

SB  
831

PREM 19/327

Confidential Filing

Legislative Programme

PARLIAMENT

Part 1: May 1979

Part 5: April 1980

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
<del>3.4.80</del>		<del>30.7.80</del>					
<del>11.4.80</del>		<del>7.8.80</del>					
<del>14.4.80</del>		<del>12.8.80</del>					
<del>15.4.80</del>		<del>19.8.80</del>					
<del>24.4.80</del>		<del>21.8.80</del>					
<del>1.5.80</del>		<del>4.9.80</del>					
12.5.80		24.9.80					
<del>15.5.80</del>		<del>2.10.80</del>					
<del>20.5.80</del>		6.10.80					
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<del>5.6.80</del>		<del>28.10.80</del>					
<del>11.6.80</del>		<del>29.10.80</del>					
12.6.80		23.10.80					
<del>18.6.80</del>		<u>ends</u>					
<del>19.6.80</del>							
<del>23.6.80</del>							
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PREM 19/327

**PART** ..... 5 ..... **ends:-**

Ld Soames to <sup>S</sup>/<sub>S</sub> Scotland 23.10.80

**PART** ..... 6 ..... **begins:-**

Ch Ex to <sup>S</sup>/<sub>S</sub> DHSS 28.10.80





FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE  
HOUSE OF LORDS

Parliament

VMS

23rd October, 1980.

Dear Secretary of State,

Thank you for your letter of 6th October about Scottish business next session. I have also seen a copy of Norman St. John Stevas' recent letter to you.

Not to us

I entirely agree with the points made by Norman St. John Stevas. As it is, the two Bills to which you assign the highest priority, the Education (Scotland) Bill and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Bill, seem likely to be introduced in the Commons. We cannot expect them to arrive in the Lords until well into next year and I regard your hope that they can both be enacted before Easter as very optimistic indeed.

As Norman St. John Stevas points out, we must take all stages of all Public Bills on the floor of this House. We really cannot contemplate a further period of serious legislative congestion in the second half of next session, let alone a spillover period on similar lines to the present one. For this reason, I agree that the Scottish programme needs to be curtailed.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of Norman St. John Stevas' recent letter to you.

Yours sincerely  
Michael Powell

(SOAMES)

(Dictated and agreed by  
Lord Soames and signed  
in his absence)

The Rt. Hon. George Younger, M.P.

PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Affairs

There is one small point which ought to be discussed, in addition to the week's Business and the handling of the Home Secretary's prison emergency legislation.

It concerns the Tenants' Rights (Scotland) Amendment Bill. You will remember that this was intended to make the same changes to Scottish housing law as were forced on the Government in respect of England and Wales in the last week before the Recess. When the Bill came up for Second Reading in the Lords yesterday, Opposition Peers complained that its content was not what they had expected and that the Bill did not fulfil the Government's commitment to "treat Scotland and England equally". I gather that the Opposition are thought likely to press this point. It is thought there could be trouble in the Commons. You might like to ask the Lord President to report on what was said in the Lords and the Secretary of State for Scotland to comment.

MS

22 October 1980



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE  
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2AT

✓  
MS

October 1980

*De Jure.*

Thank you for your letter of 6 October about Scottish Bills in the 1980/81 legislative programme.

The postponement of the State Opening of Parliament to 20 November which we agreed at Cabinet on 16 October means that further pressure will be exerted on what was already beginning to be an uncomfortably tight legislative timetable for next Session. I have discussed the position with Christopher Soames and the two Chief Whips, and we have come to the conclusion that we shall have to look for some pruning of the programme. Your assessment that the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Bill will not now be suitable for Grand Committee procedure as was envisaged when the Cabinet approved the legislative programme last May is very unwelcome news from the Commons point of view, since it means that the Second Reading of two or your five Bills will have to be taken on the Floor of the House. The fact that three of your five Bills are still destined for the Grand Committee does not, of course, help Christopher Soames in his efforts to ease the burden on the Lords after the traumas of the Housing and Local Government Bills this Session.

The business managers are agreed that in the changed circumstances which now confront us, we cannot find room in the programme for five Scottish Bills. I accept that the Local Government and Education Bills should have high priority, though I hope that you will be able to review the latter Bill to see whether any of the less important provisions could be dropped or postponed to next Session. The mention of the Matrimonial Homes Bill was welcomed by Cabinet as a useful social measure to mention in the Queen's Opening Speech, and in view of the fact that it has all party support and will be based on a law commission report I would not want to ask you to give it up for this Session.

That leaves the Civic Government and Planning Bills. The Planning Bill is lowest in your order of priority and I hope

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The Rt Hon George Younger, TD, MP  
Secretary of State for Scotland  
New St Andrews House  
St James Centre  
Edinburgh, EH1 3SX

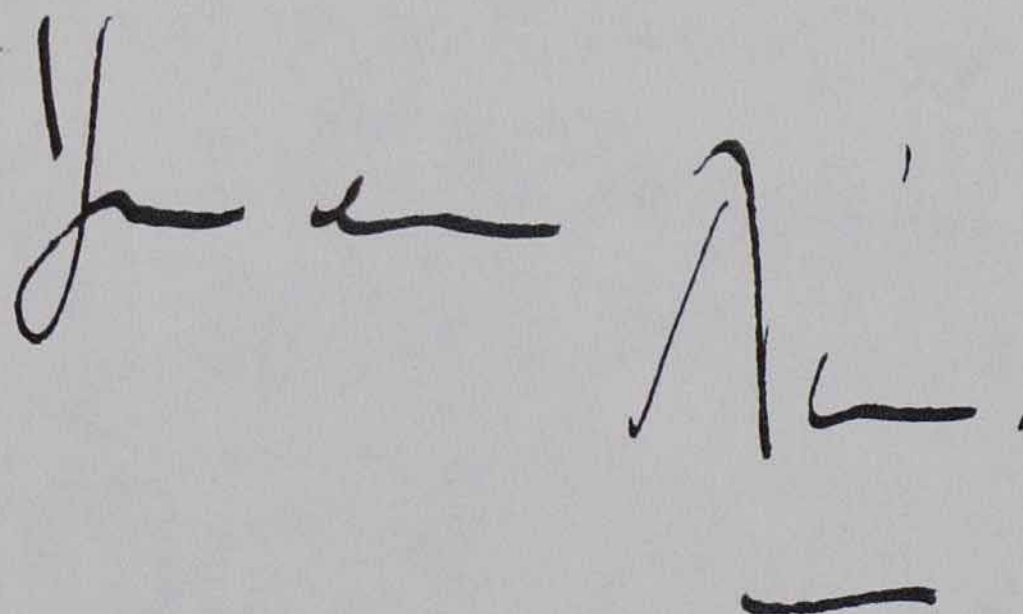
you will agree that we need not proceed with it next Session (although, as you say, some parts of it could well be dealt with in a Private Member's Bill). The Civil Government Bill is a very long one which, as I understand it, covers the same sort of ground as the England and Wales Local Government Etc Bill which Michael Heseltine has now agreed to postpone to the 1981/1982 Session. I can see that enactment of your Civic Government Bill next Session would be a useful tidying up measure, but since the local legislation with which it mainly deals does not expire until the end of 1982, I hope that you would have no serious difficulty in following the precedent set by Michael Heseltine.

If we are to follow this approach the words "and civic" will have to be deleted from the Scottish paragraph in the draft Queen's Opening Speech. That means that we should, ideally, try to reach agreement on a curtailed Scottish programme before next Thursday's Cabinet, but if that is not possible I do not think that it would prejudice your position if we were to refer simply to "local government" in the relevant paragraph. The distinction between local and civic government is a very fine one.

...

With this letter I enclose a copy of one I have sent to Willie Whitelaw and all Cabinet colleagues with Bills promised for introduction at the start of the new Session, urging that they should be brought forward as quickly as possible; insofar as that letter refers to the Civil Government Bill, I should of course make it clear that it is to be read as subject to the outcome of your consideration of this letter.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Major". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right. Below the signature is a short horizontal line.



21 OCT 1980



RESTRICTED



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE  
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2AT

21 October 1980

✓MS

*De Willie*

As you know, the Cabinet decided on 16 October to recommend to The Queen that the State Opening of the next Session of Parliament should be postponed to 20 November. This means that we shall be lucky to get any bills beyond Second Reading before Christmas, and that in turn will bring our whole legislative programme under considerable pressure towards the middle of 1981. That makes it particularly important that the timetable for the preparation of bills which are due to be ready for introduction at the beginning of the next Session is not allowed to slip. I should be very grateful if all our colleagues who have any bills falling into this category could do their utmost to ensure that they are brought forward to Legislation Committee as early as possible, and in any event not later than the middle of November. I attach a list of the bills which have been promised for the beginning of the Session, and if there is any doubt at all about their being ready in time, the Lord President, the two Chief Whips, and I should be informed immediately.

It is also highly desirable that those colleagues who have promised bills for introduction by Christmas should ensure that this timetable is kept.

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

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

RESTRICTED

BILLS WHICH SHOULD BE READY AT THE BEGINNING OF SESSION 1980/81

Lords Introduction

Parliamentary Commissioners (Consular Complaints)

Anguilla

International Organisations

Energy Conservation

Town and Country Planning (Minerals)

Wildlife and Countryside

Supreme Court

Contempt of Court

Civic Government (Scotland)

Others

Industry

Forestry

Merchant Shipping

Deep Sea Mining

Armed Forces

Fisheries

European Assembly Elections

Education (Scotland)

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland)

21 OCT 1980





Caxton House Tothill Street London SW1H 9NA

Telephone Direct Line 01-213 6400

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GTN 213

Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP  
 Chancellor of the Exchequer  
 Treasury  
 Great George Street  
 LONDON SW1

16 October 1980

*Manpower: June 80  
Youth Employment*

SHOULD THE SCOTTISH AND WELSH COMMITTEES OF THE MANPOWER SERVICES COMMISSION BE PUT ONTO A STATUTORY BASIS?

I wrote to you on 30 July about Industrial Training, and sought agreement that Parliamentary Counsel should be asked to draft, on a contingent basis, legislation for an Employment and Training Bill this session. There was general agreement to 9 of the 10 items included in my list, and instructions have been sent to Counsel on these.

The tenth proposal was that the Scottish and Welsh Committees of the Manpower Services Commission should be put on a statutory basis. Nicholas Edwards and George Younger were in favour of this, but Paul Channon and John Biffen were against, and asked that the matter be re-examined by officials. This re-examination has now taken place. Essentially the argument in favour of putting these Committees onto a statutory basis is presentational. While I am well aware of the pressures on us at a time of high unemployment I think that a cosmetic change of the kind envisaged would not really succeed in reducing or diverting them, and indeed might well provoke an adverse reaction because of its inadequacy in the face of the problems of Scotland and Wales. Moreover, as Paul Channon said, it is clearly contrary to our policy on quangos to entrench these bodies in statute, and the attempt to do so would provoke amendments which would be very awkward to deal with. Furthermore, and in addition to the arguments advanced by Paul Channon and John Biffen, with which I agree, the Chairman of the Manpower Services Commission has advised that the Commission themselves would not welcome the change.



In his letter to me of 2 April, Willie Whitelaw asked me to consider dropping some of the possible items from the Bill, including this one. In the light of the above I propose that we do not seek to put the Scottish and Welsh Committees of the MSC on a statutory basis.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Members of E Committee, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Secretaries of State for Scotland, Wales and Education and Science, Sir Robert Armstrong and Mr J R Ibbs.

*Y  
h  
T*



PRIME MINISTER

Overtake - PA  
MJS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL: DEFEATS IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

I am sorry to have to tell you that the Government was defeated twice in the House of Lords this afternoon on the Local Government Bill.

The reason for the defeats was not a revolt by Government supporters, but the absence of several Peers at Lord Dilhorne's memorial service, together with a certain amount of illness. The majority in each Division was only three.

One of the amendments which has been carried is of considerable importance: it restricts the right of the Secretary of State for the Environment to require new towns to sell their assets. The effect of the amendment would be to provide that such sales could go ahead only where the proceeds would be used for the development of the new town in question. The second amendment is a technical one about powers of recovery of funds arising from sales of new town assets. DOE officials say that there are alternative ways of reaching the same objective within the Secretary of State's existing powers, and they are not concerned about this afternoon's <sup>second</sup> defeat. It will be necessary, however, to think hard about whether to try to reverse the first amendment in the Commons or, instead, to come to some sort of accommodation over it.

As I dictate this, the Lords Business Managers are discussing whether to try and complete the Committee stage tonight.

They \*  
didn't finish the  
Bill; in my view,  
postponement is  
now inevitable  
MJS

They doubt that they can. If they decide to use an extra day, then we must postpone the State Opening.

I will report to you further about what they decide on the handling of the Bill, but no doubt you will want Lord Soames and Mr. Heseltine to report briefly to colleagues in Cabinet on Thursday morning.

MJS

14 October 1980



CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Affairs

*Prime Minister - Parliament  
of Cabinet decided finally on 20<sup>th</sup>  
November tomorrow, I am sure that  
the new date should be announced  
as soon as The Queen has been  
told (She has already been warned  
but the change is likely). This may  
take a few hours, depending  
on the details of her programme in Italy.*

You may wish the Cabinet to be told the present state of business in the House of Lords and invited to endorse the postponement of the State Opening from 13th November to 20th November. (Since the House of Commons does not resume until Monday, 27th October, there is no need to ask the Chancellor of the Duchy to tell the Cabinet about forthcoming business in the Commons until next week's Cabinet.)

*13th  
15th*

BACKGROUND

2. The State Opening of the 1980-81 Session of Parliament had been arranged for Thursday, 13th November, with Prorogation of the current Session on Monday, 10th or Tuesday, 11th November. These dates were, however, dependent on three major Bills - Broadcasting, Civil Aviation and, in particular, the Local Government Bill - completing their passage through the Lords by Monday, 3rd November to allow time for Commons' consideration of Lords' amendments before Prorogation. The Lord President reported to you earlier in the week his doubts whether the Local Government, Planning and Land (No. 2) Bill could be got through the House of Lords in time. In the event, the Lords' Committee Stage of the Bill was not completed on Tuesday evening, though it is hoped to complete it today, Wednesday, and it has become almost inevitable that the State Opening will have to be postponed. Your own visit to Germany and The Queen's commitments in connection with the State Visit of the King of Nepal mean that Thursday, 20th November is the earliest practicable alternative date. Your Office have already asked the Palace to reserve that date.

HANDLING

3. You may wish to ask the Lord President for an up-to-date statement of the progress of the three Bills in the Lords. The Government secured satisfactory majorities in discussion of the block grant provisions of the Local Government Bill - and the Cabinet may wish to record their appreciation of the work of the Lords' business managers - but were narrowly defeated on two amendments to a clause on new towns. How serious were these defeats and can

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they be reversed at the next stage? The Secretary of State for the Environment may wish to comment. Is the Lord President satisfied that the Government can now secure the passage of the three Bills without major problems? The Chancellor of the Duchy and the Chief Whip may want to comment on the likely response of the Commons to the Lords' amendments. If postponement of the State Opening gives a few more days' leeway, is it likely that there will have to be a guillotine on the Local Government Bill?

4. As regards the State Opening, the Lord President, supported if necessary by the Chief Whip, can explain why it has to be postponed. That being so, there seems every advantage in announcing the decision as soon as possible: invitations for 13th November have already gone out. The Cabinet may be content to leave the exact timing to the Lord President's judgment of the tactical situation in dealing with the Opposition in the House of Lords. It is, of course, essential that The Queen should be told before any announcement is made.

5. Finally, you may wish to ask the Chancellor of the Duchy to report to next week's Cabinet on the likely implications of postponement for Commons business, both before Prorogation and for the legislative programme of the next Session.

CONCLUSION

6. Subject to any points made in discussion, the Cabinet might note the present position in the House of Lords, endorse the decision to postpone the State Opening until 20th November, and invite the Lord President to arrange for that postponement to be announced as early as possible by way of a statement in the House of Lords.



(Robert Armstrong)

15th October 1980



CONFIDENTIAL

*From the Secretary of State*

T F Mathews Esq  
Private Secretary to the  
Chief Secretary  
HM Treasury  
Parliament Street  
SW1

9 October 1980

Dear Jerry

## BRITISH AIRWAYS BORROWING POWERS

.....

You mentioned to me on the telephone that the Chief Secretary wished to have an opportunity to see the proposed terms of the Press Notice announcing deferral of the flotation of British Airways. I attach a draft which has been approved by my Secretary of State. It is our intention to issue this on Monday morning and we are sending copies of the draft to the Chairman of British Airways tomorrow. I would be very grateful therefore if you could show it to Mr Biffen as soon as possible.

I am copying this letter to Tim Lankester (No 10) and Richard Prescott (Paymaster General's Office).

Yours sincerely,

S HAMPSON  
Private Secretary

Handwritten: *Handwritten*Handwritten: *cf Press office  
T/F (10/12)  
to SA  
MJ*Handwritten: *B*

DRAFT PRESS NOTICE

The Government have today tabled an amendment to the Civil Aviation Bill to increase British Airways' borrowing limit from £350m to £1,000m.

Referring to this amendment the Secretary of State for Trade, Mr John Nott, said:

"It is the Government's firm intention to change British Airways' status to that of a private sector company in which shares will be offered to the public - but we have avoided giving any firm commitments as to the timing of a flotation. In view of the present difficulties in the international civil aviation market which have adversely affected the financial performance of all airlines, including British Airways, it is now clear it will not be possible to launch a successful flotation in 1981.

Meanwhile, British Airways face a large capital investment programme to modernise their aircraft fleet and that part of the necessary expenditure will have to be funded by external borrowings. The amendment to the Civil Aviation Bill increasing the airline's borrowing powers is therefore necessary to cater for those borrowings over the next year or so. Such borrowings are already included in published Government forecasts of nationalised industries' financing and therefore do not represent any addition to public expenditure."

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1 British Airways statutory borrowing limits are governed by the provision of S. 9 of the British Airways Board Act 1977 as amended by S. 5 of the Civil Aviation Act 1973. This limit was increased to £350m by order in April 1980 (SI 1980 number 500).

2 The Civil Aviation Bill awaits its Committee Stage proceedings in the House of Lords.



TPL(101R)  
to see  
MS  
9/10

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

The Rt Hon John Nott MP  
Secretary of State  
Department of Trade  
1 Victoria Street  
London SW1H 0ET

9 October 1980

Dear Secretary of State,

BRITISH AIRWAYS' STATUTORY BORROWING POWERS

Thank you for your letter of 2 October explaining your proposed House of Lords' amendment to the Civil Aviation Bill to increase British Airways' statutory borrowing limit from its present level of £850 million to £1,000 million.

You have indicated that this new limit should suffice until British Airways can be privatised, which you now expect to be by January 1983. Although you have not provided detailed supporting figures, your proposed new limit appears broadly consistent with those underlying our recent bilateral discussions. I am therefore content with your proposal - the level of British Airways' permitted borrowing for any particular year will of course fall to be settled in the usual annual discussions.

I note that at the same time as tabling the new clause you intend to announce a delay in privatisation. I would not oppose an explicit statement if you consider it necessary at this stage, but would wish to be consulted on the text of your proposed statement.

You did not explain in detail your proposed minor amendment to Clause 10 which I believe is a technical one simply updating certain penalties.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, to Keith Joseph, Christopher Soames, both Chief Whips and other members of QL. ?

Yours sincerely

T. Matthews

JOHN BIFFEN

[Approved by the Chief Secretary  
and signed in his absence]

19 OCT 1989

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

Parliament 2  
PRIME MINISTER

Early warning that despite  
all the thought given  
to dates earlier this  
year, we may have to  
face the possibility of

6 October 1980

postponing the State

Opening. We will keep

you in touch with

developments, but it is

too soon to reach

decisions yet.

ms  
7/10

ms

Mr Maclean

SPILOVER SESSION 1979-80 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL ETC

You should know that developments in the Lords over the last week or so have led me to view the spillover timetable with rising concern. It will not be possible to draw any firm conclusions until the Local Government Bill is well into Committee, perhaps Wednesday 8 October at the earliest. But I felt it right to express my concern in writing at this stage.

Since the Business Managers last discussed this session's legislative programme early in August there have been the following developments, all of which could have an adverse effect on the programme:

1. Well over 400 amendments and some 80 notices to leave out clauses and schedules have been tabled to the Local Government Bill. Only 100 of these are Government Amendments. Well over half the total were tabled only in the last 10 days or so - over 100 in the last 3 days.
2. Although a rough timetable for the Committee stage has been agreed, the opposition have warned me that because a great number of amendments have been tabled by the Liberals, the Cross Benchers and Government supports, they can give no guarantee that the time allocated will be sufficient.
3. During the recess the Secretary of State for the Environment announced the penalties to be imposed under the transitional rate support grant arrangements. In addition, details of his recent discussions with the Association of County Councils have received attention in the press. Whilst these actions will be vigorously defended in the House, they will undoubtedly strengthen opposition to the Block Grant provisions and have already raised the temperature in the House.
4. As agreed, Government amendments will be kept to an absolute minimum. There have been a series of meetings with the Lords Business Managers during the recess to ensure that this proves to be the case. Nevertheless, 100 are already tabled; more will

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

follow and some appropriate concessions to the opposition are inevitable. Judging on experience in the summer, we can expect a final tally of around 200, certainly no less.

5. In the light of the final outcome over the Housing Bill in the last week before the recess, you may well face similar difficulties when the Local Government Bill is returned to the Commons. But there are also signs that events on the Housing Bill have focussed attention on the programme difficulties in the Lords. We will come under great pressure to widen the gap between Committee and Report, which at present is only 9 or 10 days. If the Committee stage cannot be contained or if there are a host of amendments for Report, this will be difficult to resist. The printing problem alone is formidable.

6. There are now many more Government Amendments (at least 40) to the Broadcasting Bill as a result of the recent decision on the 4th channel in Wales. It seems likely that there will be some, though only a few, to the Civil Aviation Bill.

In all these circumstances I cannot realistically foresee Third Reading of the Local Government Bill in the Lords before Monday, 3 November. Indeed, at the risk of appearing pessimistic - I repeat it is too early to say - there must be a strong chance that Third Reading cannot be completed until the end of that week. You may feel that Third Reading on Monday, 3 November, let alone later that week, will not allow sufficient time for consideration of Lords Amendments before Prorogation on Monday 10 November (almost certainly the latest possible date) and State Opening on Thursday, 13 November. I had hoped to secure Third Readings for the Broadcasting and Civil Aviation Bills on Monday, 3 November. If, in fact, Third Reading of Local Government is taken that day, I will do all I can to ensure that Third Readings of the other two Bills are taken instead at the end of the previous week ie. on Friday, 31 October. This could prove difficult - the gaps between Report and Third Reading will be very small - but on balance should prove possible.

I do, of course, appreciate the paramount importance of beginning the new session at the earliest possible opportunity. But there can be no denying the scale of the problem in the Lords. You and I might usefully discuss this minute. Later this week when the picture in the Lords becomes clearer it might be appropriate for the Business Managers to meet and discuss the points I have raised as a matter of urgency. If there is any possibility that the State Opening must be postponed, it would clearly be desirable to reach an early decision.

I am sending a copy of this note to Robin Birch (Chancellor of the Duchy's Office) and Leonard Harris (Cabinet Office).

df

M G POWNALL

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7 OCT 19



From the Secretary of State

The Rt Hon John Biffen MP  
Chief Secretary  
HM Treasury  
Treasury Chambers  
Parliament Street  
London SW1

cc Mr Sattin  
Mr Hasky

2 October 1980

Parliament 2  
Dunm... ..

I have checked on  
X below: Mr. Nott  
with Mr. announce  
his visit after  
Brighton.

Dear John.

mt

R 3/10

R 2/10

BRITISH AIRWAYS STATUTORY BORROWING POWERS

In my letter of 9 September to Norman St John-Stevas I explained that British Airways' present statutory borrowing limit of £850m would probably be reached by April or May 1981. If I were to avoid amending the Civil Aviation Bill in the House of Lords, I needed an assurance that I could have a British Airways Borrowing Powers Bill early next session. On 18 September Norman replied that he would prefer me to put down an amendment to the Civil Aviation Bill. I am therefore writing to you about its content.

It is normal practice to provide for five years when seeking statutory borrowing powers; this would mean a new ceiling of perhaps £1,400m. However, in view of our privatisation intentions I propose to increase the statutory borrowing powers by only £150m to £1000m, which should see the British Airways Board through to 1982, when they would be converted into a company for a January 1983 sale of shares. If that should not prove possible, then I would propose a one-clause borrowing powers Bill early in the 1982-83 session, which should not be so heavily congested with legislation as we are at present.

Provided you are content with this proposal, I will take steps to propose a new clause for the Lords Committee Stage on 16 October. On tabling the new clause - which I would like to do next week - I would make a public statement that in view of the downturn in the aviation

X ||



industry it was not the Government's intention to market British Airways shares in the course of 1981.

I also have one other minor amendment to put down to Clause 10 arising from the passage of the Magistrates Court Act since the Bill was considered in the Commons.

I note that Christopher Soames hopes that we will not have to put these amendments down if there are no others to meet points made by the Opposition. But, as I have explained, British Airways borrowing powers is an essential amendment, since I have no assurance of being able to have a Bill next session.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, to Keith Joseph, Christopher Soames, both Chief Whips and the other Members of Q.L.

*Yours ever  
John*

JOHN NOTT

Handwritten red stamps: "22 OCT 1980" and "C. B. H. 11 12 1980".



✓  
MAY  
Pendant

FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE  
HOUSE OF LORDS

24th September 1980

Dear John,

I have seen a copy of your reply dated 9th September to Norman St. John-Stevas' letter to you of 12th August concerning this Session's Civil Aviation Bill.

I entirely agree that Government Amendments in the Lords must be kept to an absolute minimum. It would indeed help our extremely tight timetable in October if the Bill could proceed to Royal Assent without being returned to the Commons. If it looks as though no other amendments will be necessary, I agree that neither of your two sets of amendments should be made to this Session's Bill. If, on the other hand, a further amendment or two prove necessary to meet points raised in Committee or to ensure the speedy passage of the Bill, it might then be desirable to make the necessary amendment to increase the borrowing powers of the British Airways Board providing that you are really satisfied, as you suggest, that it is unlikely to be opposed in Parliament and will not therefore take up parliamentary time.

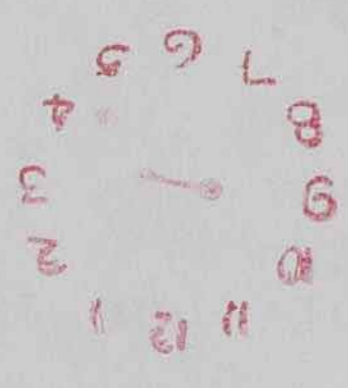
Perhaps you could warn colleagues shortly before the Committee stage, which is likely to be on Thursday 16th October, if no additional amendments to the Bill seem likely.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours ever  
Christy

SOAMES

The Rt Hon John Nott, MP  
Secretary of State for Trade



25 SEP 1980

**CONFIDENTIAL**

2

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE

1 VICTORIA STREET LONDON SW1H 0ET

Telephone 01-215 7877



From the Secretary of State

The Rt Hon Norman St John Stevas MP  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster  
Privy Council Office  
Whitehall  
London, SW1A 2AT

Prime Minister  
To see this letter on  
BA's borrowing limit  
of interest for the  
substantive issue rather  
than the procedural  
question.  
September 1980

mb  
→ 1. JL to see  
2. na MAF 10/1x  
MAF 9/1x

Dear Norman.

When you wrote on 12 August concerning the remaining stages of the Civil Aviation Bill you stressed the need to avoid further Government amendments other than those which are absolutely essential in order that we do not endanger that part of the legislative programme which remains to be completed before the end of the present Session.

I have one major amendment which, in ordinary circumstances, I should have wanted to make when the Lords consider the Civil Aviation Bill, viz to increase the statutory borrowing powers of the British Airways Board. Previous forecasts indicated that the airline's present borrowing limit of £850m would probably suffice until the end of 1981/82. However, BA's profitability is currently so poor that they are having to borrow more heavily and earlier than previously expected and the present limit will be reached by April/May 1981, when borrowings will be necessary to meet progress payments totalling \$300m due on aircraft to which the airline is contractually committed.

I shall have to increase the limit by statute before that time. On its merits this provision is unlikely to be opposed in Parliament. However, I recognise that if we were to attempt to introduce a Government amendment to the present Civil Aviation Bill in the Lords it could cause just the kind of prolonged debate you wish to avoid when the amendment comes back to the Commons for consideration. An alternative course is to make no amendment to the present Bill, but to introduce a short Bill to increase BA's borrowing powers at the beginning of the next Session. I would also propose to include in such a new Bill the technical amendments required to pave the way for a consolidation of of the Civil Aviation Acts which I mentioned in my letter of 23 June to Christopher Soames. These are similarly non-controversial but they are essential for an early consolidation of the Civil Aviation Acts, which are more than normally confusing. If it were not for the problems outlined in your letter I would have proposed they be tabled for inclusion in the present Bill at the Lords Committee Stage.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



*From the Secretary of State*

If, therefore, Willie Whitelaw and others concerned are able to agree now that a new Bill (which should contain no more than a couple of short clauses and a schedule) for this purpose can be accommodated in the programme at the beginning of the next Session, there will be no need for any further Government amendments to the present Civil Aviation Bill. The pre-consolidation amendments are already drafted and the BA borrowing powers Clause is a matter of common form. Preparation of the new Bill is therefore very straightforward and we could have it ready for introduction as soon as the next Session starts provided Parliamentary Counsel is allocated to us urgently.

I realise that next session's programme has already been drawn up, and that extra demands for legislation at this stage are not welcome. But I am sure you will agree that it would be better to accept this small extra burden in the next session than to run the risk of losing the Civil Aviation Bill or some other Bill to which we have already devoted a great deal of Parliamentary time.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours together with other members of QL and Keith Joseph.

Yours ever  
John

JOHN NOTT

7 SEP 1980

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





DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
2 MARSHAM STREET  
LONDON SW1P 3EB  
01-212 3434

*Partout*

**CONFIDENTIAL**

MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

✓  
MS

My Ref: H/PSO/16511/80

21 August 1980

*Dear Norman*

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING AND LAND (NO 2) BILL

Michael Heseltine has asked me to reply to your letter of 12 August about Government amendments to the Local Government, Planning and Land (No 2) Bill.

As you will know, Irwin Bellwin and I went to see Christopher Soames and Bertie Denham recently to discuss this very point. We will, as we have promised, scrutinize all potential Government amendments very carefully and make quite sure that only essential amendments are tabled.

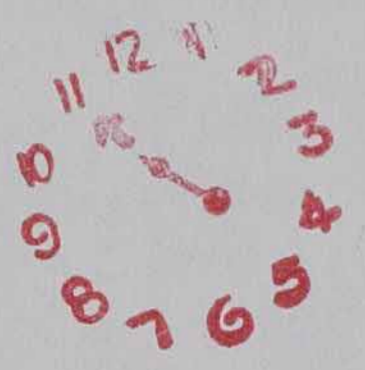
/ I am copying this to the other recipients of your letter.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
TOM KING

**CONFIDENTIAL**

The Rt Hon Norman St John Stevas MP

2 - AUG 1980





Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

20 August 1980

V  
MS

Dear Tim,

*will request if required.*

Your Secretary of State wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 8 August about the additions which might be made to the forthcoming Post Office Bill to deal with Post Office counter services. The Chancellor of the Duchy will want to be sure that the new clauses do not add significantly to the length or contentiousness of the Bill, and would, I think, wish to reserve the right to question their appropriateness in L Committee when the Bill has been drafted. Subject to that, he is willing to give drafting authority for the necessary additions, provided that they do not in any way delay the preparation and introduction of the Bill.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of E Committee, to Murdo MacLean, to First Parliamentary Counsel and to David Wright.

Yours ever,

*R Birch*

R A BIRCH

Ian Ellison Esq  
Private Secretary to the  
Secretary of State for Industry  
Department of Industry  
Ashdown House  
123 Victoria Street  
SW1



*NOTS to see*

*na ms*

*NA*  
*20/*  
*8.*

*Parliament*

QUEEN ANNE'S GATE  
LONDON SW1H 9AT

*19 August 1980*

Thank you for your letter of 7th August.

I appreciate the potential difficulties in completing the legislative programme during the spillover period. I shall certainly do my best to ensure that the Broadcasting Bill does not cause unnecessary problems, although in the current climate opposition to our proposals on Welsh language broadcasting is inevitable.

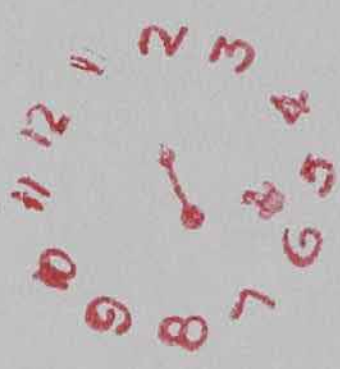
As you will know, we are committed to two sets of amendments at Lords Committee Stage: first, to provide for the establishment of the Welsh Language Television Committee announced by Nicholas Edwards in the Welsh Grand Committee on 16th July and, second, to require the I.B.A. to advertise programme contracts (this will fulfil an undertaking which Leon Brittan gave at Report Stage in the Commons). Apart from these, which I regard as essential, I do not foresee any further Government amendments to the Bill.

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

*W. Whitelan*

The Rt. Hon. Norman St. John Stevas, M.P.

20 AUG 1900



CONFIDENTIAL



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

3 pps  
Postmarked  
PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

12 August 1980

✓  
MS

*Dear Secretary of State*

You will recall that at Cabinet last week I drew attention to the extremely difficult situation which we shall face in completing our legislative programme for this session in the spillover period after the Summer Recess. In their present mood, the Opposition are likely to seize any available opportunity to disrupt Government business, and although I shall continue to do all I can to reach a sensible working accommodation with the front benches, it is clear from last week's experience that the Shadow Cabinet's control over its own backbenchers is, to say the least, tenuous. The tabling of large numbers of Government amendments in either House for discussion in an unreasonably short time not only gives our opponents a credible pretext for wrecking tactics but also - and in the longer term perhaps more seriously - demoralises our own supporters by casting doubt on our ability to manage the Government's legislative programme competently. I recognise that there may be occasions when Government amendments are inevitable to deal with major difficulties which emerge only after a Bill has been introduced, but in the current situation we cannot afford the luxury of putting down purely drafting amendments, or amendments which make only marginal improvements to the substance. The cost of aiming at perfection could well be the loss of one or more of the three Bills we shall be dealing with in the spillover, and I hope that you will be able to assist the business managers by taking steps to ensure that Government amendments to the Local Government Planning and Land (No 2) Bill are confined to absolutely essential points.

I am writing in similar terms to Willie Whitelaw and John Nott, and I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Christopher Soames, both Chief Whips, and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Richard C. O'Donnell*

Dictated by the Chancellor of the Duchy and signed in his absence

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

CONFIDENTIAL

12 AUG 1980





Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

12 August 1980

*Dear Secretary of State*

You will recall that at Cabinet last week I drew attention to the extremely difficult situation which we shall face in completing our legislative programme for this session in the spillover period after the Summer Recess. In their present mood, the Opposition are likely to seize any available opportunity to disrupt Government business, and although I shall continue to do all I can to reach a sensible working accommodation with the front benches, it is clear from last week's experience that the Shadow Cabinet's control over its own backbenchers is, to say the least, tenuous. The tabling of large numbers of Government amendments in either House for discussion in an unreasonably short time not only gives our opponents a credible pretext for wrecking tactics but also - and in the longer term perhaps more seriously - demoralises our own supporters by casting doubt on our ability to manage the Government's legislative programme competently. I recognise that there may be occasions when Government amendments are inevitable to deal with major difficulties which emerge only after a Bill has been introduced, but in the current situation we cannot afford the luxury of putting down purely drafting amendments, or amendments which make only marginal improvements to the substance. The cost of aiming at perfection could well be the loss of one or more of the three Bills we shall be dealing with in the spillover, and I hope that you will be able to assist the business managers by taking steps to ensure that Government amendments to the Civil Aviation Bill are confined to absolutely essential points.

I am writing in similar terms to Willie Whitelaw and Michael Heseltine, and I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Christopher Soames, both Chief Whips, and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours sincerely*  
*John Nott*

Dictated by the Chancellor of the  
Duchy and signed in his absence

The Rt Hon John Nott MP  
Secretary of State for Trade  
Department of Trade  
1 Victoria St  
SW1



12 AUG 1980



GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION~~PRIME MINISTER~~

The list of business

for the spillover - short  
but not necessarily easy...MS  
4/8

- (i) Awaiting Second Reading  
 ∅ Limitation (L)  
 ∅ Overseas Development (L)  
 ∅ Statute Law Revision (NI) (L)

- (ii) Committee of Whole House  
 ∅ Highways (L)

- (iii) Orders and Regulations  
 \* Charities  
 Diseases of Animals (NI)  
 Education (Assisted Places)  
 Firearms (NI)

Date Laid	Whether Controversial	Date Required
22/7	No	By end of Session
22/7	No	By end Nov
21/7	Yes	For debate, 30/10
14/7	No	By end Nov

LORDS

- Broadcasting  
 Civil Aviation  
 Criminal Justice (Scotland) (L)  
 Law Reform (Misc Prov) (Scotland) (L)  
 Local Government, Planning and Land (No.2)  
 ∅ Social Welfare (Local Services) (L)

- ∅ Consolidation  
 \* SI Committee

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (60)

Appropriation (No.2) 1979  
Bail, Etc (Scotland) 1980  
Bees 1980  
British Aerospace 1980  
Charging Orders 1980  
Companies 1980  
Competition 1980  
Child Care 1980  
Coal Industry 1980  
Consolidated Fund (No.2) 1979  
Consolidated Fund 1980  
Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) (No.2) 1980  
Consular Fees 1980  
Criminal Appeal (NI) 1980  
Education 1979  
Education 1980  
Education (Scotland) 1980  
Employment 1980  
European Assembly (Pay and Pensions) 1979  
European Communities (Greek Accession) 1979  
Films 1980  
Finance (No.2) 1979  
Finance 1980  
Foster Children 1980  
Gas 1980  
Health Services 1980  
Highlands and Islands Air Services (Scotland) 1980  
Housing 1980  
Industry 1980  
Insurance Companies 1980  
Iran (Temporary Powers) 1980  
Isle of Man 1979  
Justices of the Peace 1979  
Kiribati 1979  
Limitation Amendment 1980  
Magistrates' Courts 1980  
National Health Service (Invalid Direction) 1980  
National Heritage 1980  
New Hebrides 1980

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (60)

New Towns 1980  
Papua, New Guinea, Western Samoa and Nauru (Misc Prov) 1980  
Pensioners' Payments and Social Security 1979  
Petroleum Revenue Tax 1980  
Police Negotiating Board 1980  
Port of London (Financial Assistance) 1980  
Protection of Trading Interests 1980  
Reserve Forces 1980  
Residential Homes 1980  
Sale of Goods 1979  
Sea Fish Industry 1980  
Shipbuilding 1979  
Slaughter of Animals (Scotland) 1980  
Social Security 1980  
Social Security (No.2) 1980  
Solicitors (Scotland) 1980  
Southern Rhodesia 1979  
Tenants' Rights, Etc (Scotland) 1980  
Transport 1980  
Water (Scotland) 1980  
Zimbabwe 1980



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

7 August 1980

*Dear Willie*

You will recall that at Cabinet this morning I drew attention to the extremely difficult situation which we shall face in completing our legislative programme for this session in the spillover period after the Summer Recess. In their present mood, the Opposition are likely to seize any available opportunity to disrupt Government business, and although I shall continue to do all I can to reach a sensible working accommodation with the front benches, it is clear from this week's experience that the Shadow Cabinet's control over its own backbenchers is, to say the least, tenuous. The tabling of large numbers of Government amendments in either House for discussion in an unreasonably short time not only gives our opponents a credible pretext for wrecking tactics but also - and in the longer term perhaps more seriously - demoralises our own supporters by casting doubt on our ability to manage the Government's legislative programme competently. I recognise that there may be occasions when Government amendments are inevitable to deal with major difficulties which emerge only after a Bill has been introduced, but in the current situation we cannot afford the luxury of putting down purely drafting amendments, or amendments which make only marginal improvements to the substance. The cost of aiming at perfection could well be the loss of one or more of the three Bills we shall be dealing with in the spillover, and I hope that you will be able to assist the business managers by taking steps to ensure that Government amendments to the Broadcasting Bill are confined to absolutely essential points.

I am writing in similar terms to John Nott and Michael Heseltine, and I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Christopher Soames, both Chief Whips, and Sir Robert Armstrong.

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

12 AUG 1980





Mr Speaker

cc IC

2  
~~PRIME MINISTER~~

Speaker's House Westminster London SW1A 0AA

CONFIDENTIAL

7th August 1980

Good - but there  
are plenty of  
other devices...

MT

MS  
8/8

I feel that I must give you the most serious warning that the new device of submitting a series of applications under Standing Order No 9 could lead to the total obstruction of Government Business on any day that the Opposition decided to do so.

There is nothing in our rules that prevents me getting two hundred such applications on the same day. I consider it essential for the Procedure Committee to examine this development urgently with a view to making it impossible for more than two or three applications to be made on any one day.

In my judgment this reform of our procedure is now vital if the business of the House is to be allowed to pursue its course.

Although there may be some who believe that what took place yesterday was merely a symptom of the traditional July malaise, I do not hold this view myself. Now that Members have seen what opportunities are open to them, I think that it could very well happen again, and soon.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister and to the Government Chief Whip.

Speaker

The Rt Hon Norman St John-Stevas MP  
Privy Council Office  
Whitehall  
London SW1

Parliament

PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Affairs

1. Business after the Recess

Nothing special. The Procedure Debate will be on the first Tuesday, 28 October. I gather, however, that Lord Soames is concerned about the prospects for the Local Government Bill in the House of Lords in the spillover, since the Second Reading early this week did not go all that smoothly. You might invite him to tell colleagues about his anxieties at this stage.

2. Business Today

Cabinet will need to endorse the arrangements for business today, at least as far as statements are concerned.

Several of the announcements that might have been made orally in the House (such as teachers' pay, Scottish colleges of education and so on) have now been made by Written Answer, and the fishing industry aid decision will be announced in the Fishery Debate late tonight.

What remains for this afternoon, therefore, is:

- (i) Business Question
- (ii) Civil Defence (Home Secretary)
- (iii) Members' Pay (Chancellor of the Duchy)

If Cabinet decides that the decision on shipbuilding compensation and privatisation merits an oral statement, then it will have to decide whether to add such a statement to this list or to drop one. From the point of view of the House itself, the best outcome would be to stick to the list above and to make the announcement about shipbuilding by Written Answer, but that will of course depend on what decision is reached.

3. Progress with the Legislative Programme

I am not sure whether you will want to say much about this week's events, but you could point out that if all goes smoothly in the next two days we ought to add five more Acts (Housing,

/Tenants'



Tenants' Rights, Health Service, Coal Industry and Consolidated Fund) to the 55 Government Bills which had received Royal Assent by the end of last week. That will leave outstanding only the Local Government Bill, Broadcasting Bill, Civil Aviation Bill, Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill, and a handful of consolidation measures. In other words, the Cabinet's target has been achieved - and the credit should go to the business managers.

4. Defence Cash Limits

The Chancellor will want to mention this briefly. Mr. Pym's minute to you is below.

MS

7 August 1980



2

PA  
MS

10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

MS

I do not normally bother you  
with this (weekly) list of  
legislation, but you might like  
to see how short the list of  
outstanding Bills has become — and  
to note that the Employment Bill  
received Royal Assent today and  
is among the 55 public Bills  
placed on the Statute Book so far

MS 1/8

1st August 1980

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

(i) Awaiting Second Reading

- Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) (No.2) ✓
- ∅ Limitation (L)
- ∅ Overseas Development (L)
- ∅ Statute Law Revision (NI) (L)

(ii) Committee of Whole House

- ∅ Highways (L)

(iii) Lords Amendments

- ✓ Health Services
- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Tenants' Rights, Etc (Scotland)

(iv) <u>Orders and Regulations</u>	<u>Date Laid</u>	<u>Whether Controversial</u>	<u>Date Required</u>
Agriculture and Horticulture Development	28/7	Maybe	For debate 5/8
Agriculture and Horticulture Grant	28/7	Maybe	For debate 5/8
* Anti Competitive Practices	21/7	No	By Summer Recess
British Aerospace	18/7	Yes	For debate 6/8
* Charities	22/7	No	By end of Session
Diseases of <u>Animals</u> (NI)	22/7	No	By end Nov
Education (Assisted Places)	21/7	Yes	By spill-over
Farm Capital Grant	8/7	No	For debate 5/8
Financial Limits (NEB and S of S)	18/7	Yes	For debate 6/8
Firearms (NI)	14/7	No	By end Nov
Horticulture Capital Grant	8/7	No	For debate 5/8
* Local Authorities (Relaxation of Controls) (Scotland)	17/7	No	By spill-over

\* SI Committee

∅ Consolidation

LORDS

- Broadcasting
- Civil Aviation
- Coal Industry
- Criminal Justice (Scotland) (L)
- Law Reform (Misc Prov) (Scotland) (L)
- Local Government, Planning and Land (No.2)
- $\phi$  Social Welfare (Local Services) (L)

$\phi$  Consolidation

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (55)

Appropriation (No.2) 1979  
Bail, Etc (Scotland) 1980  
Bees 1980  
British Aerospace 1980  
Charging Orders 1980  
Companies 1980  
Competition 1980  
Child Care 1980  
Consolidated Fund (No.2) 1979  
Consolidated Fund 1980  
Consular Fees 1980  
Criminal Appeal (NI) 1980  
Education 1979  
Education 1980  
Education (Scotland) 1980  
Employment 1980  
European Assembly (Pay and Pensions) 1979  
European Communities (Greek Accession) 1979  
Films 1980  
Finance (No.2) 1979  
Finance (No.2) 1980  
Foster Children 1980  
Gas 1980  
Highlands and Islands Air Services (Scotland) 1980  
Industry 1980  
Insurance Companies 1980  
Iran (Temporary Powers) 1980  
Isle of Man 1979  
Justices of the Peace 1979  
Kiribati 1979  
Limitation Amendment 1980  
Magistrates' Courts 1980  
National Health Service (Invalid Direction) 1980  
National Heritage 1980  
New Hebrides 1980  
New Towns 1980  
Papua, New Guinea, Western Samoa and Nauru (Misc Prov) 1980  
Pensioners' Payments and Social Security 1979  
Petroleum Revenue Tax 1980

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (55)

Police Negotiating Board 1980  
Port of London (Financial Assistance) 1980  
Protection of Trading Interests 1980  
Reserve Forces 1980  
Residential Homes 1980  
Sale of Goods 1979  
Sea Fish Industry 1980  
Shipbuilding 1979  
Slaughter of Animals (Scotland) 1980  
Social Security 1980  
Social Security (No.2) 1980  
Solicitors (Scotland) 1980  
Southern Rhodesia 1979  
Transport 1980  
Water (Scotland) 1980  
Zimbabwe 1980

PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Affairs

1. Next week's business. As far as we can see this evening, the prospects for getting the business through next week look fairly good. The main problem remaining is the Housing Bill, and in particular the Lords' amendment removing the right to buy old people's housing. There was another fuss about this today, which led to the adjournment of the Lords for half-an-hour. John Stanley was asked in Questions what the Government proposed to do about this Lords' amendment. Gerald Kaufman asked him for a clear answer on the Government's attitude. Mr. Stanley said that the Government would not accept the amendment but would consider pre-emption (ie the right of the local authority to buy the accommodation back within a specified period). His timing was unfortunate, because the Lords were at that moment debating the third reading of the Housing Bill. I am told that there was quite a fuss in the Lords, and it led to a motion to adjourn the sitting of the Lords for half-an-hour being carried. When they resumed, Lord Soames offered an apology on the Government's behalf for what had been said in the Commons and this seems to have mollified the Opposition.

You might like to ask the Secretary of State for the Environment to tell his colleagues what line he proposes to take in the Commons on Tuesday when they consider the Lords' amendment, and the Lord President to comment on the prospects for the Lords accepting any Commons reversal of the amendment in question.

If later in Cabinet it is decided to attempt to overturn the arbitral award on teachers' pay, then of course business for next week will have to be re-opened, since the Commons will need at least half a day to debate that. I suggest, however, that you might defer discussing the consequences of that decision for the business until the Cabinet have discussed the substantive issue.

2. The House of Lords ceiling. You might perhaps ask the Secretary of State for the Environment to tell his colleagues quite how bad the structural trouble in the Lords is. If emergency arrangements are going to have to be made for the State Opening, then perhaps now is the moment to let the whole Cabinet know. The Lord President will no doubt wish to comment.

30 July 1980

MS

25th July 1980

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

PA  
MS

(i) Awaiting Second Reading

- ∅ Criminal Appeal (NI) (L)
- ∅ Education (Scotland) (L)
- ∅ Highways (L)
- ∅ Overseas Development (L)
- ∅ Solicitors (Scotland) (L)
- ∅ Statute Law Revision (NI) (L)
- ∅ Water (Scotland) (L)

(ii) Report and Third Reading

Law Reform (Misc Prov) (Scotland) (L)

(iii) Lords Amendments

Employment

(iv) Orders and Regulations

	<u>Date Laid</u>	<u>Whether Controversial</u>	<u>Date Required</u>
Agriculture and Horticulture Grant	11/7	Maybe	By Summer Recess
* Anti Competitive Practices	21/7	No	By Summer Recess
British Aerospace	18/7	Yes	By Summer Recess
* Charities	22/7	No	By end of Session
Child Benefit (Up-Rating)	17/7	Yes	For debate, 28/7
* Cinematograph Films (Collection of Levy)	17/7	No	By Summer Recess
* Cinematograph Films (Distribution of Levy)	17/7	No	By Summer Recess
* Companies (Directors' Report) (Employment of Disabled Persons)	17/7	No	By Summer Recess
* Compulsory Acquisition by Public Authorities	9/7	No	By 31/7
Diseases of Animals (NI)	22/7	No	By end Nov
* Double Taxation Relief	25/6	No	By PC Mtg on 28/7
Education (Assisted Places)	21/7	Yes	For debate, 30/7
Family Income Supplements (Computation)	17/7	Yes	For debate, 28/7

∅ Consolidation

\* SI Committee



(iv) <u>Orders and Regulations</u>	<u>Date Laid</u>	<u>Whether Controversial</u>	<u>Date Required</u>
Farm Capital Grant	8/7	No	By Summer Recess
Financial Limits (NEB and S of S)	18/7	Yes	By 4/8
Firearms (NI)	14/7	No	By end Nov
Horticulture Capital Grant	8/7	No	By Summer Recess
* Income Tax	4/7	No	In w/c 28/7
IMF	4/7	No	For debate, 30/7
* Local Authorities (Relaxation of Controls) (Scotland)	17/7	No	By spill-over
* North of Scotland	9/7	No	By Summer Recess
Pensioners' (Lump Sum Payments)	17/7	Yes	For debate, 28/7
Social Security Benefits Up-Rating	17/7	Yes	For debate, 28/7
Social Security (Benefit) (Married Women & Widows' Special Provisions)	17/7	No	For debate, 28/7
Supplementary Benefit (Requirements)	17/7	Yes	For debate, 28/7
Supplementary Benefit (Resources)	17/7	Yes	For debate, 28/7

#### LORDS

Broadcasting  
 Civil Aviation  
 Coal Industry  
 Criminal Justice (Scotland) (L)  
 Finance (No.2)  
 Health Services  
 Housing  
 ∅ Limitation (L)  
 Local Government, Planning and Land (No.2)  
 ∅ Social Welfare (Local Services) (L)  
 Tenants' Rights, Etc (Scotland)

#### Awaiting Royal Assent

∅ Magistrates' Courts (L)  
 ∅ Consolidation  
 \* SI Committee

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (48)

Appropriation (No.2) 1979  
Bail, Etc (Scotland) 1980  
Bees 1980  
British Aerospace 1980  
Charging Orders 1980  
Companies 1980  
Competition 1980  
Child Care 1980  
Consolidated Fund (No.2) 1979  
Consolidated Fund 1980  
Consular Fees 1980  
Education 1979  
Education 1980  
European Assembly (Pay and Pensions) 1979  
European Communities (Greek Accession) 1979  
Films 1980  
Finance (No.2) 1979  
Foster Children 1980  
Gas 1980  
Highlands and Islands Air Services (Scotland) 1980  
Industry 1980  
Insurance Companies 1980  
Iran (Temporary Powers) 1980  
Isle of Man 1979  
Justices of the Peace 1979  
Kiribati 1979  
Limitation Amendment 1980  
National Health Service (Invalid Direction) 1980  
National Heritage 1980  
New Hebrides 1980  
New Towns 1980  
Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa and Nauru (Misc Prov) 1980  
Pensioners' Payments and Social Security 1979  
Petroleum Revenue Tax 1980  
Police Negotiating Board 1980  
Port of London (Financial Assistance) 1980  
Protection of Trading Interests 1980  
Reserve Forces 1980  
Residential Homes 1980  
Sale of Goods 1979

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (48)

Sea Fish Industry 1980

Shipbuilding 1979

Slaughter of Animals (Scotland) 1980

Social Security 1980

Social Security (No.2) 1980

Southern Rhodesia 1979

Transport 1980

Zimbabwe 1980

Parliament

PRIME MINISTER

STATEMENTS NEXT WEEK

Since last night we have reshuffled the Statements timetable for next week.

With the agreement of all the Ministers concerned, we now propose the following timetable.

Today

1. Business Question
2. Members Pay (Subject to Cabinet approval this morning on timing and content)
3. New Hebrides (Although the Foreign Office wonder whether it is really necessary. I think it is)

Friday 25 July

1. Agriculture and Fisheries Councils

Monday 28 July

1. Scottish Health Service
2. British Shipbuilders Finance (Mr. Butler)

Tuesday 29 July

No Statements (Censure Debate)

Wednesday 30 July

1. Nationality White Paper (Mr. Whitelaw)

Thursday 31 July

1. Business Question
2. Jury Checks (Attorney-General)

Monday 4 August

1. British Shipbuilders Privatisation (Sir Keith Joseph - subject to Cabinet approval next week)

24 July 1980

MS

PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Affairs

Once again there are a number of matters arising from the business. You might perhaps take them in this order:-

1) Next week's business

Since the attached provisional business order was put forward, Murdo has secured agreement from the Opposition that the censure debate will be on Tuesday. The Supply Day which was due to take place on Tuesday will now take place on Wednesday so that the business for Tuesday and Wednesday will essentially be exchanged. We are not yet sure of the details of the subsidiary business on those two days.

I understand from Murdo that the present intention of the Opposition is that the Supply Day will be devoted to textiles until 7 o'clock and that the remaining half a Supply Day may be given to the Liberals.

You will need to confirm that the Chancellor will wind up in the censure debate and to identify speakers for the Government on the Supply Day in the light of the subjects which are finally chosen.

2) Housing Bill

The Secretary of State for the Environment has circulated a minute reporting on the five Government defeats in the House of Lords earlier this week and proposing to ~~accept~~<sup>reject</sup> four of the changes but ~~not~~<sup>accept</sup> the fifth. The Secretary of State for the Environment will want to speak to his minute and the Lord President will no doubt wish to report to colleagues on feeling in the House of Lords.

3) Health Services Bill

There was an earlier Government defeat in the House of Lords in the Health Services Bill, on the subject of payment to GPs' wives to act as secretaries or in some other capacity associated with the practice. I understand from DHSS that this matter has not yet been resolved. You might ask the Secretary of State for Social Services to tell his colleagues how things stand and what he proposes to do. *There is a letter to Lady Masham in the papers attached.*

4) Act of Settlement (Amendment) Bill

A brief from Robert Armstrong is attached.

5) Recess Dates and Date of State Opening

As you know, the business managers have agreed today that the summer recess will start on 8 August and that the House of Lords will come back on 6 October and the House of Commons on 27 October. *Mon*  
It is intended that the State Opening should take place on 11 November. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster will want to report these dates and the Lord President may want to add something about the prospects facing the House of Lords and the need to avoid further Government amendments to bills coming before the Lords wherever possible.

MJ

11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> Nov

F. Sec.

23 July 1980



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY  
Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY

Telephone 01-407 5522

From the Secretary of State for Social Services

M. W. Sanders.

I understand that  
Lady Masham is  
insisting on a  
Government amendment  
(and therefore further  
discussion in the Lords)

22 July 1980

Baroness Masham of Ilton  
House of Lords  
LONDON  
SW1

Dear Lady Masham,

MS

23/7

I am very glad that we had the opportunity today to discuss your new clause in the Health Services Bill. I hope that I left you in no doubt about the Government's sympathy with the objective of the clause, which it fully supports (even though we do not think it goes about it in quite the right way). I explained to you what we were already doing to help through the allowances payable under the Related Ancillary Staff Scheme; and the significant widening of that Scheme we have agreed from 1 October this year so as to bring in wives and other dependants working in the practice if they are qualified nurses. We think this should help in many more cases than have been covered so far when the Scheme has been limited to single handed practitioners in rural areas. As I said this really is as far as we can go for the present given the severe resource constraints we are facing in the NHS, and the pressure of other priorities.

We shall however be reviewing the enlarged Scheme with the representatives of the general practitioners, before the end of 1981 (the Scheme has so far only been extended to March 1982). So there will be opportunity quite shortly to consider the scope for further improvements towards the objective of providing help to all gps regularly employing wives or other relatives on qualifying duties in the practice.

I know that you were appreciative both of the Government's concern to do what it could to help and of the very real limits on what is possible for the present. We could not in the circumstances offer to tell their Lordships on Report that we could accept your clause as it stands or that we could promise to give more help for the moment than we have already agreed to do. But we recognise the strength of feeling in the House on this matter and we certainly want to be as accommodating as we can.

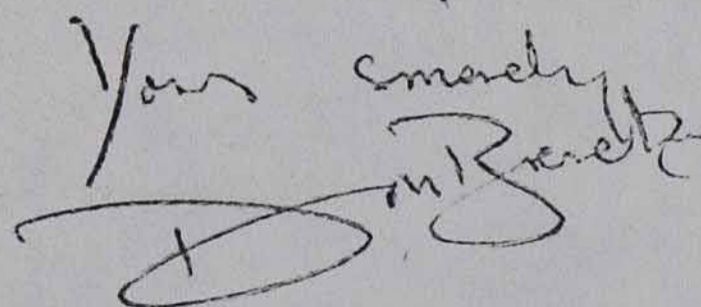
You know also why it is that we want, if possible, to avoid further conflict in the Lords over this matter, given the need to have the bill on the statute book before the Summer Recess. We discussed what might be done and you very helpfully agreed to consider the two alternative options which I put forward as ways of securing an acceptable outcome.

The first would be a clear Government undertaking in the House that there would be some further real improvement in the Related Ancillary Scheme resulting from the joint review next year. I enclose a form of words along the lines that I indicated.

The alternative would be for the Government to table its own clause on Report. I handed you a draft (not necessarily definitive) to show you what I had in mind. It would put the Secretary of State under a duty to make payments and so would be a clear statutory declaration of this obligation. But it would - as I think any clause would have to do - leave the Secretary of State free to determine, after consultation with the profession's representatives, how and when to carry out the duty. I made it clear that for the present I would not be able to go further than we have already done under the Related Scheme. So it would not of itself provide any material improvement at this stage.

You kindly agreed to consider which of these options seemed preferable to you as a basis for allowing you to withdraw your own clause.

I am afraid that time is now very pressing. If the Government is to table the clause then we must decide to do so by mid-day Thursday at the latest. So I would be very glad if you could let me or my Private Secretary (Don Brereton, telephone 01 407 5522 Ext 7666) know before then what course you would like us to take.

Your sincerely  


(Approved by the S of S  
 & signed in his absence)

PS. One further possibility, acceptable to me, which you might also care to consider, would be for the Government to give the undertaking regarding a further improvement following the 1981 review, and to legislate (though not in this Bill) on the lines of the clause. I would see every prospect of including such a clause in a bill next session. This would have the advantage of avoiding a further stage in the Commons for the Health Services Bill.



The Government understand and has great sympathy with the case for improving the present arrangements for payments to gps for work which their wives or other relatives do in the practice. The recent agreement with the representatives of the general practitioners to extend the allowances, payable under the Related Ancillary Staff Scheme, to gps employing relatives who are qualified nurses is a major improvement. To go further would cost money, and at this stage, that is something that cannot be afforded. However we shall, together with the profession's representatives begin a review of that Scheme before the end of 1981. The Government gives their Lordships its assurance that it intends at that stage to secure a further real improvement in the Scheme, as a step towards its objective of giving financial assistance to all gps regularly employing their wives or other relatives on qualifying duties in their practices. What that improvement will be, just how far we shall be able to go, is not a matter we can sensibly settle now. It must depend on what we learn from our review of the working of the Scheme and, inevitably, on the economic circumstances at the time. But the House has the assurance that there will be some tangible improvement in the Scheme at that stage.



10 DOWNING STREET

*Parliament*

*VMS*

From the Press Secretary

22 July, 1980

*Dear Angus*

Many thanks for a copy of your letter of July 21. As I told you, I am the culprit for disclosing that there were to be about sixteen statements before the recess. I did so because the Lobby, not surprisingly, is concerned to plan its weight of work and, more particularly, to service its news editors. In explaining that a substantial number of statements of one kind or another would be coming, I made it clear that some might be oral, some might be written and also that some would be straightforward reportage from EC Councils.

It seems to me that the only worry is the precise figure of sixteen and the failure of the press to state that not all of them may be oral. Surely it is crystal clear to old Parliamentary hands that there is invariably a large number of statements immediately before a recess.

I will, of course, let you know what the press have been told when they have been told. It is very difficult, however, to tell you in advance what they are going to be told since I have to have a lot forced out of me under questions.

I am sorry if I have caused you any difficulty but, with the best will in the world, I must regard the Opposition's concern as highly synthetic. No doubt that's what politics are made of. I am copying to Nick Sanders, David Wright and Liz Hall.

*James Ingham*  
*B. Ingham*

B. INGHAM

M. Maclean, Esq.,  
Office of the Govt. Chief Whip

10



12 DOWNING STREET,  
S.W.1.

*With*

*The Private Secretary's*

*Compliments*



VMS

Government Chief Whip

12 Downing Street, London SW1

21 July 1980

As I mentioned to you last week, the Opposition Chief Whip raised with me the question of Government statements in the House of Commons before the Recess. This was brought about by Press reports last weekend that there were to be about 16 statements, during this period.

During the course of a discussion with Mr Callaghan on 18 July, he reverted to this matter. I said that inevitably towards the end of the session there would be a number of statements although it was not possible at this stage to say how many. Obviously, there would be issues on which it would be helpful to have a Government statement before the Recess, but no formal decision had been taken as to whether these were to be oral or written. I said that the Government would do their best to try to ensure that statements did not eat into the subjects for debate - particularly on Supply days - but it really was not possible at this stage to anticipate what statements would be required.

Mr Callaghan had assumed, of course, that the Press accounts were based on official briefing. In the light of this, I do think that it would be helpful if you or No.10 could let me know what the Press are likely to be told regarding forthcoming statements since it does not help me to have the Opposition obtain this information from the Press.

I am copying this letter to Nick Sanders, Bernard Ingham, David Wright and Liz Hall.

(M MACLEAN)

Miss P Laidlaw  
Office of the Chancellor of the  
Duchy of Lancaster  
68 Whitehall  
SW1



11 12 1  
2 3 4  
5 6 7 8 9

22 JUL 1980



Parliament

✓  
MS

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

15 July 1980

Dear Godfrey,

TENANTS' RIGHTS ETC. (SCOTLAND) BILL

Thank you for your letter of 4 July concerning Government amendments to this Bill.

I am sure that the availability of Notes on Clauses will help the progress of the Bill. Some Government amendments were certainly tabled in good time but a considerable number were tabled late last week, only two sitting days before the Committee stage.

I note from your letter that you had anticipated a total of around 40 Government amendments to the Bill. Thirty-five of these amendments were, in fact, tabled on Monday, 7 July, the day on which I received your letter. There are now 75 Government amendments in the marshalled list for the Committee stage. It is possible that the sheer number of Government amendments has encouraged the Opposition to table more amendments of their own. A considerable number of such amendments were certainly tabled late last week.

There are 168 amendments down for Committee stage. The House will be hard-pressed to complete the stage in the time available. The most serious problem, however, will arise in the Commons. There will inevitably be very little time between Third Reading in the Lords and consideration of Lords amendments in the Commons. I would be grateful if you could do all you can to ensure that Government amendments on Report and Third Reading in the Lords are kept to an absolute minimum. Those which may be welcomed by the Opposition are, of course, acceptable but it is now imperative that the list of Lords amendments - already substantial - does not grow still further.

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

Yours sincerely  
Michael Pownall

M G POWNALL

Godfrey Robson Esq  
Private Secretary to the Secretary  
of State for Scotland

16 JUL 1980



PRIME MINISTER

cc Mr Whitmore  
*[Signature]*

Business Before the Recess

When you see the Chief Whip on Monday, you might perhaps have a word about the timing of any debate on nuclear weapons before the recess.

I attach a copy of Murdo's current plan for the three weeks beginning on 21 July. This is very much a working document from No.12, and the Chancellor of the Duchy has not seen it.

You will see from the plan that there is a certain amount of leeway left in the schedule. The debate on Members' pay is now to be taken on 21 July after 10 o'clock, so that as things stand Friday 25 July and Friday 8 August are both free.

In my view, especially given the exchanges after the business question on Thursday, we shall have to provide a day in Government time for a debate on nuclear weapons after the statement has been made. We must also face the possibility that we shall have to provide a day for a confidence debate if the Opposition table a censure motion.

As things stand, we might be able to accommodate both in the existing schedule without running into difficulties on legislation. If unforeseen problems arise, it would be possible - although the Chancellor of the Duchy would be furious - to defer the procedure debate scheduled for 29 July until the spill-over. But I hope that it will not come to that.

**A. D. SANDERS**

11 July 1980



MONDAY	21 July Supply (27 <sup>th</sup> AD) N.I. (E.P.A. Order). ? Members Pay.	28 July Social Security Orders. Employment Bill - CCLA.	4 August Housing Bill CCLA.	
TUESDAY	22 July Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill - R. ↗	29 July Procedure Debate Law Reform (Misc Procs) Bill - R + 3R	5 August Consolidated Fund Debate	
WEDNESDAY	23 July Civil Aviation Bill - 3R. Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill - 3R.	30 July Supply (28 <sup>th</sup> AD)	6 August Tenants Rights Bill CCLA	
THURSDAY	24 July Coal Bill - R + 3R.	31 July Supply (29 <sup>th</sup> AD)	7 August Summer Adjournment Debates.	
FRIDAY	25 July [Members Pay.] - to be taken on Monday 21 July	1 August Debate ops May Cttee Report.	8 August.	



NEW ST. ANDREWS HOUSE  
ST. JAMES CENTRE  
EDINBURGH EH1 3SX

*Whamont*

① ~~MAP~~ to see

② NBPM  
MS

Michael Pownall Esq  
Private Secretary to the Chief Whip  
House of Lords  
LONDON SW1

4 July 1980 7/7

*Dear Pownall*

TENANTS' RIGHTS ETC (SCOTLAND) BILL

I regret to say that following my letter of 25 June we have had to revise our estimate of the number of Government amendments that will be required during Lords consideration of the Tenants' Rights Etc (Scotland) Bill. It appears we need further drafting amendments which will increase the total number of amendments to around 40. But the number of substantive amendments will remain in single figures and we would not expect that the overall impact on the progress of the Bill will be significantly affected. We shall do our best to ensure this by making notes on amendments available to the Opposition, as we did at Report Stage in the Commons. We shall also do our best to table the amendments well in advance so that the Opposition can have no grounds for complaint on that score.

All this is no doubt unfortunate at this late stage, but we see no alternative to proceeding, particularly since many of the amendments concern the right to buy provisions, which will come under close scrutiny for weakness from hostile local authorities.

I am sending copies of this letter to Nick Sanders (No 10), Ian Maxwell (Lord Chancellor's Office), Robin Birch (Chancellor of the Duchy's Office), Murdo MacLean and David Wright.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Godfrey Robson*

*GR*  
GODFREY ROBSON  
Private Secretary

27 JUL 1980



MFJ

*Parliament.*

2 July 1980

You sent us the attached minute about the Prime Minister's minute to the Lord Chancellor dated 26 July 1979 and classified confidential. I am afraid that we cannot agree <sup>to</sup> the declassification of this document.

NJS

R.C. Thompson Esq  
Department of the Environment.

*MS*

PS / PRIME MINISTER.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, PLANNING AND LAND (NO 2) BILL - DE-CLASSIFICATION OF PAPERS

Chapter 25.8 of DOE's Notes on Public Bill Procedure instructs Bill teams to attempt to de-classify or downgrade all classified documents before the binding of the Bill papers.

On July 26<sup>th</sup> 1979, THE PRIME MINISTER sent a Confidential/~~Restricted~~ minute/~~letter~~ to THE LORD CHANCELLOR about THE LEGISLATIVE Programme 1979-80

I would be grateful if you would advise as soon as possible whether this document may be de-classified, either now or on Royal Assent.

R. C. Thompson

LG4 DOE

P1/119

2, Marsham Street

01-212-3880

RESTRICTED



01-930 5422 ext

233 7665

CABINET OFFICE  
70 WHITEHALL  
LONDON SW1A 2AS

Parliament - Legislative  
Proy.  
✓  
MS

1 July 1980

Dear Private Secretary

GOVERNMENT BILLS SUITABLE FOR OFFERING TO PRIVATE  
MEMBERS IN 1980/81 PARLIAMENTARY SESSION

1. I am writing to invite Departments to suggest suitable Bills for offering to private Members of the House of Commons who are successful in the ballot for Bills. The ballot takes place on the second Thursday of the new Session.
2. To be suitable for this purpose a Bill should normally be short, simple, non-financial and largely uncontroversial. I attach a list of a number of possible Bills, some of which formed part of Departments' bids for the legislative programme 1980/81, which might be suitable for this procedure. We should be grateful to know from the responsible Department whether these Bills can be included in the list of Bills for offering to private Members. We should also be grateful if Departments could suggest further possible private Members' Bills since it will be necessary to build up a longer list covering as wide a range of interests as possible.
3. While there can be no assurance that any of these Bills will be taken up by a private Member, the procedure does offer a useful way of securing the enactment of legislation which might not otherwise reach the Statute Book for some time. A full and reasonably attractive list of measures is also useful in that if Members, especially Government supporters who are successful in the ballot, take up some of these Bills, it reduces the risk of too many other unwelcome and time-consuming measures being introduced (with the consequent extra work for Departments). We should therefore be very grateful for your help in producing a suitable list of Bills.
4. No Bill in this list may be firmly offered to a private Member until Departments have obtained collective policy clearance for it. It is highly desirable, therefore, that wherever possible clearance should be sought before the summer recess and certainly before the start of the new session.
5. Negotiations with Members successful in the ballot - of whatever Party - are the responsibility of the Whips' Office. They are best placed to co-ordinate approaches to the various Members and requests from them; Departments should not contact individual Members themselves. If a Minister is approached by a Member successful in the ballot, the Whips' Office would be grateful to be told as soon as possible. The Bill need not be drafted before the Member gives notice of presentation, but the contents must be sufficiently clear to enable Parliamentary Counsel to draft the long title in time for the Bill to be presented. Drafting authority for this and for the subsequent preparation of the Bill should be sought from the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in the normal way, at the latest once it is known that a Member wishes to take up the Bill. The last day for presentation is the day before the fifth Wednesday of the Session. The Member may however need the final print of the Bill very shortly after that, if it is required for an early second reading.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

6. When replying to this letter I should be grateful if Departments would include a short description of each of the Bills proposed, including its likely length, in a form suitable for showing to private Members. Replies to this letter should be sent to me by Thursday 28 August. If policy approval has not by then been secured for some of these Bills, I should be glad to be informed subsequently as soon as it has been obtained, by telephone if that is convenient; and to know of any additional Bills which may be identified up to the Opening of the new Session.

7. I am sending this letter to the Private Secretaries to all Ministers responsible for Departments and copying it to Robin Birch (Chancellor of the Duchy's Office), Murdo MacLean (Chief Whips' Office) and Brian Shillito (Office of the First Parliamentary Counsel). I am also copying it to Michael Pownall (Lord President's Office) for information.

*Yours sincerely,*

*John Lyon*

J M LYON

Enc

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SESSION 1980/81

BILLS WHICH MIGHT BE SUITABLE FOR HANDING  
TO A MEMBER SUCCESSFUL IN THE BALLOT

Dept	Title	Comment
MAFF	Plant Health Act 1967 (Amendment)	
MOD	Territorial Army	Policy approved by OD: drafting authority given
MOD	Hostage	
DOE	Zoo Licensing	
DOE	Statutory Nuisance	
DHSS	Public Records (Amendment)	
DHSS	Registration of Private Children's Homes	
H0	Forgery and Counterfeit Currency	Policy approved by H: drafting authority given
H0	Fire Service (Amendment)	
H0	Local Government (Public Entertainments)	Policy approved by H
H0	Horserace Betting Levy	Policy approval by H: drafting authority given
H0	Licensing Compensation Funds	Policy approved by H: drafting authority given
LCD	Matrimonial Homes (Rights of Occupation)	Policy approved by H: drafting authority given
LCD	Wills	Policy approved by H
Treasury	Duchy of Cornwall Management	Policy approved by H: drafting authority given

RESTRICTED



1 - JUL 1980



*With the Compliments  
of the  
Private Secretary*

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



Parliament  
SCOTTISH OFFICE  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

1. ~~MAP to see~~

2. PA  
MS

Michael Pownall Esq  
Private Secretary  
House of Lords  
LONDON SW1

25 June 1980

Dear Michael,

TENANTS RIGHTS ETC (SCOTLAND) BILL

Although we have not specifically replied, I thought I should say that we have taken well on board the request, contained in the Leader of the House's letter to my Secretary of State of 28 May, to keep Government amendments to a minimum during Lords' consideration of the Tenants' Rights Etc (Scotland) Bill.

At the moment we have in mind for the Committee Stage only four Government amendments. Two of these are technical, the other two have already been agreed by H Committee, and none are of great substance. It is certainly very unlikely that our amendments will reach double figures.

I am sending copies of this letter to Nick Sanders (No 10), Ian Maxwell (Lord Chancellor's Office), Robin Birch (Chancellor of the Duchy's Office), Murdo MacLean and David Wright.

Yours sincerely,

GODFREY ROBSON  
Private Secretary

26 JUN 1980





Parliament

✓  
M*From the Secretary of State*

The Rt Hon The Lord Soames GCMG, GCVO, CBE  
Leader of the House  
House of Lords  
London, SW1A 0PW

23 June 1980

Dear Christopher:

Thank you for your letter of 28 May.

I fully appreciate the difficulties you face as a result of the legislative congestion in the House of Lords this session and understand the need to ensure that no unnecessary delays are incurred by the tabling of substantive Government amendments during the Civil Aviation Bill's passage through the Upper House. I am pleased to say that work on amendments arising out of Committee stage in the Commons is on schedule and that these amendments should therefore be dealt with on Report. There are currently no other matters outstanding which might require significant changes to the Bill after it leaves the House of Commons (although I should like to attach at an appropriate stage a separate schedule of technical amendments to pave the way for consolidation). Subject therefore to satisfactory progress during Report stage, I do not envisage the introduction of any substantive amendments to the Bill in the Lords.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor, the Chancellor of the Duchy, Chief Whips and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever  
Sh.

JOHN NOTT



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

① MAP to see  
② NBPM

MJ<sup>S</sup>  
23/6

19 June 1980

*Dear Bernie attached*

The Chancellor of the Duchy has seen your Secretary of State's letter of 18 June on the proposed changes in the structure and management of the National Health Service.

As regards the form of the announcement, he is content in principle - subject to the views of the Prime Minister - that this should be an oral statement, but would be very grateful to see a copy of the proposed text nearer the time.

As regards timing, we cannot of course give any firm assurances, but we have noted the preference for 29 July and will certainly try to fit the statement in that week, provided again that the Prime Minister is content.

I am copying this letter (and your Secretary of State's) to Nick Sanders in No 10 and Murdo MacLean in No 12.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Pete*

MISS P LAIDLAW  
Private Secretary

Bernie Merkel Esq  
Private Secretary to the  
Secretary of State for Social Services  
Department of Health & Social Security  
Alexander Fleming House  
Elephant & Castle  
SE1



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY

Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY

Telephone 01-407 5522

From the Secretary of State for Social Services

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

18 June 1980

*Dean Norman,*

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE - CHANGES IN STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

I shall shortly be writing to you and other colleagues to seek agreement to proposals for simplifying the structure and management arrangements of the NHS. In particular I shall be seeking agreement to the removal of the area tier of administration and ways of strengthening management at the hospital and community services level. The proposals flow from "Patients First" the consultative paper we issued in December, and have been reviewed in the light of the comments received. There is, inevitably, differences of opinion about some aspects of the proposals but in general I am confident that they will receive general support both within the Service and among our supporters.

I hope that when you see the proposals in full you will agree that, honouring as they will a manifesto commitment, they are important enough to warrant announcement by a statement in the House. The purpose of this letter is to seek your agreement in principle to such a statement, preferably on 29 July when we are First Order for Questions, or another day that week.

*Yours*  
*Patel*

23 JUN 1980





Parliament

PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Affairs

The Social Security (No. 2) Bill has successfully completed its committee stage in the House of Lords this week, but the Government majority was alarmingly small on several occasions. There were three divisions which resulted in majorities of 5, 7 and 9 respectively. I understand from Lord Soames' Office that there were no Government backsliders: it was simply a matter of a well organised Opposition turnout and a Government response which was only just good enough. It is, of course, Ascot Week.

I am rather more worried by the private advice from Lord Soames' Office that they think we might lose one or two divisions, perhaps on important issues, in the Lords between now and the Summer Recess, simply because of the difficulty of getting Government supporters out in sufficient numbers.

In these circumstances, it might be worthwhile for you to invite the Lord President to report on the current position in the Lords and his own views on the prospects facing Government legislation in the next few weeks.

MJ5

18 June, 1980



1. NJS ✓  
2. MAP ✓  
P. Barrett

FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE  
HOUSE OF LORDS

17th June 1980

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your letter of 11th June (the day before we met in H Committee), which I am sorry to say only arrived yesterday morning.

I note that you expect to table a considerable number of amendments to the Housing Bill, but that as far as substance is concerned, you regard the position as reasonably satisfactory. I must say that I had hoped to receive more definite information both on the number of amendments and on their importance. I still have a very unclear and piecemeal picture of the proposed Government amendments. I have no doubt whatsoever that if, at the end of the day, you table more than 60 or so amendments, the Committee stage will be extremely difficult to contain within the time available. The legislative programme, including achieving Royal Assent for the Housing Bill before the recess, could then be seriously jeopardised.

I note what you say about the right to buy where the landlord has a leasehold interest. I have also seen your letter to Willie Whitelaw of 13th June and the Lord Chancellor's letter to you of 17th June. You say that elsewhere in the Bill the only proposal of substance will concern the Crown Estate Commissioners and that other proposed amendments would be largely technical and uncontroversial. I wonder if this really is the case. Bertie Denham has already expressed his reservations about John Stanley's proposal on fire protection of hostels. These will certainly be the source of some debate. In addition, I note from John Stanley's letter to the Lord Chancellor of 13th June that further amendments are in preparation on service charges. Again this is a sensitive area and amendments are bound to provoke discussion.

I agree that we must leave amendments to the Local Government Bill until later, but I must ask you to let me have a more precise estimate of the number of Housing Bill amendments and a short list setting out their content and possible impact at Committee stage. I shall be grateful if you could ensure that such information reaches me with all possible speed since you won't expect me to agree to amendments being put down until we are persuaded that there is sufficient time for them.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of my letter to you of 28th May, other members of H and Sir Henry Rowe.

Yours ever

Christopher

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



18 JUN 1980

18

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 4 3 2

*[Faint, illegible text throughout the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]*



1 ~~NFS~~ MS  
2 ~~MAA~~

Parliament

2 MARSHAM STREET  
LONDON SW1P 3EB

My ref: PSO/14442/80

Your ref:

11 June 1980

*De Chur*

Thank you for your letter of 28 May about the Housing Bill and the Local Government Planning and Land (No 2) Bill.

I note what you say about the need to keep amendments to the absolute minimum. As far as the Housing Bill is concerned, the position is reasonably satisfactory as far as substance is concerned, although I expect that there will need to be a considerable number of amendments.

On the right to buy it is important to provide a power under which an order can be made to extend the right to buy to properties where the landlord has a leasehold rather than a freehold interest. It is vital that we should deal with this if the right to buy is to be fully effective. We have said in the Commons that we would make this amendment. (I am writing separately to colleagues about this power.) Of the other amendments to the right to buy provisions, some are needed in order to block potential loopholes in the right to buy that certain authorities might try to exploit, but most are technical or meet suggestions or commitments made in the Commons.

Elsewhere in the Bill the only proposal of substance is the Clause designed to extend the protection of the Rent Acts to tenants of the Crown Estate Commissioners. Other proposed amendments are largely technical and quite uncontroversial.

I hope that this is helpful as an indication of my expectations on the Housing Bill. I will assess our likely needs on the Local Government Bill nearer the time of its introduction in the House of Lords.

I am copying this to recipients of yours.

*Yes*  
*lll*

MICHAEL HESELTINE

Lord Soames

11991111111111111111

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





01-930 5422 ext

CABINET OFFICE  
70 WHITEHALL  
LONDON SW1A 2AS

*Patience*  
✓  
MS

11 June 1980

Dear Private Secretary

## LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1980/81: TARGET DATES

1. We asked Departments when they submitted their proposals in February for the Legislative programme 1980/81 to give an estimate of the dates by which they expected each proposed Bill would be ready to come forward for policy approval, drafting and introduction. The Home Secretary's memorandum C(80) 27 summarised this information (with some modifications agreed with Departments) for the Bills recommended to the Cabinet by the Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee.
2. The purpose of this letter is to invite all departments with a bill in the legislative programme for 1980/81 to review the estimates recorded in C(80) 27. The review should cover all the bills given places in the programme (ie the Annex to C(80) 27 read with CC(80) 19th Conclusions, Minute 4) apart from contingent bills.
3. These estimates are used in planning the work of Parliamentary Counsel and Cabinet Committees, and in preparing next session's programme. The timetables should therefore be as realistic as possible, allowing for possible policy difficulties and providing sufficient time for Counsel to draft the Bill. It is then important that they should be met. Where Departments now propose a significant change from the previous timetable, it would be helpful to us in the Cabinet Office to have a brief explanation. (This request does not, of course, affect the need for Ministers personally to inform the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster of any adverse changes in the timetable for the preparation of their bills, in accordance with the conclusions of Cabinet on 15 May.)
4. I should be grateful if replies to this letter, listing the bills and their target dates, with any appropriate comments, could reach me by Wednesday, 2 July on the lines of the attached proforma. It is important to give as precise dates as possible, especially where Departments hope to introduce bills in November or December, when the timetable will be particularly tight.

Private Secretary to the  
Prime Minister  
(FOR INFORMATION)

CONFIDENTIAL

5. I am sending this letter to the Private Secretaries of all Ministers with Bills in the programme, and copying it to Robin Birch (Chancellor of the Duchy's Office), Michael Pownall (Lord President's Office), Murdo MacLean (Chief Whip's Office), Mary Howat (Lord Advocate's Office) and Brian Shillito (First Parliamentary Counsel's Office).

*Yours sincerely,*

*J. M. Lyon*

J M LYON

CONFIDENTIAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

ANNEX

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1980/81: TARGET DATES<sup>1</sup>

Bill	Policy Approval <sup>2</sup>	Instructions <sup>3</sup>	Introduction	Comment

- Notes:
1. Please specify by month.
  2. Where approval has been obtained, please note date and name of Cabinet Committee.
  3. Where instructions have been sent, please note the date.

**CONFIDENTIAL**



Monday 26 May	
↓	
Friday 30 May	

Monday 2 June	
Tuesday 3 June	
Wednesday 4 June	
Thursday 5 June	
Friday 6 June	

Monday 9 June	HOUSING 2a
Tuesday 10 June	EMPLOYMENT C (2)
Wednesday 11 June	Labour Debate
Thursday 12 June	EMPLOYMENT C (3)
Friday 13 June	EMPLOYMENT C (4)

Monday 16 June	SOCIAL SECURITY (No 2) C (1)
Tuesday 17 June	SOCIAL SECURITY (No 2) C (2)
Wednesday 18 June	Conservative Debate
Thursday 19 June	TRANSPORT 3a
FRIDAY 20 JUNE	PROTECTION OF ANIMALS Private Members.

Monday 23 June	HEALTH SERVICES 2a
Tuesday 24 June	TENANTS RIGHTS (S) 2a
Wednesday 25 June	LABOUR DEBATE
Thursday 26 June	HOUSING C (1)
Friday 27 June	

Monday 30 June	HOUSING C (2)
Tuesday 1 July	SOCIAL SECURITY (No 2) Rpt.
Wednesday 2 July	CROSSBENCH DEBATE
Thursday 3 July	HOUSING C (3)
Friday 4 July	

Monday 7 July	EMPLOYMENT Rpt (1)
Tuesday 8 July	EMPLOYMENT Rpt (2)
Wednesday 9 July	Labour Debate
Thursday 10 July	HEALTH SERVICES C (1)
Friday 11 July	HEALTH SERVICES C (2)

Monday 14 July	EMPLOYMENT 3a SOCIAL SECURITY (No 2) 3a
Tuesday 15 July	TENANTS RIGHTS (S) C (1)
Wednesday 16 July	TENANTS RIGHTS (S) C (2)
Thursday 17 July	HEALTH SERVICES C (3)
FRIDAY 18 JULY	

Monday 21 July	HOUSING Rpt (1)
Tuesday 22 July	HOUSING Rpt (2)
Wednesday 23 July	European Debate
Thursday 24 July	
Friday 25 July	

Monday 28 July	HEALTH SERVICES Rpt
Tuesday 29 July	TENANTS RIGHTS (S) Rpt (1)
Wednesday 30 July	TENANTS RIGHTS (S) Rpt (2)
Thursday 31 July	FINANCE BILL
Friday 1 August	

Monday 4 August	HEALTH SERVICES 3a TENANTS RIGHTS (S) 3a
Tuesday 5 August	BROADCASTING 2a
Wednesday 6 August	LOCAL GOVERNMENT (No 2) 2a
Thursday 7 August	CIVIL AVIATION 2a
Friday 8 August	

Monday 11 August	
↓	
FRIDAY 10 OCT	

Monday 13 Oct	CIVIL AVIATION Ctee
Tuesday 14 Oct	BROADCASTING C (2)
Wednesday 15 Oct	
Thursday 16 Oct	
Friday 17 Oct	

Monday 20 Oct	LOCAL GOVERNMENT (No 2) Rpt (1)
Tuesday 21 Oct	LOCAL GOVERNMENT (No 2) Rpt (2)
Wednesday 22 Oct	
Thursday 23 Oct	BROADCASTING Rpt
Friday 24 Oct	CIVIL AVIATION Rpt.

MONDAY 27 OCT	LOCAL GOVERNMENT (No 2) 3a
TUESDAY 28 OCT	CIVIL AVIATION 3a BROADCASTING 3a
WEDNESDAY 29 OCT	
THURSDAY 30 OCT	COMMONS REASONS.
FRIDAY 31 OCT	

MONDAY 6 OCT	LOCAL GOVERNMENT (No 2) C (1)
TUESDAY 7 OCT	LOCAL GOVERNMENT (No 2) C (2)
WEDS 8 OCT	BROADCASTING C (1)
THURS 9 OCT	LOCAL GOVERNMENT (No 2) C (3)
FRIDAY 10 OCT	





PA  
MS

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

9 June 1980

Dear Nick,

You asked for a copy of the long-term programme for Lords business for the remainder of this session. I enclose a copy herewith. The following points should be borne in mind.

1. Business until the week ending Friday, 4 July has been discussed and agreed with the Opposition. Business in July/August and the spillover in October has yet to be agreed. I hope to have a more definite picture of the business in July and August later this week after speaking to the Opposition and to Murdo Maclean.
2. Third Reading of the Transport Bill will be on Thursday, 19 July. Subject to consideration of Lords' amendments in the Commons, Royal Assent will be achieved soon after. Third Reading of the Employment and Social Security (No 2) Bills should be on or around Monday, 14 July. Again, Royal Assent should follow soon after. The Health Services, Housing and Tenants Rights (Scotland) Bills will receive Royal Assent before the Summer Recess.
3. The Local Government, etc. (No 2), Broadcasting and Civil Aviation Bills will receive Second Reading before the Summer Recess but cannot complete their remaining stages until the spillover. If the Local Government, etc. Bill is brought from the Commons in time, it may be possible to achieve one day in Committee before the Summer Recess. Second Reading will then be brought forward to 22 July; this accounts for there being no proposed business on that day at present.
4. The Committee stages of the Housing and Local Government, etc. Bills are likely to be extremely difficult within the time available. It may not be possible to predict how things will go in the last 10 days or so before the Summer Recess until the Committee stage of the Housing Bill is under way. This will be on Thursday, 26 June.

/.....

Nick Sanders, Esq



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

5. You will be aware that the Lord President has written to all Ministers responsible for the main programme Bills urging them not to amend their own Bills in the Lords. You should also know that he has written to over 350 Government supporters in the Lords warning them of the difficulties which lie ahead and requesting that they attend two line whips as often as possible. Of the 40 or so Government days between now and the Summer Recess, at least 30 will be the subject of two line whips.

*Yours sincerely,  
Michael Pownall*

M G POWNALL



FROM THE PRIVATE ARCHIVES OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS  
AND THE GREAT BRITAIN

*[Faint, illegible handwriting in the center of the page]*

09091 1911 JUN 8 -



CONFIDENTIAL

Parliament 2

PRIME MINISTER



Cc Mr Mackay  
Mr Wilson

Caxton House Tothill Street London SW1H 9NA

Telephone Direct Line 01-213 6400

Switchboard 01-213 3000

To note.

1. JPL to see

2. PA

MS

The Rt Hon The Lord Soames GCMG GCVO CBE  
Leader of the House  
House of Lords  
LONDON  
SW1

5 June 1980

Dear Christopher

attached

Thank you for your letter of 29 May about the Employment Bill. I share your concern about its progress in the Lords. I note that over a hundred amendments have been tabled and only nineteen were disposed of in Committee on Tuesday.

I full accept your point that we need to avoid, at this stage, tabling Government amendments on major aspects of policy which would have the effect of materially prolonging discussion. I assure you that this is not my intention. The union labour-only contracts provision to which you refer is not of this character. It does not open up a new issue. The issue - clients being able to impose on their contractors the use of union labour only - was raised and debated at length in the Commons on an amendment put down at Report by Jock Bruce-Gardyne and it is again the subject of an amendment, No 53, tabled by Lord Orr-Ewing, Lord Harris and Lord Spens. The amendment I am proposing - to give the contractor a new right of joinder - goes some way to meeting our supporters and therefore should have the general effect of cooling their concern on the matter. It is therefore more likely to shorten discussion than prolong it. My present plans are that our intention to make this change should be indicated in Committee and the amendment tabled at Report.

Should I wish to lay any further amendments other than a technical character I shall see that you are kept informed.

not really  
in danger -  
I believe  
MS

I wish to take this opportunity to re-emphasise the importance of the Employment Bill at all costs receiving Royal Assent before the summer break. Were we to fail to achieve this it would rule out any possibility of the Codes of Practice on Picketing and the Closed Shop being in operation for next winter.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor, the Chancellor of the Duchy, Chief Whips and Sir Robert Armstrong.



Parliament

VMS



QUEEN ANNE'S GATE  
LONDON SW1H 9AT

5 June 1980

Dear Mr. Stoth

Thank you for your letter of 28th May about the Broadcasting Bill's passage through the House of Lords. I recognise the problems that you have in finding time for all the legislation which must pass through the Lords before the end of session and I will naturally do my best to comply with your request - I am as eager as you for the Bill to make good progress, and, indeed, would like to get Royal Assent before the Summer Recess. I have no amendments in mind at present for the Bill in the Lords and, so far as I can see, I am most unlikely to want on my own initiative to make any further amendment. I will, of course, let you know at once if the position changes because of anything that happens on Report in the Commons or subsequently.

Copies go to the recipients of your letter and to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Yours  
L. M. S.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Soames, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., C.B.E.



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

F-5 JUN 1980

820

→ ✓ Mr Hoskyns  
Mr Wolff



1. MR LANKESTER  
To see

2. PRIME MINISTER<sup>2</sup>

FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE  
HOUSE OF LORDS

To note x in  
particular  
MS

29th May, 1980.

Dear Jim,

ms

legislation 2/6

As you know, the Employment Bill will shortly commence its Committee Stage in the House of Lords. The legislative congestion in the Lords from now until the end of the session will be severe and all the remaining Government Bills must be taken within the shortest possible timescale. There is, of course, no selection of amendments in the Lords and it is impossible to impose strict timetables. If Committee and Report stages are not taken with all possible speed, there will be extreme difficulty towards the end of July and again in October.

Experience in the Lords in the last two weeks or so confirms my view that Government amendments tabled in the Lords, particularly if they concern major aspects of policy, not only take up valuable time on the floor of the House but also encourage the Opposition to table more of their own amendments than they might otherwise have considered necessary. I must therefore ask you to ensure that your own amendments to the Employment Bill are at this late stage kept to an absolute minimum. Those which are necessary to meet concessions in the Commons or which may speed up consideration in the Lords are, of course, acceptable but I cannot stress too highly that new amendments of substance could seriously jeopardise the progress of your Bill and the Government's legislative programme for the remainder of the session.

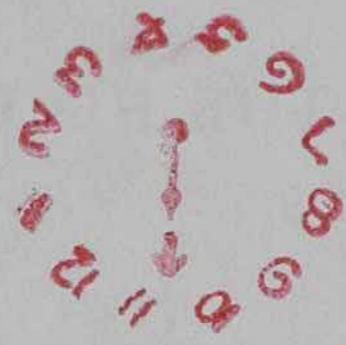
x If you are contemplating any substantial amendments in the Lords, I must ask you to let me know well in advance so that I can establish whether there is sufficient time in the programme. I fully accept your proposal that amendments should be introduced to Clause 2 to allow for consultation with ACAS prior to Royal Assent. However, I have also seen a copy of your letter to Geoffrey Howe about union labour only clauses in Government contracts. I have to say that I have serious reservations about the desirability of introducing amendments to meet this point. They are bound to be controversial and could well delay the Committee and Report stages of the Bill.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor, the Chancellor of the Duchy, Chief Whips and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever  
Christopher

SOAMES

The Rt.Hon. James Prior, M.P.



JUL 1980



Parliament 2  
PRIME MINISTER

FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE  
HOUSE OF LORDS

Lord Soames has written in  
similar terms to the other

28th May 1980

Ministers who have major

Bills coming up in the Lords.

MS

Jean Patrick,

As you know, the Social Security (No.2) and Health Services Bills <sup>30/5</sup> will shortly commence their passage through the House of Lords. The legislative congestion in the Lords from now until the end of the session will be severe and all the remaining Government Bills must be taken within the shortest possible timescale. There is, of course, no selection of amendments in the Lords and it is impossible to impose strict timetables. If Committee and Report stages are not taken with all possible speed, there will be extreme difficulty towards the end of July and again in October.

Experience in the Lords in the last two weeks or so confirms my view that Government amendments tabled in the Lords, particularly if they concern major aspects of policy, not only take up valuable time on the floor of the House but also encourage the Opposition to table more of their own amendments than they might otherwise have considered necessary. I must therefore ask you to ensure that your own amendments to the Social Security (No.2) and Health Services Bills are at this late stage kept to an absolute minimum. Those which are necessary to meet concessions in the Commons or which may speed up consideration in the Lords are, of course, acceptable but I cannot stress too highly that new amendments of substance could seriously jeopardise the progress of your Bills and the Government's legislative programme for the remainder of the session. If you are contemplating any substantial amendments in the Lords, I must ask you to let me know well in advance so that I can establish whether there is sufficient time in the programme.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor, the Chancellor of the Duchy, Chief Whips and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever

SOAMES

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



Parliament  
✓  
75

FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE  
HOUSE OF LORDS

28th May 1980

Dear Willie,

As you know, the Broadcasting Bill will commence its passage through the House of Lords later in the summer. The legislative congestion in the Lords from now until the end of the session will be severe and all the remaining Government Bills must be taken within the shortest possible timescale. There is, of course, no selection of amendments in the Lords and it is impossible to impose strict timetables. If Committee and Report stages are not taken with all possible speed, there will be extreme difficulty towards the end of July and again in October.

Experience in the Lords in the last two weeks or so confirms my view that Government amendments tabled in the Lords, particularly if they concern major aspects of policy, not only take up valuable time on the floor of the House but also encourage the Opposition to table more of their own amendments than they might otherwise have considered necessary. I must therefore ask you to ensure that your own amendments to the Broadcasting Bill are at this late stage kept to an absolute minimum. Those which are necessary to meet concessions in the Commons or which may speed up consideration in the Lords are, of course, acceptable but I cannot stress too highly that new amendments of substance could seriously jeopardise the progress of your Bill and the Government's legislative programme for the remainder of the session. If you are contemplating any substantial amendments in the Lords, I must ask you to let me know well in advance so that I can establish whether there is sufficient time in the programme.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor, the Chancellor of the Duchy, Chief Whips and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever,

Christopher

SOAMES

The Rt Hon William Whitelaw, CH, MC, MP  
Secretary of State for the Home Department



FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE  
HOUSE OF LORDS

28th May 1980

Dear John,

As you know, the Civil Aviation Bill will be taken in the House of Lords later in the summer. The legislative congestion in the Lords from now until the end of the session will be severe and all the remaining Government Bills must be taken within the shortest possible timescale. There is, of course, no selection of amendments in the Lords and it is impossible to impose strict timetables. If Committee and Report stages are not taken with all possible speed, there will be extreme difficulty towards the end of July and again in October.

Experience in the Lords in the last two weeks or so confirms my view that Government amendments tabled in the Lords, particularly if they concern major aspects of policy, not only take up valuable time on the floor of the House but also encourage the Opposition to table more of their own amendments than they might otherwise have considered necessary. I must therefore ask you to ensure that your own amendments to the Civil Aviation Bill are at this late stage kept to an absolute minimum. Those which are necessary to meet concessions in the Commons or which may speed up consideration in the Lords are, of course, acceptable but I cannot stress too highly that new amendments of substance could seriously jeopardise the progress of your Bill and the Government's legislative programme for the remainder of the session. If you are contemplating any substantial amendments in the Lords, I must ask you to let me know well in advance so that I can establish whether there is sufficient time in the programme.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor, the Chancellor of the Duchy, Chief Whips and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever,

SOAMES

Christopher

The Rt Hon John Nott, MP  
Secretary of State for Trade



FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE  
HOUSE OF LORDS

28th May 1980

*Dear Michael,*

As you know, the Housing Bill will shortly commence its passage through the House of Lords. The Local Government Planning and Land (No.2) Bill will be with us later in the summer. The legislative congestion in the Lords from now until the end of the session will be severe and all the remaining Government Bills must be taken within the shortest possible timescale. There is, of course, no selection of amendments in the Lords and it is impossible to impose strict timetables. If Committee and Report stages are not taken with all possible speed, there will be extreme difficulty towards the end of July and again in October.

Experience in the Lords in the last two weeks or so confirms my view that Government amendments tabled in the Lords, particularly if they concern major aspects of policy, not only take up valuable time on the floor of the House but also encourage the Opposition to table more of their own amendments than they might otherwise have considered necessary. I must therefore ask you to ensure that your own amendments to the Housing Bill are at this late stage kept to an absolute minimum. The same will apply to the Local Government Planning and Land (No.2) Bill later in the summer. Those amendments which are necessary to meet concessions in the Commons or which may speed up consideration in the Lords are, of course, acceptable but I cannot stress too highly that new amendments of substance could seriously jeopardise the progress of your Bills and the Government's legislative programme for the remainder of the session. If you are contemplating any substantial amendments in the Lords, I must ask you to let me know well in advance so that I can establish whether there is sufficient time in the programme.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor, the Chancellor of the Duchy, Chief Whips and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours ever*  
*Christopher*

SOAMES

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



FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE  
HOUSE OF LORDS

28th May 1980

*Jean George,*

As you know, the Tenants Rights Etc (Scotland) Bill will shortly commence its passage through the House of Lords. The legislative congestion in the Lords from now until the end of the session will be severe and all the remaining Government Bills must be taken within the shortest possible timescale. There is, of course, no selection of amendments in the Lords and it is impossible to impose strict timetables. If Committee and Report stages are not taken with all possible speed, there will be extreme difficulty towards the end of July and again in October.

Experience in the Lords in the last two weeks or so confirms my view that Government amendments tabled in the Lords, particularly if they concern major aspects of policy, not only take up valuable time on the floor of the House but also encourage the Opposition to table more of their own amendments than they might otherwise have considered necessary. I must therefore ask you to ensure that your own amendments to the Tenants Rights Etc (Scotland) Bill are at this late stage kept to an absolute minimum. Those which are necessary to meet concessions in the Commons or which may speed up consideration in the Lords are, of course, acceptable but I cannot stress too highly that new amendments of substance could seriously jeopardise the progress of your Bill and the Government's legislative programme for the remainder of the session. If you are contemplating any substantial amendments in the Lords, I must ask you to let me know well in advance so that I can establish whether there is sufficient time in the programme.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor, the Chancellor of the Duchy, Chief Whips and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours ever*

*Christopher*

SOAMES

The Rt Hon George Younger, TD, MP  
Secretary of State for Scotland





Parliament

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

27 May, 1980.

State Opening of Parliament

The Prime Minister has seen the Chancellor of the Duchy's minute of 22 May, and has noted the alternative dates proposed for the State Opening of Parliament. We have advised the Palace that these dates are the runners, and both have been pencilled into The Queen's diary.

I am sending copies of this letter to John Chilcot (Home Office), Ian Maxwell (Lord Chancellor's Office), Jim Buckley (Lord President's Office), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office), Michael Pownall (Chief Whip's Office, House of Lords), and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

N. J. SANDERS

KRB

R.A. Birch, Esq.,  
Office of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

PRIME MINISTER



I think 4 November is  
a bit ambitious. We  
will let the Palace know  
that 4 and 11 November  
are the likely runners.

PRIME MINISTER

*Handwritten note:*  
Handwritten initials: "Handwritten ms."

## STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

*Handwritten:*  
mjs  
2/15

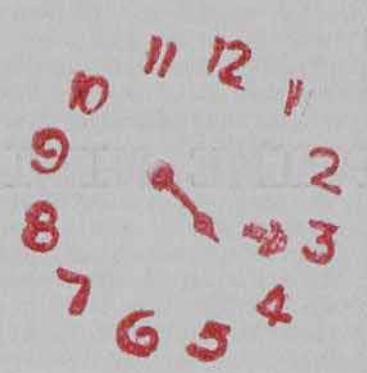
1. I have been considering with the Lord President the possible dates for the State Opening of Parliament.
2. We need to be absolutely sure that all Government business for the present session will have been completed and Parliament will have been prorogued in adequate time before the date which we suggest for the Opening of the new session. At present it looks as if Parliament could be prorogued by 31 October. This would allow a State Opening on Tuesday 4 November. There would then be a shorter interval between prorogation and opening than in some recent years but there seems no advantage in losing a week.
3. The Lord President tells me that there nevertheless remains a possibility that all our Bills and, in particular, the local Government Bill, will not be through the House of Lords by the end of October. It may therefore be necessary, as the Cabinet was warned when we discussed the programme for the rest of the current session in March (paragraph 9 of C(80) 22), to have a longer spillover. If so, the session would continue into the first week of November. (The House of Lords will already be required to resume sitting on 6 October and the alternative of further shortening the summer recess would not, I understand, be acceptable to our supporters in the Lords.) If Parliament cannot be prorogued until the first week of November the State Opening would need to be deferred until Tuesday 11 November.
4. We should be able to make a better estimate of the chances of completing the programme by the end of October within the next few weeks. (By the end of June we should have a better idea of the Opposition tactics in the Lords and of the way our support there is holding up.)
5. In the meantime it might assist the Palace in planning the Queen's programme if your office could advise them that the State Opening is likely to be on either Tuesday 4 or Tuesday 11 November.
6. I am copying this minute to the Home Secretary, the Lord Chancellor, the Lord President of the Council, both Chief Whips and to Sir Robert Armstrong. I am not, however, giving it any wider circulation.

*Handwritten signature:*  
NStJS.

N St J S  
22 May 1980



22 MAY 1980



1. I have been consulting with the Lord President the possible dates for the State Opening of Parliament.

2. It would be desirable to have the State Opening of Parliament in the week commencing 21 October. This would allow a State Opening on Tuesday 21 October. There would then be a shorter interval between opening and adjourning than in some recent years but there seems no advantage in doing so.

3. The Lord President tells me that there nevertheless remains a possibility that all our bills end, in particular, the Local Government Bill, will not be through the House of Lords by the end of October. It may therefore be necessary, as the Cabinet was warned when we discussed the programme for the next of the current session in March (paragraph 2.2.10 (ii)), to have a longer adjournment. If so, the session would continue into the first week of November. (The House of Lords will already be required to resume sitting on 6 October and the alternative of further shortening the summer recess would not, I understand, be acceptable to our supporters in the Lords.) It is therefore not possible to proceed until the first week of November if the State Opening would need to be delayed until Tuesday 11 November.

4. It would be desirable to make a better estimate of the chances of completing the programme by the end of October within the next few weeks. (By the end of June we should have a better idea of the opposition tactics in the Lords and of the way our support there is holding up.)

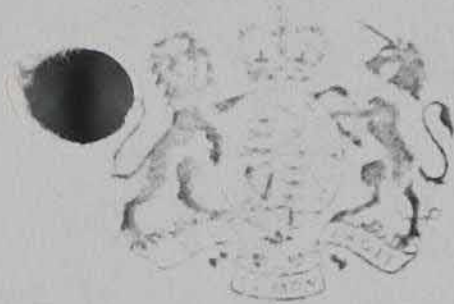
5. In the meantime it might assist the House in planning the Queen's programme if your office could advise them that the State Opening is likely to be on either Tuesday 4 or Tuesday 11 November.

6. I am enclosing the minutes to the Home Secretary, the Lord Chancellor, the Lord President of the Council, both of which refer to the State Opening. I am not, however, giving it any wider circulation.

22 May 1980

cc: No 10 ✓  
M MacLean  
W Hyde

Parliament



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

VMS

20 May 1980

Dear David.

Thank you for your letter of 12 May about the Parliamentary timetable for the Coal Industry Bill.

I was not, in fact, aware that Royal Assent for the Bill was required before the Summer Recess and I am somewhat surprised that this has only now come to light. As you are aware, the Parliamentary timetable is extremely tight over the next few weeks and while I will of course try to arrange Second Reading at the earliest possible opportunity, I can give no undertakings at this stage as to when that will actually be. Obviously I will use my best endeavours to arrange for the Bill to receive Royal Assent before the Summer, but if, in the event, that proves impossible, then we will have to consider nearer the time increasing the NCB's borrowing limit by Order.

With regard to the Redundant Mineworkers and Concessionary Coal (Payments Schemes) (Amendment) (No 2) Order, I very much agree with you that it would be sensible to take the Order immediately following the Second Reading of the Bill.

Yours  
AK.

The Rt Hon David Howell MP  
Secretary of State for Energy  
Department of Energy  
Thames House South  
Millbank



21 MAY 1990


PRIME MINISTER

I am afraid that the Government sustained a minor defeat in the House of Lords yesterday on the Transport Bill. An amendment from Lord Lucas of Chilworth, seeking to reinforce the law protecting drivers who take car-sharing passengers from any complications over their insurance position, was carried by 104 votes to 84.

The Department of Transport are very relaxed about this defeat. They say that in the first instance any such provision is unnecessary since drivers are already well protected; but that Lord Lucas' amendment is itself defective; and that they have in mind to introduce at Report stage in the Lords a workable amendment to cover the same point.

They say that there are no public expenditure consequences, but that there may be some insignificant extra work for insurance companies.

I have no idea why the Lords Whips allowed this defeat to happen. The Lords do not seem to be wholly reliable on transport matters.

 MS

14 May 1980

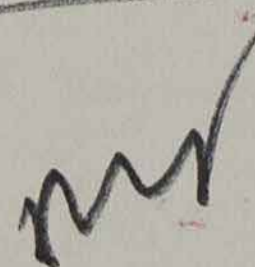
CONFIDENTIAL

Ref. A02173

PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister.

The programme does not contain  
any provision for further legislation  
on industrial relations.



14.11.80

14.11.80.

Legislative Programme 1980-81

(C(80) 26 and 27)

BACKGROUND

The Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee have considered the legislative programme for next Session. The Home Secretary's paper (C(80) 26) puts forward their recommendations. (In the annex to the paper and the summaries circulated with C(80) 27, the Bills are listed by alphabetical order of sponsoring Departments within each category).

2. The Home Secretary recommends a programme of:

- (1) Ten essential Bills, and 16 programme Bills (including the Education (Scotland) Bill), together with five Bills virtually drafted that are expected to be suitable for Second Reading Committee but should, in any event, be in the programme (Annex A).
- (2) Such of the contingent Bills (Annex B) as prove necessary. They include a Bill that would make new constitutional arrangements for Northern Ireland.
- (3) A maximum of 9 Scottish Bills (Annex C) that should be suitable for Scottish Grand Committee.
- (4) Five Bills (Annex D) to be drafted and included if, but only if, they are later judged suitable for Second Reading Committee.

3. QL Committee felt strongly that the legislative burden for next Session should be lighter than it has proved to be this Session. Any "target" figure for the number of Bills is bound to be arbitrary. This Session's problems were partly caused by the length of some Bills and delays in their preparation and introduction. The QL target of some 25 essential and programme Bills seems reasonable. Time could then be found for unforeseen Bills, as well as for some of the contingent Bills, without (as happened this Session) dropping measures which had previously been announced.

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4. All the bids for essential Bills have been accepted. This category includes Bills required to implement EC directives, e.g. the Wildlife and Countryside, Companies, Insurance Companies and Energy Conservation Bills. QL Committee accepted that other desirable, though not strictly essential, provisions might be included in some of the Bills.

5. Ministers put forward bids for over 40 Bills in the programme category. QL therefore had to reject a substantial number, but managed to find places for 20 in the programme (Annex A) and a possible extra five Bills (Annex D). In making choices they recognised:

- (1) the importance of Bills to secure the sale of assets or the reduction of public expenditure and manpower (e.g. Petroleum and Continental Shelf, Iron and Steel, Transport);
- (2) the need for a 'social content' to the programme (e.g. Education (Special Needs));
- (3) the importance of promoting Bills which could be introduced at the beginning of the Session and in the House of Lords.

6. The Cabinet may want to consider, first, the balance of the programme as it would appear in The Queen's Speech. There is strong emphasis on economic Bills. The Lord Chancellor has secured a place for three measures of legal reform; social reform is represented only by two Education Bills; there are two environment Bills, a local government Bill, and a Nationality Bill as promised in the Election Manifesto.

7. Many of the Bills put forward by QL have not yet obtained policy clearance. The Secretary of State for the Environment, for instance, will need to convince his somewhat sceptical colleagues about the changes in Local Government audit (an Accounts Commission) that he wishes to include in another Local Government and Planning Bill. QL emphasised the need to keep such a Bill reasonably short, in view of experience with this Session's Bill, and to have it ready early in the Session. The Minister of Transport, who has agreed to shorten the Transport Bill, has said that he will not be including random breath tests for motorists among its road safety provisions. The Home Secretary is



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likely to thank those of his colleagues who have agreed to shorten their Bills, and to urge Ministers to seek early policy approval where necessary.

8. The Secretary of State for Industry is expected to press for a Shipbuilding Industry (Disposals) Bill. This would fulfil a Manifesto commitment; but the policy is not yet settled and the timing of the sale of specialist warship builders uncertain. He may also press for a Bill to establish an Engineering Authority on the lines of the Finniston Report. Consultations on the report are far from complete and a place in the 1981-82 programme may be more realistic. The Secretary of State for Social Services may press for a major Mental Health Bill amending the 1959 Act. He gave this a higher priority than his Social Security Bill, but QL felt the latter was more urgent because it would reduce expenditure.

9. One or two Ministers may seek to add to the list of Second Reading Committee Bills in Annex D. The judgment of QL, on the advice of the Chief Whip, was that a Nuclear Installations (Amendment) Bill - put forward by the Secretary of State for Energy - and a Currency and Bank Notes Bill - put forward by Treasury Ministers - were moderately controversial and unlikely to be accepted by the Opposition for this procedure.

HANDLING

10. You might invite the Home Secretary to introduce his paper and then ask the Lord Chancellor, the Leaders of the two Houses and the Chief Whip whether they wish to add anything on the size and feasibility of the programme. You will wish to confirm that the Cabinet are broadly content with the size of programme recommended by QL.

11. You may then wish to seek views on the balance of the programme and its political impact, while at the same time avoiding discussion of the detailed merits of individual Bills. The Paymaster General may wish to contribute.

12. It would be possible, if need be, to add one or two Bills to the programme, without making it unwieldy. But if there is strong pressure for more Bills, the Cabinet will need to consider which Bills put forward by QL might be omitted. (If EC obligations can be set aside for a year, possible candidates include Energy Conservation and Insurance Companies).

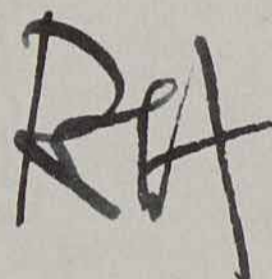
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CONCLUSIONS

13. You may wish to guide the Cabinet to accept the recommendations of QL Committee, with the possible addition of the Shipbuilding Industry (Disposals) Bill. In the light of the discussion, the Cabinet might be asked to agree:

- (a) the list of essential and programme Bills (Annex A), subject to any modifications;
- (b) the bringing forward of such contingent Bills as prove necessary (Annex B);
- (c) the list of Scottish Bills (Annex C);
- (d) the list of Bills to be introduced only if found suitable for Second Reading Committee procedure (Annex D).

14. Finally, you may want to endorse again paragraph 9 of the Home Secretary's paper C(80) 26 about the importance of early action to secure policy approval, drafting authority, and instructions to Counsel for the essential and programme Bills, so that as many as possible are ready for introduction at the beginning of the new Session.



(Robert Armstrong)

14th May, 1980

PRIME MINISTER

ms

The programme may be quite a lot shorter than this Session's, but it still includes:

1. possible DHSS legislation to phase out CHCs and reduce local authority responsibility for the disabled;
2. reconstruction of BSC finances;
3. restructuring of BNOC;
4. employers' sick-pay requirements;
5. Euro constituency boundary revision delays;
6. nationality legislation;
7. changes in post and telecommunications monopolies;
8. stronger provision on drinking and driving;
9. provisions for the sale of British Rail subsidiaries and shares in the British Transport Docks Board;
10. contingent legislation on the Canadian constitution;
11. contingent legislation on early release from prisons and on sentencing of juveniles;

and, finally,

12. contingent legislation on constitutional arrangements for Northern Ireland.

It follows that the session will not be a quiet one.

\_\_\_\_\_ !

MS

① TPC to see

② PA

MS

Parliament

01 211 6402

Rt Hon N St John Stevas MP  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster  
Privy Council Office  
Whitehall  
LONDON SW1A 2AT

12 May 1980

*Dear Sir*

COAL INDUSTRY BILL

I am grateful for your continued efforts to secure an early Second Reading for the Coal Industry Bill, which we held back during the recent steel strike. I was therefore alarmed to learn that you now feel unable to hold out any chance of a full day until the week beginning 16 June.

I must now tell you of some new facts which have just come to my notice which make it important that Second Reading should not slip beyond the first week after Whitsun as previously planned and that the subsequent progress of the Bill is expedited.

NCB have just prepared new estimates of their cash needs during the year, in the light, among other things, of the delay to the Bill, which means that we shall not now be able to make to them grant payments during the year as they had expected. They have concluded that, at the beginning of August, they will no longer be able to work within the existing limit on their borrowing powers of £2200m, and that by the beginning of November, they will need to go above £2600m.

The present limit on the Board's borrowing powers of £2200m was set by the Coal Industry (Borrowing Powers) Order 1979. It can be raised to £2600m by a further Order, which would require Affirmative Resolution, under the Coal Industry Act 1977. A further increase would require new legislative provision, which is, of course, included in the present Bill.

In the light of these facts, it seems to me that we now need Royal Assent by the end of July. We could I suppose delay Royal Assent until the beginning of November, provided that we had a Borrowing Powers Order, by late July. This would however be a wasteful use of Parliamentary time and would expose the Government to criticism.

One further point. My Department has arranged with the Whips Office for the Redundant Mineworkers and Concessionary Coal (Payments Schemes) (Amendment No 2) Order to be held on 19 May. This order, which needs affirmative resolution, provided for improvements in redundancy terms which E(EA) Committee believed essential to persuade the unions to accept the rapid closures demanded by our financial strategy for the

(2)

NCB. Any delay will mostly delay the necessary closures. The simplest and most economical arrangement might be to combine the debate on this Order with Second Reading of the Bill - and the earlier the Second Reading the easier it would be to arrange this - as well as meeting pressure for mining MPs' early approval of the Order.

I am sure that I can rely on you to help secure a rapid passage for the Bill. I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister and Michael Jopling.

D A R Howell

*Yours*

*David*

12 11 1930



CONFIDENTIAL



QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

9 May 1980

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (REDUCTION OF BUREAUCRACY) BILL

At the meeting of QL on 29 April there was agreement that it was essential for your Bill to be kept as short as possible if it were to be introduced next Session. I therefore undertook to reconsider whether there was a need to legislate next Session on the miscellaneous local Act provisions that had been proposed for inclusion in the Bill.

I have now done so. My conclusion is that, although it is desirable to introduce these measures as soon as possible and there would be some inconvenience in deferring them until the following Session, their inclusion in the next Session's programme cannot be said to be essential. I would therefore recommend my colleagues to agree that all those items that relate to the consolidation in national legislation of provisions frequently sought in private Bills should not be included in next Session's programme. This should prove helpful in ensuring that the proposed Local Government Bill is of manageable length. I would stress however that, in my view, it is important that these provisions be enacted at an early opportunity and that there is a strong case for making them a first charge upon the programme for the following Session. There is particularly strong pressure to go ahead with the proposed national regime for local authority regulation of public entertainments; that might be an appropriate matter for a suitable Private Member or Private Peer next Session, with Government support, but if that could not be achieved we really could not defer it beyond our 1981-82 programme.

There are, however, two provisions which I should be grateful if you would agree to retain in your Bill. The first is the measure, recently the subject of correspondence between Tim Raison and Tom King, freeing district councils of the obligation to fix taxi fares and appoint taxi stands by means of byelaws subject to my confirmation. The second is the removal of the markedly out-dated restriction of the fee that a district council may charge for a hackney carriage vehicle licence. These measures would between them

/bring about a saving

The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

bring about a saving in staff and a reduction of expenditure both in my Department and among district councils and should fit well within the scope and spirit of your Bill. Both are likely to be warmly welcomed by the local authorities concerned.

I am copying this letter to other members of QL and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

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GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION(i) Awaiting Second Reading

Coal Industry

Gas

Iran (Temporary Powers)

Law Reform (Misc Prov) (Scotland) (L)

Sea Fish Industry

(ii) Standing Committee

Criminal Justice (Scotland) (L)

Films

Finance (No.2)

Local Government, Planning and Land (No.2)

Social Security (No.2)

(iii) Committee of Whole House

Finance (No.2)

(iv) Report and Third Reading

Broadcasting

Civil Aviation

Health Services

Housing

Tenants' Rights Etc (Scotland)

(v) Orders and Regulations

Criminal Justice (NI)

Date  
LaidWhether  
ControversialDate  
Required

28/3

No

For debate,  
14/5

Dental Qualifications

22/4

No

By 20/5

Iron and Steel

6/5

Maybe

For debate,  
15/5

Upholstered Furniture

2/4

Maybe

a.s.a.p.

LORDS

∅ Criminal Appeal (NI) (L)

∅ Education (Scotland) (L)

Employment

∅ Highways (L)

Industry

∅ Magistrates' Courts (L)

∅ Overseas Development (L)

Port of London (Financial Assistance)

Social Security

∅ Statute Law Revision (Northern Ireland) (L)

Transport

∅ Water (Scotland) (L)

∅ Consolidation

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (38)

Appropriation (No.2) 1979  
Bail Etc (Scotland)1980  
Bees 1980  
British Aerospace 1980  
Charging Orders 1979  
Companies 1980  
Competition 1980  
Child Care 1980  
Consolidated Fund (No.2) 1979  
Consolidated Fund 1980  
Consular Fees 1980  
Education 1979  
Education 1980  
European Assembly (Pay and Pensions) 1979  
European Communities (Greek Accession) 1979  
Finance (No.2) 1979  
Foster Children 1980  
Highlands and Islands Air Services (Scotland) 1980  
Insurance Companies 1980  
Isle of Man 1979  
Justices of the Peace 1979  
Kiribati 1979  
Limitation Amendment 1980  
National Health Service (Invalid Direction) 1980  
National Heritage 1980  
New Hebrides 1980  
Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa and Nauru (Misc Prov) 1980  
Pensioners' Payments and Social Security 1979  
Petroleum Revenue Tax 1980  
Police Negotiating Board 1980  
Protection of Trading Interests 1980  
Reserve Forces 1980  
Residential Homes 1980  
Sale of Goods 1979  
Shipbuilding 1979  
Slaughter of Animals (Scotland) 1980  
Southern Rhodesia 1979  
Zimbabwe 1979



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QS 08098

✓  
MS  
CABINET OFFICE  
70 WHITEHALL  
LONDON SW1A 2AS

01- 233 8380

2 May 1980

Dear Departments

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR DEBATE BY PARLIAMENTARY EUROPEAN COMMITTEES

1. The attached tables show those items recommended for debate by the Scrutiny Committees of both Houses of Parliament, and still outstanding as at 2 May 1980.
2. I should be grateful if you could check through the tables and let Patricia Stephens (233 7006) know of any changes to the following details by 5.00 pm WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 1980.
  - a. That the item is assigned to the right Department.
  - b. That the reference number and title are correct.
  - c. That the latest information on Council Meetings is shown.
  - d. That the correct date for Scrutiny Meetings is shown, together with the report number; and
  - e. That the item is included in the correct table in relation to its readiness for debate.
3. When considering e. above Departments are reminded of the need to take the necessary steps for the arrangement of debates as far in advance as is practical. Three weeks should be regarded as the minimum period.
4. To meet assurances given by Ministers to Parliament this information is used to enable Government Whips to arrange debates prior to decisions being taken at Council Meetings.

G Freer.

G FREER

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR DEBATE BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TABLE I: ITEMS READY FOR DEBATE

DEPARTMENT AND  
DOCUMENT REFERENCE

SUBJECT

TIMING OF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

DATE AND REFERENCE OF SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE REPORT

TABLE II; ITEMS NOT YET READY FOR DEBATE

DEPARTMENT AND DOCUMENT REFERENCE	SUBJECT	TIMING OF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION	DATE AND REFERENCE OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT
<u>MAFF</u> R/1444/78 + Corrigendum	Plastics to come in contact with foodstuffs	Not before June 1980	8 November (2nd report 78/79)
<u>MAFF</u> R/2959/76 7118/79	Ethyl Alcohol	Settlement unlikely before autumn 1980 at the earliest	27 April (19th report) 76/77 11 July (1st report) 79/80
<u>MAFF</u> R/2926/78	Mincod meat	No immediate progress likely	21 February (15th report) 78/79
<u>MAFF</u> R/1890/77	Marketing standards of eggs	New proposals received - not yet considered by Committee	7 December (5th report) 77/78
<u>TREASURY</u> COM(80)147	Convergence and Budgetary Questions	End of April	23 April (27th report 79/80)
<u>TREASURY</u> 5437/80	New Budget proposals 1980	Not before May/June	19 March (24th report 79/80)
<u>TRANSPORT</u> 4088/79	Road vehicle weights	Decision unlikely before December 1980	3 April (22nd report 78/79)

TABLE II: ITEMS NOT YET READY FOR DEBATE

DEPARTMENT AND DOCUMENT REFERENCE	SUBJECT	TIMING OF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION	DATE AND REFERENCE OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT
<u>TRANSPORT</u>			
R/3075/75	Community driving licence	New text expected in due course	20 January (6th report) 75/76
<u>INDUSTRY</u>			
S/249/78	European Investment - Developing countries	No immediate progress envisaged New text may be submitted	26 April (24th report 77/78)
<u>DOT</u>			
R/1129/76	Company law-Group accounts	Not before mid 1980	13 October (33rd report 75/76)
<u>DOT</u>			
R/2008/76	Boats and fittings	Awaiting further consideration	15 June (24th report 76/77)
<u>DOT</u>			
R/1989/73	Control of concentration between undertakings	Not before mid 1980	4 February (8th report 75/76)
<u>DOT</u>			
R/2237/76) R/611/77 ) 9427/79 )	Liability for defective products	Commission has produced revised proposals. Council consideration unlikely for another two years	7 December (5th report 77/78) 5 March (22nd report 79/80)
<u>D/EMP</u>			
11571/79	Protection of workers/metallic lead	Not before end of 1980	16 April (26th report 79/80)

TABLE II: ITEMS NOT YET READY FOR DEBATE

DEPARTMENT AND DOCUMENT REFERENCE	SUBJECT	TIMING OF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION	DATE AND REFERENCE OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT
<u>DESc</u>			
5899/79	DNA Research Safeguards	Not known	28 November (11th report 79/80)
<u>CUSTOMS</u>			
R/75/78	VAT 7th Directive ) Second hand goods and antiques )	Not before 1981	21 June (30th report 77/78)
7019/79	VAT: works of art second hand goods)		14 November (9th report 79/80)
<u>HOME OFFICE</u>			
8873/79	Rights of residence	Not known	30 January (17th report 79/80)
<u>INLAND REVENUE</u>			
R/2103/75 R/2082/78	Company taxation Company and withholding taxes	No immediate progress in prospect European Assembly opinion awaited	2 February (7th report 76/77) 14 March (17th report 78/79)
<u>HOME OFFICE</u>			
R/808/78	Illegal migration and illegal employment	Council consideration not expected in near future	5 July (33rd report 77/78)
<u>D/EMP</u>			
4745/80	Safety standards: electrical equipment for use in mines	Not known	30 April (28th report 79/80)
<u>MAFF</u>			
8832/79	New Zealand Butter/Report	Formal proposals on post-1980 access not expected until summer	7 November (8th report 79/80)
<u>MAFF</u>			
4101/80	Fruit juices	During May	30 April (28th report 79/80)



TABLE II: ITEMS NOT YET READY FOR DEBATE

DEPARTMENT AND DOCUMENT REFERENCE	SUBJECT	TIMING OF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION	DATE AND REFERENCE OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT
<u>ODA</u>			
4318/79	Food aid management	Not known	14 March (17th report 78/79)
<u>FCO</u>			
-	Report on European Institutions	-	6 February (18th report 79/80)
<u>DOT</u>			
5147/79	Consumer credit	Unlikely before mid 1980	25 July (3rd report 79/80)
<u>CUSTOMS</u>			
R/599/78	Customs procedure ships and aircraft stores	Late 1980	12 July (34th report 77/78)
<u>D/EMP</u>			
8409/79	Industrial accidents	Summer 1980	5 December (12th report 79/80)
<u>MAFF</u>			
4709/80	Pesticide residues/cereals/ Foodstuffs animal origins	Unlikely before Autumn 1980	2 April (25th report 79/80)
<u>INDUSTRY</u>			
R/2821/78) 4301/79)	Industrial restructuring aid	Date of Council consideration not yet known-may be withdrawn	3 April (22nd report 78/79)
<u>D/EMP</u>			
6893/79	Industrial trucks	Not known	27 February (21st report 79/80)
<u>INLAND REVENUE</u>			
4049/80	Harmonisation income tax/movement of workers	Mid 1980	5 March (22nd report 79/80)

TABLE III: ITEMS TO BE TAKEN IN GENERAL DEBATES

(Notes: such recommendations do not hold up implementation by Council of Ministers)

DEPARTMENT AND DOCUMENT REFERENCE	SUBJECT	TIMING OF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION	DATE AND REFERENCE OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT
<b>A. <u>General Debate on Transport Quotas</u></b>			
<u>TRANSPORT</u>			
4632/79	Goods transport; own account	Not known: interim measure adopted December 1979	18 July (2nd report 79/80)
<b>B. <u>General Debate on Regional Development Fund</u></b>			
<u>INDUSTRY</u>			
9808/79	ERDF: Development projects	Not before May/June	28 November (11th report 79/80)
<b>C. <u>General Debate on Aid to Developing Countries</u></b>			
<u>ODA</u>			
10706/79	EDF: Contributions financial year 1980	Considered by Council December 1979	23 January (16th report 79/80)
<b>D. <u>General Debate on the new Lomé Convention</u></b>			
<u>FCO</u>			
11817/79	Lomé Convention and OCT Association Adopted Association overseas countries/territories (The above instruments are relevant to any future debate on the new Lomé Convention)	Possibly April/May	23 January (16th report 79/80)
11932/79			27 February (21st report 79/80)

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR DEBATE BY THE HOUSE OF LORDS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT AND DOCUMENT REFERENCE	SUBJECT	TIMING OF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION	DATE AND REFERENCE OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT
<u>TRANSPORT</u>			
R/2371/77	Common Transport policy (to be taken in any general EC transport policy debate)	-	26 July (43rd report 77/78)
<u>EMPLOYMENT</u>			
6893/79	Powered industrial trucks	Not known	18 March (42nd report 79/80)
<u>TRADE</u>			
8139/79	European Air Fares	Not known	22 April (49th report 79/80)
<u>TRADE</u>			
9427/79	Product liability	Not known	22 April (50th report 79/80)

FROM THE EARL FERRERS (ACTING LEADER)

Parliament



2 APR 1980

FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE  
HOUSE OF LORDS

1st May 1980

VMS

Dear Tim,

Thank you for your letter of 30th April about the timetable for the Employment Bill in the Lords. I realise the acute difficulties which you are in, and I am most grateful to you for being so understanding about our problems.

I can confirm that Second Reading will take place on Tuesday 20th May. The Committee stage will begin immediately after the recess. I realise that Third Reading early in the week beginning 14th July and Royal Assent later in that week will pose serious problems for you. Your proposal to introduce an amendment in the Lords to provide for consultation before Royal Assent seems an excellent way to surmount the difficulty.

I have already looked very closely at the programme after the Whitsun Recess to see whether it might be possible to expedite the existing plan. I am bound to say that, at present, it seems impossible without delaying the Social Security (No.2) Bill.

I know that you will appreciate that it is impossible to gauge the sort of opposition which we can expect until the Committee stage is under way. However, I can assure you that, if an opportunity does arise to shorten any of the stages of the Bill, we will do our best to rearrange the programme to meet your requirements - but it doesn't look hopeful.

I should add that the Bill has only been allocated four or, at the most, five days in Committee and the chances of reducing this significantly must be remote.

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

Yours ever,  
Robin.

FERRERS

The Rt Hon James Prior, MP  
Secretary of State for Employment

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- 2 MAY 1980



Caxton House Tothill Street London SW1H 9NA

Telephone Direct Line 01-213 6400

Switchboard 01-213 3000

✓MS

The Earl Ferrers  
Acting Leader  
House of Lords  
LONDON  
SW1

30 April 1980

*Ma hdm*

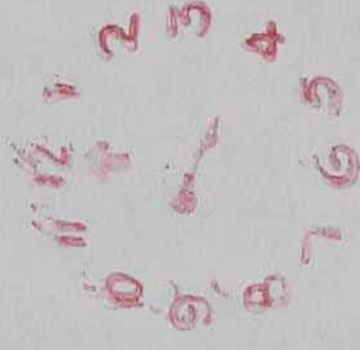
Thank you for your letter of 3 April about the timetable for the Employment Bill in the House of Lords. I have since seen your letter of 22 April to the Chancellor of the Duchy.

I understand that you are now intending that the Bill should have its Second Reading in the Lords on Tuesday 20 May; and that you are not expecting it to have its Third Reading before the week beginning 14 July. This timetable poses acute problems for me in fulfilling my statutory obligation to have consulted the Council of ACAS before publishing, for general consultation with industry, the draft Codes on Picketing and the Closed Shop. On this basis there would not be time for the consultation with ACAS to take place before the summer break, which would waste two months. I have therefore considered how these constraints might be overcome and I am now proposing that there should be introduced in the Lords an amendment to clause 2(2) which would allow me to consult ACAS prior to Royal Assent. Nevertheless, while I appreciate the difficult timetabling problems with which you are faced, I would ask that if any opportunity presents itself to expedite at all the present plans for the Employment Bill, it should be seized. Even a few extra weeks would ease my difficulties over the consultations with industry in the preparation of the two Codes. These consultations, as you know, must be completed in time for the Codes to receive Parliamentary approval so that they may be in operation for next winter's pay round.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor and the Chancellor of the Duchy.

*Yours faithfully*  
*[Signature]*

30 APR 1960





Secretary of State for Industry

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

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

1. JPL to Sec  
2. NBPM  
MS

23 April 1980

The Rt Hon William Whitelaw MP  
Secretary of State for the  
Home Department  
50 Queen Anne's Gate  
London SW1H 9AT

*John Gollie*

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1980/81: BRITISH SHIPBUILDERS/CABLE & WIRELESS

As you know I am keen to implement at the earliest possible opportunity our manifesto commitment to introduce private sector capital into British Shipbuilders. We decided last year that action on this should be deferred, mainly in the view of the uncertainties about the future size of British Shipbuilders (BS), but we have told the House and the industry on a number of occasions since then that we will introduce private capital at the appropriate time.

At present I am still engaged in a study of the options which generally revolve around the specialist and minor warshipbuilders. The merchant shipbuilding yards are losing money. The most likely course would be to take a power of direction to compel BS to make disposals.

The specialist warshipbuilders are profitable (about £37m before tax, but including interest) and should be attractive to investors, although there could still be a problem in regard to deposits in the hands of BS - at present about £100m - which the specialist warshipbuilders have received in advance of work done and which would have to be repaid if they were returned to the private sector. Moreover, freeing the specialist warshipbuilders from the rest of BS will enable them to be more dynamic particularly in the export field where performance in recent years has been disappointing.

Whether we can go ahead with disposal will turn on the likely disposal value and the net effect on the PSBR, on which I am proposing to seek the advice of merchant banks, and the prospects in general for BS which we shall be reviewing shortly.

The political reaction to whatever policy we adopt will be strong, not least from our own supporters if we fail to take action. But

/unless ...





unless we introduce legislation next autumn, I doubt that it would be practicable to proceed with the introduction of private capital within the lifetime of the present Parliament. If legislation were to be deferred for a further year, the earliest date by which privatisation could occur would be within about 18 months of the maximum life of this Parliament.

I would therefore renew my request that a provisional place should be retained in the legislative programme to enable disposal of the specialist warship builders until I am ready to put proposals on this issue to colleagues.

As already noted in this Department's legislative proposals on telecommunications, and as Adam Butler mentioned in his letter of 3 April to Norman St John-Stevas, we need also to reserve a place in the programme for a separate short (one or two clauses) Bill to take the powers we need in order to be able to sell shares in Cable and Wireless (C&W). It is likely to be necessary to introduce this Bill early in the session if, as we very much hope, we are to achieve disposal in time to benefit the PSBR during the 1980/81 financial year. This would be impossible to achieve if it were included in the Post Office Bill.

Introduction cannot take place until the negotiations which are about to begin on the extension of C&W's concession in Hong Kong (the major part of C&W's business) have reached a satisfactory conclusion and until interested overseas Governments have been formally consulted. It is also possible that if the Hong Kong Government, under local pressure, were to insist on local participation in a C&W Hong Kong subsidiary the sale of shares in that company (which would not require legislation) could provide the contribution to the PSBR this year for which we are looking. In that case the C&W provisions could resume their place in the main Post Office Bill for passage on a longer timescale. But it at present appears more likely that a short separate Bill will be needed. This Bill would have the enthusiastic support of the C&W Board (Lord Glenamara is highly in favour) and would, I judge, have a relatively swift Parliamentary passage.

Copies of this letter go to Members of the Cabinet, Norman Fowler and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Evan*  
*Keir*

FROM THE EARL FERRERS (ACTING LEADER)



FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE  
HOUSE OF LORDS

2

~~PRIME MINISTER~~

Tidies up last  
week's Cabinet

discussion

ms

23/4

22 April 1980

Dear Norman,

EMPLOYMENT BILL

Following the discussion in Cabinet last week, I am writing to confirm that completion of the remaining stages of the Employment Bill in the Commons on Monday, 28 April will enable the Lords to give a Second Reading to the Bill before the Whitsun Recess.

As you know, the programme on the Bill in the Lords will be extremely tight, but we have never really contemplated getting further than Second Reading before the Whitsun Recess. Your rearranged programme cannot therefore affect the Bill's progress in the Lords.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor as Chairman of Legislation Committee, the Secretary of State for Employment and the Chief Whip, Commons.

Yours ever,  
Robin.

FERRERS

The Rt Hon Norman St John Stevas MP  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

JU



Secretary of State for Industry

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

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

15 April 1980

Denis Walker Esq  
The Private Secretary to the  
Secretary of State for Energy  
Department of Energy  
Thames House South  
Millbank SW1P 4QJ

Dear Denis,

Thank you for your letter of 11 April about the Coal Bill. My Secretary of State has asked me to say that he is most grateful to yours for postponing publication of this Bill until the steel strike was settled, and to confirm that he has no objection to Mr Howell now going ahead with early publication. I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

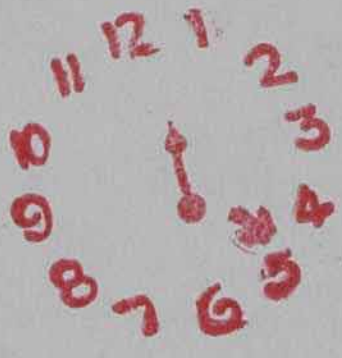
Yours ever,  
Pete

PETER STREDDER  
Private Secretary

Parliament

✓  
ms

15 APR 1960



CONFIDENTIAL



NBPM  
MS

Government Chief Whip

12 Downing Street, London SW1

14 April 1980

You ought to be aware that when the Chief Whip was shown Denis Walker's letter of 2 April to John Lyon, about legislation next Session to provide for a levy on the British Gas Corporation in respect of their purchases of PRT - exempt gas, he commented:-

"If we have to have it, which I am not convinced about, then the instructions at the end of the summer are too late. We should have to start at once in November if the March Royal Assent is a possibility".


I am copying this to the recipients of Denis Walker's letter.

(M MACLEAN)

John Stevens Esq  
Privy Council Office  
Whitehall  
SW1A

15 APR 1980





12 DOWNING STREET,  
S.W.1.

*With*  
*The Private Secretary's*  
*Compliments*

Parliament

FILE

ed

MR HYDE  
CABINET OFFICE

Record of Progress with Public Bills

For my part, I am content that you should proceed as you suggest in your minute of 10 April. If it turns out that we here need to refer to detailed information more often, we will come back to you and make a plea for a resumption of a fuller service.

I am copying this minute to John Stevens and Murdo Maclean.

N. J. SANDERS

14 April 1980

JR





Parliament

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY  
THAMES HOUSE SOUTH  
MILLBANK LONDON SW1P 4QJ  
01 211 6402

Peter Stredder Esq  
Private Secretary to the Secretary of  
State for Industry  
Department of Industry  
Ashdown House  
123 Victoria Street  
LONDON SW1E 6RB

Ru/4

// April 1980

Dear Peter,

pt 4 { 1) s/s Energy 16 s/s Ind 21.280  
2) s/s Ind 10 s/s Energy 29.280

As you know, Sir Keith Joseph and Mr Howell exchanged letters in February about the timing of the Coal Bill. Sir Keith asked if Mr Howell could continue to postpone publication until the steel strike is settled. Mr Howell has asked me to say that now that this has happened he hopes to go ahead with early publication subject to agreement with the business managers on timing in the usual way.

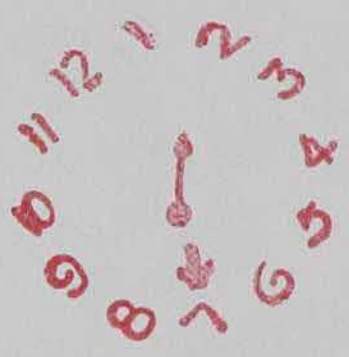
I am sending a copy of this letter to Nick Sanders (No 10), Roger Watts (Chief Secretary's Office), Petra Laidlaw (Chancellor of the Duchy) and to the Chief Whip's Office.

Yours ever,

Denis

Denis Walker  
Private Secretary

11 APR 1980



Mr Sanders ✓ *ofr*  
Mr Stevens  
Mr MacLean  
Mr Pownall  
Mr Shillito  
Ms Hall

---

cc Mr Harrop  
Mr Moore  
Mr Lyon (o.r.)

#### RECORD OF PROGRESS WITH PUBLIC BILLS

1. As you know, Mr Lyon has been on sick leave since the beginning of March (we hope he will be back next week). In his absence we have not sent you each week the record of progress made with Public Bills and Orders and Regulations subject to Affirmative Resolution. Its absence has saved about 350 photocopied sheets of paper per week and has not, so far as we know, caused serious inconvenience. I think, subject to your comments, that we should not resume a weekly circulation of the document in its previous form.
2. So far as Government Bills are concerned, we have found it useful for our own purposes to keep a list up to date every week. I attach a statement showing the position at the beginning of the Easter Recess and have it in mind that we might circulate a similar list at each "natural break" during the Parliamentary session.
3. So far as Private Peers' and Private Members' Bills are concerned, we shall continue to keep a record for our own purposes but do not propose to circulate it unless anyone feels that it provides a useful source of information not readily available elsewhere, eg from the Order Papers.
4. We in the Cabinet Office have no use for the record of Orders and Regulations subject to Affirmative Resolution and do not propose to resume maintaining the record.

WNH

W N HYDE

10 April 1980.

Title	L	Intro- duction	Second R	Committee	Report	Third R	Intro- duction	Second R	Committee	Report	Third R	Final	R.A.
1. Education (July 1979)	16.5.79	Commons 17.5.79	19.6.79	S.C.A. 28.6.79 - 5.7.79	12.7.79	16.7.79	Lords 17.7.79	17.7.79	19.7.79	24.7.79	24.7.79	-	26.7.79
2. Kiribati* (July 1979)	16.5.79.	Commons 17.5.79	24.5.79	11.6.79.	11.6.79	11.6.79	Lords 12.6.79	14.6.79	19.6.79	19.6.79	19.6.79	-	19.6.79
3. European* Assembly (Pay and Pensions) (July 1979)	23.5.79.	Commons 24.5.79	22.6.79	16.7.79	16.7.79	16.7.79	Lords 17.7.79	23.7.79	-	-	26.7.79	-	26.7.79
4. Coal Industry* 2 June 80													
5. Energy, Efficiency and Safety, Etc.* (July 1980)		Not now to be introduced this Session											
6. Wildlife and Countryside* (April 1981)		Withdrawn											
7. New Towns Money*		Transferred to Local Government Planning and Land (Bill 25)											
8. European Communities (Greek Accession)* (March 1980)	16.10.79	Commons 23.10.79.	30.10.79.	14.11.79	14.11.79	14.11.79	Lords 15.11.79	27.11.79	11.12.79	-	18.12.79	-	20.12.79

## RESTRICTED

## PUBLIC BILLS 1979/80 SESSION

(Essential Bills marked \*)

Title	L	Intro- duction	Second R	Committee	Report	Third R	Intro- duction	Second R	Committee	Report	Third R	Final	R.A.
9. Health Services*	20.11.79	Commons 7.12.79	19.12.79	S.C.G. 7.2.80 - 1.4.80									
10. Broadcasting*	30.1.80	Commons 5.2.80	18.2.80	S.C.E. 6.3.80 -									
11. Shipbuilding* (January 1980)	16.10.79	Commons 23.10.79.	1.11.79	14.11.79	14.11.79	14.11.79	Lords 15.11.79	4.12.79	11.12.79.	-	20.12.79	-	20.12.79
12. Companies* (December 1979)	13.6.79	Lords 14.6.79	25.6.79	2.7.79	16.7.79	23.7.79	Commons 23.7.79.	22.10.79	S.C.A: 6.11.79 - 11.12.79	26.2.80 27.2.80	27.2.80	-	
13. Companies*	WITHDRAWN												
14. Insurance Com- panies*	16.10.79	Lords 23.10.79	1.11.79	15.11.79	-	22.11.79	Commons 22.11.79.	(2RC (20.2.80) 22.2.80	S.C.H. 27.3.80				
15. Port of London (Financial Assistance)* (March 1980)	27.11.79.	27.3.80											
16. Bees	18.7.79	Commons 23.7.79	25.10.79	S.C.H. 4.12.79.	-	21.1.80	Lords 22.1.80	28.1.80	18.2.80	25.2.80.	3.3.80	11.3.80	20.3.80

## RESTRICTED

## PUBLIC BILLS 1979/80 SESSION

(Essential Bills marked \*)

Title	L	Intro- duction	Second R	Committee	Report	Third R	Intro- duction	Second R	Committee	Report	Third R	Final	R.A.
17. International Military Services (Financial Provision)													
	Not now likely to be proceeded with this session.												
18. National Heritage (March 1980)	20.11.79	Commons 21.11.79	3.12.79	S.C.F. 18.12.79 - 22.1.80	30.1.80	30.1.80	Lords 31.1.80	12.2.80.	28.2.80	10.3.80	17.3.80	31.3.80	31.3.80
19. Education (No. 2) (March 1980)	24.10.79	Commons 25.10.79	5.11.79	S.C.D. 13.11.79 - (G 29.1.80) 4.2.80	12.2.80 13.2.80	13.2.80.	Lords 14.2.80	25.2.80.	10/11.3.80 13.3.80- 14.3.80	24.3.80 - 25.3.80	31.3.80	3.4.80	3.4.80
20. Employment	5.12.79	Commons 6.12.79	17.12.79	S.C.A. 24.1.80 - 1.4.80									
21. Employment Protection Acts (Amendment)	INCORPORATED IN TRADE UNION BILL												
22. Petroleum and Submarine Pipelines Act (Amendment)	Not to be proceeded with this Session												
23. Offshore Installations	WITHDRAWN												

## RESTRICTED

## PUBLIC BILLS 1979/80 SESSION

(Essential Bills marked \*)

Title	L	Intro- duction	Second R	Committee	Report	Third R	Intro- duction	Second R	Committee	Report	Third R	Final	R.A.
24. Housing (July 1980)	18.12.79	Commons 19.12.79	15.1.80	S.C.F. 29.1.80 -									
25. Local Govern- ment, Planning and Land (See Bill 50)	(20.11.79) 27.11.79	Lords 29.11.79	Not to be	proceeded with									
26. Consular Fees	16.10.79	Commons 25.10.79	6.3.80	6.3.80	6.3.80	6.3.80	Lords 11.3.80	24.3.80					
27. International Organisations (Amendment)	WITHDRAWN												
28. Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa and Nauru (Miscellaneous Provisions)	24.10.79	Commons 30.10.79	15.11.79	28.11.79	28.11.79	28.11.79	Lords 29.11.79	13.12.79	15.1.80	-	22.1.80	-	31.1.80.
29. Pensioners' Payments and Social Security	13.6.79	Commons 20.6.79	29.6.79	29.6.79	29.6.79	29.6.79	Lords 4.7.79	12.7.79	12.7.79	12.7.79	12.7.79	-	26.7.79
30. Social Security (May 1980)	27.11.79	Commons 29.11.79	20.12.79	S.C.E. 22.1.80 - (G 25.2.80)	18.3.80- 19.3.80	19.3.80	Lords 24.3.80	1.4.80					

## RESTRICTED

## PUBLIC BILLS 1979/80 SESSION

(Essential Bills marked \*)

Title	L	Intro- duction	Second R	Committee	Report	Third R	Intro- duction	Second R	Committee	Report	Third R	Final	R.A.
31. Protection of Official Information	(16.10.79) 24.10.79	Lords 25.10.79	5.11.79	Not to be proceeded with this Session									
32. Isle of Man (January 1980)	16.10.79	Commons 24.10.79	15.11.79	15.11.79	15.11.79	15.11.79	Lords 20.11.79	29.11.79	6.12.79	-	13.12.79	-	20.12.79
33. Nationality	Withdrawn												
34. Police Negotiating Board	5.12.79.	Lords 11.12.79	18.12.79	17.1.80	24.1.80	31.1.80	Commons 31.1.80	6.3.80	6.3.80	6.3.80	6.3.80	11.3.80	20.3.80
35. British Aerospace (May 1980)	7.11.79	Commons 8.11.79	20.11.79	S.C.G. 29.11.79 - 29.1.80	11.2.80	11.2.80	Lords 12.2.80	3.3.80	17.3.80				
36. Industry	16.10.79	Commons 23.10.79	6.11.79	S.C.E. 15.11.79 - 17.1.80	6.2.80 - 7.2.80	7.2.80	Lords 12.2.80	18.2.80					
37. Cable and Wireless (Disposal of Shares)	Withdrawn.												
38. Contempt of Court	Not to be proceeded with this session												



## RESTRICTED

## PUBLIC BILLS 1979/80 SESSION

(Essential Bills marked \*)

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



## SCOTTISH BILLS

RESTRICTED

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

SCOTTISH BILLS

Title	L	Intro- duction	Second R	Committee	Report	Third R	Intro- duction	Second R	Committee	Report	Third R	Final	R.A.
7. Remuneration of Teaching Staff (Scotland)		Not now to be proceeded with this session.											
8. Civic Government (Scotland)	Withdrawn												
9. Matrimonial Homes (Rights of Occupancy) (Scotland)		Not now to be proceeded with this session.											
10. Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland)	13.6.79	Lords 14.6.79	3.7.79	17.7.79	23.10.79	1.11.79	Commons 1.11.79	Grand 4.12.79					



SECOND READING COMMITTEE

Title	L	Intro- duction	Second R	Committee	Report	Third R	Intro- duction	Second R	Committee	Report	Third R	Final	R.A.
8. Matrimonial Homes (Rights of Occupation)	Ready												
9. Currency	Not now likely to be proceeded with this session.												









FROM THE EARL FERRERS (ACTING LEADER)



FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE  
HOUSE OF LORDS

3rd April 1980

Parliament  
✓ MS

Dear Tim,

Thank you for your letter of 1st April indicating the timetable you hope to achieve in the Commons for the remaining stages of the Employment Bill.

Our assumptions about its progress through the Lords are based on an allowance of one day for Second Reading, four full days in Committee, two full days on Report and a further day for Third Reading. I think that it is very unlikely that it will prove possible to begin the Committee stage before the Whitsun Recess. Even if it were, it would certainly not be possible to complete it.

Whilst I fully recognise the urgency of your request, I regret that I am bound to conclude that it would be unrealistic to expect the Employment Bill to reach Royal Assent earlier than the Social Security (No 2) Bill - namely, in the week beginning 14th July.

An earlier date could not be achieved without jeopardising the possibility of securing Royal Assent for the Housing, Tenants' Rights Etc. (Scotland) and Health Services Bills by 8th August as agreed in Cabinet on 18th March.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister and to the members of the Cabinet.

Yours ever,  
Robi.

FERRERS

The Rt Hon James Prior, MP  
Secretary of State for Employment

APR 8 1980



3 April 1980

✓  
MS

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

(i) Awaiting Second Reading

Criminal Justice (Scotland) (L)  
Films  
Finance (No.2)  
Gas  
Law Reform (Misc Prov) (Scotland) (L)  
Port of London (Financial Assistance)  
Social Security (No.2)

(ii) Standing Committee

Broadcasting  
Housing  
Local Government, Planning and Land (No.2)

(iii) Report and Third Reading

Civil Aviation  
Employment  
Health Services  
Insurance Companies (L)  
Tenants' Rights Etc (Scotland)

(iv) Lords Amendments

Companies (L)

(v) Orders and Regulations

	<u>Date Laid</u>	<u>Whether Controversial</u>	<u>Date Required</u>
* Agricultural and Horticultural Co-operation Grants	19/3	No	By 2/5
Apple and Pear Development Council	19/3	Maybe	By 2/5
Bankruptcy (NI)	11/3	No	For debate, 14/4
Bankruptcy Amendment (NI)	11/3	No	For debate, 14/4
Census	20/3	Maybe	By 8/5
Criminal Justice (NI)	28/3	No	By P.C. mtg on 21/4
Domestic Proceedings (NI)	24/3	No	For debate, 14/4

\*SI Committee

(v) <u>Orders and Regulations</u>	<u>Date Laid</u>	<u>Whether Controversial</u>	<u>Date Required</u>
Double Taxation Relief Orders (8)	20/3	No	a.s.a.p.
Maintenance Orders (NI)	24/3	No	For debate, 14/4
Shipbuilding	12/3	No	For debate, 16/4
Shipbuilding (NI)	12/3	No	For debate, 16/4
Upholstered Furniture	2/4	Maybe	a.s.a.p.
* VAT (Fuel and Power)	26/3	Maybe	By 2/5

#### LORDS

British Aerospace  
 Consular Fees  
 ∅ Criminal Appeal (NI) (L)  
 ∅ Highways (L)  
 Industry  
 Limitation Amendment (L)  
 Social Security  
 ∅ Statute Law Revision (Northern Ireland) (L)  
 Transport  
 ∅ Water (Scotland) (L)

\* SI Committee

∅ Consolidation

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (33)

Appropriation (No.2) 1979  
Bail Etc (Scotland) 1980  
Bees 1980  
Charging Orders 1979  
Competition 1980  
Child Care 1980  
Consolidated Fund (No.2) 1979  
Consolidated Fund 1980  
Education 1979  
Education (No.2) 1980  
European Assembly (Pay and Pensions) 1979  
European Communities (Greek Accession) 1979  
Finance (No.2) 1979  
Foster Children 1980  
Highlands and Islands Air Services (Scotland) 1980  
Isle of Man 1979  
Justices of the Peace 1979  
Kiribati 1979  
National Health Service (Invalid Direction) 1980  
National Heritage 1980  
New Hebrides 1980  
Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa and Nauru (Misc Prov) 1980  
Pensioners' Payments and Social Security 1979  
Petroleum Revenue Tax 1980  
Police Negotiating Board 1980  
Protection of Trading Interests 1980  
Reserve Forces 1980  
Residential Homes 1980  
Sale of Goods 1979  
Shipbuilding 1979  
Slaughter of Animals (Scotland) 1980  
Southern Rhodesia 1979  
Zimbabwe 1979

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY  
BRAMBLE HOUSE SOUTH  
MILBURN LONDON SW1P 3JH

01 211 6402

VH  
Parliament

John Lyons Esq  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1

3rd April 1980

Dear John,

Further to my letter of 25th March about the Petroleum and Continental Shelf Bill, I am now writing to register formally a bid for our Energy Conservation Bill to be included at an early stage in the 1980/81 Legislative Programme.

Drafting authority has already been given for this Bill and the original intention was to introduce it in the current Session. However, pressure of business in the Parliamentary timetable has necessitated deferment of most of its provisions until next Session, but my Secretary of State feels that it is imperative to introduce it as early as possible in the Session.

I attach the necessary pro-forma.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever,

Denis

Denis Walker  
Private Secretary

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1980/81

1. DEPARTMENT Department of Energy
2. TITLE OF BILL Energy Conservation Bill
3. LENGTH OF BILL About 20 Clauses
4. PURPOSE OF BILL
  - (i) to take enabling powers to permit Secretary of State to require compliance with performance etc, standards for certain gas and heating appliances and to set up necessary administrative arrangements;
  - (ii) to take enabling powers to introduce energy consumption labelling of domestic appliances;
  - (iii) to provide specific authority for operation of Departmental energy conservation advisory schemes.

Note: on points (i) and (ii) we need the powers to implement three EEC Directives, two of which should be in force on 1 January 1981 and 15 May 1981 respectively.
5. PROPOSED CATEGORY Essential
6. DEPARTMENTAL PRIORITY First



7. STATE OF READINESS

Drafting authority given for introduction of Bill in 1979/80 Session; firstprint of draft Bill already effected. Introduction of Bill now deferred due to pressure of Parliamentary business.

8. TIMING

Introduction as early as possible in Session, as with Royal Assent/early in 1981 as practicable.

9. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Suitable for introduction in the House of Lords.

10. POLITICAL DIMENSION

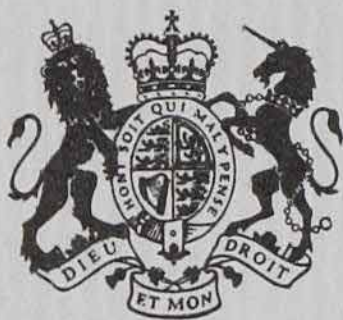
The Bill should be uncontroversial in party political terms, but there may be some resistance on anti-EEC grounds, plus some reluctance to grant general powers. Industry and consumer groups may apply some conflicting pressures on specific aspects, but all interest groups should be in general favour of legislation aimed towards energy conservation (in the form of more efficient appliances) and safety.

11. PUBLIC EXPENDITURE  
AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS

4 or 5 additional staff will be required in central government to handle administration arising from this measure. It will also give some additional work to Building Inspectors and Trading Standards Officers. Additional costs of some £100,000 pa will be incurred but it is proposed that these will be recovered. An information campaign associated with energy labelling will in addition cost up to £350,000.

- 3 APR 1980





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10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME ~~MINISTER~~

Here is the Chief Whip's draft programme of business from Easter to Whitsun. You will see that it is very heavy and involves clearing the Employment Bill, Health Services Bill, both Housing Bills and the Social Security (No 2) Bill, all of which must get out of the Commons by Whitsun. It will be hard work.

MS

HOUSE OF COMMONS: PROGRAMME BETWEEN EASTER AND WHITSUN

Monday  
14 April Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill: Second Reading

Tuesday  
15 April Social Security (No. 2) Bill: Second Reading

Wednesday  
16 April Housing Bill Guillotine  
PLA Bill: Second Reading

Thursday  
17 April Employment Bill: Report

Friday  
18 April Private Members Motions

Monday  
21 April Employment Bill: Report

Tuesday  
22 April Employment Bill: Report

Wednesday  
23 April Employment Bill: Report and Third Reading

Thursday  
24 April Supply (15th Allotted Day)  
At 7 pm Opposed Private Business

Friday  
25 April Films Bill: Second Reading

Monday  
28 April Supply (16th Allotted Day)

Tuesday  
29 April Finance Bill: Second Reading

Wednesday  
30 April Debate on Defence White Paper

Thursday  
1 May Debate on Defence White Paper

Friday  
2 May

Monday  
5 May Bank Holiday

Tuesday  
6 May ? Debate on EEC Budget/White Paper  
CCLA British Aerospace Bill

Wednesday  
7 May National Health Services Bill: Report

Thursday  
8 May National Health Services Bill: Report and Third Reading  
Until 7 pm

Friday  
9 May Private Members Motions

Monday  
12 May

Private Members Motions until 7 pm  
Adjournment Motion

Tuesday  
13 May

Tenants Rights (Scotland) Bill: Report

Wednesday  
14 May

Tenants Rights (Scotland) Bill: Report and Third  
Reading

Thursday  
15 May

Housing Bill: Report

Friday  
16 May

Monday  
19 May

Housing Bill: Report

Tuesday  
20 May

Housing Bill: Report and Third Reading

Wednesday  
21 May

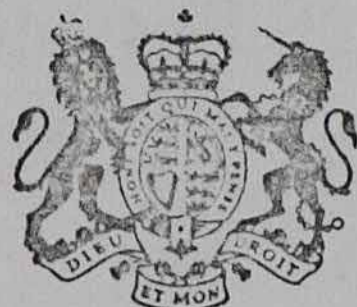
Social Security (No. 2) Bill: Report

Thursday  
22 May

? Social Security (No. 2) Bill: Report and Third  
Reading

Friday  
23 May

Adjournment Debates



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY  
 Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY  
 Telephone 01-407 5522

*From the Secretary of State for Social Services*

2 PA<sub>MI</sub>  
 PRIME MINISTER  
 To see  
 Mr

The Rt Hon James Prior MP  
 Secretary of State for Employment  
 Department of Employment  
 Caxton House  
 Tothill Street  
 London SW1

2 April 1980

Dear Jim,

ms

SOCIAL SECURITY NO 2 BILL

Following the remit from Cabinet on Wednesday I have discussed the handling of this Bill with the Chief Whip. We have agreed that as it is a Social Security Bill the Second Reading should be opened by myself and wound up by Reg Prentice. For the Standing Committee the Chief Whip has agreed with me that it is essential that Lynda Chalker and I should have the support of an Employment Minister and, in view of Patrick Mayhew's commitments on the Employment Bill, that Jim Lester should be the Minister to help us with our Bill.

I hope you will feel able to agree to this.

Copies go to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Duchy and the Chief Whip.

Yours  
 Patrick

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APR 21 10 09  
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CONFIDENTIAL

✓  
ms

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY  
TRAVEL HOUSE, BOWLING GREEN  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

01-211-6402

John Lyon Esq.  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
SW1

2 April 1980

Dear John,

You may know that on 26 February E Committee agreed that a levy should be imposed upon the British Gas Corporation in respect of their purchases of PRT - exempt gas. We will need legislation next Session to achieve this and I am therefore writing to ask that the Gas Rental Levy Bill be added to the list I sent you with my letter of 7 February (to which I have previously asked to be added the Petroleum and Continental Shelf Bill - my letter of 25 March). I attach the necessary pro-forma.

*will request if required*

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever,

Denis

Denis Walker  
Private Secretary





LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1980/81

1. DEPARTMENT Department of Energy.
2. TITLE OF BILL Gas Rental Levy Bill.
3. LENGTH OF BILL Short, possibly 'very short.
4. PURPOSE OF BILL To provide that a rental levy may be imposed upon the British Gas Corporation in respect of gas supplies from ~~gas~~ <sup>oil</sup> fields not subject to Petroleum Revenue Tax.
5. PROPOSED CATEGORY Programme.
6. DEPARTMENTAL PRIORITY
7. STATE OF READINESS E Committee has agreed that a levy should be imposed on British Gas's purchases of PRT - exempt gas. Instructions should be ready for Parliamentary Counsel by the end of the summer.
8. TIMING Royal Asset<sup>n</sup> is needed by March 1981 at the latest so that the levy can apply for the financial year, 1980/81.
9. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE
10. POLITICAL DIMENSION Politically desirable so that BGC's forthcoming profits can be reduced to a presentationally acceptable level. Possibly not too controversial in party political terms.
11. PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS Money at present deposited by BGC with the Exchequer will be permanently transferred. There will be no effect on public sector borrowing as a whole though public expenditure, as presently defined, may rise.



3 APR 1960





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~~PRIME MINISTER~~

To see  
MS

Caxton House Tothill Street London SW1H 9NA

Telephone Direct Line 01-213 6400

Switchboard 01-213 3000

THE EARL FERRERS  
Acting Leader of the House of Lords  
House of Lords  
London SW1A 0AA

1 April 1980

*John Robson*

*MS*

EMPLOYMENT BILL - HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thank you for your letter of 21 March. The Employment Bill completed its Committee Stage in the Commons yesterday. The Chancellor of the Duchy and the Chief Whip have agreed that the new Clause on trade union immunities (which is being put down today) and the Report Stage and the Third Reading of the Bill as a whole should, barring accidents, be taken as soon as Parliament reassembles after Easter - that is on 16 (or 17) April and in the following week on 21, 22 and 23 April. The Bill should therefore be out of the Commons four weeks before the Social Security (No 2) Bill.

I trust that this accelerated timetable in the Commons will enable you to accord a similar degree of priority to getting the Employment Bill through its stages in the Lords. As you know, it is imperative that the Bill should receive Royal Assent by early July so that I am to be able to consult the Council of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service on the Codes on Picketing and the Closed Shop before the summer break. Should I miss that target it would mean two month's delay in the preparation of the Codes which we need to have in force in time for next winter's pay round.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and to the members of the Cabinet.

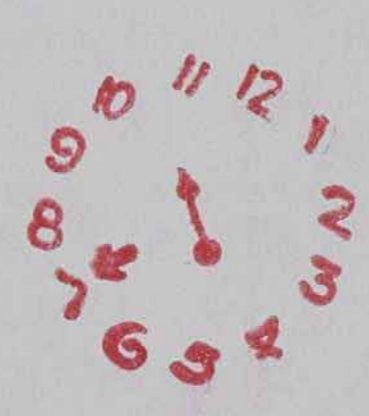
*John Robson*

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[Faint, illegible text]



*[Faint handwritten mark]*

2 - APR 1980



PART

4

ends:-

CDL's office to LPS office 31.3.80

PART

5

begins:-

QL(80) 1st Mtg 1.4.80

