are discussed in more detail below. But much rests on the Chairmen of committees in particular to ensure that the aspirations of 1979 are fulfilled in individual inquiries, and a return achieved for the considerable investment of time and energy made by Ministers, officials, and other witnesses.

11. As indicated above, the choice of subject for inquiry, its coverage and the timescale on which a Committee is operating, are all important in determining the value of the final outcome. An inquiry needs to be sufficiently focussed to allow an in-depth study that is not overtaken by events by the time it is complete. Quick reports on ephemeral issues of topical but short lived public interest are in general of lesser value. Inquiries of this latter type also tend to mean extra work for officials and Ministers already very busy on a live issue, to limited useful purpose.

12. The choice and type of inquiries must ultimately remain in the hands of the Committees themselves, and they will no doubt wish to retain a balanced mixture. A Committee's work is likely to be of greater value in the long run, in the Government's view, if it concentrates mainly on authoritative and well researched reports on issues of genuine significance to the public at large, with a bias towards the quality of their reports rather than their quantity.

13. As stated above, the success of Select Committees should not be judged solely on the number of their recommendations accepted or rejected by Government. Committee views and those of Government should be expected often to coincide, given that they will both have given serious consideration to the same questions and to a similar factual base. It does not follow that Government policy in such situations derives from committee recommendations, any more than it follows that the Committee's view was determined solely by persuasive Government evidence. Similarly, the rejection of recommendations by Government does not necessarily mean that a Committee's report has no influence either on Government or on the subsequent development of Government thinking.

iii. Impact on Government: Workload for Departments

14. The Government wishes to reaffirm its undertaking given in 1979 by the then Leader of the House (Hansard 25 June 1979, Col.45)

that the Government will make available to Select Committees as much information as possible, subject to certain safeguards for both Ministers and Committees. What follows should be read as within this overall approach.

15. There is a demonstrable impact in terms of increased workload through supplying memoranda and oral evidence and preparing the necessary briefing. Estimates of staff costs range from £5,000 to £50,000 per enquiry, with, for example, 360 staff hours in 2 weeks being required of the Inland Revenue and a similar effort from Customs and Excise for one recent inquiry. The increased scale and detail of committee inquiries also has a direct impact (for example the number of memoranda sought from the Ministry of Defence has gone up tenfold from 5 in 1984/5 to 53 in 1987/8). The direct cost of responding to Select Committee enquiries, although significant in absolute terms, is however small relative to the totality of public expenditure, or the totality of departmental running costs. For this reason, no new attempt has been made to assess the attributable costs in public expenditure terms of dealing with requests from Committees for evidence.

16. However, this approach conceals the true costs because the burden of dealing with Select Committee inquiries falls disproportionately on senior staff who have to be diverted from their normal work. These effects can be especially acute

- (a) when a Committee asks for information at short notice on an issue of current concern, when the officials in question are already likely to be under greater pressure than normal; or
- (b) when the officials in questions are faced simultaneously by enquiries from other Committees (including House of Lords Committees) or from the National Audit Office.

Because the opportunity cost of diverting senior officials away from their other duties is high, the Government believes that Select Committees should always consider whether all the information to be sought from departments is necessary for the inquiry in hand, and to what use it will be put. There have been instances when large amounts of wide ranging and detailed information have been

sought from Departments, which has then neither been followed up in oral questioning nor visibly used in the preparation of the Committee's final report. In these circumstances, the work required to prepare the initial evidence is compounded by the need for similarly detailed briefing, to be prepared for and absorbed by Ministers and/or senior officials, much of which then goes to waste. A similar situation can arise when a Committee starts an inquiry but fails to complete it. The question of overlapping inquiries is considered further below.

17. Separately, overseas visits impose a particular workload on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and diplomatic posts overseas. Good co-ordination between committees is needed to ensure that smaller posts are able to deal satisfactorily with the extra work involved, and if the larger, more frequently visited, posts are to avoid having the disruption of several visits in quick succession.

18. Both these types of problem can be eased by the customary good relations between Committees and Departments, and by the work of the clerks in particular.

19. In the Government's view, the key requirement for ensuring that Departments respond as they should and without complaint to requests for evidence is the direct and personal involvement of Committee members themselves at all stages. Ministers and officials can and do have no cause for complaint when Committees mount well focussed and well planned inquiries; seek written evidence that bears directly and substantially on the questions members wish to pursue; follow up the written evidence with oral questioning that develops further all the main aspects of the written evidence; and then produce well argued reports deriving accurately from the evidence obtained.

20. The increased scale of Select Committee activity, and the consequentially increased pressures on senior officials, mean that Ministers continue to attach considerable importance to the well established convention (see e.g. paragraph 7.8 of the Report of the Procedure Committee in 1977/8, and the memorandum by the Clerk of the House at Appendix C of that report) that they have discretion to decide which officials should give evidence on their behalf.

iv. Consideration of Recommendations by Government

21. The normal pattern is for officials to examine the recommendations initially and then to advise Ministers. Ministers will then consider both the recommendations and the advice, and any input from relevant public bodies, advisory committees or other interested parties. Ministerial colleagues will be consulted as necessary. In line with established practice, Departments aim to respond substantively within two months of publication of the Report, though this is not always possible if extensive consultation within and outside Whitehall is needed, or if the issue is one where other factors make an early reply difficult. The main concern is to produce a full and carefully considered response even if this means over-running the two month deadline. In such cases, Departments try to keep Committees fully informed so that they understand clearly the reasons for the delay.

v. Possible Changes in Practice or Procedure

22. The existing procedures and practices of Departmental Select Committees vary significantly, and a number of the following suggestion for consideration by the Procedure Committee would amount to the adoption generally of good practice already adopted by some Committees.

23. Planning of inquiries. With the consolidation of the place of the departmental committees in the work of the House, and the growth in the scale and impact of their work, there is a case for the committees taking steps to plan their forward work programmes in a systematic fashion. This might contain the following elements:

- (i) Committees could draw up forward work programmes each autumn for the session ahead, the details and timing of which could then be the subject of informal discussion with departments to mutual advantage, and the final versions forwarded to departments;
- (ii) where Committees wish to mount a potentially wide-ranging inquiry, there may be benefits in a two stage approach: an initial, fairly brief, inquiry across the whole range, followed by a second stage concentrating on a limited number of specific topics where a more in depth scrutiny would be of greater value to both the House and the Government;

- (iii) Ministers frequently give evidence early in Select Committee inquiries. Where this happens, and perhaps more generally also, there can be advantage in Ministers giving evidence again in the final stages, when the Committee is close to formulating its conclusions and recommendations. This could allow Committees to explore apparent conflicts of evidence and criticisms of Government made by other witnesses, and to test out any suggestions for future action made by others.

Such an approach would not, of course, rule out additional inquiries into subjects which gain public prominence in the course of a year.

24. Control by Committees of their work. In order to reaffirm the direct control of Committees over their own proceedings, to enable Ministerial and official witnesses to be as helpful as possible to Committees in their oral evidence and to help keep the briefing needed in departments in relation to oral evidence focussed on the essentials, the Committee might wish to consider the following suggestions:

- (a) Ministerial and official witnesses (and indeed other witnesses also) should be given a clear indication five or more days in advance of the main lines of questioning members will wish to pursue;
- (b) such lines of questioning should be issued to witnesses in the name of the chairman of the committee, as should requests for written memoranda;
- (c) additional lines of questioning should not be pursued without such indications.

This approach would build on the present well-established practice whereby clerks to committees often provide witnesses with an informal indication of the probable lines of questioning to be pursued, though hitherto such indications have been of variable reliability. It would help ensure that witnesses were able to answer the questions members actually wished to ask, and reduce wasted effort in Departments preparing briefing on topics not raised.

25. With the need for clear and effective control by Committees of their own proceedings in mind, the Government inclines to the view that the formation of sub-committees, other than the four already permitted under Standing Order 130, would detract from the effectiveness of the main Committees. It also follows that there should be no reduction in the quorum requirements of the Committees; there may indeed be a case for raising the present quorum minima, particularly with the advent of television in mind.

26. The Government has also been disquieted by occasional indications that members of committees are not always conversant with the contents of reports issued in their name, and even that members have disowned reports to which they are signatories. Whatever the truth in such reports, it is clearly essential for the credibility of the Select Committee system that members are willing and able to understand and defend the reports they adopt, and to decline to agree them if not. This is especially important with the growth in both the number and scale of Select Committee reports.

27. Policy issues. There is an increase apparent in the number of inquiries which address topics where it is known that Government is itself reviewing policy, or where negotiations are in progress either with the private sector or internationally. The Government has no objection in principle to inquiries in such circumstances, but Committees should recognise that Government evidence in such cases will be circumscribed by

- (a) the inherent difficulties in providing full answers to questions which seek access to consideration of policy issues in advance of collective Ministerial decisions;
- (b) the inhibitions which will prevent negotiators from revealing their full hand in advance of the conclusion of negotiations for fear of jeopardising the public interest, especially if other parties to the negotiations seek to use an inquiry as a means of exerting negotiating pressure themselves.

28. Member interests. With the increased role and influence of Select Committees likely to increase further with the televising of Parliament, some commentators have suggested that members of Select Committees, as bodies which examine the Government's expenditure, administration and policy, should accept an obligation going beyond the general requirement for MPs to declare their interests for

the purposes of the register of Members' interests, but are then free to air their views on the floor of the House. The Procedure Committee may wish to give consideration to this issue.

29. Similarly, the Government believes the standing and effectiveness of Select Committees would be diminished if members were to yield to the temptation to air personal or constituency concerns, again with radio and television especially in mind.

vi. Overlap between Committees and with the Public Accounts Committee

30. There are established procedures for avoiding unnecessary overlaps and duplications between different departmental select committees. Some co-ordinating departments (e.g. the FCO in relation to the European Community) can get involved in several simultaneous inquiries. But the arrangements generally work well, and provided this continues the Government sees no need for changes.

31. The main problem area, as the question acknowledges, lies between the departmental committees on the one hand and the work of the Public Accounts Committee and the National Audit Office on the other. This has grown substantially over the last five years with the development and major expansion of value for money audits, which themselves have placed a substantial new demand on the major spending departments. The combination of these demands with the requirements of an active Departmental Select Committee, as discussed in section (iii) above, can be substantial, particularly when the topics investigated substantially overlap. The most acute difficulties have been faced by the Ministry of Defence, but problems have also arisen for departments from time to time.

32. Duplication of this kind is unproductive for the departments concerned. In the Government's view it is also unproductive for the Committees, and liable ultimately to bring them into disrepute. Departments will respond to overlapping inquiries as resources permit, but there must be a risk that they will not be able to respond in the timescales requested if a Departmental Committee and the PAC/NAO mount inquiries on the same subject at the same time. The Government regards the question of improved demarcations and the avoidance of overlap and duplication between inquiries as primarily one for the House itself to resolve, either through the Liaison Committee or through the work of the present Procedure Committee.

vii. Overall Impact of the work of Select Committees on the House
as a whole

33. This must be primarily for the House itself to judge. The Government's perception is that the work of Select Committees has helped to make the wider work of the House better informed, and as such has been beneficial; but that improvements in the quality of Select Committee work are possible which would enhance their contribution further, both to the work of Government and the work of the House.

UNCLASSIFIED

FROM: S J PICKFORD (EB)
DATE: 21 JULY 1989
X 4549

CHANCELLOR

cc Chief Secretary*
Financial Secretary*
Paymaster General*
Economic Secretary*
PCC
MEG
Mr R I G Allen
Mr Beastall
Mr Harris
Mr T R H Luce
Mr Moore
Mr Mountfield
Mr Odling-Smee
Miss Higgins
Mrs Chaplin
Mr Tyrie

*Ch/ I have asked other private
offices to ensure their
Ministers are content
with this.*

*Do you agree with
the draft reply - in
particular the section in
square brackets?*

PS/IR
Mr McNicholl - IR
PS/C&E
Mr Warr - C&E

* with copies of Lord
President's letter

*OK as
Smith*

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE WORK OF SELECT COMMITTEES

The Lord President wrote to colleagues on 17 July attaching a draft memorandum of evidence in response to Sir Peter Emery's questions about the Government's views on the Select Committee system. (behind)

2. You sent a note giving Treasury Ministers' views on the questions on 22 June. By and large the Lord President's draft reflects the points you made. In particular it reiterates your point that Select Committee inquiries use up considerable resources (the Lord President's draft cites at paragraph 15 staff costs incurred by the Inland Revenue and Customs & Excise for the TCSC inquiry into staff losses), and emphasises the need for Committees to make best use of that input. For example, paragraph 16 of the draft says:

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"There have been instances when large amounts of wide-ranging and detailed information have been sought from Departments, which has then neither been followed up in oral questioning nor visibly used in the preparation of the Committee's final report ... A similar situation can arise when a Committee starts an inquiry but fails to complete it."

3. There is one aspect where the Lord President's draft is somewhat at odds with your own note, which said:

"Short reports responding to particular circumstances have on the whole we believe proved more valuable, and less costly in Ministers' and officials' time, than the more protracted inquiries."

By contrast the Lord President's draft says at paragraph 11:

"An inquiry needs to be sufficiently focused to allow an in depth study that is not overtaken by events by the time it is complete. Quick reports on ephemeral issues of topical but short-lived public interest are in general of lesser value."

4. There is not necessarily any conflict between these two sentiments. But you may want to inject into the Lord President's memorandum the thought that quick reports, if they are well chosen and well conducted, can be useful.

5. Possibly the most contentious part of the Lord President's draft is the section on possible changes in practice or procedure (paragraphs 22-29). Your own paper contained no changes of general application.

6. The Lord President's suggestions, drawing on colleagues' ideas, cover:

- better planning of inquiries (paragraph 23) including - forward work programmes for Committees; two-stage inquiries; and the suggestion that Ministers should give evidence in the final stages of inquiries;

- Committees' control over their work (paragraphs 24-26) - Committees should give witnesses in advance a clear indication of main lines of questioning, ruling out additional lines without notice; possibly the quorum for Committees should be raised; and Committee members should either be prepared to sign up to all aspects of reports or decline to agree the reports;
- policy issues (paragraph 27) - Committees should recognise that Government evidence may be circumscribed, if Ministers have not yet taken policy decisions, or if negotiations are in progress;
- Member interests (paragraphs 28 and 29) - a stricter requirement than the register of Members' interests might apply to members of Committees; and Committee members should not air "personal or constituency concerns", especially when Committee proceedings are broadcast.

7. I imagine you will have few problems with any of these suggestions. Indeed, the suggestions to institutionalise the practice that Ministers give evidence at the end of inquiries (paragraph 23 (iii)) and that Committee members should be more willing to vote against reports they do not agree with (paragraph 26) you may positively welcome. (The former would simply institutionalise the de facto arrangements that apply to Treasury Ministers, but might be useful in future if the TCSC sought to change those arrangements).

8. Of course there is no guarantee that, even if the Committees were to agree to these changes, that they would abide by them. In particular it would be surprising if Committees abided in all circumstances to a rule that lines of questioning could not be pursued unless indications of their intention had been given at least 5 days in advance. Nevertheless there seems little harm in making these suggestions as ways to improve the working of the Committee system.

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9. I attach a draft reply from you to the Lord President, if you agree. He had asked for replies by close today, but I have warned OMCS that our comments will not be available until Monday.

Stephen Pickford

S J PICKFORD

- 4 -

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DRAFT LETTER FROM CHANCELLOR TO:

Lord President of the Council

pls type
as final
copy list as
cover minute

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO WORK OF THE SELECT COMMITTEES

You sent me a copy of your letter of 17 July to Geoffrey Howe.

In general, I am content with the draft memorandum of evidence attached to that letter. ~~[However, there is one point on which I have a reservation.]~~ Paragraph 11 of the draft argues for focused, in-depth, and timely studies, rather than "quick reports on ephemeral issues of topical but short-lived public interest". In our experience, long, drawn-out reports have often either tended to drag on so long that circumstances have changed by the time the report is ready; or that no report was ever produced. I would not want us to be arguing against Committees producing quick reports, provided that they are well-chosen and well-conducted. I would like the memorandum to reflect these considerations rather more.]

^{Ans 1}
~~I positively~~ welcome many of the changes you propose in paragraphs 22-29. In particular, the proposals that Ministers should give evidence in the final stages of a Committee's inquiry, and that Committee members should be willing to vote against reports they do not agree with, are particularly welcome. I do have doubts as to whether the Committees will agree to any of these changes, or - if they agree to them - whether they will abide by them. Nevertheless I am quite happy for these suggestions to go forward.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister, other Cabinet colleagues, David Waddington, Richard Luce and Sir Robin Butler.
(N.L.)

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CH/EXCHEQUER	
REC.	21 JUL 1989 ✓ JH
ACTION	FST
COPIES TO	

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-276 3000

My ref:

Your ref:

The Rt Hon John Wakeham MP
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AT

21 July 1989

Dear Lord President

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE WORKING OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 17 July to Geoffrey Howe, enclosing a draft memorandum of evidence to the Procedure Committee.

In general, I am content with the memorandum, which makes a number of valuable and positive suggestions. There are, however, a couple of points which I should like to see reflected in the final version.

When I wrote to you on 16 June, I suggested that the memorandum might usefully reaffirm the rule that officials' advice to Ministers is confidential, with the implication that committees should not seek to speculate on that advice. This followed problems we have had with the Environment Committee's report on Toxic Waste. Although there is an oblique reference in para 14 of the draft memorandum to "certain safeguards" in the provision of information, and mention in para 27 of "the inherent difficulties in providing full answers to questions which seek access to consideration of policy issues in advance of collective Ministerial decisions", I should like to see the point made more directly. I suggest, therefore, that the following be inserted at the end of para 20:

"It is also an important principle in preserving collective Ministerial responsibility that the advice given by officials to Ministers should remain confidential. Committees should not therefore press for such information, nor should they seek to speculate on what advice may have been given."

In your letter, you invited comments on Cecil Parkinson's proposal that committees should be encouraged to take advice from Ministers at the end of their inquiries, so that criticisms can be rebutted before reports are finalised. I am fully in agreement with this, although I wonder whether it is necessary - in para 23 (iii) - to encourage committees to interview Ministers twice. The usual practice of the Environment Committee is to interview officials at the beginning of an inquiry and Ministers at the end. I suggest we propose this as the norm.

I am copying my letter to the Prime Minister, other Cabinet
colleagues, David Waddington, Richard Luce and Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely,

N Ridley

NICHOLAS RIDLEY

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



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS

Telephone 01-210 3000

From the Secretary of State for ~~Health~~ Health

The Rt Hon John Wakeham MP
 Lord President of the Council and
 Leader of the House of Commons
 Privy Council Office
 Whitehall
 LONDON
 SW1A 2AT

CH/EXCHEQUER	
REC.	24 JUL 1989
ACTION	FST
COPIES TO	
21 July	1989

✓24/7

21 July 1989

jwp

Dear John,

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE WORKING OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 17 July to Geoffrey Howe. I am content with your Memorandum of Evidence. On the particular points you raise, I agree with Cecil Parkinson's point on Ministers giving evidence again towards the end of enquiries; I also support Douglas Hurd's suggestion that the question of quorum level should be re-opened.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Cabinet colleagues, David Waddington, Richard Luce and Sir Robin Butler.

KENNETH CLARKE

prep

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FROM: Assistant Parliamentary Clerk
DATE: 21 July 1989
EXTN: 5008

~~BA/AA~~

cu/ comments?

*PSC 17-8-89
R Sep 1989. Too soon
ask question for Oct 1989.*

CHANCELLOR

TREASURY FIRST ORDER QUESTIONS - THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 1989

I attach for your consideration a proposed allocation of the Questions tabled for Oral answer on Thursday 19 October between yourself, the Chief Secretary, the Paymaster General and the Economic Secretary.

2. Out of the first sixteen and the first twenty Questions the allocation of each Minister is:

	1st 16	1st 20
Chancellor	4	5
Chief Secretary	4	6
Paymaster General	4	5
Economic Secretary	4	4

hold APC 24/7

3. We contacted DOE about the transfer of Questions 3 (Joan Walley), 9 (Gareth Wardell) and two other identical Questions lower down in the order; DOE officials are, however, reluctant to accept responsibility for them, arguing that given the forum in which the discussions took place they are more appropriate for the FCO to answer. FCO have been approached but are unable to give us their view until Monday.

*Now PSC
with
answers.*

Colin Hutson

COLIN HUTSON

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TREASURY 1ST ORDER QUESTIONS : THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 1989

1	La	Mr Tom Cox (Tooting): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the costs to the Treasury of the underwriting for the sale of the water authorities.	MR BENT PE2	+17 PMG
2	La	Mr Geoffrey Robinson (Coventry North West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the public spending planning total for 1989-90.	MR MALCOLM GEP1	CST
3	La	Joan Walley (Stoke on Trent North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met his Ministerial colleagues in G7 to discuss measures to protect the environment.	Mr Wood L92	X
4	La	Mr Tony Worthington (Clydebank and Milngavie): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many letters he has received from members of the public on the high level of interest rates or their impact on the cost of mortgages.	MISSO'MARA MG1	EST
5	C	Mr Malcolm Moss (North East Cambridgeshire): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the level of business investment for the latest full year for which figures are available.	MR RITCHIE EB	C/EX
6	La	Mr Martin Redmond (Don Valley): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the rate of growth of exports over the last 10 years; and what has been the rate of growth of imports.	MR O'DONNELL EA2	ORDINARY WRITTEN 24.7
7	La	Mr Bernie Grant (Tottenham): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the negative transfer of financial resources from the 17 most heavily indebted countries since 1983 to the latest available year.	MR WALSH IF1	EST
8	La	Mrs Ann Taylor (Dewsbury): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met Ministerial colleagues in the G7 to discuss third world debt.	MR WALSH IF1	+15 C/EX
9	La	Mr Gareth Wardell (Gower): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met his Ministerial colleagues in G7 to discuss measures to protect the environment.	MR Wood L92	X
10	La	Mr John McFall (Dumbarton): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the latest estimate of privatisation revenue.	MR BENT PE2	PMG
11	La	Mr David Lambie (Cunningham South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the current short-term interest rate in: (a) the United Kingdom and (b) Germany.	MR MELLISS IF2	CST
12	La	Mr Allan Roberts (Bootle): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the United Kingdom base rate in May 1988; and what it is at the present time.	MISSO'MARA MG1	EST
13	C	Mr John Bowis (Battersea): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the current receipts from income tax; and what were the comparable figures for 1979.	IR	PMG
14	La	Mr Alan Williams (Swansea West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the Government's response to the International Monetary Fund's proposals by Mr Michel Camdessus for a quota increase.	MR WALSH IF1	C/EX
15	La	Mr Win Griffiths (Bridgend): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met the managing director of the International Monetary Fund and the President of the World Bank to discuss third world debt.	MR WALSH IF1	+8 C/EX
16	La	Margaret Beckett (Derby South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next expects to meet representatives of the Child Poverty Action Group to discuss child poverty.	MR MCINTYRE ST1	CST
17	La	Mr Alistair Darling (Edinburgh Central): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the costs to the Treasury of advertising the sale of the water authorities.	MR BENT PE2	+1 PMG
18	S Sect H	Mr Jim Sillars (Glasgow, Govan): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his latest estimate of the expected balance of payments deficit in the current year.	MR O'DONNELL EA2	CST
19	C	Mr Phillip Oppenheim (Amber Valley): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met the Chairman of the Confederation of British Industry; and what matters were discussed.	MR BURR -IAE3	ORDINARY WRITTEN 24.7
20	C	Mr William Hague (Richmond, Yorks): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his estimate of the effect on debt interest costs of the public sector debt repayments over the last two years.	MR MOWL PSF	EST

TREASURY 1ST ORDER QUESTIONS : THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 1989

21	C	Mr Lewis Stevens (Nuneaton): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the latest figures for output per hour worked in: (a) the United Kingdom, (b) Japan and (c) Germany.	MR DAVIES MPI	C/EX
22	La	Mr Roger Stott (Wigan): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the costs to the Treasury of the underwriting for the sale of the water authorities.	MR BENT PE2	PMG
23	La	Mr Norman Buchan (Paisley South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what representations he has received from the Confederation of British Industry and the Trades Union Congress about the level of public expenditure.	MR MACAUSAN GEP1	WITHDRAWN
24	La	Mr Peter Snape (West Bromwich East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the public spending outturn for: (a) health and (b) education.	MR TAYLOR GEP3	CST
25	La	Mr Andrew Smith (Oxford East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the public spending planning total.	MR MACAUSAN GEP1	CST
26	C	Mr Anthony Coombs (Wyre Forest): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the rate of economic growth in the latest year for which figures are available	MR HIBBERD EAI	ORDINARY WRITTEN 24.7
27	La	Mr Thomas Graham (Renfrew West and Inverclyde): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the negative transfer of financial resources from the 17 most heavily indebted countries since 1983 to the latest available year.	MR WALSH IFI	EST
28	La	Mr Richard Caborn (Sheffield Central): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps the Treasury is taking to ensure adequate levels of efficiency and value for money in Her Majesty's Government's public expenditure programmes.	MR RAYNER FM	PMG
29	C	Mr Martin Brandon-Bravo (Nottingham South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the increase in the number of weekly net business start-ups in 1988-89 over 1987-88.	MR BURR IFE3	CST
30	C	Sir George Young (Ealing, Acton): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the implications of the abolition of the earnings rule.	TRANSFERRED TO DSS	X
31	La	Mr Gordon Oakes (Halton): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many bands of marginal income tax rates exist: (a) in the United Kingdom and (b) in other G7 countries.	IR	C/EX
32	La	Dr Norman A. Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what progress has been made in implementing the debt reduction plan of United States Treasury Secretary, Mr Nicholas Brady.	MR WALSH IFI	PMG
33	La	Mr James Lamond (Oldham Central and Royton): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the current short-term United Kingdom interest rate; and what are the interest rates of each of the G7 countries.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
34	La	Mr David Blunkett (Sheffield, Brightside): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on allocations from the contingency reserve in the current financial year.	MR RICHARDSON GEP2	CST
35	C	Mr Nicholas Bennett (Pembroke): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on his policy objectives for income tax.	IR	EST
36	C	Mr John Greenway (Ryedale): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his assessment of the implications for public spending of the sustained fall in unemployment.	MR DAVIES MPI	ORDINARY WRITTEN 24.7
37	La	Mr Alan W. Williams (Carmarthen): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the Government's response to the International Monetary Funds proposals by Mr Michel Camdessus for a quota increase.	MR WALSH IFI	EST
38	C	Mr Alan Amos (Hexham): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the total value of United Kingdom private sector investment over the last three years as a percentage of gross domestic product.	MR HIBBERD EAI	CST
39	C	Mr David Knox (Staffordshire Moorlands): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement about the current level of interest rates.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST

40	La	Dr John Reid (Motherwell North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what plans he has to broaden the value-added tax base.	C+E	EST
41	C	Mr John Butterfill (Bournemouth West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much indirect taxation has increased as a proportion of disposable income in real terms since 1984.	MR MATTHEWS ETS	EST
42	La	Mr William O'Brien (Normanton): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the United Kingdom base rate was in May 1988; and what it is today.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
43	La	Mr Terry Patchett (Barnsley East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the United Kingdom base rate was in May 1988; and what it is today.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
44	La	Mr Jack Thompson (Wansbeck): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met Ministerial colleagues in the G7 to discuss third world debt.	MR WALSH IFI	EST
45	C	Mr Michael Irvine (Ipswich): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he has any further plans for reforming the structure of national insurance contributions.	TRANSFERRED TO DSS	X
46	C	Mr Peter Thurnham (Bolton North East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his latest estimate for the rate of inflation; and if he will make a statement.	MR HIBBERD EAL	ORDINARY WRITTEN 24.7
47	C	Mrs Maureen Hicks (Wolverhampton North East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent steps he has taken to control the rate of inflation.	MR HIBBERD EAI	EST
48	La	Mr Chris Mullin (Sunderland South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much value-added tax for a family on average male earnings with two children represented as a percentage of their gross earnings in 1978-79; and what percentage it represents at the latest available date.	MR MATTHEWS ETS	EST
49	C	Mr Quinten Davies (Stamford and Spalding): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his latest information on the investment ^{incentives} of British manufacturing industry.	MR HIBBERD EAI	CST
50	DEM	Mr David Alton (Liverpool, Mossley Hill): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the present rate of inflation in the United Kingdom and in each other European Community country.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
51	C	Mr David Evans (Welwyn and Hatfield): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the total amount of national debt repaid by the Government over the last five years.	MR MOWL PSF	EST
52	La	Mr John Cummings (Easington): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the costs to the Treasury of the underwriting for the sale of the water authorities.	MR BENT PE2	FST
53	C	Mr Christopher Gill (Ludlow): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what consideration he has given to exempting non-quoted companies from corporation tax.	IR	FST
54	C	Mr Kenneth Hind (West Lancashire): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the level of business investment for the latest full year for which figures are available.	MR RITCHIE EB	CST
55	La	Mildrid Gordon (Bow and Poplar): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what progress has been made in implementing the debt reduction plan of United States Treasury Secretary, Mr Nicholas Brady.	MR WALSH IFI	EST
56	La	Mr Gavin Strang (Edinburgh East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met Ministerial colleagues in the G7 to discuss third world debt.	MR WALSH IFI	EST
57	La	Mr Lawrence Cunliffe (Leigh): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the costs to the Treasury of the underwriting for the sale of the water authorities.	MR BENT PE2	FST
58	La	Clare Short (Birmingham, Ladywood): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the public spending planning total.	MR MACAUSLAN EAI	ORDINARY WRITTEN 24.7
59	La	Mr Greville Janner (Leicester West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the current short-term interest rate in: (a) the United Kingdom and (b) Germany.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST

60	La	Mr Andrew Faulds (Warley East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the deficit in visible trade in the first and second quarters of 1989.	MR O'DONNELL EA2	CST
61	La	Mr Bruce Grocott (The Wrekin): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the negative transfer of financial resources from the 17 most heavily indebted countries since 1983 to the latest available year.	MR WALSH IFI	EST
62	La	Michael Welsh (Doncaster North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met his Ministerial colleagues in G7 to discuss measures to protect the environment.		
63	La	Mr Bill Michie (Sheffield, Heeley): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the forecast used for inflation for 1989-90 and 1990-91 in the 1989 Public Expenditure Survey; and what are his latest estimates for inflation in these periods.	MR HIBBERD EA1	EST
64	C	Mr Andrew Hunter (Basingstoke): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the latest figures for the growth of real personal disposable income for the latest year for which figures are available.	MR MATTHEWS ETS	FST
65	La	Mr Ted Rowlands (Merthyr Tydfil and Rhmney): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the public spending planning total for 1989-90.	MR MACAUSLAN GEP1	CST
66	C	Mr Henry Bellingham (North West Norfolk): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, by how much adult unemployment has fallen over the last three years.	MR RITCHIE EB	CST
67	La	Mr George Buckley (Hemsworth): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what representations he has received from the Confederation of British Industry and the Trades Union Congress about the level of public expenditure.	MR MACAUSLAN GEP1	CST
68	La	Mr Dennis Turner (Wolverhampton South East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met ministerial colleagues in the G7 to discuss third world debt.	MR WALSH IFI	EST
69	C	Mr Tony Marlow (Northampton North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the average annual increase in total investment in the United Kingdom in the 1980's; and what are the equivalent figures for the other European Community countries.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
70	La	Mr Calum Macdonald (Western Isles): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the latest estimate of privatisation revenue.	MR BENT PE2	FST
71	C	Mr Robert G. Hughes (Harrow West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the latest figures for growth of manufacturing output.	MR HIBBERD EA1	CST
72	La	Mr Keith Vaz (Leicester East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what fiscal assistance he is proposing to give to the footwear and leather industries.	MR GILHOOLY FP	FST
73	La	Mr Bruce George (Walsall South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the United Kingdom's balance of payments deficit in the first quarter and second quarter of 1989.	MR O'DONNELL EA2	CST
74	C	Sir David Price (Eastleigh): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the average annual rate of real economic growth in the United Kingdom through the 1980's.	MR HIBBERD EA1	CST
75	La	Mr Barry Sheerman (Huddersfield): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the public spending planning total.	MR MACAUSLAN GEP1	CST
76	La	Dr John Gilbert (Dudley East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what progress has been made in implementing the debt reduction plan of United States Treasury Secretary, Mr Nicholas Brady.	MR WALSH IFI	C/EX
77	La	Mr Ted Garrett (Wallsend): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the United Kingdom's balance of payments deficit in the first quarter and second quarter of 1989.	MR O'DONNELL EA2	CST
78	La	Mr Robert Parry (Liverpool, Riverside): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the United Kingdom base rate in May 1988; and what it is today.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST

TREASURY 1ST ORDER QUESTIONS : THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 1989

79	C	Mr Ian Taylor (Esher): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what evidence he has of the amount of use being made by companies of employee share ownership plans as a result of the measures announced in his March budget.	IR	FST
80	C	Mr Irvine Patnick (Sheffield, Hallam): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what change there has been in payroll giving to charities as a result of the measures announce in his March budget.	IR	FST
81	La	Marjorie Mowlam (Redcar): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much value-added tax for a family on average male earnings with two children represented as a percentage of their gross earning in 1978-79; and what percentage it represents at the latest available date.	MR MATTHEWS ETS	EST
82	C	Mr James Cran (Beverley): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the latest figure for the total number of people in work; and what was the figure 10 years ago.	MR RITCHIE EB	CST
83	C	Mr David Sumberg (Bury South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what evidence he has to the level of take-up of personal equity plans as a result of the measures announced in his March budget.	IR	FST
84	La	Mr John Maxton (Glasgow, Cathcart): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will state how many bands of marginal income tax rates exist: (a) in the United Kingdom and (b) in other G7 countries.	IR	FST
85	C	Mr Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met the Governor of the Bank of England; and what was discussed.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
86	La	Mr Jimmy Dunnachie (Glasgow, Pollok): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next expects to meet representatives of the Child Poverty Action Group to discuss child poverty.	MR MCINTYRE ST1	CST
87	La	Mr Tom Pendry (Stalybridge and Hyde): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the rate of growth of exports over the last 10 years; and what has been the rate of growth of imports.	MR O'DONNELL EA2	CST
88	La	^{RT HON} Mr John Morris (Aberavon): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much value-added tax for a family on average male earnings with two children represented as a percentage of their gross earnings in 1978-79; and what percentage it represents at the latest available date.	MR MATTHEWS ETS	C/EX
89	La	Mr Jim Callaghan (Heywood and Middleton): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps the Treasury is taking to ensure adequate levels of efficiency and value for money in Her Majesty's Government public expenditure programmes.	MR RAYNER FPA	ORDINAL WRITE 247
90	La	Mr Elliot Morley (Glanford and Scunthorpe): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if, in his discussions with the Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, he has raised the subject of pay rises awarded to directors of companies in 1989.	MR HIBBERD EA1	CST
91	C	Mr Tim Yeo (South Suffolk): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the implementation of the reform of national insurance.	MR MCINTYRE ST1	CST
92	DEM	Mr Archy Kirkwood (Roxburgh and Berwickshire): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement about Treasury proposals for European monetary union; and how these differ from the proposals advanced in the report of the Delors Committee.	MRS BROWN EC1	PMG
93	DEM	Mr Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he has revised the forecast for the balance of payments in 1989 and 1990 since the budget.	MR O'DONNELL EA2	CST
94	La	Mr Paul Boateng (Brent South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on allocations from the contingency reserve in the current financial year.	MR RICHARDSON GEP2	CST

TREASURY 1ST ORDER QUESTIONS : THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 1989

95	C	Mr David Martin (Portsmouth South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the average annual rate of economic growth in the United Kingdom in the 1980s.	MR HIBBERD EA1	CST
96	La	Ms Joyce Quin (Gateshead): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the rate of growth of exports over the last 10 years; and what has been the rate of growth of imports.	MR O'DONNELL EA2	CST
97	La	Mr Stuart Randall (Kingston upon Hull West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the rate of growth of exports over the last 10 years; and what has been the rate of growth of imports.	MR O'DONNELL EA2	CST
98	La	Mr Pat Wall (Bradford North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met his Ministerial colleagues in G7 to discuss measures to protect the environment.		
99	La	Mr John Evans (St Helens North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what proportion of the income of a single person on half average earnings went on income tax in 1979-80 and 1988-89.	IR	ORDINARY WRITTEN 24.7
100	La	^{RT HOJ} Mr Alfred Morris (Manchester, Wythenshawe): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much value-added tax for a family on average male earnings with two children represented as a percentage of their gross earning in 1978-79; and what percentage it represents at the latest available date.	MR MATTHEWS ETS	C/EX
101	La	Dawn Primarolo (Bristol South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what plans he has to broaden the value-added tax base.	C+E	EST
102	La	Mr Ronnie Campbell (Blyth Valley): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps the Treasury is taking to ensure adequate levels of efficiency and value for money in Her Majesty Government's public expenditure programmes.	MR RAYNER FM	EST
103	La	Mr Jeremy Corbyn (Islington North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next expects to meet representatives of the Child Poverty Action Group? to discuss child poverty.	MR MCINTYRE ST1	CST
104	La	Mr Roland Boyes (Houghton and Washington): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on allocations from the contingency reserve in the current financial year.	MR RICHARDSON GEP2	CST
105	C	Mr Roger Knapman (Stroud): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on progress towards the introduction of independent taxation in April 1990.	IR	FST
106	La	Mr Rhodri Morgan (Cardiff West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if, in his discussions with the Director General of the Confederation of British Industries, he has raised the subject of pay rises awarded to directors of companies in 1989.	MR HIBBERD EA1	CST
107	La	Mr Jimmy Hood (Clydesdale): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he has held with the Equal Opportunities Commission to discuss the provision of workplace nurseries.	TRANSFERRED TO D/EMP	X
108	La	Mr Robin Corbett (Birmingham, Erdington): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent representations he has received from institutions in the City on privatisation issues.	MR BENT PE2	FST
109	DEM	Mr James Wallace (Orkney and Shetland): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the Government's funding policy; and if he will make a statement.	MISSO'MARA MG1	EST
110	C	Mr George Walden (Buckingham): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the increase in the number of weekly net business start-ups in 1988-89 over 1987-88.	MR BURR IAE3	CST
111	La	Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next intends to discuss international debt with other finance ministers; and if he will make a statement.	MR WALSH IF1	EST

112	La	Mr Tom Clarke (Monklands West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps the Treasury is taking to ensure adequate levels of efficiency and value for money in Her Majestys Government's public expenditure programmes.	MR RAYNER FM	CST
113	C	Mr John Marshall (Hendon South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the implementation of the abolition of the earnings rule.	MR MCINTYRE ST1	ORDINARY WRITTEN 24.7
114	La	Mr Ray Powell (Ogmore): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what plans he has to broaden the value-added tax base.	C+E	EST
115	La	Mr Allen McKay (Barnsley West and Penistone): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the latest estimate of privatisation revenue.	MR BENT PE2	FST
116	La	Mr Ted Leadbitter (Hartlepool): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the current short-term United Kingdom interest rate; and what are the interest rates of each of the G7 countries.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
117	C	Mr Michael Jack (Fylde): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his estimate of the increase in manufacturing profitability during the latest full year for which figures are available.	MR HIBBERD EAT	ORDINARY WRITTEN 24.7
118	C	Mr Richard Holt (Langbrough): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what proposals are in hand by the Treasury to identify the extra public spending since 1987, and, in particular, that on the A1 and M1 motorways, resulting from delays	TRANSFERRED TO DTP.	X
119	C	Mr James Couchman (Gillingham): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his estimate of the effect on debt interest costs of the public sector debt repayments over the last two years.	MR MOWL PSF	EST
120	La	Joan Ruddock (Lewisham, Deptford): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the public spending planning total.	MR MACLUSLAN GEP1	CST
121	La	Mr Kevin Barron (Rother Valley): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the outcome of the recent annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank; and if he will make a statement.	MR WALSH FI	ORDINARY WRITTEN 24
122	C	Mr David Davis (Boothferry): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the average annual increase in total investment in the United Kingdom in the 1980s; and what are the equivalent figures for the other European Community countries.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
123	La	Mr Jim Cousins (Newcastle upon Tyne Central): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent representations he has received from institutions in the City on privatisation issues.	MR BENT PE2	FST
124	C	Mr John Ward (Poole): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his estimate of the increase in manufacturing profitability during the latest full year for which figures are available.	MR HIBBERD EAT	CST
125	La	Mr Robert N. Wareing (Liverpool, West Derby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what plans he has to reduce the deficit in the United Kingdom's balance of payments.	MR O'DONNELL EA2	CST
126	La	Mr Derek Fatchett (Leeds Central): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the deficit in visible trade in the first and second quarters of 1989.	MR O'DONNELL EA2	CST
127	La	Mr Keith Bradley (Manchester, Withington): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on allocations from the contingency reserve in the current financial year.	MR RICHARDSON GEP2	CST
128	La	Mr Alex Eadie (Midlothian): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the deficit in manufacturing trade in the first and second quarters of 1989.	MR O'DONNELL EA2	CST
129	La	Mr Terry Fields (Liverpool, Broadgreen): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the deficit in visible trade in the first and second quarters of 1989.	MR O'DONNELL EA2	CST
130	La	Mr Peter L. Pike (Burnley): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what plans he has to broaden the value-added tax base.	C+E	EST

TREASURY 1ST ORDER QUESTIONS :THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 1989

131	C	Mr Tim Boswell (Daventry): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the course of inflation during the summer adjournment.	MR HIBBERD EA1	EST
132	C	Mr Patrick McLoughlin (West Derbyshire): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the latest figures for the growth of real personal disposable income for the latest year for which figures are available.	MR MATTHEWS ETS	FST
133	La	Mr Terry Lewis (Worsley): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the current short-term United Kingdom interest rate; and what are the interest rates of each of the G7 countries.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
134	C	Mr Andrew Mitchell (Gedling): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on his recent meeting in Washington with the International Monetary Fund.	MR WALSH IF1	EST
135	La	Dr Jeremy Bray (Motherwell South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what representations he has received from the Confederation of British Industry and the Trades Union Congress about the level of public expenditure.	MR MACAUSLAN GEP1	CST
136	C	Mr David Curry (Skipton and Ripon): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his estimate of the increase in manufacturing profitability during the latest full year for which figures are available.	MR HIBBERD EA1	CST
137	C	Mr Ian Bruce (South Dorset): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the growth of: (a) total investment and (b) total consumption over the past seven years.	MR HIBBERD EA1	CST
138	C	Mr Charles Wardle (Bexhill and Battle): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the latest figures for output per hour worked in: (a) United Kingdom, (b) Japan and (c) Germany.	MR DAVIES MPI	EST
139	C	Mr Cecil Franks (Barrow and Furness): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, by how much total employment has risen since 1983.	MR RITCHIE EB	CST
140	La	Mr Frank Field (Birkenhead): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the deficit in visible trade in the first and second quarters of 1989.	MR O'DONNELL EA2	CST
141	La	Mr Brian Wilson (Cunninghame North): if he will make a statement on the current level of interest rates.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
142	La	Mr Harry Ewing (Falkirk East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the deficit in manufacturing trade in the first and second quarter of the current year.	MR O'DONNELL EA2	CST
143	La	Dr Lewis Moonie (Kirkcaldy): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if, in his discussions with the Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, he has raised the subject of pay rises awarded to directors of companies in 1989?	MR HIBBERD EA1	CST
144	La	Mr Dennis Canavan (Falkirk West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the total income to the Treasury since May 1979 from: (a) North Sea oil revenues and (b) privatisation of publicly owned assets.	MR MOWL PSF	EST
145	La	Mr John Battle (Leeds West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next expects to meet representatives of the Building Societies Association to discuss the level of United Kingdom interest rates.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
146	La	Mr Ken Eastham (Manchester, Blackley): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the deficit in manufacturing trade in the first and second quarters of 1989.	MR O'DONNELL EA2	CST
147	La	Mr Alan Meale (Mansfield): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the forecast used for inflation for 1989-90 and 1990-91 used in the 1989 Public Expenditure Survey; and what are his latest estimates for inflation in these periods.	MR HIBBERD EA1	EST
148	La	Mr Thomas McAvoy (Glasgow, Rutherglen): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the economic impact of top rate tax cuts.	MR DAVIES MPI	CST
149	La	Mr Jim Marshall (Leicester South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the planning total for public spending in each of the next three years.	MR MACAUSLAN GEP1	CST

TREASURY 1ST ORDER QUESTIONS : THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 1989

150	La	Mr Bob Cryer (Brentford South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will make a statement on the prevailing level of interest rates and the effect on manufacturing industry.	MR GRICE MG2	EST
151	C	Mr Graham Riddick (Colne Valley): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his estimate of the effect on debt interest costs of the public sector debt repayments over the last two years.	MR MOWL PSF	EST
152	La	Mr John McAllion (Dundee East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the economic impact of top rate tax cuts.	MR DAVIES MPI	CST
153	C	Mr David Harris (St. Ives): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his latest information on the investment intentions of British manufacturing industry.	MR HIBBERD EAI	CST
154	C	Mr Hugh Dykes (Harrow East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the effect to date of the high interest rate policy on countering inflation.	MR DAVIES MPI	EST
155	La	Mr D. N. Campbell-Savours (Workington): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met the Chairman of the Confederation of British Industry to discuss management of the economy.	MR BURR IAE3	CST
156	C	Mr Patrick Thompson (Norwich North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, by how much adult unemployment has fallen over the last three years.	MR RITCHIE EB	CST
157	La	Mr David Young (Bolton South East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many letters he has received from members of the public on the level of interest rates or their impact on the cost of mortgages.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
158	La	Mr Eddie Loyden (Liverpool, Garston): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the economic impact of top rate tax cuts.	MR DAVIES MPI	CST
159	La	Mr Stuart Bell (Middlesborough): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next expects to meet representatives of the Building Societies Association to discuss the level of United Kingdom interest rates.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
160	La	Mr Ian McCartney (Makerfield): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the economic impact of top rate tax cuts.	MR DAVIES MPI	CST
161	La	Mr Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the most recent discussions of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank relating to: (a) Brazil and (b) Peru.	MR WALSH FI	WITHDRAWN
162	La	Mr Sidney Bidwell (Ealing, Southall): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next expects to meet representatives of the Building Societies Association to discuss the level of United Kingdom interest rates.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
163	La	Mr Dave Nellist (Coventry South East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many bands of marginal income tax rates exist: (a) in the United Kingdom and (b) in other G7 countries.	IR	FST
164	La	Mr William McKelvey (Kilmarnock and Loudoun): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the latest estimate of privatisation revenue.	MR BENT PE2	FST
165	La	Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if, in his discussions with the Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, he has raised the subject of pay rises awarded to directors of companies in 1989.	MR HIBBERD EAI	CST
166	La	Mr Ron Brown (Edinburgh, Leith): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what representations he has received from the Confederation of British Industry and the Trades Union Congress about the level of public expenditure.	MR MACAVSLAN GEP1	CST
167	La	Mr Paul Murphy (Torfaen): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many bands of marginal income tax rates exist: (a) in the United Kingdom and (b) in other G7 countries.	IR	FST
168	La	Mr Andrew F. Bennett (Denton and Reddish): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next expects to meet representatives of the Building Societies Association to discuss the level of United Kingdom interest rates.	MISS O'MARA MG1	ORDINARY WRITTEN 24.7

TREASURY 1ST ORDER QUESTIONS : THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 1989

169	La	RT HON Mr Denzil Davies (Llanelli): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the costs to the Treasury of advertising the sale of the water authorities.	MR BENT PE2	FST
170	La	Mr John Home Robertson (East Lothian): Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he has held with the Equal Opportunities Commission to discuss the provision of workplace nurseries.	TRANSFERRED TO D/EMP	X
171	La	Mr Alun Michael (Cardiff South and Penarth): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the forecast used for inflation for 1989-90 and 1990-91 used in the 1989 Public Expenditure Survey; and what are his latest estimates for inflation in these periods.	MR HIBBERD EA1	EST
172	La	Mr Frank Cook (Stockton North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent representations he has received from institutions in the City on privatisation issues.	MR BENT PE2	FST
173	La	Mr Henry McLeish (Fife Central): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the public spending outturn for 1989-90.	MR TAYLOR GEP3	CST
174	La	Mr Harry Barnes (Derbyshire North East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the outcome of the recent annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank; and if he will make a statement.	MR WALSH IF1	EST
175	La	Audrey Wise (Preston): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many letters he has received from members of the public on the level of interest rates or their impact on the cost of mortgages.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
176	La	Mr Nigel Griffiths (Edinburgh South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he has held with the Equal Opportunities Commission to discuss the provision of workplace nurseries.	TRANSFERRED TO D/EMP	X
177	La	Ms Harriet Harman (Peckham): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met representatives of the Equal Opportunities Commission concerning priorities for public expenditure in 1990-91.	MR MACAUSLAN GEP1	WITHDRAWN
178	La	Mr Roy Hughes (Newport East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met representatives of the Equal Opportunities Commission concerning priorities for public expenditure in 1990-91.	MR MACAUSLAN GEP1	CST
179	La	Mr Norman Hogg (Cumbernauld and Kilsyth): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he has held with the Equal Opportunities Commission to discuss the provision of workplace nurseries.	TRANSFERRED TO D/EMP	X
180	La	Mr Ron Leighton (Newham North East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the current short-term United Kingdom interest rate; and what are the interest rates of each of the G7 countries.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
181	La	Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the outcome of the recent annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank; and if he will make a statement.	MR WALSH IF1	EST
182	La	Mr David Hinchcliffe (Wakefield): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met with the managing director of the International Monetary Fund and the President of the World Bank to discuss Third World debt.	MR WALSH IF1	EST
183	C	Mr Bowen Wells (Hertford and Stortford): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on his recent meeting in Washington with the World Bank.	MR WALSH IF1	EST
184	La	Mr Peter Hardy (Wentworth): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the negative transfer of financial resources from the 17 most heavily indebted countries since 1983 to the latest available year.	MR WALSH IF1	EST
185	La	Mr Eric Illsley (Barnsley Central): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the current short-term interest rate in: (a) the United Kingdom and (b) Germany.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
186	C	Mr John Heddle (Mid Staffordshire): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the growth of: (a) total investment and (b) total consumption over the past seven years.	MR HIBBERD EA1	CST

TREASURY 1ST ORDER QUESTIONS : THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 1989

187	La	Mr Allen Adams (Paisley North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next expects to meet representatives of the Confederation of British Industry to discuss United Kingdom economic policy.	MR BURR HAEB	ORDINARY WRITTEN 247
188	La	Mr David Clelland (Tyne Bridge): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, which countries have overtaken the United Kingdom in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's list of the leading industrial economies in the last three years.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
189	La	Mr Robert Hughes (Aberdeen North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met representatives of the Equal Opportunities Commission concerning priorities for public expenditure in 1990-91.	MR MACAUSLAN GEP1	CST
190	C	Mr Keith Mans (Wyre): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, by how much adult unemployment has fallen over the past three years.	MR RITCHIE EB	CST
191	La	Mr Eric Martlew (Carlisle): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the public spending outturn for 1989-90.	MR TAYLOR GEP3	CST
192	La	Mr John Hughes (Coventry North East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he has any plans to meet representatives of the workplace nurseries campaign.	IR	FST
193	La	Ms Diane Abbott (Hackney North and Stoke Newington): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next expects to meet representatives of the Child Poverty Action Group to discuss child poverty.	MR MCINTYRE ST1	CST
194	La	Mr Clive Soley (Hammersmith): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the public spending outturn for: (a) health and (b) education.	MR TAYLOR GEP3	CST
195	La	Mr Donald Coleman (Neath): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent representations he has received from institutions in the City on privatisation issues.	MR BENT PE2	FST
196	C	Mr Richard Shepherd (Aldridge-Brownhills): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are his latest figures for the growth of Gross Domestic Product on an output basis; and how this compares with other members of the European Community.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
197	La	Mr Doug Henderson (Newcastle upon Tyne North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met with the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund and the President of the World Bank to discuss third world debt.	MR WALSH IF1	EST
198	La	Mr Gerry Steinberg (City of Durham): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the public spending outturn for: (a) health and (b) education.	MR TAYLOR GEP3	CST
199	C	Mr William Cash (Stafford): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his estimate of the increase in manufacturing profitability during the latest full year for which figures are available.	MR HIBBERD EA1	CST
200	C	Mr Martyn Jones (Clywd South West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the current short-term interest rate in: (a) the United Kingdom and (b) Germany.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
201	C	Mr Allan Stewart (Eastwood): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the latest figures for the growth of manufacturing output.	MR RITCHIE EB	CST
202	La	Mr John Fraser (Norwood): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the United Kingdom's position in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ranking of the largest industrial economies in December 1988 and in June 1989.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
203	La	Maria Fyfe (Glamorgan, Maryhill): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the United Kingdom's position in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ranking of the largest industrial economies in December 1988 and in June 1989.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
204	La	Mr Max Madden (Bradford West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the public spending outturn for 1989-90.	MR TAYLOR GEP3	CST

TREASURY 1ST ORDER QUESTIONS :THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 1989

205	La	Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke on Trent South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the outcome of the recent annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank; and if he will make a statement.	MR WALSH IF1	C/EX
206	La	Mr George Robertson (Hamilton): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the public spending outturn for 1989-90.	MR TAYLOR GEP3	CST
207	La	Mr George Foulkes (Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what representations he has received from the National Federation of Small Businesses and the self-employed about the level of the United Kingdom's interest rates.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
208	La	Mr Gerald Bermingham (St Helens, South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the United Kingdom's balance of payments deficit in the first quarter and second quarter of 1989.	MR O'DONNELL EA2	CST
209	C	Mr Edward Leigh (Gainsborough and Horncastle): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the increase in the number of weekly net business start-ups in 1988-1989 over 1987-88.	MR BURR IAE3	CST
210	DEM	Mr Malcolm Bruce (Gordon): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement about the Government's present funding policy.	MISS OIMARA MG1	EST
211	La	Mr Graham Allen (Nottingham North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many meetings he has had with the International Monetary Fund since 29th September 1988; whether the United Kingdom's interest rates, inflation rate, level of public investment or trade deficit were discussed; and if he will make a statement.	MR WALSH IF1	ORDINARY WRITING 24-7
212	La	Hilary Armstrong (North West Durham): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next expects to meet representatives of the Confederation of British Industry to discuss United Kingdom economic policy.	MR BURR IAE3	CST
213	La	Mr Frank Doran (Aberdeen South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the costs to the Treasury of advertising the sale of the water authorities.	MR BENT PE2	FST
214	La	Dr Kim Howells (Pontypridd): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he has plans to meet representatives of the workplace nurseries campaign.	IR	FST
215	La	^{RET HOJ} Mr Denis Howell (Birmingham, Small Heath): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he has plans to meet representatives of the workplace nurseries campaign.	IR	FST
216	La	Alice Mahon (Halifax): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the planning total for public spending in each of the next three years.	MR MACAUSLAN GEP1	CST
217	La	Mr Paul Flynn (Newport West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what representations he has received from the National Federation of Small Businesses and the self-employed about the level of United Kingdom interest rates.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
218	La	^{RET HOJ} Mr Peter Archer (Warley West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next expects to meet representatives of the Confederation of British Industry to discuss United Kingdom economic policy.	MR BURR IAE3	C/EX
219	La	Mr Harry Cohen (Leyton): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, which countries have overtaken the United Kingdom in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's list of the leading industrial economies in the last three years.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
220	La	Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what representations he has received from the National Federation of Small Businesses and the self-employed about the level of United Kingdom interest rates.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
221	C	Mr Timothy Wood (Stevenage): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the level of business investment for the latest full year for which figures are available.	MR HIBBERD EA1	CST

222	La	Mr David Marshall (Glasgow, Shettleston): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the planning total for public spending in each of the next three years.	MR MACAULAN GEP1	CST
223	La	Mr David Winnick (Walsall north): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the current inflation rate.	MR HIBBERD EAT	WITHDRAWN
224	La	Mrs Ann Clywd (Cynon Valley): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, which countries have overtaken the United Kingdom in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's list of the leading industrial economies in the last three years.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
225	La	Mr Donald Anderson (Swansea East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next expects to meet representatives of the Confederation of British Industry to discuss United Kingdom economic policy.	MR BURR IAE3	CST
226	C	Mr Harry Greenway (Ealing North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what representations he has received asking him to impose a graduate tax; what is his estimate of the likely yield from such a tax; and if he will make a statement.	IR	FST
227	La	Mr Nigel Spearing (Newham South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the public spending outturn for: (a) health and (b) education.	MR TAYLOR GEP3	CST
228	C	Mr Robert Key (Salisbury): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the average annual increase in total investment in the United Kingdom in the 1980's; and what are the equivalent figures for the other European Community countries.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
229	La	Mr Doug Hoyle (Warrington North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he has plans to meet representatives of the Workplace Nurseries Campaign.	IR	FST
230	La	Mr Ron Davies (Caerphilly): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the costs to the Treasury of advertising the sale of the water authorities.	MR BENT PE2	FST
231	La	Mr Bob Clay (Sunderland North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, which countries have overtaken the United Kingdom in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's list of the leading industrial economies in the last three years.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
232	La	Mr Sam Galbraith (Strathkelvin and Bearsden): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the United Kingdom's position in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ranking of the largest industrial economies in December 1988 and in June 1989.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
233	La	Mr George Galloway (Glasgow, Hillhead): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the United Kingdom's position in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ranking of the largest industrial economies in December 1988 and in June 1989.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
234	C	Mr Barry Field (Isle of Wight): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will list the latest quantities of cannabis and crack seized by customs cutters and waterguard officers.	CTE	EST
235	C	Mr Robert Hayward (Kingswood): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the average annual increase in total investment in the United Kingdom in the 1980's; and what are the equivalent figures for the other European Community countries.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
236	La	Mr Frank Haynes (Ashfield): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund and the President of the World Bank to discuss third world debt.	MR WALSH IF1	EST
237	La	Mr Michael J. Martin (Glasgow, Springburn): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the planning total for public spending in each of the next three years.	MR MACAULAN GEP1	CST

238	L	Mr Sean Hughes (Knowsley South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met representatives of the Equal Opportunities Commission concerning priorities for public expenditure in 1990-91.	MR MACAUSLAN GEP1	CST
239	C	Mr Roger King (Birmingham, Northfield): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his latest information on the investment intentions of British manufacturing industry.	MR HIBBERD EA1	CST
240	La	Mr Mark Fisher (Stoke on Trent Central): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what representations he has received from the National Federation of Small Businesses and the self-employed about the level of United Kingdom interest rates.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
241	C	Mr James Pawsey (Rugby and Kenilworth): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, by how much adult unemployment has fallen over the last three years.	MR RITCHIE EB	CST
242	La	Mr John Garret (Norwich South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the United Kingdom's balance of payments deficit in the first quarter and second quarter of the current year.	MRO'DONNELL EA2	CST
243	La	Mr Ernie Ross (Dundee West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the public spending planning total for 1989-90.	MR MACAUSLAN GEP1	CST
244	La	Mr Allan Rogers (Rhondda): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the public spending planning total for 1989-90.	MR MACAUSLAN GEP1	CST
245	C	Mr Douglas French (Gloucester): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will estimate how many personal equity plans have been taken out in the period since the 1989 Budget; and how many were taken out in the corresponding period last year.	IR	FST

HANDOUT BILL
ON STATISTICS OF
TRADE

chex.jp/aa1/18



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-270 3000

~~for
BF to
draft in
Hubert~~

21 July 1989

J G Fuller
Home Affairs Secretariat
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
LONDON
SW1

Dear John,

PROPOSED HANDOUT BILL ON STATISTICS OF TRADE

Thank you for your letter of 13 July. The Chancellor does not wish to put forward the Statistics of Trade Bill for the handout list this year.

Yours
Alan

A C S ALLAN

ACSA
TO
FULLER
21/7

UNCLASSIFIEDFROM: A C S ALLAN
DATE: 21 JULY 1989

C J SPILLER - BSO

cc PS/Economic Secretary
Sir P Middleton
Sir T Burns
Mr Sedgwick

Mr Hibbert - CSO

Mr Ward - BSO

Mr Harvey - DTI S1

PROPOSED HANDOUT BILL ON STATISTICS OF TRADE

The Chancellor was grateful for your minute of 18 July. He does not wish to put this Bill forward for the handout list this year, and I have accordingly advised Cabinet Office. He wishes to consider further whether this Bill, or a different or enlarged Bill, is the one which would be most useful following the transfer of responsibility for Government economic statistics. Were this Bill to be successful he feels that the chances of a further Bill being picked up by a private member would be remote, and he feels that it is therefore better to wait until the wider issues have been considered. He would be grateful for advice in due course from Mr Hibbert.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'A C S ALLAN'.

A C S ALLAN

UNCLASSIFIEDACSA
TO
SPILLER
21/7



FCS/89/166

LORD PRESIDENT

CH/EXCHEQUER	
REC.	24 JUL 1989
ACTION	FST
COPIES TO	

24/7

mp

24/7/89.

Procedure Committee Inquiry into the Working
of Select Committees

1. Thank you for your letter of 17 July seeking colleagues' comments on the draft Memorandum of Evidence you are to give to Peter Emery.
2. I agree with the Memorandum, and its emphasis on refinement and detailed improvement, not wholesale change.
3. On specifics,
 - (i) We agree with the suggestion - in para 23(iii) - that where Ministers have given evidence early in Select Committee inquiries there are advantages in their doing so again in the final stages. This is our regular practice with the Foreign Affairs Committee. So far, these extra appearances have not been a burden on the FCO.
 - (ii) On paras 24-26, the existing practice whereby the FAC provide us with a prior, informal, indication of the line of questioning for an evidence session has worked well. I quite agree that it would be in Select Committees' own interests for them to raise the present quorum minimum.
 - (iii) Overlapping, as I said in my minute of 23 June, is not (yet) a problem for the FCO. I do think your proposal to put the ball into the House's court is absolutely right. A workable solution can only come from that quarter. Government departments are in no doubt about

/their



their view of the problem. Overlapping discredits Select Committees and impairs the quality of departmental response.

4. We are grateful to you for including (in paragraph 17) a note about Committees' overseas visits. The great majority of these go well, but the programming calls for constant vigilance. Similarly, we strongly support the suggestion (para 23 (i)) that each autumn Committees might draw up forward work programmes for the session ahead. That must help Whitehall's forward dispositions, and the quality of cooperation with Committees.

5. I am copying this minute to the Prime Minister, to other Cabinet colleagues and to Sir Robin Butler.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Howe', written in a cursive style.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
24 July 1989



SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

mp

The Rt Hon John Wakeham MP
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AT

CH/EXCHEQUER	
REC.	24 JUL 1989
ACTION	FST
COPIES TO	

✓24/7

24 July 1989

Dear John

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE ENQUIRY INTO THE WORKING OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 17 July to Geoffrey Howe enclosing for comment a draft of the proposed Memorandum of Evidence to Sir Peter Emery.

I am content with the proposed draft and the approach it adopts on quorum levels and the PAC/Select Committee overlap question. Cecil Parkinson's suggestion that Committees should be encouraged to take evidence from Ministers towards the end of enquiries has some force but I wonder whether it might be less of a hostage-to-fortune if it were expressed along the lines of Select Committees being encouraged to give Ministers an opportunity to give evidence towards the end of appropriate inquiries (ie those likely to lead to criticisms or the floating of wild ideas). This might help to limit the additional burden on Ministers and departments.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, my Cabinet Colleagues, David Waddington, Richard Luce and Sir Robin Butler.

*Yours
Malcolm Rifkind*

MALCOLM RIFKIND

CH/EXCHEQUER	
REC.	24 JUL 1989
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TO	

✓ 24/7



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

24 July 1989

Sean Clive

php

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE
WORKING OF SELECT COMMITTEES

The Prime Minister has seen the Lord President's letter of 17 July to the Foreign Secretary enclosing a draft memorandum of evidence. Subject to any other comments from colleagues, she is content for the memorandum to be issued.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of the Cabinet, Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office), Martin Le Jeune (Office of Arts and Libraries) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever
D. C. B. Morris

(D. C. B. MORRIS)

Steven Catling, Esq.,
Lord President's Office.



imp

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-270 3000

24 July 1989

Rt Hon John Wakeham MP
Lord President of the Council
and Leader of the House of Commons
Privy Council Office
68 Whitehall
LONDON
SW1

Dear Lord President,

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO WORK OF THE SELECT COMMITTEES

You sent me a copy of your letter of 17 July to Geoffrey Howe.

In general, I am content with the draft memorandum of evidence attached to that letter. And I welcome many of the changes you propose in paragraphs 22-29. In particular, the proposals that Ministers should give evidence in the final stages of a Committee's inquiry, and that Committee members should be willing to vote against reports they do not agree with, are particularly welcome. I do have doubts as to whether the Committees will agree to any of these changes, or - if they agree to them - whether they will abide by them. Nevertheless I am quite happy for these suggestions to go forward.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister, other Cabinet colleagues, David Waddington, Richard Luce and Sir Robin Butler.

cc PS/Chief Secretary
PS/Financial Secretary
PS/Paymaster General
PS/Economic Secretary
Mr Odling-Smee
PCC
MEG
Mr D J L Moore
Mr R I G Allen
Mr Mountfield
Mr Beastall
Mr Pickford
Mr Harris
Mr Luce
Miss Higgins
Mrs Chaplin
Mr Tyrie

Yours sincerely,

Duncan Spinkes

p.p. NIGEL LAWSON

*[Approved by the Chancellor
and signed on his behalf]*

PS/IR
Mr McNicholl - IR
PS/C&E
Mr Warr - C&E



THE DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORT

mp



FROM THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT

2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB
TELEPHONE 01-276 3000

The Rt Hon John Wakeham MP
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AT

My Ref:

Your Ref:

CH/EXCHEQUER	
REC.	26 JUL 1989
ACTION	FST
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24 July 1989

Dear John

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE WORKING OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Thank you for your letter of 17th July enclosing a further draft of the proposed Memorandum of Evidence. You particularly asked for views on the suggestion that Committees should be encouraged to take evidence from Ministers towards the end of inquiries. This is already the general practice in the Transport Select Committee, and I can confirm that we have found it helpful, but I would not particularly want to encourage Committees to call Ministers both early and late in their inquiries as para 23(iii) of your note seems to do. I would therefore like to suggest that the start of this sub-paragraph might be amended to read as follows:

"Although Ministers frequently give evidence early in Select Committee inquiries, there can be more advantage in their giving evidence in the final stages, when the Committee ..." etc.

I hope that a note on these lines will discourage Committees from asking Ministers to appear before them twice.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, other Cabinet colleagues, David Waddington, Richard Luce and Sir Robin Butler.

Yours ever

Michael

MICHAEL PORTILLO



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WHITEHALL LONDON SW1 2HB

D/S of S/PS/22/29V

TELEPHONE 01-218 9000

DIRECT DIALING 01-218 2111/3

CH/EXCHEQUER	
REC.	27 JUL 1989
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COPIES TO	
	26 July 1989

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mp

Dear John,

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE WORKING OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Thank you for a sight of the draft Memorandum of Evidence attached to your letter to Geoffrey Howe of 17th July. I am sorry to have missed your original deadline for comment.

I am broadly content that the draft covers the points which are of major concern to my Department. I have some misgivings, however, about the terms of paragraph 23(iii) dealing with Ministerial appearances before Committees. I think the main point here is that different Departments have different experiences of how Committees work; notwithstanding the enormous amount of work generated by the Defence Committee - and, by the time of the Recess, they will have published nine reports in five months - direct Ministerial involvement in their Inquiries is not the norm. The SDE Inquiry is the only one in which I would automatically become involved and, of the nine Inquiries mentioned, evidence has been given by MOD Ministers in only one other case. You will appreciate that, against this background, any suggestion that Ministers should automatically give evidence to an Inquiry would be a step change for us and could involve my Department in a great deal of additional work which it would be difficult bear. I should therefore like to propose the following revised form of words for that particular paragraph:

The Rt Hon John Wakeham MP



"Where the Committee is having to consider particularly difficult issues or where members would wish to explore apparent conflicts of evidence and criticisms of Government made by other witnesses, there can be great advantage in Ministers giving evidence. And Ministers are, of course, very willing to do this. Logically, however, the Government would expect that, where Ministers are required to give evidence, they would be called, for the most part, when a Committee is in the final stages of its Inquiry. It would seem sensible for evidence at other stages to be given by the officials nominated by the Department".

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, other Cabinet colleagues, David Waddington, Richard Luce and Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely,
George
George Younger

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FROM: B O DYER (Parly Clerk)
DATE: 24 July 1989
EXTN: 4520

CHANCELLOR

cc Chief Secretary
Financial Secretary
Paymaster General
Economic Secretary
Miss O'Mara - MG
Mr O'Donnell - EA

Mr Hibbert - CSO

PS/IR
Mr Caulder - IR

OK
for the
Use option (a) for
three full or approx. for the
Ch/Content to adopt
option e as Mr Dyer
suggests? Or would
B be better as it clearly
places the ball in Mitchell's
court - option e would only defer decision
of whether and how we answer these PQs?

AUSTIN MITCHELL PQs

----- A large number of written questions are being tabled daily by the hon Member for Great Grimsby - or his research assistant(s) - in the run-up to the recess (you will recall the same thing happened prior to prorogation last year). For example, 44 questions were tabled on Friday for answer tomorrow and a further 14 for answer on Thursday. In addition, he has tabled a number of questions to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which, if not answered before the recess (highly likely), will fall to the new enlarged CSO and, therefore, to us after 31 July.

2. Many of the questions require detailed statistical data, often over long periods, to be collected or collated by officials. Given this, there is little chance of our being able to answer the vast majority before the summer recess.

3. Our normal practice, just before the House rises, is to answer outstanding questions in terms of promising to write to the hon Members concerned; this is so they do not have to wait eleven weeks for a reply. In handling Mr Mitchell's questions, however, I suggest we suspend this courtesy. There are a variety of options (or a combination of options) open to us:

- a) we give him holding replies on the last day and make him wait until October for substantive answers;

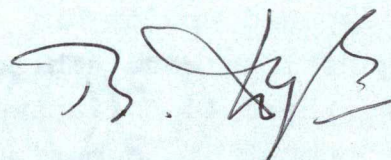
----- attached

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- b) we answer outstanding questions saying that we have been unable to collate the information in the time available, so leaving the ball in his court;
- c) we use the formula "No, the Official Report is not a statistical digest", where appropriate;
- d) we bat away as many as possible on the grounds of "disproportionate expense"; or
- e) we group all his outstanding questions on the last day with the response "I shall answer when resources permit".

4. Option e) is the most attractive. It does not offend House procedure or propriety and leaves us in the driving seat.



B O DYER

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TUESDAY 25th JULY

Questions for Written Answer, continued

23 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing for those with and those without investment income in 1988-89 the numbers in each income band up to a lower limit of £100,000 benefiting from mortgage interest relief; and if he will provide an estimate for 1989-90.

IR

24 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing the amount by which child benefit could be increased on a revenue neutral basis if it was made taxable, the gross and net cost to the Exchequer of raising the benefit to £20 for the first child and £15 for subsequent children, the estimated saving to public authorities as a result of the consequential reduction in other benefits, the tax saving from the abolition of the additional allowance for income tax purposes and the estimated distribution of individual child benefits by range of income and tax status of their parents/guardians.

IR

25 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing for each year since 1979 the increase in mortgage funds for housing together with the increase in the value of the houses sold by reference to stamp duty or otherwise.

IR

26 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing for: (a) two-earner families with a wife's earnings election and (b) other higher-rate taxpayers by tax category, his estimate of the number and distribution of incomes, together with the average unearned income and average amount of mortgage interest relief in each income band in each category in the current financial year; and if he will add a table showing the gains and losses to the Exchequer from the application of separate taxation of husbands and wives as proposed for 1990.

IR

27 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing: (i) the gain to the Exchequer in the current financial year at present rates of tax of abolishing the age allowances and (ii) the cost of retaining them without the income limit.

IR

28 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing the estimated direct revenue cost in income tax at the standard and higher rates in a full year at current rates of: (a) mortgage interest relief, (b) life assurance pensions relief, (c) retirement annuity premium relief and (d) investment income relief or occupational pension funds.

IR

29 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing for those above and for those below pensionable age, the estimated number of tax units with an investment income in 1989-90 by range of total income up to a lower limit of £100,000, distinguishing between single persons, one-earner and two-earner married couples, together with the average investment income in each case; and if he will provide separate figures for those with an investment income of more than £200.

IR

TUESDAY 25th JULY

Questions for Written Answer, continued

- 30 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing the gross and net aggregate rateable value of those offices in the City of London referred to in his answer of 14th November 1988, Official Report, columns 525-6, the current poundage, and his Department's estimate of the current rental and capital value per square foot. ¶ IR
- 31 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing for each financial year since 1978-79 the amount of tax raised by: (i) personal income taxes, (ii) national insurance contributions, (iii) capital taxes, (iv) corporate taxes, (v) indirect taxes and (vi) rates; and if he will give a forecast for the current financial year on a full-year basis. ¶ IR
- 32 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing how many names were excluded from the 190,000 households referred to in the footnote to his answer of 29th July 1988, Official Report, columns 729-30, concerning households kept out of higher rate tax by wife's earnings exemption, and the distribution of the 190,000 plus any excluded wives on the same basis as in the table; and if he will provide an estimate of the saving to the revenue if: (i) mortgage interest and (ii) other allowances were not deducted from total income in assessing liability to higher rate tax. ¶ IR
- 33 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing for those above and those below age 65 years the estimated number of tax units and their tax liability in the current financial year in each range of total income up to a lower limit of £100,000 divided into single persons and one-earner and two-earner married couples together; and if he will include the number of females within each category and their tax liability. ¶ IR
- 34 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing by range of income and tax status an estimate of the saving to the Exchequer in a full year by setting off investment income against mortgage interest qualifying for relief under the MIRAS scheme. ¶ IR
- 35 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing for direct tax allowances and reliefs listed in Table 6.5 of Cm. 288-I, The Government's Expenditure Plans, his estimate of the cost in a full year at current rates of incomes and tax for items which will cost the Exchequer £10 million or more. ¶ IR
- 36 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing for manufacturing, other industrial and commercial companies, and the financial sector the same information as given in Table 14.3 of the Annual Abstract of Statistics 1989 for 1979 and 1987; and if he will add a forecast for 1988. ¶ CSO/PA1

TUESDAY 25th JULY

Questions for Written Answer, continued

37 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing his estimate of the number of cases in which higher rate relief will be given on mortgage interest payments in the current financial year together with: (a) the gross amount of interest qualifying for relief, (b) the amount of higher rate relief and (c) the number of recipients of working age and their distribution by personal tax category and by range of total income together with the average amount of relief given at the standard and higher rate of tax; and if he will add his forecast of the additional cost to the Revenue on the basis of this year's figures and rates of tax of mortgage relief as a result of the separate taxation of married couples. ¶

IR

38 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing for women above and for those below pensionable age, the estimated number of tax units with an investment income in 1989-90 by range of total income up to a lower limit of £100,000, distinguishing between single persons, one-earner and two-earner married couples, together with the average investment income in each case; and if he will provide separate figures for those with an investment income of more than £200. ¶

IR

39 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing by range of income and tax status an estimate of the saving to the Exchequer in a full year from abolishing, respectively, the upper earnings limit for national insurance contributions and higher rate relief on mortgage interest. ¶

IR

40 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report figures for each year since 1979 showing the net increase in the amounts available for investment of life assurance and pension schemes to the nearest £million; and if he will provide a forecast for 1987 and for 1988. ¶

IR

41 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report his estimate of the yield from an increase of one pence in the standard rate of tax and in the employees' and employers' national insurance contribution, respectively, in 1989-90; and if he will divide the tax figure to show the yield from earned and unearned income. ¶

IR

42 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report his estimate of the cost to the Exchequer of an increase of £100 in each of the allowances and reliefs for income tax at 1989-90 income and tax levels; and if he will provide corresponding figures on the basis of the 1990-91 regime for the independent taxation of husbands and wives. ¶

IR

43 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report his forecast of the yield in revenue from corporation tax and advance corporation tax in the current financial year and in 1990-91 net of double taxation relief; and if he will include figures showing the amount of tax collected as a percentage of gross trading profit and as a percentage of the amount paid out in dividends. ¶

IR

TUESDAY 25th JULY

Questions for Written Answer, continued

- 44 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report: (i) his estimate of the employers' notional contribution to notionally funded and unfunded schemes, (ii) figures for the Civil Service showing the percentage contribution made by the Government and its employees and (iii) his best estimate of the proportionate split between sources of pension income in the cases quoted in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph 22 of the Inland Revenue paper, using as a basis the information given in his answer of 11th November 1988, Official Report, column 235. ¶ IR
- 45 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report tables showing for those above and for those below pensionable age, the estimated number of tax units in receipt of more than £200 gross in composite rate interest in 1987-88 and the average amount received, together with his estimates for 1989-90; and if he will divide the figures to show the amounts for those above and those below pensionable age by range of total income up to a lower limit of £100,000 and distinguishing between single persons, one-earner and two-earner married couples. ¶ IR
- 46 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report tables showing the estimated number of tax units under age 65 years in each income band up to a lower limit of £100,000 in receipt of mortgage interest relief in the current financial year and the percentage with investment income; and if he will also distinguish between single persons, one-earner and two-earner married couples. ¶ IR
- 47 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report tables showing for those above and for those below pensionable age, the estimated number of tax units in receipt of more than £200 gross in lettings and other incomes from property and the average amount received, together with his estimates for 1989-90; and if he will divide the figures to show the amounts for those above and those below pensionable age by range of total income up to a lower limit of £100,000 and distinguishing between single persons, one-earner and two-earner married couples. ¶ IR
- 48 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report tables showing for one-earner and two-earner married couples under 65 years and married couples over 65 years the number of tax units paying less and the number paying more tax in each income band up to a lower limit of £100,000 at 1989-90 rates of tax in the event of the proposed allowances for separate taxation of husbands and wives being replaced by a transferable allowance of £3,000 for each spouse; and if he will include figures of the consequential changes in tax yield. ¶ IR
- 49 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report tables showing for those above and for those below pensionable age, the estimated number of tax units in receipt of more than £200 gross in National Savings accounts and bonds and the average amount received, together with his estimates for 1989-90; and if he will divide the figures to show the amounts for those above and those below pensionable age by range of total income up to a lower limit of £100,000 and distinguishing between single persons, one-earner and two-earner married couples. ¶ IR

TUESDAY 25th JULY

Questions for Written Answer, continued

50 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report tables showing by range of total income up to a lower limit of £100,000, for those above and those below pensionable age and distinguishing between single persons, one-earner and two-earner married couples, the estimated saving to the Exchequer of abolishing all allowances and reliefs other than the basic single and married allowances; and if he will provide similar tables on the 1990 basis of separate taxation of husbands and wives.

IR

51 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether the payment of a lump sum pension is subject to the maximum pension rules; whether the estimated cost of the lump sum referred to in the table given in his answer of 11th November 1988, Official Report, columns 357-358, include: (i) those who commute their pensions for a lump sum and (ii) provision for the beneficiary to replace the lump sum by an increase in pension; and at what is the cost to the Exchequer.

IR

52 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his estimate of the change in the number of higher-rate taxpayers in the current financial year; and if he will publish in the Official Report a table showing his estimate of the distribution by range of total income and tax category together with the total tax liability.

IR

53 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will bring up to date the figures given in his written reply dated 16th December 1986, Official Report, column. 438, concerning the specified rate of return on net assets for each water authority together with a forecast for 1990-91; and if he will include figures showing; (i) the net assets in 1987-88 in each case, (ii) the realised profit in 1987-88 in percentage and cash terms, (iii) the corresponding forecast for the current financial year, (iv) the target rate of return after privatisation and (v) the estimated effect the target rate would have on the cash margin in the current financial year.

TRANS
DOE

54 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing for wives with earned income on Inland Revenue records the estimated distribution of the number of such wives in 1989-90 by wife's total income and the couples' joint total income together with the estimated revenue loss from wife's earnings elections and the estimated further loss on the 1990-91 basis of separate taxation of husbands and wives.

IR

55 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report tables showing for women above and for those below pensionable age, the estimated number of tax units paying income tax in 1989-90 directly or indirectly and the estimated amount of tax payable in a full year at the marginal rate, dividing the figures to show the amounts by range of total income up to a lower limit of £100,000 and distinguishing between single persons, one-earner and two-earner married couples; and if he will include tables showing his estimate of the amount of tax which would be payable by such tax units in 1989-90 on the basis of separate taxation for husbands and wives as proposed for 1990.

IR

TUESDAY 25th JULY

Questions for Written Answer, continued

- 14 **Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby):** To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the increase in bank lending since May 1979; where the additional funds have come from; what effect he expects the increase in interest rates since the beginning of the year to have on banking profits; and what is his forecast of the increase in revenue to the Exchequer therefrom. ¶
- 15 **Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby):** To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his estimate of the gain to the revenue in the current financial year if the anomalies described in the in the discussion paper in the taxation of life assurance, including pension and annuity business were to be corrected in favour of a neutral regime. ¶
- 16 **Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby):** To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his estimate of the real and the taxable value of benefits subject to: (i) special and (ii) general rules, together with the estimated revenue therefrom. ¶
- 17 **Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby):** To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the direct and indirect cost to the Exchequer of export promotion; how much is recovered in fees; what is his estimate of the effect in terms of: (a) increased exports and (b) the real exchange rate. ¶
- 18 **Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby):** To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will bring up to date his reply dated 6th April 1987, Official Report, column 78, concerning taxable benefits together with an estimate of: (i) the amount by which the scale charges for company cars still fall short of the true value of the benefit and (ii) the yield from taxing the full value. ¶
- 19 **Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby):** To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will bring up to date the information provided in the written reply dated 16th March 1983, Official Report, column 164, concerning the amount of tax collected on income earning and other assets held overseas; and if he will include in the table an estimated for each year of the total value of such assets, whether or not they have been assessed to tax. ¶
- 20 **Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby):** To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will include in the Official Report his forecast of the increase in rent income in 1989-90 as a result of the relaxation of rent controls, the amount which will be subject to tax and the expected yield and the extra amount which the Exchequer will have to pay out to tenants by way of rent relief. ¶
- 21 **Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby):** To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will provide a further breakdown of the numbers below £15,000 given in his answer of 29th July 1988, Official Report, columns 729-30, concerning the distribution of mortgage interest relief and the percentage with investment income in the form of his answer of 27th March 1987, Official Report, column 310; and if he will provide a forecast for 1989-90. ¶
- 22 **Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby):** To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing the estimated number and direct revenue cost of wife's earnings elections in a full year by range of incomes at 1989-90 income and tax levels, together with tables for: (i) husbands and (ii) wives showing: (a) the numbers separately assessed by range of total income of the relevant spouse and (b) the aggregate total income of each spouse and the aggregate investment income of each spouse; and if he will add a table showing the additional direct revenue cost on the basis of the 1990-91 proposals for the separate taxation of husbands and wives. ¶

Miss
O'Mara
MG1

IR

IR

Trans
DTI

IR

IR

Trans
DOE

IR

IR

TUESDAY 25th JULY

Questions for Written Answer, continued

- 56 **Mr Austin Mitchell** (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report tables showing for those above and for those below pensionable age, the estimated number of tax units paying income tax and their income tax liability as a proportion of their total income in a full year at 1989-90 rates, by range of total income up to a lower limit of £100,000 distinguishing between single persons, one-earner and two-earner married couples, and if he will add figures showing what effect his proposals for the separate taxation of husbands and wives will have on the numbers of tax units and the proportion paid in tax by: (a) one-earner and (b) two-earner married couples. ¶
- 13 **Mr Austin Mitchell** (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will provide statistics on the taxation of farming partnerships on the same basis as that given in his answer of 14th November 1988, Official Report, columns 515-16; and what is his estimate of the saving to the revenue from aggregating the incomes of spouses in such partnerships for income tax purposes. ¶

IR

IR

THURSDAY 27th JULY

Orders of the Day

- 1 TELECOMMUNICATIONS (PREMIUM RATE SERVICES AND CONSUMER REPRESENTATION) BILL: Second Reading.

*Questions for Written Answer**Notices given on Friday 14th July*

- 1 Mr Andrew Mitchell (Gedling): To ask the Prime Minister, if she will list her official
W engagements for Thursday 27th July.

Notices given on Monday 17th July

- 1 Mr Michael Stern (Bristol North West): To ask the Prime Minister, if she will list
W her official engagements for Thursday 27th July

Notices given on Tuesday 18th July

- 1 Mr Harry Cohen (Leyton): To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many
W different standard formats of computerised letters his Department has in response to those raising their concerns about Her Majesty's Government's proposals for the future of the Health Service; and how many in total have been sent out to date.

Notices given on Thursday 20th July

- 1 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what
W is his estimate of the effect of high interest rates on: (a) the inflow of short-term capital, (b) the supply of credit and (c) the supply of money; and if he will publish in the Official Report a table showing for each year since 1970 the rate of inflation, the average rate of interest, the public sector deficit, the trade deficit and the estimated inflow of foreign funds.

- 2 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what
W was the inflow of foreign funds in 1988 to finance the purchase of: (a) British companies and (b) other assets; and if he will provide an estimate for this year to date.

- 3 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer,
W whether he will provide an up to date estimate of the yield of stamp duty on the sale of domestic premises in the current financial year and in 1988-89, with a breakdown by regions where possible.

- 4 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer,
W whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing his estimate of the number and amount of incomes subject to tax in the current financial year above a total of £100,000 by steps of £100,000 to the nearest 100 persons in each case and for 1978-79, the amount of tax collected in each case in 1978-79 and his estimate of the amount of tax payable in respect of the current financial year.

- 5 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer,
W whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing in terms of 1985 prices the increase in real disposable incomes between 1959 and 1973, 1973 and 1979, and 1979 to date together with: (a) the contribution made by: (i) the overseas trade surplus/deficit on current account and (ii) the revenue from North Sea oil and gas and (b) the annual percentage increase in real disposable incomes in each period less the contribution from (a).

Mr
O'Donnell
EA2

IR

THURSDAY 27th JULY

Questions for Written Answer, continued

- 6 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing the estimated yield in the current financial year of a business rate for: (a) offices, (b) shops, cafes and restaurants, (c) hotels and boarding houses based on the capital value and (d) other business premises equal to, respectively: (i) five per cent in the City of London, (ii) four per cent in the rest of London, (iii) three per cent in the Metropolitan districts and (iv) two per cent elsewhere of the United Kingdom, together with his estimate of the yield in 1988-89 under the present arrangement and under the new arrangements. CSO
- 7 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much of the Budget surplus in 1988 was used to neutralise the effect on credit and the money supply of the current account deficit; and how this was achieved. EA2
- 8 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if further to his reply dated 10th April, Official Report, column 348, concerning the number of tax units and tax liability by range of total income, he will publish the underlying assumption concerning the increase in incomes together with his present estimate of the increase in average and median earnings in 1989-90 compared to 1988-89 and 1987-88 for manual and non-manual workers, respectively. JR
- 9 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the amount of sterling lending to overseas residents in each of the past 10 years. EA2
- 10 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he has revised the figures given in his reply dated 10th April Official Report, column 348, concerning the number of tax units and tax liability by range of total income; and whether he will publish in the Official Report a table breaking down the figures to show: (i) steps of £1000 between £10,000 and £15,000 (ii) for £15,000-£17,499 (iii) £20,000-£24,999 and (iv) £100,000 and above. IR
- 11 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will bring up to date the information on output per head of the working population given in his reply of 8th November Official Report, column 111. Mr Hubbard
EA1
- 12 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing for each region the number of rated domestic premises in 1988-89, the estimated rate yield based on a charge of 1 per cent. of the capital value and the estimated cost of a rate-free deduction of, respectively, £10,000 per dwelling, £5000 for each resident member as defined for electoral purposes, and £5000 for each dependent resident. Trans
D.O'E
- 13 Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will publish in the Official Report his estimate of the monetary counterpart of the current account deficit in 1988 and in the first five months of the current year. EA2
- 14 Mr Tim Smith (Beaconsfield): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he expects to make an announcement about the appointment of a chairman of the Financial Reporting Council. Trans
DTI

THURSDAY 27th JULY

Questions for Written Answer, continued

- 15 **Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby):** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, what is his estimate of the percentage United Kingdom content of United Kingdom exports in 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1988 or the latest available date of finished manufactures less erratics made in the United Kingdom, taking into account the increase in imports of basic materials, semi-manufactures and intermediate finished manufactures.
- 16 **Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby):** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, what percentage of the value of United Kingdom exports in 1988 of: (a) finished and (b) semi-finished manufactures, including and excluding erratics, consists of re-exports; and what were the figures in 1979, 1970 and 1959.
- 17 **Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby):** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, whether he will publish in the Official Report his estimate of the percentage United Kingdom content in 1959, 1970 and 1988 of United Kingdom exports of, respectively, motor cars, commercial vehicles, clothing, textiles, mechanical engineering products and electrical engineering products, taking into account the increase in imports of materials and components used in each of these industries and assuming that the import content of exports is the same as that for the sector as a whole.
- 18 **Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby):** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, whether he will publish in the Official Report the balance of trade in manufactures between the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, Holland and Belgium, respectively, and the rest of the European Economic Community in 1978 and in 1988, together with the change in relative export prices for such goods.
- 19 **Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby):** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, if, further to his reply of 30th November Official Report, column 251, showing the balance of trade in manufactures in terms of 1988 prices, he will provide the outturn figure for 1988 and that for the first five months of 1989 together with the figures for each year in current prices; and if he will provide the corresponding figures for trade in manufactures with the European Economic Community.
- 20 **Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby):** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, whether he will publish a table in the Official Report showing in terms of sterling at specified rates of exchange the overall and per capita surplus/deficit on trade in manufactures in 1959, 1967, 1977 and 1988 in the case of the United Kingdom, United States of America, Germany, Japan, France and Italy.
- 21 **Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby):** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, whether he will publish in the Official Report a table showing for each year since 1970 the United Kingdom share of the volume of main manufacturing country exports based on 1970 and 1985 as base years.
- 22 **Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby):** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, whether he will publish in the Official Report for the latest available date the figures for the share of the United Kingdom market taken by imports from the European Economic Community corresponding to Ratio 1 in table 10 of the Monthly Digest of Statistics; and if he will provide a forecast in both cases for December 1988 based on the trade returns.
- 23 **Mr Tim Smith (Beaconsfield):** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, what action he proposes to take following the United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission's assertion of extra-territorial jurisdiction implicit in the terms of the exemption order issued on 15th May 1989.

By then

31 July

for

the new
enlarged
CSO?



CH/EXCHEQUER	
REC.	25 JUL 1989
ACTION	IST
COPIES TO	

QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

✓ 25/7

25 July 1989

Dear Geoffrey,

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE WORKING OF
SELECT COMMITTEES

John Wakeham copied to me his letter of 17 July enclosing a draft of the Memorandum of Evidence which it is intended to give to Sir Peter Emery early next week. I have two comments to make on the draft memorandum.

I fully take the force of Cecil Parkinson's proposal that Ministers should be invited to give evidence at the end of an inquiry but I think that we should recognise that a variety of practices exist already. There are occasions - usually when a Select Committee is looking at a major area of policy - when Ministers appear at both the outset and the final stage of an inquiry. Our experience with the Home Affairs Committee, on the other hand, is that for most inquiries officials can manage the opening scene-setting perfectly well without a Minister being present and that if a Minister appears at all, it is towards the end of the inquiry. I think that we should leave ourselves with as much flexibility as possible on this question of Ministerial appearances and so I suggest that this ... sub-paragraph should be revised on the lines of the attached draft.

Paragraph 27 seems to strike too negative a note. Not only does the Government have no objection in principle to inquiries while it is reviewing policy, we at least have found them to be of considerable value. The Home Affairs Committee's inquiry into Broadcasting last session is an example. I suggest paragraph 27 is therefore amended as follows:

/The Government

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, MP
Lord President of the Council

The Government has no objection in principle to inquiries in such circumstances - indeed, they can be of considerable help in clarifying policy options - but Committees should recognise that Government evidence in such cases will be circumscribed by ...

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, other Cabinet colleagues, David Waddington, Richard Luce and Sir Robin Butler.

Lower -

Dwyer.

**REVISED PARAGRAPH 23(iii)**

Whether Ministers give evidence in Select Committee inquiries and if so, at what point in the inquiry varies from case to case. Where a Committee is conducting an inquiry which addresses major areas of policy, there can be advantage in a Minister giving evidence in the opening stages in order to explain authoritatively the Government's position and then again in the final stages when the Committee is close to formulating its conclusions and recommendations. A second appearance by Ministers could allow Committees to explore apparent conflicts of evidence and criticisms of Government made by other witnesses and to test out any suggestions for future action made by others. On other occasions, especially with more narrowly focussed inquiries, it will be sufficient for Ministers to give evidence only once, if at all: whether they appear at an early stage or towards the end will depend on the nature and subject of the inquiry, as well as on the general practice of the Committee.



FROM: D I SPARKES
DATE: 25 July 1989

*C/
FST would like
to raise a prayer
Tony*

MR B O DYER (PARLY CLERK)

cc PS/Chief Secretary
PS/Financial Secretary
PS/Paymaster General
PS/Economic Secretary
Miss O'Mara - MG
Mr O'Donnell - EA

Mr Hibbert - CSO

PS/IR
Mr Calder - IR

mp

AUSTIN MITCHELL PQS

The Chancellor was grateful for your minute of 24 July concerning the deluge of Austin Mitchell PQs that has recently been tabled. He thinks we should adopt the "Disproportionate expense" formula in all those cases to which it applies and agrees that, to the remainder, we should reply "I shall answer when resources permit".

D.I.S.

DUNCAN SPARKES

FROM: J P MCINTYRE (ST1)
DATE: 25 JULY 1989
EXT : 4799

CHANCELLOR

cy/
OK to transfer ?

cc PS/Chief Secretary
Miss Peirson
Mr Francis
Mrs Chaplin
Parliamentary Clerk

[Handwritten signature]

215

FIRST ORDER QUESTIONS, 19 OCTOBER: MRS BECKETT ON CHILD POVERTY

Mrs Margaret Beckett has put down a Question, which is likely to be reached, as follows:-

"To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next expects to meet representatives of the Child Poverty Action Group to discuss child poverty".

2. There is a case for transferring this to DSS, the Department to which the CPAG would usually make their representations. And, of course, Mrs Beckett is a spokes-woman on social security matters. There is also the point that we see the benefit system as the means of tackling poverty rather than the tax system.

3. DSS officials are, however, reluctant to take this on. They argue that the Question goes wider than the benefit system and cite the recent discussion of the proposal by Frank Field to bring back child tax allowances.

4. A Written Question on the CPAG was taken by Treasury Ministers earlier this year (see attached) but this was couched in very general terms and did not refer to child poverty.

5. On balance, I would recommend transfer to DSS. Do you agree?

JM

J P MCINTYRE

Mr. Major: Unemployment in the United Kingdom has fallen by 939,000 since June 1987.

23. **Mr. Robert G. Hughes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the growth in total employment since June 1987.

Mr. Major: Total employment in the United Kingdom has increased by 1,152,000 since June 1987.

Productivity

24. **Mr. Hind:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the annual average increase in productivity for the whole economy since 1980.

Mr. Lilley: Whole economy productivity has increased, on average, by 2.5 per cent. a year since 1980, faster than any other major industrialised country apart from Japan.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the annual average increase in productivity for the whole economy since 1980.

Mr. Major: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply my hon. Friend the Economic Secretary gave earlier today to my hon. Friend the Member for Lancashire, West (Mr. Hind).

59. **Mr. Allen Stewart:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the annual average increase in productivity for the whole economy since 1980.

73. **Mr. Patrick Thompson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the annual average increase in productivity for the whole economy since 1980.

98. **Mr. David Davis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the annual average increase in productivity for the whole economy since 1980.

Mr. Major: I refer my hon. Friends to the reply my hon. Friend the Economic Secretary gave earlier today to my hon. Friend the Member for Lancashire, West (Mr. Hind).

49. **Mr. Anthony Coombs:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what are the latest figures for the growth of manufacturing productivity in the economy.

Mr. Major: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply my right hon. Friend the Paymaster General gave earlier today to my hon. Friend the Member for Bexhill and Battle (Mr. Wardle).

Child Poverty Action Group

25. **Mr. Graham:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he last met representatives from the Child Poverty Action Group: and what matters were discussed.

Mr. Brooke: My right hon. Friend has not met representatives from the Child Poverty Action Group, although he has seen their Budget representation.

97. **Mr. Turner:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he last met representatives from the Child Poverty Action Group; and what matters were discussed.

Mr. Major: I refer the hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend the Paymaster General gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Renfrew, West and Inverclyde (Mr. Graham).

Company Profitability

27. **Mr. Moss:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the rise in the profitability of non-North sea industrial and commercial companies in the latest year for which figures are available.

95. **Mr. Quentin Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the rise in the profitability of non-North sea industrial and commercial companies in the latest year for which figures are available.

Mr. Major: The net real rate of return for non-North sea industrial and commercial companies was estimated in the Financial Statement and Budget Report to have risen in 1988 to almost 11 per cent., its highest level for over 20 years.

Shareholders

28. **Mr. Cash:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his latest estimate of the total number of shareholders in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Peter Brooke: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave earlier today to my hon. Friend the Member for Wyre (Mr. Mans).

50. **Mrs. Maureen Hicks:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his latest estimate of the total number of shareholders in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Norman Lamont: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply my right hon. Friend the Paymaster General gave earlier today to my hon. Friend the Member for Wyre (Mr. Mans).

Government Expenditure

29. **Mr. Neil Hamilton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the fall in general Government expenditure, excluding privatisation proceeds, as a percentage of gross domestic product since 1982-83.

74. **Mr. Gerald Bowden:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the fall in general Government expenditure, excluding privatisation proceeds, as a percentage of gross domestic product since 1982-83.

Mr. Major: The 1989 Financial Statement and Budget Report gave a figure of 39½ per cent. for the ratio of general Government expenditure (excluding privatisation proceeds) to gross domestic product in 1988-89. The corresponding figure for 1982-83 was 46½ per cent.

Balance of Trade

30. **Mr. Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his latest estimate for the balance of trade in manufacturing for the current year.

Mr. Major: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Middlesbrough (Mr. Bell) on 19 April, at column 168.

48. **Mr. Terry Lewis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his latest estimate for the balance of trade deficit in the current year.

94. **Mr. Galloway:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his latest estimate for the balance of trade deficit in the current year.



FROM: D I SPARKES
DATE: 26 July 1989

MR J P McINTYRE (ST1)

cc PS/Chief Secretary
Miss Peirson
Mr Francis
Mrs Chaplin
Parliamentary Clerk

pm

FIRST ORDER QUESTIONS, 19 OCTOBER: MRS BECKETT ON CHILD POVERTY

The Chancellor was grateful for your minute of 25 July. He agrees that this PQ should be transferred to DSS.

D.I.

DUNCAN SPARKES



Permanent Secretary
H M TREASURY

~~Alex~~ Ch

I enclose the following
Review Body reports:

DDRB (see p 2, 3 & 8)

Professions allied to
medicine

Nurses + Midwives

AFRB

As you know, these should
only be ~~be~~ seen by you and
the Chancellor.

PEM would like to have a
further look at the reports when
the Chancellor has finished with
them.

Sina

17/1

CONFIDENTIAL



FROM: B O DYER (Parly Clerk)
DATE: 26 July 1989
EXTN: 4520

CHANCELLOR

cc Chief Secretary
Financial Secretary
Paymaster General
Economic Secretary
Mr J Gieve - IDT
Mrs J Chaplin
Mrs J Thorpe

CABINET : THURSDAY 27 JULY 1989
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

The Lord President may report the current state of play on the Government's legislative programme. Bills still to complete their passage through Parliament include:

Companies Bill	- awaiting Commons' remaining stages
Children Bill	- awaiting Commons' remaining stages
Employment Bill	- awaiting Lords' committee stage
Football Spectators Bill	- awaiting Commons' remaining stages
Local Government & Housing Bill	- still in committee in Lords
Self-Governing Schools (Scotland) Bill	- awaiting Lords' committee stage

The following Government Bills are expected to receive Royal Assent on 27 July:

Finance Bill
Electricity Bill
Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Bill
Human Organ Transplants Bill
Representation of the People Bill
Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill

In the week the House returns (17 October), business for the Commons is likely to include: the Defence White Paper debate, an [†] Opposition day, remaining stages of the Children Bill (probably 2 days), the Companies Bill and, of course, Treasury First Order Questions on Thursday 19 October.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B O Dyer', written in a cursive style.

B O DYER

† now unlikely

To: PS/CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

cc	PS/Economic Secretary
	Mr Hibbert CSO
	Mr Erritt CSO
	Mr Ward BSO
	Mr Harvey DTI S1
	Mr M Lewis Treasury Sols
	Mr Lewis BSO
	Mr Norton BSO
	Dr Butchart DTI S1

From: C J SPILLER
Head Branch 4
Room 1.207
BSO Newport
GTN 1211 2403

Spiller

26 July 1989

*ch/ one hopes that once BSO becomes one of your departments they will drop this extraordinarily laboured style of submission.
If contact to sign, pls do so at back page- DIS*

MINISTERIAL DIRECTION UNDER SECTION 9(1)(a) OF THE STATISTICS OF TRADE ACT 1947

ISSUE

1. The Chancellor is invited to sign the enclosed Direction under section 9(1)(a) of the 1947 Act. By virtue of the Transfer of Functions (Economic Statistics) Order 1989 (which establishes the enlarged Central Statistical Office as a department of the Chancellor) he is empowered to give such directions with effect from 31 July 1989. The Direction will authorise the disclosure of certain information obtained by the new CSO to the Department of Trade and Industry.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Chancellor signs the Direction.

TIMING

3. To ensure the continuity of operations it would be desirable to have a decision from the Chancellor on 31 July 1989 or as soon as possible thereafter.

BACKGROUND

4. The enlarged Central Statistical Office includes within it the Business Statistics Office (BSO) and other parts of the former Statistics Divisions of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). Up to the formation of the new office, statistical information in respect of individual businesses was routinely transferred to other parts of DTI for

statistical and certain other purposes. Henceforth a Ministerial Direction will be required to permit the continued disclosure of such information in the possession of the new Chancellor's Department to the DTI.

5. Interdepartmental disclosure of information is governed by section 9 of the Statistics of Trade Act 1947. This section forbids disclosure of individual estimates or returns and information relating to individual businesses obtained under the 1947 Act except where:

- a. the subject of the data gives written consent, or
- b. the data are disclosed to government departments for the purposes of their functions in accordance with directions of the Minister whose department holds that data.

An example of an existing Direction (which remains in force under the provisions of the Transfer of Functions (Economic Statistics) Order 1989) is at Annex A.

6. When the Transfer of Functions Order creating the new Department comes into operation the Business Statistics Office (BSO) will no longer be part of the DTI. Nevertheless, transfers of information between the two will need to continue. Besides from statistical purposes the DTI use the data for a wide range of other purposes eg in relation to the promotion of inward investment and in providing an information service for industry.

7. There are currently in existence a number of Directions signed by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and his predecessors which sanction disclosure to other government departments. The Transfer of Functions Order is to ensure that they remain in force so as to provide for the continuity of operations.


8. However, the Transfer of Functions Order cannot provide for the continued transfer of information to DTI as such transfers - previously within a single department - were not the subject of Directions. Instead, they were governed by Ministerial authorisations - not strictly legally necessary but deemed prudent to safeguard the uses to which the information was put. Copies of the two existing authorisations are attached (Annex B). On the formation of the new department these authorisation will cease to have any effect and to comply with the law will need to be replaced by a new Ministerial Direction.

ARGUMENT

9. After the creation of the new enlarged CSO, the DTI will continue to need access to information in the possession of the BSO.

10. To comply with the legal requirements of the Act a Ministerial Direction signed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer needs to be in place. The attached draft Direction is confined to the purposes sanctioned by the previous authorisations.

11. Parliamentary Counsel were consulted about this when the Transfer of Functions (Economic Statistics) Order 1989 was being drafted. They confirmed a new Ministerial Direction was necessary.



C J SPILLER

DIRECTION UNDER SECTION 9(1)(a) OF THE STATISTICS OF TRADE ACT 1947 AND SECTION 27(2)(a) OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK ETC ACT 1974

I, DAVID IVOR, BARON YOUNG OF GRAFFHAM, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, in pursuance of the powers conferred on me by Section 9 of the Statistics of Trade Act 1947 and in pursuance of Section 27(2)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, hereby direct that information about any undertaking consisting of:

the names and addresses of the persons carrying on the undertaking;

the nature of the undertakings activities;

the numbers of persons of different descriptions who work in the undertaking;

the addresses or places where activities of the undertaking are, or were, carried on;

the nature of the activities carried on there; or

the numbers of persons of different descriptions who work or worked in the undertaking.

being information in the possession of the Business Statistics Office of my Department obtained under the provisions of Section 1 of the Statistics of Trade Act 1947, may be disclosed to the Health and Safety Executive for the purposes of the Executive.

Dated this 29th day of March 1989

Signed [Signature]
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry



I, NORMAN BERESFORD TEBBIT, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, hereby authorise the use within my Department of information relating to the name, address, industrial classification, employment and date of commencement of operations, relating to and provided by individual undertakings, being information in the possession of the Business Statistics Office of my Department and obtained under the provisions of sections 1 and 2 of the Statistics of Trade Act, 1947, wherever that is necessary for the purpose of the exercise of functions of my Department in providing an information service for industry; in relation to the appreciation of economic trends which relate to developments in regional and local employment; in the administration of assistance to industry; and in the promotion of regional industrial development.

All earlier authorisations given in this behalf are hereby revoked.

Dated this *8th* day of *March* 1985

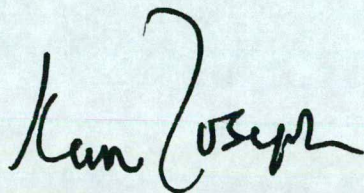
Signed *Norman Tebbit*

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

I, KEITH SINJOHN JOSEPH, Secretary of State for Industry, hereby authorise the use within my Department of information relating to the name, address, industrial classification and employment provided by individual undertakings under foreign ownership or control, being information in the possession of the Business Statistics Office of my Department and obtained under the provisions of sections 1 and 2 of the Statistics of Trade Act, 1947, whenever that is necessary for the discharge of a function of my Department in relation to the promotion of inward investment.

Dated this 5th day of February 1980

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Sinjohn Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Secretary of State for Industry

Am.
26/7

Confidential

- 1. MR MORTIMER (HE)
- 2. PS/CHANCELLOR

FROM A HOUMANN
 DATE 26-7-89
 x4722

Ch. content?
OK -
26/7

cc Sir P Middleton

- Mr Anson
- Mr Monck
- Mrs Case (HE)
- Mr Robson (DM)
- Mr Edwards (LG)
- Mr White (LG)

OD(T)(89)2: AVIATION AND MARITIME SECURITY BILL

1. Mr Channon's memorandum of 18 July seeks policy approval for the Aviation and Maritime Security Bill, for which he secured provisional space in the 1989-90 legislative programme. We suggest you approve the Bill subject to the understanding that DTp take account of the "new burdens" policy as it will affect local authority ports and airports.

Background

2. The Secretary of State for Transport is proposing to tighten up security measures at ports and airports and to ratify several international conventions on terrorism. The new powers would allow security staff greater scope to direct traffic, inspect property and enforce security standards. The powers are similar to those available to factory inspectors.

3. There are no running cost implications and no plans to increase the size of DTp's aviation and maritime security inspectorates.

Confidential

4. There may however be cost implications for the industries concerned, as the inspectors will have powers to direct managers to carry out work deemed necessary to prevent acts of terrorism. DTP are unable at present to quantify these costs which will be passed on to passengers and other users in the form of higher charges.

5. The same will apply to ports and airports operated by local authorities. The increased costs may lead in turn to some additional pressure on public expenditure. Under the "new burdens" policy DTP is required to offset increases in local authority expenditure from within its existing provision.

6. We agree with DTP's assessment that the benefits of improved security should outweigh the marginal extra costs. The attached draft letter gives approval to the Bill and reminds DTP of the "new burdens" policy.

Alan Houmann
ALAN HOUMANN

Pse type first

Confidential
Draft letter from Chancellor to
Secretary of State for Transport.

OD(T)(89)2: AVIATION AND MARITIME SECURITY BILL

I have seen a copy of the OD(T) paper on Aviation and Maritime Security and agree in principle to the contents of the Bill.

My agreement is on the understanding that the increased costs to local authorities (paragraph 10) ^{are} ~~is~~ met from within existing provision, under the "new burdens" policy, and will not add to overall public expenditure.

[Handwritten initials]

FROM: A G TYRIE
DATE: 27 July 1989
cc: Financial Secretary
Mr Dyer
Mr Forman MP
Mrs Chaplin

CHANCELLOR

TREASURY QUESTIONS

I attach a draft letter for you to send to John Smith in response to his letter of 18 July. This benefits from some suggestions from Brian Dyer.

AG

A G TYRIE

OK in

Please type for signature

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR TO THE RT HON JOHN SMITH MP

TREASURY QUESTIONS

Thank you for your ~~helpful~~ letter of 18 July ^{following} ~~agreeing to respond to~~ my suggestion that oral questions falling outside the first thirty, ^{after} ~~following~~ the Table Office shuffle, ^{and which things will be checked on or by me} should be withdrawn. As I mentioned to you, the purpose of this is to reduce the burden on ~~my~~ ^{in the Treasury & Revenue Departments} officials in providing and processing largely repetitive answers to the two hundred or more oral questions currently left standing on the Order Paper.

As you will appreciate, for this to succeed, Members on both sides will have to withdraw ^{Comp below} the questions that ~~will not be reached orally~~ ^{Re first thirty}, preferably within two days of their appearance on the Order Paper; merely unstarring them would fail to meet the purpose.

I agree with you that we should start this system in the Autumn, beginning with Treasury questions in November - those that are tabled on 2 November for answer on 16 November. I shall ^{do my best is} ~~of course~~ ensure that Conservative Members remove their excess questions and I should be ^{most} grateful if you could do the same for Labour Members.

cc PS/Financial Secretary
Mr Dyer
Mrs Chaplin
Mr Tyrie
Mr N Forman MP



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-270 3000

28 July 1989

Rt Hon John Smith MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

BF 29/8

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Smith'.

TREASURY QUESTIONS

Thank you for your letter of 18 July following my suggestion that oral questions falling outside the first thirty after the Table Office shuffle, and which therefore will clearly not be reached, should be withdrawn. As I mentioned to you, the purpose of this is to reduce the burden on officials in the Treasury and Revenue Departments in providing and processing largely repetitive answers to the two hundred or more oral questions currently left standing on the Order Paper.

As you will appreciate, for this to succeed, Members on both sides will have to withdraw (or have withdrawn on their behalf) the questions that come below the first thirty, preferably within two days of their appearance on the Order Paper; merely unstarring them would fail to meet the purpose.

I agree with you that we should start this system in the Autumn, beginning with Treasury questions in November - those that are tabled on 2 November for answer on 16 November. I shall do my best to ensure that Conservative Members remove their excess questions and I should be most grateful if you could do the same for Labour Members.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Lawson'.

NIGEL LAWSON

cc Sir P Middleton
Mr Anson
Mr Monck
Mr Mortimer
Mrs Case
Mr Robson
Mr Edwards
Mr White



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-270 3000

28 July 1989

+
Mr Houmann,
[Signature]

Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department of Transport
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 3EB

Dear Secretary of State

OD(T)(89)2: AVIATION AND MARITIME SECURITY BILL

I have seen a copy of the OD(T) paper on Aviation and Maritime Security and agree in principle to the contents of the Bill.

My agreement is on the understanding that the increased costs to local authorities (paragraph 10) are met from within existing provision, under the "new burdens" policy, and will not add to overall public expenditure.

Yours sincerely
Nigel Lawson

NIGEL LAWSON

*[Approved by the Chancellor
and signed on his behalf]*



FROM: D I SPARKES
DATE: 31 July 1989

MR C J SPILLER (BSO)

cc PS/Financial Secretary
Mr Sedgwick
Mr Hibbert (CSO)
Mr Erritt (CSO)
Mr Ward (BSO)
Mr Harvey (DTI S1)
Mr M Lewis Treasury Sols
Mr Lewis (BSO)
Mr Norton (BSO)
Dr Butchart (DTI S1)

mp

MINISTERIAL DIRECTION UNDER SECTION 9(1)(a) OF THE STATISTICS OF TRADE ACT 1947

You minuted the Chancellor on 26 July inviting him to sign a Direction under section 9(1)(a) of the Statistics of Trade Act 1947. This he has now done and it is attached.

D.I.

DUNCAN SPARKES

**DIRECTION UNDER SECTION 9(1)(a) OF THE STATISTICS OF
TRADE ACT 1947**

I, NIGEL LAWSON, CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, in pursuance of the powers conferred on me by section 9 of the Statistics of Trade Act 1947, hereby direct that the undermentioned estimates, returns and information in the possession of my Central Statistical Office and obtained under the provisions of sections 1 and 2 of that Act may be disclosed to the Department of Trade and Industry for the purposes herein described:

- i. Any individual estimates and returns, and information relating to and provided by individual undertakings may be disclosed for the purposes of the exercise of any functions of that Department in relation to the compilation or publication of statistical information.

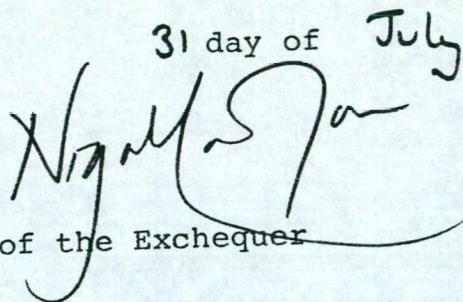
- ii. Information consisting of the name, address, industrial classification, employment and date of commencement of operations, relating to and provided by individual undertakings, may be disclosed for the purposes of the exercise by that Department of its functions in providing an information service for industry; in relation to the appreciation of economic trends which relate to developments in regional and local employment; in the administration of assistance to industry; in the promotion of regional industrial development and in relation to the promotion of investment in the United Kingdom from sources outside the United Kingdom.

Dated this

31 day of July

1989

Signed



Chancellor of the Exchequer

From: The Rt. Hon. John Smith, Q.C., M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

1 August 1989

The Rt Hon Nigel Lawson MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
Parliament Street
LONDON SW1P 3AG

Nigel Lawson

TREASURY QUESTIONS

Thank you for your letter of 28 July.

After the questions have been put down for November we will respond if there is a withdrawal of questions by Conservative Members.

*Yours sincerely
John Smith*

À Mr Dyer
cc FST
ms Chaplin
Mr Tyne
Mr Forman

*BF to MPW
BF to MPW
10/10/89
~~23/10~~
27/10
BF to MPW
13/10/89*

✓

*Ch/ You will recall,
multilateral disarmament
starts next time round.
NORJ. - MPW.
13/10*

UNCLASSIFIED

*NDC @ G
M*

*Ch/
Comments on
allocation? Want
to confine 1st order
to just 3 Ministers or carry on with 4?*



FROM: Assistant Parliamentary Clerk
DATE: 8 September 1989
EXTN: 5008

CHANCELLOR

015

TREASURY FIRST ORDER QUESTIONS - THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 1989

I attach for your consideration a proposed allocation of the Questions tabled for Oral answer on Thursday 19 October between yourself, the Chief Secretary, the Financial Secretary and the Economic Secretary. I have allocated the questions on the basis that all four Commons Ministers will be answering. But given the current Paymaster General cannot participate in Commons Oral questions you may wish to consider whether the Financial Secretary and Economic Secretary should take it in turn to answer questions, and questions be taken by yourself, the Chief Secretary and one other Treasury Minister.

2. Out of the first sixteen and the first twenty Questions the allocation of each Minister is:

	1st 16	1st 20
Chancellor	4	5
Chief Secretary	4	5
Financial Secretary	4	5
Economic Secretary	4	5

3. You asked to be kept in touch about the Questions from Joan Walley and Gareth Wardell asking : "when you last met his ministerial colleagues in G7 to discuss measures to protect the environment". I am pleased to report that DOE officials have agreed to take on these questions and the transfer letters have been sent.

UNCLASSIFIED

4. You agreed to Mr McIntyre's minute of 25 July (attached) which proposed the transfer to DSS of the Margaret Beckett PQ (now No.12) about meeting representatives of the Child Poverty Action Group. The matter was pushed to the Secretary of State's office but it would seem the Department even at ministerial level is adamant that the question should remain with Treasury.

Coh. A. Hutson

C A HUTSON

We had a long battle over this. Mr Newton apparently adamant not to take it as he feels sure Mrs Beckett has deliberately asked you the PQ as she will follow up with a supplementary on child tax allowances. I'm not convinced. *NOT worth further.*

*Only 4 Com questions in first 20. V. ~~poor~~ disappointing.
2. All 4 Comms min? take part (each time).
3. A few changes in allocation marks.*

UNCLASSIFIED

M=.

FROM: J P MCINTYRE (ST1)
 DATE: 25 JULY 1989
 EXT : 4799

CHANCELLOR

cc PS/Chief Secretary
 Miss Peirson
 Mr Francis
 Mrs Chaplin
 Parliamentary Clerk 10/2

FIRST ORDER QUESTIONS, 19 OCTOBER: MRS BECKETT ON CHILD POVERTY

Mrs Margaret Beckett has put down a Question, which is likely to be reached, as follows:-

"To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next expects to meet representatives of the Child Poverty Action Group to discuss child poverty".

2. There is a case for transferring this to DSS, the Department to which the CPAG would usually make their representations. And, of course, Mrs Beckett is a spokes-woman on social security matters. There is also the point that we see the benefit system as the means of tackling poverty rather than the tax system.

3. DSS officials are, however, reluctant to take this on. They argue that the Question goes wider than the benefit system and cite the recent discussion of the proposal by Frank Field to bring back child tax allowances.

4. A Written Question on the CPAG was taken by Treasury Ministers earlier this year (see attached) but this was couched in very general terms and did not refer to child poverty.

5. On balance, I would recommend transfer to DSS. Do you agree?

?

JM

J P MCINTYRE

Mr. Major: Unemployment in the United Kingdom has fallen by 939,000 since June 1987.

23. **Mr. Robert G. Hughes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the growth in total employment since June 1987.

Mr. Major: Total employment in the United Kingdom has increased by 1,152,000 since June 1987.

Productivity

24. **Mr. Hind:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the annual average increase in productivity for the whole economy since 1980.

Mr. Lilley: Whole economy productivity has increased, on average, by 2.5 per cent. a year since 1980, faster than any other major industrialised country apart from Japan.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the annual average increase in productivity for the whole economy since 1980.

Mr. Major: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply my hon. Friend the Economic Secretary gave earlier today to my hon. Friend the Member for Lancashire, West (Mr. Hind).

59. **Mr. Allen Stewart:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the annual average increase in productivity for the whole economy since 1980.

73. **Mr. Patrick Thompson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the annual average increase in productivity for the whole economy since 1980.

98. **Mr. David Davis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the annual average increase in productivity for the whole economy since 1980.

Mr. Major: I refer my hon. Friends to the reply my hon. Friend the Economic Secretary gave earlier today to my hon. Friend the Member for Lancashire, West (Mr. Hind).

49. **Mr. Anthony Coombs:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what are the latest figures for the growth of manufacturing productivity in the economy.

Mr. Major: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply my right hon. Friend the Paymaster General gave earlier today to my hon. Friend the Member for Bexhill and Battle (Mr. Wardle).

Child Poverty Action Group

25. **Mr. Graham:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he last met representatives from the Child Poverty Action Group: and what matters were discussed.

Mr. Brooke: My right hon. Friend has not met representatives from the Child Poverty Action Group, although he has seen their Budget representation.

97. **Mr. Turner:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he last met representatives from the Child Poverty Action Group; and what matters were discussed.

Mr. Major: I refer the hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend the Paymaster General gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Renfrew, West and Inverclyde (Mr. Graham).

Company Profitability

27. **Mr. Moss:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the rise in the profitability of non-North sea industrial and commercial companies in the latest year for which figures are available.

95. **Mr. Quentin Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the rise in the profitability of non-North sea industrial and commercial companies in the latest year for which figures are available.

Mr. Major: The net real rate of return for non-North sea industrial and commercial companies was estimated in the Financial Statement and Budget Report to have risen in 1988 to almost 11 per cent., its highest level for over 20 years.

Shareholders

28. **Mr. Cash:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his latest estimate of the total number of shareholders in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Peter Brooke: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave earlier today to my hon. Friend the Member for Wyre (Mr. Mans).

50. **Mrs. Maureen Hicks:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his latest estimate of the total number of shareholders in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Norman Lamont: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply my right hon. Friend the Paymaster General gave earlier today to my hon. Friend the Member for Wyre (Mr. Mans).

Government Expenditure

29. **Mr. Neil Hamilton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the fall in general Government expenditure, excluding privatisation proceeds, as a percentage of gross domestic product since 1982-83.

74. **Mr. Gerald Bowden:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the fall in general Government expenditure, excluding privatisation proceeds, as a percentage of gross domestic product since 1982-83.

Mr. Major: The 1989 Financial Statement and Budget Report gave a figure of 39½ per cent. for the ratio of general Government expenditure (excluding privatisation proceeds) to gross domestic product in 1988-89. The corresponding figure for 1982-83 was 46¼ per cent.

Balance of Trade

30. **Mr. Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his latest estimate for the balance of trade in manufacturing for the current year.

Mr. Major: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Middlesbrough (Mr. Bell) on 19 April, at column 168.

48. **Mr. Terry Lewis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his latest estimate for the balance of trade deficit in the current year.

94. **Mr. Galloway:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his latest estimate for the balance of trade deficit in the current year.



FROM: D I SPARKES
DATE: 26 July 1989

MR J P McINTYRE (ST1)

cc PS/Chief Secretary
Miss Peirson
Mr Francis
Mrs Chaplin
Parliamentary Clerk -2

FIRST ORDER QUESTIONS, 19 OCTOBER: MRS BECKETT ON CHILD POVERTY

The Chancellor was grateful for your minute of 25 July. He agrees that this PQ should be transferred to DSS.

D.I.

DUNCAN SPARKES

TREASURY 1ST ORDER QUESTIONS : THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 1989

1	La	Mr Geoffrey Robinson (Coventry North West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the public spending planning total for 1989-90.	MR MACAUSLAN GEP1	+17 CST
2	La	Mr Tony Worthington (Clydebank and Milngavie): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many letters he has received from members of the public on the high level of interest rates or their impact on the cost of mortgages.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST C/EX
3	C	Mr Malcolm Moss (North East Cambridgeshire): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the level of business investment for the latest full year for which figures are available.	MR RITCHIE EB	C/EX
4	La	Mr Bernie Grant (Tottenham): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the negative transfer of financial resources from the 17 most heavily indebted countries since 1983 to the latest available year.	MR WALSH IF1	+18 EST
5	La	Mrs Ann Taylor (Dewsbury): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met Ministerial colleagues in the G7 to discuss third world debt.	MR WALSH IF1	+11 C/EX
6	La	Mr John McFall (Dumbarton): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the latest estimate of privatisation revenue.	MR BENT PE2	FS
7	La	Mr David Lambie (Cunningham South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the current short-term interest rate in: (a) the United Kingdom and (b) Germany.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST CST
8	La	Mr Allan Roberts (Bootle): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the United Kingdom base rate in May 1988; and what it is at the present time.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
9	C	Mr John Bowis (Battersea): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the current receipts from income tax; and what were the comparable figures for 1979.	IR	FST
10	La	^{RT HON} Mr Alan Williams (Swansea West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the Government's response to the International Monetary Fund's proposals by Mr Michel Camdessus for a quota increase.	MR WALSH IF1	C/EX
11	La	Mr Win Griffiths (Bridgend): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met the managing director of the International Monetary Fund and the President of the World Bank to discuss third world debt.	MR WALSH IF1	+5 C/EX
12	La	Margaret Beckett (Derby South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next expects to meet representatives of the Child Poverty Action Group to discuss child poverty.	MR MCINTYRE ST1	FST
13	^{SECRET} C	Mr Jim Sillars (Glasgow, Govan): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his latest estimate of the expected balance of payments deficit in the current year.	EA2	CST FST
14	C	Mr William Hague (Richmond, Yorks): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his estimate of the effect on debt interest costs of the public sector debt repayments over the last two years.	MR MOWL PSF	EST CST
15	C	Mr Lewis Stevens (Nuneaton): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the latest figures for output per hour worked in: (a) the United Kingdom, (b) Japan and (c) Germany.	MR DAVIES MPI	FST EST
16	La	Mr Peter Snape (West Bromwich East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the public spending outturn for: (a) health and (b) education.	MR TAYLOR GEP3	CST
17	La	Mr Andrew Smith (Oxford East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the public spending planning total.	MR MACAUSLAN GEP1	+1 CST
18	La	Mr Thomas Graham (Renfrew West and Inverclyde): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the negative transfer of financial resources from the 17 most heavily indebted countries since 1983 to the latest available year.	MR WALSH IF1	+4 EST
19	La	Mr Richard Caborn (Sheffield Central): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps the Treasury is taking to ensure adequate levels of efficiency and value for money in Her Majesty's Government's public expenditure programmes.	MR RAYNER FM	CST EST
20	C	Mr Martin Brandon-Bravo (Nottingham South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the increase in the number of weekly net business start-ups in 1988-89 over 1987-88.	MR BURR IAE3	C/EX

21	La	^{27 HCN} Mr Gordon Oakes (Halton): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many bands of marginal income tax rates exist: (a) in the United Kingdom and (b) in other G7 countries.	IR	FST CST
22	La	Dr Norman A. Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what progress has been made in implementing the debt reduction plan of United States Treasury Secretary, Mr Nicholas Brady.	MR WALSH IF1	EST
23	La	Mr James Lamond (Oldham Central and Royton): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the current short-term United Kingdom interest rate; and what are the interest rates of each of the G7 countries.	MR MELLISS IF2	CST EST
24	La	Mr David Blunkett (Sheffield, Brightside): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on allocations from the contingency reserve in the current financial year.	MR RICHARDSON GEP2	CST
25	C	Mr Nicholas Bennett (Pembroke): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on his policy objectives for income tax.	IR	FST
26	La	Mr Alan W. Williams (Carmarthen): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the Government's response to the International Monetary Funds proposals by Mr Michel Camdessus for a quota increase.	MR WALSH IF1	EST
27	C	Mr Alan Amos (Hexham): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the total value of United Kingdom private sector investment over the last three years as a percentage of gross domestic product.	MR HIBBERD EA1	CST
28	C	Mr David Knox (Staffordshire Moorlands): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement about the current level of interest rates.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
29	La	Dr John Reid (Motherwell North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what plans he has to broaden the value-added tax base.	C+E	EST
30	C	Mr John Butterfill (Bournemouth West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much indirect taxation has increased as a proportion of disposable income in real terms since 1984.	MR MATTHEWS ETS	EST
31	La	Mr William O'Brien (Normanton): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the United Kingdom base rate was in May 1988; and what it is today.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
32	La	Mr Terry Patchett (Barnsley East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the United Kingdom base rate was in May 1988; and what it is today.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
33	La	Mr Jack Thompson (Wansbeck): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met Ministerial colleagues in the G7 to discuss third world debt.	MR WALSH IF1	EST
34	C	Mrs Maureen Hicks (Wolverhampton North East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent steps he has taken to control the rate of inflation.	MR HIBBERD EA1	EST
35	La	Mr Chris Mullin (Sunderland South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much value-added tax for a family on average male earnings with two children represented as a percentage of their gross earnings in 1978-79; and what percentage it represents at the latest available date.	MR MATTHEWS ETS	EST
36	C	Mr Quinten Davies (Stamford and Spalding): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his latest information on the investment ^{incentives} of British manufacturing industry.	CSO	
37	DEM	Mr David Alton (Liverpool, Mossley Hill): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the present rate of inflation in the United Kingdom and in each other European Community country.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
38	C	Mr Christopher Gill (Ludlow): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what consideration he has given to exempting non-quoted companies from corporation tax.	IR	FST
39	C	Mr Kenneth Hind (West Lancashire): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the level of business investment for the latest full year for which figures are available.	MR RITCHIE EB	CST
40	La	Mildred Gordon (Bow and Poplar): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what progress has been made in implementing the debt reduction plan of United States Treasury Secretary, Mr Nicholas Brady.	MR WALSH IF1	EST

41	La	Mr Gavin Strang (Edinburgh East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met Ministerial colleagues in the G7 to discuss third world debt.	MR WALSH IF1	EST
42	La	Mr Greville Janner (Leicester West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the current short-term interest rate in: (a) the United Kingdom and (b) Germany.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
43	La	Mr Andrew Faulds (Warley East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the deficit in visible trade in the first and second quarters of 1989.	EA2	CST
44	La	Mr Bruce Grocott (The Wrekin): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the negative transfer of financial resources from the 17 most heavily indebted countries since 1983 to the latest available year.	MR WALSH IF1	EST
45	La	Mr Bill Michie (Sheffield, Heeley): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the forecast used for inflation for 1989-90 and 1990-91 in the 1989 Public Expenditure Survey; and what are his latest estimates for inflation in these periods.	MR HIBBERD EA1	EST
46	C	Mr Andrew Hunter (Basingstoke): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the latest figures for the growth of real personal disposable income for the latest year for which figures are available.	MR MATTHEWS ETS	FST
47	La	Mr Ted Rowlands (Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the public spending planning total for 1989-90.	MR MACAUSLAN GEP1	CST
48	C	Mr Henry Bellingham (North West Norfolk): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, by how much adult unemployment has fallen over the last three years.	MR RITCHIE EB	CST
49	La	Mr George Buckley (Hemsworth): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what representations he has received from the Confederation of British Industry and the Trades Union Congress about the level of public expenditure.	MR MACAUSLAN GEP1	CST
50	La	Mr Dennis Turner (Wolverhampton South East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met ministerial colleagues in the G7 to discuss third world debt.	MR WALSH IF1	EST
51	C	Mr Tony Marlow (Northampton North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the average annual increase in total investment in the United Kingdom in the 1980's; and what are the equivalent figures for the other European Community countries.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
52	La	Mr Calum Macdonald (Western Isles): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the latest estimate of privatisation revenue.	MR BENT PE2	FST
53	C	Mr Robert G. Hughes (Harrow West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the latest figures for growth of manufacturing output.	MR HIBBERD EA1	CST
54	La	Mr Keith Vaz (Leicester East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what fiscal assistance he is proposing to give to the footwear and leather industries.	MR GILHOOLY FP	FST
55	La	Mr Bruce George (Walsall South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the United Kingdom's balance of payments deficit in the first quarter and second quarter of 1989.	EA2	CST
56	C	Sir David Price (Eastleigh): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the average annual rate of real economic growth in the United Kingdom through the 1980's.	MR HIBBERD EA1	CST
57	La	Mr Barry Sheerman (Huddersfield): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the public spending planning total.	MR MACAUSLAN GEP1	CST
58	La	Dr John Gilbert (Dudley East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what progress has been made in implementing the debt reduction plan of United States Treasury Secretary, Mr Nicholas Brady.	MR WALSH IF1	C/EX
59	La	Mr Ted Garrett (Wallsend): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the United Kingdom's balance of payments deficit in the first quarter and second quarter of 1989.	C50	
60	La	Mr Robert Parry (Liverpool, Riverside): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the United Kingdom base rate in May 1988; and what it is today.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST

TREASURY 1ST ORDER QUESTIONS : THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 1989

61	C	Mr Ian Taylor (Esher): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what evidence he has of the amount of use being made by companies of employee share ownership plans as a result of the measures announced in his March budget.	IR	FST
62	C	Mr Irvine Patnick (Sheffield, Hallam): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what change there has been in payroll giving to charities as a result of the measures announce in his March budget.	IR	FST
63	La	Marjorie Mowlam (Redcar): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much value-added tax for a family on average male earnings with two children represented as a percentage of their gross earning in 1978-79; and what percentage it represents at the latest available date.	MR MATTHEWS ETS	EST
64	C	Mr James Cran (Beverley): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the latest figure for the total number of people in work; and what was the figure 10 years ago.	MR RITCHIE EB	CST
65	C	Mr David Sumberg (Bury South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what evidence he has to the level of take-up of personal equity plans as a result of the measures announced in his March budget.	IR	FST
66	La	Mr John Maxton (Glasgow, Cathcart): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will state how many bands of marginal income tax rates exist: (a) in the United Kingdom and (b) in other G7 countries.	IR	FST
67	C	Mr Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met the Governor of the Bank of England; and what was discussed.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
68	La	Mr Jimmy Dunnachie (Glasgow, Pollok): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next expects to meet representatives of the Child Poverty Action Group to discuss child poverty.	MR MCINTYRE ST1	CST
69	La	Mr Tom Pendry (Stalybridge and Hyde): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the rate of growth of exports over the last 10 years; and what has been the rate of growth of imports.	CSO	
70	La	^{RT HON} Mr John Morris (Aberavon): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much value-added tax for a family on average male earnings with two children represented as a percentage of their gross earnings in 1978-79; and what percentage it represents at the latest available date.	MR MATTHEWS ETS	C/EX
71	La	Mr Elliot Morley (Glanford and Scunthorpe): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if, in his discussions with the Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, he has raised the subject of pay rises awarded to directors of companies in 1989.	MR HIBBERD EA1	CST
72	DEM	Mr Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he has revised the forecast for the balance of payments in 1989 and 1990 since the budget.	EA2	CST
73	La	Mr Paul Boateng (Brent South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on allocations from the contingency reserve in the current financial year.	MR RICHARDSON GEP2	CST
74	C	Mr David Martin (Portsmouth South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the average annual rate of economic growth in the United Kingdom in the 1980s.	CSO	
75	La	Ms Joyce Quin (Gateshead): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the rate of growth of exports over the last 10 years; and what has been the rate of growth of imports.	CSO	
76	La	Mr Stuart Randall (Kingston upon Hull West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the rate of growth of exports over the last 10 years; and what has been the rate of growth of imports.	CSO	

77	La	Mr Alfred Morris (Manchester, Wythenshawe): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much value-added tax for a family on average male earnings with two children represented as a percentage of their gross earning in 1978-79; and what percentage it represents at the latest available date.	MR MATTHEWS ETS	C/EX
78	La	Dawn Primarolo (Bristol South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what plans he has to broaden the value-added tax base.	C+E	EST
79	La	Mr Ronnie Campbell (Blyth Valley): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps the Treasury is taking to ensure adequate levels of efficiency and value for money in Her Majesty Government's public expenditure programmes.	MR RAYNER FM	EST
80	La	Mr Jeremy Corbyn (Islington North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next expects to meet representatives of the Child Poverty Action Group? to discuss child poverty.	MR MCINTYRE ST1	CST
81	La	Mr Roland Boyes (Houghton and Washington): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on allocations from the contingency reserve in the current financial year.	MR RICHARDSON GEP2	CST
82	C	Mr Roger Knapman (Stroud): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on progress towards the introduction of independent taxation in April 1990.	IR	FST
83	La	Mr Rhodri Morgan (Cardiff West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if, in his discussions with the Director General of the Confederation of British Industries, he has raised the subject of pay rises awarded to directors of companies in 1989.	MR HIBBERD EAI	CST
84	La	Mr Robin Corbett (Birmingham, Erdington): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent representations he has received from institutions in the City on privatisation issues.	MR BENT PE2	FST
85	C	Mr George Walden (Buckingham): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the increase in the number of weekly net business start-ups in 1988-89 over 1987-88.	MR BURR IAE3	CST
86	La	Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next intends to discuss international debt with other finance ministers; and if he will make a statement.	MR WALSH IFI	EST
87	La	Mr Tom Clarke (Monklands West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps the Treasury is taking to ensure adequate levels of efficiency and value for money in Her Majesty's Government's public expenditure programmes.	MR RAYNER FM	CST
88	La	Mr Ray Powell (Ogmore): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what plans he has to broaden the value-added tax base.	C+E	EST
89	La	Mr Allen McKay (Barnsley West and Penistone): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the latest estimate of privatisation revenue.	MR BENT PE2	FST
90	La	Mr Ted Leadbitter (Hartlepool): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the current short-term United Kingdom interest rate; and what are the interest rates of each of the G7 countries.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
91	C	Mr James Couchman (Gillingham): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his estimate of the effect on debt interest costs of the public sector debt repayments over the last two years.	MR MOWL PSF	EST
92	La	Joan Ruddock (Lewisham, Deptford): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the public spending planning total.	MR MACANUSLAN GEP1	CST
93	C	Mr David Davis (Boothferry): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the average annual increase in total investment in the United Kingdom in the 1980s; and what are the equivalent figures for the other European Community countries.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
94	La	Mr Jim Cousins (Newcastle upon Tyne Central): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent representations he has received from institutions in the City on privatisation issues.	MR BENT PE2	FST

95	C	Mr John Ward (Poole): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his estimate of the increase in manufacturing profitability during the latest full year for which figures are available.	MR HIBBERD EA1	CST
96	La	Mr Robert N. Wareing (Liverpool, West Derby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what plans he has to reduce the deficit in the United Kingdom's balance of payments.	EA2	CST
97	La	Mr Derek Fatchett (Leeds Central): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the deficit in visible trade in the first and second quarters of 1989.	CSO	
98	La	Mr Keith Bradley (Manchester, Withington): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on allocations from the contingency reserve in the current financial year.	MR RICHARDSON GEP2	CST
99	La	Mr Alex Eadie (Midlothian): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the deficit in manufacturing trade in the first and second quarters of 1989.	CSO	
100	La	Mr Terry Fields (Liverpool, Broadgreen): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the deficit in visible trade in the first and second quarters of 1989.	EA2	CST
101	C	Mr Tim Boswell (Daventry): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the course of inflation during the summer adjournment.	MR HIBBERD EA1	EST
102	C	Mr Patrick McLoughlin (West Derbyshire): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the latest figures for the growth of real personal disposable income for the latest year for which figures are available.	CSO	
103	La	Mr Terry Lewis (Worsley): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the current short-term United Kingdom interest rate; and what are the interest rates of each of the G7 countries.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
104	C	Mr Andrew Mitchell (Gedling): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on his recent meeting in Washington with the International Monetary Fund.	MR WALSH IFI	EST
105	La	Dr Jeremy Bray (Motherwell South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what representations he has received from the Confederation of British Industry and the Trades Union Congress about the level of public expenditure.	MR MACAUSLAN GEP1	CST
106	C	Mr David Curry (Skipton and Ripon): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his estimate of the increase in manufacturing profitability during the latest full year for which figures are available.	MR HIBBERD EA1	CST
107	C	Mr Ian Bruce (South Dorset): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the growth of: (a) total investment and (b) total consumption over the past seven years.	CSO	
108	C	Mr Charles Wardle (Bexhill and Battle): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the latest figures for output per hour worked in: (a) United Kingdom, (b) Japan and (c) Germany.	MR DAVIES MPI	EST
109	C	Mr Cecil Franks (Barrow and Furness): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, by how much total employment has risen since 1983.	MR RITCHIE EB	CST
110	La	Mr Frank Field (Birkenhead): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the deficit in visible trade in the first and second quarters of 1989.	CSO	
111	La	Mr Brian Wilson (Cunninghame North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the current level of interest rates.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
112	La	Mr Harry Ewing (Falkirk East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the deficit in manufacturing trade in the first and second quarter of the current year.	CSO	
113	La	Dr Lewis Moonie (Kirkcaldy): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if, in his discussions with the Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, he has raised the subject of pay rises awarded to directors of companies in 1989?	MR HIBBERD EA1	CST

114	La	Mr John Battle (Leeds West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next expects to meet representatives of the Building Societies Association to discuss the level of United Kingdom interest rates.	MISSOMARA MG1	EST
115	La	Mr Ken Eastham (Manchester, Blackley): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the deficit in manufacturing trade in the first and second quarters of 1989.	CSO	
116	La	Mr Alan Meale (Mansfield): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the forecast used for inflation for 1989-90 and 1990-91 used in the 1989 Public Expenditure Survey; and what are his latest estimates for inflation in these periods.	MR HIBBERD EA1	EST
117	La	Mr Thomas McAvoy (Glasgow, Rutherglen): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the economic impact of top rate tax cuts.	MR DAVIES MPI	CST
118	La	Mr Jim Marshall (Leicester South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the planning total for public spending in each of the next three years.	MR MACAUSLAN GEP1	CST
119	La	Mr Bob Cryer (Brentford South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will make a statement on the prevailing level of interest rates and the effect on manufacturing industry.	MR GRICE MG2	EST
120	C	Mr Graham Riddick (Colne Valley): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his estimate of the effect on debt interest costs of the public sector debt repayments over the last two years.	MR MOWL PSF	EST
121	La	Mr John McAllion (Dundee East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the economic impact of top rate tax cuts.	MR DAVIES MPI	CST
122	C	Mr David Harris (St. Ives): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his latest information on the investment intentions of British manufacturing industry.	CSO	
123	C	Mr Hugh Dykes (Harrow East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the effect to date of the high interest rate policy on countering inflation.	MR DAVIES MPI	EST
124	C	Mr Patrick Thompson (Norwich North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, by how much adult unemployment has fallen over the last three years.	MR RITCHIE EB	CST
125	La	Mr David Young (Bolton South East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many letters he has received from members of the public on the level of interest rates or their impact on the cost of mortgages.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
126	La	Mr Eddie Loyden (Liverpool, Garston): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the economic impact of top rate tax cuts.	MR DAVIES MPI	CST
127	La	Mr Stuart Bell (Middlesborough): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next expects to meet representatives of the Building Societies Association to discuss the level of United Kingdom interest rates.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
128	La	Mr Ian McCartney (Makerfield): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the economic impact of top rate tax cuts.	MR DAVIES MPI	CST
129	La	Mr Sidney Bidwell (Ealing, Southall): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer when he next expects to meet representatives of the Building Societies Association to discuss the level of United Kingdom interest rates.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
130	Lev	Mr Dave Nellist (Coventry South East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many bands of marginal income tax rates exist: (a) in the United Kingdom and (b) in other G7 countries.	IR	FST
131	La	Mr William McKelvey (Kilmarnock and Loudoun): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the latest estimate of privatisation revenue.	MR BENT PE2	FST
132	La	Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if, in his discussions with the Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, he has raised the subject of pay rises awarded to directors of companies in 1989.	MR HIBBERD EA1	CST
133	La	Mr Ron Brown (Edinburgh, Leith): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what representations he has received from the Confederation of British Industry and the Trades Union Congress about the level of public expenditure.	MR MACAUSLAN GEP1	CST

134	La	Mr Paul Murphy (Torfaen): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many bands of marginal income tax rates exist: (a) in the United Kingdom and (b) in other G7 countries.	IR	FST
135	La	Mr Alun Michael (Cardiff South and Penarth): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the forecast used for inflation for 1989-90 and 1990-91 used in the 1989 Public Expenditure Survey; and what are his latest estimates for inflation in these periods.	MR HIBBERD EA1	EST
136	La	Mr Frank Cook (Stockton North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent representations he has received from institutions in the City on privatisation issues.	MR BENT PE2	FST
137	La	Mr Henry McLeish (Fife Central): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the public spending outturn for 1989-90.	MR TAYLOR GEP3	CST
138	La	Mr Harry Barnes (Derbyshire North East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the outcome of the recent annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank; and if he will make a statement.	MR WALSH IF1	EST
139	La	Audrey Wise (Preston): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many letters he has received from members of the public on the level of interest rates or their impact on the cost of mortgages.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
140	La	Mr Ron Leighton (Newham North East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the current short-term United Kingdom interest rate; and what are the interest rates of each of the G7 countries.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
141	La	Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the outcome of the recent annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank; and if he will make a statement.	MR WALSH IF1	EST
142	La	Mr David Hinchcliffe (Wakefield): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met with the managing director of the International Monetary Fund and the President of the World Bank to discuss Third World debt.	MR WALSH IF1	EST
143	C	Mr Bowen Wells (Hertford and Stortford): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on his recent meeting in Washington with the World Bank.	MR WALSH IF1	EST
144	La	Mr Peter Hardy (Wentworth): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the negative transfer of financial resources from the 17 most heavily indebted countries since 1983 to the latest available year.	MR WALSH IF1	EST
145	La	Mr Eric Illsley (Barnsley Central): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the current short-term interest rate in: (a) the United Kingdom and (b) Germany.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
146	C	Mr John Heddle (Mid Staffordshire): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the growth of: (a) total investment and (b) total consumption over the past seven years.	CSO	
147	La	Mr David Clelland (Tyne Bridge): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, which countries have overtaken the United Kingdom in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's list of the leading industrial economies in the last three years.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
148	La	Mr Robert Hughes (Aberdeen North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met representatives of the Equal Opportunities Commission concerning priorities for public expenditure in 1990-91.	MR MACAUSLAN GEP1	CST
149	C	Mr Keith Mans (Wyre): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, by how much adult unemployment has fallen over the past three years.	MR RITCHIE EB	CST
150	La	Mr Eric Martlew (Carlisle): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the public spending outturn for 1989-90.	MR TAYLOR GEP3	CST
151	La	Mr John Hughes (Coventry North East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he has any plans to meet representatives of the workplace nurseries campaign.	IR	FST
152	La	Ms Diane Abbott (Hackney North and Stoke Newington): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next expects to meet representatives of the Child Poverty Action Group to discuss child poverty.	MR MCINTYRE ST1	CST

153	La	Mr Clive Soley (Hammersmith): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the public spending outturn for: (a) health and (b) education.	MR TAYLOR GEP3	CST
154	La	Mr Donald Coleman (Neath): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent representations he has received from institutions in the City on privatisation issues.	MR BENT PE2	FST
155	C	Mr Richard Shepherd (Aldridge-Brownhills): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are his latest figures for the growth of Gross Domestic Product on an output basis; and how this compares with other members of the European Community.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
156	La	Mr Doug Henderson (Newcastle upon Tyne North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met with the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund and the President of the World Bank to discuss third world debt.	MR WALSH IFI	EST
157	La	Mr Gerry Steinberg (City of Durham): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the public spending outturn for: (a) health and (b) education.	MR TAYLOR GEP3	CST
158	C	Mr William Cash (Stafford): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is his estimate of the increase in manufacturing profitability during the latest full year for which figures are available.	CSO	
159	C	Mr Martyn Jones (Clywd South West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the current short-term interest rate in: (a) the United Kingdom and (b) Germany.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
160	C	Mr Allan Stewart (Eastwood): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the latest figures for the growth of manufacturing output.	MR RITCHIE EB	CST
161	La	Mr John Fraser (Norwood): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the United Kingdom's position in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ranking of the largest industrial economies in December 1988 and in June 1989.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
162	La	Maria Fyfe (Glamorgan, Maryhill): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the United Kingdom's position in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ranking of the largest industrial economies in December 1988 and in June 1989.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
163	La	Mr Max Madden (Bradford West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the public spending outturn for 1989-90.	MR TAYLOR GEP3	CST
164	La	Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke on Trent South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the outcome of the recent annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank; and if he will make a statement.	MR WALSH IFI	C/EX
165	La	Mr George Robertson (Hamilton): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the public spending outturn for 1989-90.	MR TAYLOR GEP3	CST
166	La	Mr George Foulkes (Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what representations he has received from the National Federation of Small Businesses and the self-employed about the level of the United Kingdom's interest rates.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
167	La	Mr Gerald Bermingham (St Helens, South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the United Kingdom's balance of payments deficit in the first quarter and second quarter of 1989.	CSO	
168	C	Mr Edward Leigh (Gainsborough and Horncastle): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the increase in the number of weekly net business start-ups in 1988-1989 over 1987-88.	MR BURR IAE3	CST
169	DEM	Mr Malcolm Bruce (Gordon): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement about the Government's present funding policy.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
170	La	Hilary Armstrong (North West Durham): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next expects to meet representatives of the Confederation of British Industry to discuss United Kingdom economic policy.	MR BURR IAE3	CST
171	La	Dr Kim Howells (Pontypridd): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he has plans to meet representatives of the workplace nurseries campaign.	IR	FST

172	La	^{RET HON} Mr Denis Howell (Birmingham, Small Heath): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he has plans to meet representatives of the workplace nurseries campaign.	IR	C/EX
173	La	Alice Mahon (Halifax): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the planning total for public spending in each of the next three years.	MR MACAUSLAN GEP1	CST
174	La	Mr Paul Flynn (Newport West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what representations he has received from the National Federation of Small Businesses and the self-employed about the level of United Kingdom interest rates.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
175	La	^{RET HON} Mr Peter Archer (Warley West): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next expects to meet representatives of the Confederation of British Industry to discuss United Kingdom economic policy.	MR BURR IAE3	C/EX
176	La	Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what representations he has received from the National Federation of Small Businesses and the self-employed about the level of United Kingdom interest rates.	MISS O'MARA MG1	EST
177	C	Mr Timothy Wood (Stevenage): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make a statement on the level of business investment for the latest full year for which figures are available.	MR HIBBERD EA1	CST
178	La	Mr David Marshall (Glasgow, Shettleston): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the planning total for public spending in each of the next three years.	MR MACAUSLAN GEP1	CST
179	La	Mrs Ann Clywd (Cynon Valley): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, which countries have overtaken the United Kingdom in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's list of the leading industrial economies in the last three years.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
180	La	Mr Donald Anderson (Swansea East): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next expects to meet representatives of the Confederation of British Industry to discuss United Kingdom economic policy.	MR BURR IAE3	CST
181	La	Mr Nigel Spearing (Newham South): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the public spending outturn for: (a) health and (b) education.	MR TAYLOR GEP3	CST
182	C	Mr Robert Key (Salisbury): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the average annual increase in total investment in the United Kingdom in the 1980's; and what are the equivalent figures for the other European Community countries.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
183	La	Mr Doug Hoyle (Warrington North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he has plans to meet representatives of the Workplace Nurseries Campaign.	IR	FST
184	La	Mr Bob Clay (Sunderland North): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, which countries have overtaken the United Kingdom in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's list of the leading industrial economies in the last three years.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
185	La	Mr Sam Galbraith (Strathkelvin and Bearsden): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the United Kingdom's position in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ranking of the largest industrial economies in December 1988 and in June 1989.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
186	La	Mr George Galloway (Glasgow, Hillhead): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what was the United Kingdom's position in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ranking of the largest industrial economies in December 1988 and in June 1989.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST
187	C	Mr Barry Field (Isle of Wight): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will list the latest quantities of cannabis and crack seized by customs cutters and waterguard officers.	C/EX	EST
188	C	Mr Robert Hayward (Kingswood): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what has been the average annual increase in total investment in the United Kingdom in the 1980's; and what are the equivalent figures for the other European Community countries.	MR MELLISS IF2	EST



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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

11 September 1989

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Dear John,

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE WORKING OF SELECT COMMITTEES

The Lord President was grateful for the responses from colleagues to his predecessor's letter of 17 July, enclosing a draft Memorandum of Evidence for the Procedure Committee.

In the event, because of the ministerial changes on 24 July, the memorandum has not yet been sent to Sir Peter Emery. The Lord President therefore thought that Cabinet colleagues might like to see the memorandum in the form he proposes to submit to the Procedure Committee, taking account of the comments received, in about a fortnight's time.

I am sending copies of this letter to Dominic Morris (No. 10), the private secretaries to other members of the Cabinet, and Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office), Martin Le Jeune (OAL) and Trevor Woolley.

Yours

S D Catling

S D CATLING
Principal Private Secretary

John Gieve Esq
PS/Chancellor of the Exchequer

DEPARTMENTAL SELECT COMMITTEES

Introduction

The Chairman of the Procedure Committee's letter of 18 May 1989 sought a memorandum on certain aspects of the work of the Departmental Select Committees, as a contribution to the Procedure Committee's current inquiry on the Select Committee system as a whole. This memorandum sets out the Government's views.

2. The Government starts from the position that the system of Departmental Select Committees proposed by the Procedure Committee in 1978 and established in 1979 has become an indispensable part of the work of the House of Commons. The committees have established themselves as important contributors to the Parliamentary functions of scrutiny, investigation and influence over the work of the executive, and the Departmental structure has proved both systematic and flexible. The Government therefore sees the requirement for the future as being one of refinement and detailed improvement, not wholesale change. The Government welcomes the Procedure Committee's inquiry, ten years after the establishment of the Departmental Select Committees, as timely.

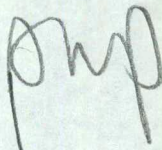
3. The rest of this memorandum considers in turn the seven points raised in the Chairman's letter of 18 May. Except where otherwise stated, the views expressed relate only to the Departmental Select Committees, and not to the rest of the Select Committee system.

i. Value to the House and to Ministers of Departmental Select Committees

4. Departmental Select Committees were established to complement, not supplant, the work of the Chamber of the House. They have established a real and additional contribution to the process through which Government is made accountable to Parliament, not least through the provision to them of Government information on a much greater scale than before.

5. The work of the Select Committees can contribute to the work of Government in a number of ways.

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Whitehall,
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*With the Compliments
of the
Private Secretary
to the*

Lord President of the Council

This was omitted from Steve
Catling's letter to John Gieve
dated 11/9/89 headed PROCEDURE
COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO WORKING
OF SELECT COMMITTEES.

6. First, they provide a ready and public platform for the Government to explain and describe its policies, and the background to them, to Members of Parliament. This can contribute to better informed debate on the floor of the House, both by members of Committees, and through the briefing their reports provide for other members of the House. This in turn contributes to greater public awareness and understanding.

7. Second, they provide a better forum than the floor of the House for more detailed scrutiny of specialised or technical subjects, including in camera hearings concerning classified material. The testing of policy by the informed scrutiny of Select Committees, and the knowledge that such scrutiny can always take place, is a significant element in keeping the work of Government Departments up to a high standard.

8. Third, the evidence taken by Committees from non-governmental sources contributes to consideration of policy both in Parliament and within Government. The compilation and publication of a comprehensive and authoritative body of evidence from expert witnesses is a valuable contribution to the process of government, and can significantly influence and shape subsequent public debate.

9. Fourth, recommendations made by a committee which support Government policies can help to reinforce those policies; or on other occasions, committee recommendations can stimulate reconsideration of policy. However the proportion of committee recommendations accepted or rejected by Government should not be seen as the only or even the main test of their contribution to public life.

ii. Effectiveness of Departmental Select Committees

10. The preceding paragraphs set out the general ways in which the work of Select Committees has been of benefit. Experience in relation to individual Select Committee inquiries has naturally been variable, and the potential benefits have not always been realised. If Select Committee inquiries are to make a positive contribution to the work of Government or the House, the choice of subjects for investigation needs to be apt and well-defined; the timetable of the enquiry and degree of detail well matched to developments in the field concerned; and the committees themselves

sufficiently well-informed to make the most of the opportunities afforded by the cross-examination of those giving oral evidence. These matters are discussed in more detail below. But much rests on the Chairmen of committees in particular to ensure that the aspirations of 1979 are fulfilled in individual inquiries, and a return achieved for the considerable investment of time and energy made by Ministers, officials, and other witnesses.

11. In particular, an inquiry needs to be sufficiently focussed to allow an in-depth study that is not overtaken by events by the time it is complete. Quick reports on ephemeral issues of topical but short lived public interest are in general of lesser value. Inquiries of this latter type also tend to mean extra work for officials and Ministers already very busy on a live issue, to limited useful purpose.

12. The choice and type of inquiries must ultimately remain in the hands of the Committees themselves, and they will no doubt wish to retain a balanced mixture. A Committee's work is likely to be ~~of~~ greater value in the long run, in the Government's view, if it concentrates mainly on authoritative and well researched reports on issues of genuine significance to the public at large, with a bias towards the quality of their reports rather than their quantity.

13. As stated above, the success of Select Committees should not be judged solely on the number of their recommendations accepted or rejected by Government. Committee views and those of Government should be expected often to coincide, given that they will both have given serious consideration to the same questions and to a similar factual base. It does not follow that Government policy in such situations derives from committee recommendations, any more than it follows that the Committee's view was determined solely by persuasive Government evidence. Similarly, the rejection of recommendations by Government does not necessarily mean that a Committee's report has no influence either on Government or on the subsequent development of Government thinking.

iii. Impact on Government: Workload for Departments

14. The Government wishes to reaffirm its undertaking given in 1979 by the then Leader of the House (Hansard 25 June 1979, Col.45)

that the Government will make available to Select Committees as much information as possible, subject to certain safeguards for Ministers and Committees. What follows should be read as within this overall approach.

15. There is a demonstrable impact in terms of increased workload through supplying memoranda and oral evidence and preparing the necessary briefing. Estimates of staff costs range from £5,000 to £50,000 per enquiry, with, for example, 360 staff hours in 2 weeks being required of the Inland Revenue and a similar effort from Customs and Excise for one recent inquiry. The increased scale and detail of committee inquiries also has a direct impact (for example the number of memoranda sought from the Ministry of Defence has gone up tenfold from 5 in 1984/5 to 53 in 1987/8). The direct cost of responding to Select Committee enquiries, although significant in absolute terms, is however small relative to the totality of public expenditure, or the totality of departmental running costs. For this reason, no new attempt has been made to assess the attributable costs in public expenditure terms of dealing with requests from Committees for evidence.

16. However, this approach conceals the true costs because the burden of dealing with Select Committee inquiries falls disproportionately on senior staff who have to be diverted from their normal work. These effects can be especially acute

- (a) when a Committee asks for information at short notice on an issue of current concern, when the officials in question are already likely to be under greater pressure than normal; or
- (b) when the officials in question are faced simultaneously by enquiries from other Committees (including House of Lords Committees) or from the National Audit Office.

Because the opportunity cost of diverting senior officials away from their other duties is high, the Government believes that Select Committees should always consider whether all the information to be sought from departments is necessary for the inquiry in hand, and to what use it will be put. There have been instances when large amounts of wide ranging and detailed information have been

sought from Departments, which has then neither been followed up in oral questioning nor visibly used in the preparation of the Committee's final report. In these circumstances, the work required to prepare the initial evidence is compounded by the need for similarly detailed briefing, to be prepared for and absorbed by Ministers and/or senior officials much of which then goes to waste. A similar situation can arise when a Committee starts an inquiry but fails to complete it. The question of overlapping inquiries is considered further below.

17. Separately, overseas visits impose a particular workload on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and diplomatic posts overseas. Good co-ordination between committees is needed to ensure that smaller posts are able to deal satisfactorily with the extra work involved, and if the larger, more frequently visited, posts are to avoid having the disruption of several visits in quick succession.

18. Both these types of problem can be eased by the customary good relations between Committees and Departments, and by the work of the clerks in particular.

19. In the Government's view, the key requirement for ensuring that Departments respond as they should and without complaint to requests for evidence is the direct and personal involvement of Committee members themselves at all stages. Ministers and officials can and do have no cause for complaint when Committees mount well focussed and well planned inquiries; seek written evidence that bears directly and substantially on the questions members wish to pursue; follow up the written evidence with oral questioning that develops further all the main aspects of the written evidence; and then produce well argued reports deriving accurately from the evidence obtained.

20. The increased scale of Select Committee activity, and the consequentially increased pressures on senior officials, mean that Ministers continue to attach considerable importance to the well established convention (see e.g. paragraph 7.8 of the Report of the Procedure Committee in 1977/8, and the memorandum by the Clerk of the House at Appendix C of that report) that they have discretion to decide which officials should give evidence on their behalf.

It is also an important principle in preserving collective Ministerial responsibility that the advice given by officials to Ministers should remain confidential. Pressure from committees for such information, or speculation about its contents, is unlikely to be productive.

iv. Consideration of Recommendations by Government

21. The normal pattern is for officials to examine the recommendations initially and then to advise Ministers. Ministers will then consider both the recommendations and the advice, and any input from relevant public bodies, advisory committees or other interested parties. Ministerial colleagues will be consulted as necessary. Apart from any initial comment when a report is first published and in line with established practice, Departments aim to respond substantively within two months of publication of a Report, though this is not always possible if extensive consultation within and outside Whitehall is needed, or if the issue is one where other factors make an early reply difficult. The main concern is to produce a full and carefully considered response even if this means over-running the two month deadline. In such cases, Departments try to keep Committees fully informed so that they understand clearly the reasons for the delay.

v. Possible Changes in Practice or Procedure

22. The existing procedures and practices of Departmental Select Committees vary significantly, and a number of the following suggestions for consideration by the Procedure Committee would amount to the adoption generally of good practice already adopted by some Committees.

23. Planning of inquiries. With the consolidation of the place of the departmental committees in the work of the House, and the growth in the scale and impact of their work, there is a case for the committees taking steps to plan their forward work programmes in a systematic fashion. This might contain the following elements:

- (i) Committees could draw up forward work programmes each autumn for the session ahead, the details and timing of which could then be the subject of informal discussion with departments to mutual advantage, and the final versions forwarded to departments;

- (ii) where Committees wish to mount a potentially wide-ranging inquiry, there may be benefits in a two stage approach: an initial, fairly brief, inquiry across the whole range, followed by a second stage concentrating on a limited number of specific topics where a more in-depth scrutiny would be of greater value to both the House and the Government;
- (iii) It is common current practice for officials to give evidence early in an inquiry, and for Ministers to do so towards the end. The Government would not wish to propose a universal rule in this area, and indeed some inquiries proceed without Ministerial evidence being taken at any stage. But where Ministerial evidence is sought, there can be particular advantages in the practice of taking it in the final stages of an inquiry. This allows Committees to explore apparent conflicts of evidence and criticisms of Government made by other witnesses, at a stage when the Committee is close to formulating its conclusions and recommendations. Suggestions for future action made by others can also be tested out.

Such an approach would not, of course, rule out additional inquiries into subjects which gain public prominence in the course of a year.

24. Control by Committees of their work. In order to reaffirm the direct control of Committees over their own proceedings, to enable Ministerial and official witnesses to be as helpful as possible to Committees in their oral evidence and to help keep the briefing needed in departments in relation to oral evidence focussed on the essentials, the Committee might wish to consider the following suggestions:

- (a) Ministerial and official witnesses (and indeed other witnesses also) should be given a clear indication five or more days in advance of the main lines of questioning members will wish to pursue;
- (b) such lines of questioning should be issued to witnesses in the name of the chairman of the committee, as should requests for written memoranda;
- (c) additional lines of questioning should not be pursued without such advance indications.

This approach would build on the present well-established practice whereby clerks to committees often provide witnesses with an informal indication of the probable lines of questioning to be pursued, though hitherto such indications have been of variable reliability. It would help ensure that witnesses were able to answer the questions members actually wished to ask, and reduce wasted effort in Departments preparing briefing on topics not raised.

25. With the need for clear and effective control by Committees of their own proceedings in mind, the Government inclines to the view that the formation of sub-committees, other than the four already permitted under Standing Order 130, would detract from the effectiveness of the main Committees. It also follows that there should be no reduction in the quorum requirements of the Committees; there may indeed be a case for raising the present quorum minima, particularly with the advent of television in mind.

26. The Government has also been disquieted by occasional indications that members of committees are not always conversant with the content of reports issued in their name, and even that members have disowned reports to which they are signatories. Whatever the truth in such reports, it is clearly essential for the credibility of the Select Committee system that members are willing and able to understand and defend the reports they adopt, and to decline to agree them if not. This is especially important with the growth in both the number and scale of Select Committee reports.

27. Policy issues. There is an increase apparent in the number of inquiries which address topics where it is known that Government is itself reviewing policy, or where negotiations are in progress either with the private sector or internationally. The Government has no objection in principle to inquiries in such circumstances - indeed they can on occasion be of help in clarifying policy options - but Committees should recognise that Government evidence in such cases will be circumscribed by:

- (a) the inherent difficulties which can arise in providing full answers to questions which seek access to consideration of policy issues in advance of collective Ministerial decisions;

- (b) the inhibitions which will prevent negotiators from revealing their full hand in advance of the conclusion of negotiations for fear of jeopardising the public interest, especially if other parties to the negotiations seek to use an inquiry as a means of exerting negotiating pressure themselves.

28. Members' interests. It has been suggested that members of Select Committees, as bodies which examine the Government's expenditure, administration and policy, should accept an obligation going beyond the general requirement for MPs to declare their interests for the purposes of the register of Members' interests. The Procedure Committee may wish to give consideration to this issue, particularly since the role and influence of Select Committees is likely to increase further with the televising of Parliament.

29. Similarly, the Government believes the standing and effectiveness of Select Committees would be diminished if members were to yield to the temptation to air personal or constituency concerns, again with radio and television especially in mind.

vi. Overlap between Committees and with the Public Accounts Committee

30. There are established procedures for avoiding unnecessary overlaps and duplications between different Departmental Select Committees. Some co-ordinating departments (e.g. the FCO in relation to the European Community) can get involved in several simultaneous inquiries. But the arrangements generally work well, and provided this continues the Government sees no need for changes.

31. The main problem area, as the question acknowledges, lies between the departmental committees on the one hand and the work of the Public Accounts Committee and the National Audit Office on the other. This has grown substantially over the last five years with the development and major expansion of value for money audits, which themselves have placed a substantial new demand on the major spending departments. The combination of these demands

with the requirements of an active Departmental Select Committee, as discussed in section (iii) above, can be substantial, particularly when the topics investigated substantially overlap. The most acute difficulties have been faced by the Ministry of Defence, but problems have also arisen for other departments from time to time.

32. Duplication of this kind is unproductive for the departments concerned. In the Government's view it is also unproductive for the Committees, and potentially damaging to their reputation. Departments will respond to overlapping inquiries as resources permit, but there must be a risk that they will not be able to respond in the timescales requested if a Departmental Committee and the PAC/NAO mount inquiries on the same subject at the same time. The Government regards the question of improved demarcations and the avoidance of overlap and duplication between inquiries as primarily one for the House itself to resolve, either through the Liaison Committee or through the work of the present Procedure Committee.

vii. Overall Impact of the work of Select Committees on the House as a whole

33. This must be primarily for the House itself to judge. The Government's perception is that the work of Select Committees has helped to make the wider work of the House better informed, and as such has been beneficial, but that improvements in the quality of Select Committee work are possible which would enhance their contribution further, both to the work of Government and the work of the House.

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ie without risking
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session. AB*

The Rt. Hon. Lord Trefgarne
Minister for Trade

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	SIR P MIDDLETON MR NICKS
	MR HP EVANS MR ROBSON
	MR BATTALL MR RITCHIE

MR WATTS MR ROBERTS MR OYER

ECGD NEW LEGISLATION

You may be aware that the necessary clearances for the introduction of an ECGD Bill in the next Parliamentary Session have now been obtained. My purpose in writing is to discuss the timing of the introduction of this Bill and the possibility of the scope of the Bill being altered from that approved by E(A) to take account of decisions which Ministers may take in the course of the next few months about ECGD's status, following the Kemp Review.

As currently envisaged, the ECGD Bill would be relatively minor and uncontroversial, aimed principally at enabling ECGD to undertake certain operations in the financial markets which would achieve worthwhile savings in public expenditure. Approval was given for a Bill of up to 15 Clauses, though it seems unlikely that all of these will be needed. Since the Bill was approved, a major review of ECGD's future status has been completed and submitted to Ministers. This recommends that one of ECGD's business operations should lose its Departmental status and be converted into a government-owned company, with the possibility of private capital being introduced at a later stage. No decisions have yet been taken by Ministers but they should be finalised later this year.



Steve Catling Esq

September 1989

If Ministers were to accept the recommendations of the Review, their implementation would undoubtedly require legislation. For business reasons, ECGD would regard it as vital for implementation to take place as quickly as possible. If ECGD's existing legislative opportunity could be used to provide the means to do this it would provide a useful solution. Certainly, if they were to take a decision in favour of change, my Ministers would attach as much importance to securing the legislative authority needed to make the change as they do to the powers sought through the present Bill.

We recognise that the nature and size of the Bill would be changed if these new requirements were to be incorporated. The Bill would be more controversial, especially given the possible "privatisation" aspect, but we would anticipate being able to keep the length within the approved 15 Clauses. Lord Trefgarne's initial view is that changes to the Bill as a result of the Kemp Review may prove to be so substantial as to warrant a separate Bill, but he has asked that we at least examine the question of incorporation to see whether the option can be kept open, pending consideration of the Kemp Review by Ministers.

It would be necessary to delay introduction of the Bill until, say, February, if Ministers decided they wanted to keep open the possibility of incorporating amendments to take account of the Kemp Review.

Of course, if the decision was to make no change in status or was so delayed as to give insufficient time for the revised Bill to be passed before the end of the Session, the intention would be to introduce an ECGD Bill on the lines originally envisaged. This would be essential to ensure that we did not miss out on securing the important public expenditure savings which are the primary objective of that legislation. The hope would be, however, that decisions would be made in sufficient time and that, therefore, by timing carefully the introduction of the Bill Ministers would be provided with maximum flexibility to secure the legislative authority and policy outcome which they desire.

A further dimension is that the Trade and Industry Select Committee has notified its intention of carrying out an inquiry into ECGD. Their report is unlikely to emerge until early in the New Year. Although not perhaps a vital consideration, there might be advantages in the ECGD Bill not being processed at the same time as the Select Committee is conducting its inquiry.

Steve Catling Esq

September 1989

I should therefore be grateful to learn, first, your likely reaction to the idea of adjusting the ECGD Bill to include the powers to implement possible Ministerial decisions on changes to ECGD's status and, secondly, your view of the possibility of delaying introduction of the ECGD Bill until, say, February 1990.

I am copying this letter to Carys Evans in the Chief Secretary's Office.

*can be
John Allon*

G WILLIAMS
Private Secretary

QL (89)7: LICENSED TENANTSIntroduction

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry's proposed Bill would extend to licensed tenants the protection which the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 already gives to business tenants generally. It is expected to be a 3-clause Bill.

Line to take**2. SUPPORT STRONGLY**Background

3. In their report on the Supply of Beer, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) recognised that brewers' tenants have less security than most business tenants. The MMC consider that the lack of security of tenure, and the fact that The Brewers' Society Code of Practice is not legally enforceable, make it possible for the brewers substantially to limit the independence of their tenants and thus reinforces the ability of brewers to exploit and maintain their monopoly position.

5. In his statement on the MMC's Report, Lord Young confirmed that amendments to the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 would be brought forward as soon as Parliamentary time permitted. At the time of the Report's publication, there was clear evidence that a number of the big brewers had written to tenants using the threat of possible termination of tenancies and exploiting uncertainty on the consequences of divestment, if the MMC's recommendations were implemented, to secure tenants' support against the Report.

6. The divestment issue, in particular, has now been resolved. But it remains important that brewers' tenants come within the protection that the Landlord and Tenant Act provides so that they are in a position to exercise the greater freedoms that the other proposed measures (eg guest beers, and the release of non and low

alcohol beers, soft drinks, wines spirits and ciders from the product tie) will provide.

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THE CROWN SUPPLIERS BILL

Objectives

It is important to get this Bill through as early as possible in the 1989-90 Session. It is welcome that the Lord President has agreed to add the Property Services Agency to the coverage of the Bill.

Line to Take

- Glad that, following E(A) decision to aim for privatisation of PSA Services business, it is proposed to add the PSA to the coverage of this Bill.
- Nonetheless important to get the Bill through as early as possible in the new Session. Danger otherwise of loss of momentum, damage to morale and nugatory preparatory expenses.

Background

The Crown Suppliers (TCS) is a Government Trading Fund. It has three main businesses: product supply and services, operation of a transport hire fleet, and secure dispatch services for Government. The decision to privatise the TCS was announced in 1988, but progress has been held up because legislation has not so far been taken to avoid "technical redundancy" (whereby employees of TCS, on transfer to a new employer, get redundancy pay even if they keep their jobs. (This is a peculiarity of the redundancy provisions in the Principal Civil Service Pensions Scheme.) The sale competition for TCS is to be launched shortly. The sale cannot go through until the Bill receives Royal Assent. It would be highly desirable still to get the Bill in March, notwithstanding the addition of the PSA Services business.

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The intention to privatise the PSA Services business was announced following E(A)'s decision last week. Legislation is needed for the sale, for the same reasons as it is for TCS. The addition of PSA to the Bill should mean only a very few extra clauses to what would already be a very short Bill. Privatisation of the PSA is not expected to take place before late 1992, but it is important to take the best opportunity of legislation, to avoid the risk of later delay.

CONFIDENTIAL



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SW1A 2AT

CH/EXCHEQUER	
REC.	20 SEP 1989
ACTION	FST
COPIES TO	

✓20/9

omp

19 September 1989

Dear Steve,

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE ENQUIRY INTO WORKINGS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

My Minister has seen a copy of the draft Memorandum of Evidence for the Procedure Committee circulated under cover of your letter of 11 September to John Gieve. He is content with the Memorandum as amended and has no further comments.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours ever
Ray Alderton

**R L Alderton
Parliamentary Clerk**



est.jo/ghaskins/01.25.9.89



Sir P. MIDDLETON
MR NICKS MR AP EVANS
MR MOUNTFIELD
MR BOTTRILL
MR LOPEZ (AFF2)
MR OYER

Treasury Chambers Parliament Street SW1P 3AG

Steve Catling Esq
Private Secretary to the
Lord President
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AT

25 September 1989

Dear Mr Catling,

ECGD NEW LEGISLATION

I have seen a copy of Glyn Williams' letter to you of 12 September, which was copied to Carys Evans in the Chief Secretary's Office.

Although we would not object to the Bill being widened, given that it is unlikely that all 15 clauses will be used, our priority aim must remain the public expenditure savings which ECGD will be able to obtain once the existing Bill is passed. We should not jeopardise the Bill by inserting clauses based on the accepted recommendations of the Kemp Review. These could not only delay the Bill but also jeopardise it, given that any such clauses could prove controversial. We do not therefore accept DTI Ministers' views that it is just as important to secure legislative authority for any post-Kemp changes as those powers sought through the present Bill.

I am copying this letter to Glyn Williams in the Minister for Trade's Office.

Yours sincerely,
Gine Haskins

MISS G HASKINS
PRIVATE SECRETARY



THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT



(B)

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB
TELEPHONE 01-276 3000

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
68 Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AT

My Ref: C/PSO/12654 89

Your Ref:

ECONOMIC SECRETARY	
REC'D	26 SEP 1989
ACTION	Mr Mortimer
COPIES TO	PS/CHX, PS/CST, PS/FSI, PS/PMIS. Mr Monch, Mrs Case Mr Bent, Mrs Flynn, Mr S. Judge, Mr Tyrill Party Clerk.

Dear Geoffrey

26 SEP 1989

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1989/90: HIGHWAYS (PRIVATE FINANCE) BILL

At our meeting on 18 September I agreed to look at shortening this Bill and making it less controversial. I have also considered whether it would be suitable for introduction in the Lords.

The proposed Bill has two elements. The first, on private finance for roads, would give effect to the proposals in the Green Paper "New Roads by New Means" (Cm 698). The second, on street works, would reform the Public Utilities Street Works Act 1950 on lines recommended by the Horne Committee in 1985.

The private finance measures are central to our strategy for involving the private sector in the provision of infrastructure. We are committed to this policy and have built up considerable expectations on the part of the private sector. Their interest would rapidly wane, and our credibility would be undermined, if there were no early legislation. The alternative of a hybrid Bill for each scheme would be unattractive to Parliament - and, no doubt, to the business managers.

There is also an immediate issue. At the urging of the Prime Minister and John Major when he was Chief Secretary, Paul Channon announced on 22 May a competition for a privately financed Birmingham Northern Relief Road (BNRR). We are irretrievably committed to this private finance competition, and have assured our supporters that the road will not be delayed as a result. Private sector firms preparing to respond to the competition - the first stage of which has now been advertised - will also expect us to get ahead as fast as possible, and will have been working on the perfectly reasonable assumption that there would be a Bill in the coming session. So I believe we must find a way of

authorising the road on this basis. Without the new Highways Bill procedures, a hybrid Bill for the BNRR would have to be introduced. Such a Bill, authorising 30 miles of motorway, would be long, detailed and locally intensely controversial. (The second Severn Crossing will in any case require a hybrid Bill to amend the legislation governing the existing Bridge, and this will be needed in 1990/91.)

For these reasons, I am convinced that we should go ahead with the private finance measures next session. They will certainly be innovative, and create much interest. But because they will be concerned only with new roads, the measures will be nothing like as controversial as the major privatisations. Nor should the provisions as instructed be extensive.

Nevertheless, recognising the wider problems with the legislative programme, I am prepared to simplify my proposals further by abandoning:

- (a) powers to toll new publicly financed roads, which would have been controversial;
- (b) powers for local authorities to make concession agreements or to toll their own roads, which could also have led to some concern by our supporters;
- (c) simplification of the procedures for taking over as a highway a road built by a developer.

Turning to the second element: it is now over three years since we announced our intention to legislate on street works. The existing legislation is highly unsatisfactory and ill-observed. Lack of proper control over utilities' street works - about three million holes in the road a year - is a major cause of traffic congestion. Public dissatisfaction is plain. A handful of ill-timed utility works can bring traffic to a standstill across large areas, especially in London and other major cities. Electricity and water privatisations add a new element of uncertainty which could be exploited by our opponents.

The proposed street works measures will not be politically controversial. They have been widely welcomed. There is little scope for shortening the package, because it introduces an entire new system to replace the defunct one under the 1950 Act. All the elements hang together in achieving a balance between the interests of the highways authorities and the utilities. But general agreement about the measures should ensure an easy passage through Parliament, despite some technical complexity.

If it would ease pressure on the Business Managers, I would be willing to introduce this Bill in the Lords. I believe that it is not excluded on financial grounds. The tolling powers would be the most controversial element; but the street works part of the Bill is almost entirely uncontroversial.

CONFIDENTIAL

I hope that with these suggestions, and this explanation of the very strong case for the proposed measures, you will agree that the Bill should retain its place in the programme. After this build-up, a failure to legislate in the coming session would inevitably be seen as a climb-down. Both the private finance and street works elements of the proposed Bill have a politically high profile, and have earned the Government much praise: if we were not to take swift action, we would be accused of vacillating on two key issues.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, Malcolm Rifkind, Peter Walker, Norman Lamont and Sir Robin Butler.

Yours
Cecil
Parkinson

CECIL PARKINSON

CONFIDENTIAL

BRIEF FOR OL(89)7: SCOTTISH ENTERPRISE**Objective**

- to support the inclusion of Scottish Enterprise and Highland and Islands Enterprise in 1989/90 legislative programme.

Points to Make (if necessary)

- Scottish Enterprise provides an opportunity to develop a self-sustaining market economy in Scotland, by bringing in more private sector resources into economic development and training, and is therefore welcome.
- However we must ensure that proposed Local Enterprise Companies do not simply become a lobby for more public sector funds from central Government. Important that there is a public sector withdrawal strategy in favour of the private sector from the outset.
- I particularly support the case for legislation in regard to the wind-up of the Scottish New Towns, to facilitate a satisfactory treatment of their NLF debt.

Background

The legislation arises out of last year's Scottish Enterprise White Paper, which proposed the merger of the Training Agency in Scotland with the Scottish Development Agency (and Highlands and Islands Development Board). The aim is to create a ^{network} ~~outlook~~ of Local Enterprise Companies (funded by Scottish Enterprise), similar to Training and Enterprise ^{Companies} ~~Companies~~ (TECs) in England except incorporating the SDA's wider economic development role.

The initiative is strongly supported by the Prime Minister and Scottish CBI. It was reasonably well received in Scotland. We see potential benefits from closer ^{involvement} of the private sector in training and enterprise measures, and are looking for a reducing public sector expenditure profile over time. However we

are sceptical that LECs will be a cheaper mechanism for delivering national training programmes than the Training Agency. We are also doubtful about the extent to which in practice the private sector will be prepared to commit substantial resources of its own. There is a danger that LECs will become, in effect, lobbies for more local pump-priming.

We therefore suggest that you support the Scottish Enterprise Bill without arguing strongly in its favour. If the opportunity arises, you might wish to emphasise the need to ensure that the private sector plays an increasing role in financing LECs.

However there is one particular point of Treasury interest. The Bill is also expected to cover the wind-up of the Scottish New Towns. The New Towns' National Loans Fund debt is greater than the value of its unsold assets. Further NCF advances were made only on condition that the debt was put on a proper basis at the earliest opportunity. The proposal is that there will be a financial reconstruction involving a debt write-off and primary legislation is needed for this to go ahead. The Treasury has Accounting Officer responsibility for the NLF, and therefore supports the proposal.

UNCLASSIFIED

FROM: S M A JAMES (EB)
 DATE: 27 SEPTEMBER 1989
 x5211

1. MR PERETZ
 2. CHANCELLOR

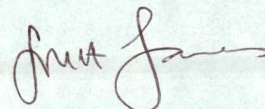
cc PS/Chief Secretary
 PS/Financial Secretary
 PS/Paymaster General
 PS/Economic Secretary
 Sir P Middleton
 Mr Beastall
 Mr Ritchie
 Mr Shore
 Mr Tyrie

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE WORK OF SELECT COMMITTEES

The Lord President's Private Secretary wrote to John Gieve on 11 September attaching a final version of the memorandum of evidence in response to Sir Peter Emery's questions about the Government's views on the Select Committee System.

2. You wrote to the Lord President on 24 July confirming that you were content with the memorandum which took on board your comments on an earlier draft. Because of ministerial changes on 24 July, the draft has not yet been sent to Sir Peter Emery but has been circulated in final form by the Lord President.

3. There are no changes of substance in the latest version. Your office may wish to confirm that you have no further comments. A draft letter is attached.



S M A JAMES

UNCLASSIFIED

DRAFT LETTER TO:

S D Catling ^{Esq}
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AT

28 September 1989

of 11 September

Thank you for your letter to John Gieve of 11 September attaching the final version of the ~~draft~~ Memorandum of Evidence for the Procedure Committee. This is to confirm that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has no further comments.

I am copying this letter to Dominic Morris (No 10), the private secretaries to other members of the Cabinet, Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office), Martin Le Jeune (OAL) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet office).

DUNCAN SPARKES
Assistant Private
Secretary

copy list
as cover minute.



FROM: B O DYER (Parly Clerk)
DATE: 27 September 1989
EXTN: 4520

CHANCELLOR

cc Chief Secretary

CABINET: THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

I understand from the Secretariat that there is nothing specific on the Agenda for "Parliamentary Affairs". However, Sir Geoffrey Howe may raise the timing of Prorogation and State Opening of Parliament given that the Prime Minister recently indicated that the next Session should start as early as possible in November. In this context, it would seem prudent for you to have at hand the submission setting out the timing constraints for the Autumn Statement.

in carbox

B O Dyer

PP B O DYER



mp

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-270 3000

28 September 1989

S D Catling Esq
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AT

cc PS/Chief Secretary
PS/Financial Secretary
PS/Paymaster General
PS/Economic Secretary
Sir P Middleton
Mr Peretz
Mr Beastall
Mr Ritchie
Mr S M A James
Mr Shore
Mr Tyrie

Dear Steve,

Thank you for your letter of 11 September to John Gieve attaching the final version of the Memorandum of Evidence for the Procedure Committee. I can confirm that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has no further comments.

I am copying this letter to Dominic Morris (No 10), the Private Secretaries to other members of the Cabinet, Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office), Martin Le Jeune (OMCS) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,

Duncan Sparkes

DUNCAN SPARKES
Assistant Private Secretary

FROM: J E MORTIMER (HE1)
DATE: 29 SEPTEMBER 1989
X4810

- 1. MR MONCK
- 2. ECONOMIC SECRETARY

1 agree MM 29/9

- cc PS/Chancellor
- PS/Chief Secretary
- PS/FST
- PS/PMG
- Mrs Case
- Mrs Lomax
- Mr Bent
- Mrs Flynn
- Mr Judge
- Mr Dyrer
- Mr Tyrrie
- Mrs Chaplin

Private Finance

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1989/90: HIGHWAYS (PRIVATE FINANCE) BILL

In his letter of 26 September to Sir Geoffrey Howe (Flag A), Mr Parkinson discusses the possibility of making his highways (Private Finance) Bill less controversial.

- 2. The Bill itself does two things. It provides for:
 - (i) new arrangements for authorising privately financed roads as set out in the Green Paper "New Roads by New Means";
 - (ii) charging public utilities for the congestion costs caused by their roadworks.

- 3. The Treasury is a strong supporter of both elements of the package. As Mr Parkinson points out, we are keen to encourage the private sector to finance more roads, both because they might be able to build roads more cost-effectively than the public sector, and also because the more privately financed roads that are built the less need there will be for publicly financed ones. The decision to hold a competition with a view to financing privately the Birmingham Northern Relief Road was the direct result of strong pressure from the Treasury.

4. The Treasury supports the principle of charging utilities for the right to carry out street works since it will provide a powerful incentive to the utilities to minimise disruption by carrying out roadworks as quickly as possible.

5. In order to make his Bill less controversial Mr Parkinson says he intends, amongst other things, to restrict the scope of the private finance measures to new roads (thus ruling out the possibility of introducing tolls on existing roads), and to abandon altogether his proposal to toll new publicly financed roads (as opposed to privately financed ones).

6. We are very sorry to hear of these proposals. We would very much welcome provisions allowing the introduction of tolls on existing roads and on new publicly financed ones. Both proposals would allow the Government to use tolling as a way of relieving congestion. They would also provide a means of charging the consumer (rather than the taxpayer) for a very costly public sector service that is normally provided free.

7. The proposal to drop the provisions providing for the tolling of new publicly financed roads raises a further important issue. The point here is that the agreement of the Department of Transport to introduce proposals to toll new publicly financed roads was one of the conditions upon which Treasury agreement to an expanded roads programme was based.

8. Thus the conclusion of the E(A) meeting on 23 February 1989 that there should be "a greatly expanded" roads programme was based on the understanding that Mr Channon "would examine the scope for introducing tolls on all future proposals for major new road schemes, whether publicly or privately financed".

9. Similarly, when Mr Channon wrote to the Chief Secretary on 2 May about the terms of his public announcement of an expanded roads programme he said (see letter at Flag B):

"As I told E(A), I will be examining each major scheme to see whether it is suitable for tolling, and I will be taking powers to toll new public sector roads in the legislation I will be promoting next session".

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10. In short, we do not believe Mr Parkinson should renege on his commitment to toll new publicly financed roads since that proposal was an element in the agreement allowing DTp to announce publicly a doubling of the programme.

11. There is one other point of which you should be aware. In a letter of 27 July, Mr Gray recorded that the Prime Minister did not consider the time was right to make an announcement about road pricing. Tolling, of course, falls within the general concept of road pricing. However, the Prime Minister's remarks were in relation to a study of tolling in an urban environment and we think she would be less concerned about the possibility of tolling existing trunk roads outside towns and cities (which is the sort of thing we have in mind). The Prime Minister was of course chairman of the E(A) meeting when Mr Channon made clear his intention of introducing provisions to allow the tolling of new roads whether publicly or privately financed.

12. We suggest you should write to the Lord President. A draft letter is attached at Flag C.

J E Mortimer
J E MORTIMER

TO DRAFT LETTER FROM THE ECONOMIC SECRETARY TO THE LORD PRESIDENT
OF THE COUNCIL

cc Prime Minister, Mr Rifkind, Mr Walker, Mr Lamont and
Sir Robin Butler

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1989/90: HIGHWAYS (PRIVATE FINANCE) BILL

I am grateful to Cecil Parkinson for copying to me his letter of 26 September about this Bill, which the Treasury strongly supports.

2. I am unhappy, however, about two of his suggestions. In particular, he proposes:

- to drop his proposal to introduce powers to toll new publicly financed roads (thus limiting the tolling provisions to privately financed roads);
- to restrict the scope of his proposals to new roads (thus ruling out the possibility of tolling some existing roads).

3. I would very much hope that, on reflection, it would be possible to include in this Bill provisions to toll both existing roads and also new publicly financed ones. Such provisions would allow the Government in certain cases to use tolling as a way of relieving congestion. They would also provide a means of charging the consumer rather than the general tax payer for a costly public sector service that is currently provided free of charge.

4. In the case of the power to toll new publicly financed roads, a further consideration applies. Treasury agreement at E(A) Committee on 23 February this year to an expanded roads programme was based on the assurance that Paul Channon would examine the scope for introducing tolls on all future proposals for major new road schemes, whether publicly or privately financed. Paul gave the same assurance in his letter of 2 May to John Major when seeking Treasury clearance for his statement to Parliament about the expanded road programme. But for these commitments, the Treasury may well have thought more carefully about the terms of that statement.

5. If it were really necessary to drop one or other of the provisions discussed above, I would reluctantly accept that the power to toll existing roads should be left out of the Bill. I feel strongly, however, that a provision to enable the tolling of new publicly financed roads should be retained.

6. I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, Malcolm Rifkind, Peter Walker, Norman Lamont and Sir Robin Butler.