

PART 3

Confidential Filing

Queen's speeches on prorogation and
opening of Parliament - November 1980.
Televising the State Opening.

PARLIAMENT

Part 1 : May 1979

Part 3 : November 1980

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
2.12.80		22.10.81					
23.12.80		- ends -					
29.12.80							
12.1.81							
3.7.81							
28.7.81							
30.7.81							
5.8.81							
8.8.81							
15.8.81							
28.8.81							
10.9.81							
22.9.81							
24.9.81							
1.10.81							
14.10.81							
30.10.81							

PREM 19/558

PART 3 ends:-

22.10.87

PART 4 begins:-

26.10.87



Parliament

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

22 October 1981

Wm 28/10

Dear David,

Thank you for your minute of 1 October. I am content to give my approval to the proposed TV and film coverage of the State Opening which you outline.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Leader of the House of Lords, the Lord Chancellor and the Speaker.

Francis Pym

FRANCIS PYM

Lieutenant General Sir David House, GCB, CBE, MC
Gentleman-Usher of the Black Rod
and Serjeant at Arms
House of Commons
LONDON

FILE

VLB

Pattison

22 October 1981

Television Coverage of the
State Opening of Parliament

Thank you for your letter of 21 October to Mike Pattison. I can see no objection to your proposal that the Lord President should reply to Black Rod indicating approval for the proposed TV coverage of the State Opening. I agree that you should proceed as the Speaker suggests, and table a Written Question and Answer informing Members of what is intended.

I am copying this to Michael Pownall and Murdo Maclean.

W F S RICKETT

CS

D. C. R. Heyhoe, Esq.,
Privy Council Office.



The National Archives

LETTERCODE/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i>	Date and sign
PIECE/ITEM <i>558</i> (one piece/item number)	
Extract/Item details: <i>Letter from Fellowes to Pattison dated 21 October 1981</i>	
CLOSED FOR <i>40</i> YEARS UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	<i>18 October 2011</i> <i>AWayland</i>
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MISSING	
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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

21 October 1981

How nice,

TELEVISION COVERAGE OF THE STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Following his earlier correspondence with you on this subject, Black Rod duly wrote to the Lord President on 1 October seeking approval for the proposed TV and film coverage of the State Opening. ... I attach a copy of his minute. In turn, the Lord President has consulted Mr Silkin and Mr Beith, both of whom have indicated that they are content with what is proposed.

The next step is, therefore, for the Lord President to reply to Black Rod indicating approval for the proposed coverage and I will be grateful if you could confirm that, from your point of view, the way is now clear for him to do so.

I should add that we have also checked that the Speaker is content with these plans. He has, however, suggested that, as in previous years, a Written Question and Answer should be tabled informing Members of what is intended. The Lord President is quite happy ... to do this and I attach for convenience the Hansard extract of a previous such Question. If you agree, therefore, we will proceed as the Speaker suggests.

I am copying this letter to Michael Pownall (House of Lords) and Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's office).

*Yes am,
A.C.M.*

D C R HEYHOE
Private Secretary

M A Pattison, Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON

Enc



RECEIVED

- 5 OCT 1981

6

GENTLEMAN USHER OF THE BLACK ROD
HOUSE OF LORDS LONDON SW1A 0PW

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Following enquiries by 10 Downing Street in order to clarify intentions, BBC TV have recently informed them that they do now wish to seek approval for TV cover of the State Opening of Parliament on 4th November.

Last year, they filmed a recording and excerpts were transmitted in the evening's BBC TV and ITV news. This year, they intend a reversion to fuller cover to be transmitted live at the time. ITN have also applied for coverage, and it can be assumed that the previous practice of BBC TV taking the lead while providing a feed-in service to ITN would again be negotiated between the two organisations.

10 Downing Street have ascertained that The Queen would be content that there should be TV cover of this year's State Opening but it will be necessary for me to inform the Lord Great Chamberlain of your views in order that he may advise The Queen accordingly.

Movietone have also asked for permission to film the State Opening for Newsreel purposes, but I assume that your views on TV cover would apply similarly to such filming.

As before, detailed arrangements would be made by my office in conjunction with the Serjeant at Arms of the House of Commons, and as usual, we would insist that the numbers of cameras and crews would be kept to a reasonable minimum in the now customary locations.

I should be grateful to know whether you approve of TV and film coverage of the coming State Opening, as outlined in this letter, in order that I may inform the Lord Great Chamberlain for him to advise The Queen accordingly.

I am writing similarly to the Leader of the House of Lords and am copying this letter to The Lord Chancellor and The Speaker.

Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod

1st October 1981

STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT (TELEVISION)

Mr. George asked the Lord President of the Council if the State Opening of Parliament on 1st November 1978 will be televised.

Mr. Foot: Following the precedents of 1966, 1970, 1974, 1976 and 1977 arrangements have been made for the opening ceremony on 1st November 1978 to be televised.

SCOTTISH LAW COMMISSION

Mrs. Winifred Ewing asked the Lord Advocate what proportion of the work of the Scottish Law Commission is undertaken at the request of Government Departments; and what proportion is undertaken in accordance with its own programme.

The Lord Advocate: This varies from year to year. Currently, very approximately one-fifth of the work of the Scottish Law Commission is concerned with the giving of advice under section 3(1)(e) of the Law Commissions Act 1965 in response to requests from Government Departments and to requests for advice on international law.

The remainder of the Commission's work is undertaken in accordance with its Programme and the remaining duties imposed on it by section 3 of the Law Commissions Act 1965.

Mrs. Winifred Ewing asked the Lord Advocate what is the current size of the staff of the Scottish Law Commission, excluding the Commissioners.

The Lord Advocate: The current number of the Scottish Law Commission staff is 23.

LAW OFFICERS' DEPARTMENTS (STAFF RETIREMENT)

Mr. Greville Janner asked the Attorney-General (1) at what average age men and women, respectively, employed in his Department have retired in each of the last five years;

(2) at what average age men and women, respectively, employed in the

Lord Chancellor's Department have retired in each of the last five years.

The Solicitor-General: Only one person employed in the Law Officers' Department has retired since January 1973 and he was aged 65. Since that date the average age of retirement in the Department of my noble Friend the Lord Chancellor has been as follows:

Average age for men

1973:	62 years 11 months
1974:	63 years 9 months
1975:	63 years 1 month
1976:	63 years 2 months
1977:	65 years 8 months

Average age for women

1973:	55 years 7 months
1974:	55 years 2 months
1975:	58 years 3 months
1976:	59 years 8 months
1977:	62 years 5 months

LAW COMMISSION

Mrs. Winifred Ewing asked the Attorney-General what is the current size of the staff of the Law Commission, excluding the Commissioners.

The Solicitor-General: I am advised by my noble Friend the Lord Chancellor that there are 45 staff in the office of the Law Commission, excluding the Law Commissioners, as at 1st October 1978.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Rhodesia

Sir Frederic Bennett asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will now favourably consider an application for a visitor's visa from Mr. Ian Smith;

(2) if he will now favourably consider an application for a visitor's visa from Dr. Elliot Gabellah, Joint Foreign Minister in the provisional Rhodesian Government;

(3) if he will now favourably consider an application for a visitor's visa from Mr. P. K. Van der Byl;

(4) if he will now favourably consider an application for a visitor's visa from Chief Jeremiah Chirau;

(5) if he will now favourably consider an application for a visitor's visa from the Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole;



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

MR. WRIGHT,
CABINET OFFICE

The Queen's Speeches on the Prorogation and
Opening of Parliament

The Prime Minister is content with the changes to the Prorogation Speech which you set out in your minute of 19 October, and I have passed these to the Palace. They do not involve a formal submission to The Queen.

The Prime Minister has also approved the text of the Opening Speech attached to Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 19 October. This is now being submitted formally to The Queen, and I attach a copy of it in the form in which it is going to the Palace.

(Sgd.) M.A. PATTISON.

20 October 1981



The National Archives

LETTERCODE/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i>	Date and sign
PIECE/ITEM <i>558</i> (one piece/item number)	
Extract/Item details: <i>Letter from Pattison to Fellowes dated 20 October 1981</i>	
CLOSED FOR <i>40</i> YEARS UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	<i>18 October 2011 C. Wayland</i>
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PIECE/ITEM <i>558</i> (one piece/item number)	
Extract/Item details: <i>Letter from Prime Minister to HM The Queen dated 20 October 1981, with enclosed draft Speech</i>	
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NUMBER NOT USED	

BF 9/11

BBC Broadcasting House London W1A 1AA

Telephone 01-580 4468 Telex: 265781 Telegrams and Cables: Broadcasts London Telex

from Chief Assistant to Director-General

19 October 1981

Dear Bernard,

I know the arrangements about State Openings do seem rather loose. I should be only too happy to come and discuss them at some time. I suspect some of the failing is mine. Such a session will bring me up to the mark!

Yours,

David.

(David Holmes)

Bernard Ingham Esq.,
Press Secretary,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1.

Stephane - when
arrange for David
Nicholas or his
homenee to come in
with David Holmes soon
to discuss

H



Prime Minister

If you are content with these amendments, we will now arrange for submission to the Queen.

Ref. A05759

Agreed
no

PRIME MINISTER

MAJ

19/X

The Queen's Speech on the Opening of Parliament

attached - I attach for your approval the draft of The Queen's Speech on the Opening of Parliament, revised to take account of the changes agreed in Cabinet on 24 September and of subsequent discussions. The revisions are shown in manuscript on the attached draft.

2. The Cabinet agreed that a specific reference to the patriation of the Canadian Constitution might be needed if a formal request was received from Canada; since no formal request has yet been received, no reference has yet been included.

3. The Cabinet deleted from the earlier draft a reference to our close relationship with the Republic of Ireland. But the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Lord President of the Council and the Lord Privy Seal, at a recent meeting of the Defence and Oversea Policy Committee's Sub-committee on Anglo-Irish Relations, felt that a brief reference in the speech to Anglo-Irish relations would be appropriate as the Speech would be made only two days before the Anglo-Irish summit. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland feels that on this occasion the absence of a reference might be taken by the Irish to imply that our interest in Anglo-Irish relations is now less than it was when Mr Haughey was Taoiseach, even though Dr FitzGerald's Government, in a very difficult electoral position, has courageously given helpful support over the hunger strike both in private and publicly (in the Irish Foreign Minister's speech at the United Nations General Assembly). The Secretary of State also feels that, as this will be the first Queen's Speech after the joint studies were set up, that fact, and the proximity of the summit meeting, are distinctive; he would not expect a reference to Anglo-Irish relations to be repeated in future years. He suggests the inclusion this year of the following (with which the Lord Privy Seal agrees) at the end of the foreign affairs section -



Amend mt "My Government will seek to maintain close relations between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland."

4. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has looked again at the Northern Ireland section of the Speech in the light of recent developments on the prisons protest. Not all forms of protest have yet ended, but the Secretary of State does not think it necessary or appropriate for The Queen to mention relatively minor forms of protest in a short reference to Northern Ireland, and proposes that the last sentence should now read -

Amend "My Government will work for improvements in the security situation", thus omitting the words in the previous draft -

"and for a solution to the prisons protests which does not compromise essential principles".

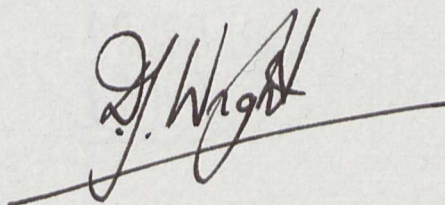
5. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office propose three changes to the foreign affairs section of the Speech -

i. the section in square brackets in the opening paragraph of the previous draft, which refers to a visit by The Queen to the Antipodes, should be omitted, since the visit will not have been announced by the time the Speech is made;

ii. the traditional position of Afghanistan (in the third paragraph of the first page) is better described as one of "independent and non-aligned status" than as "independence and neutrality", since the former wording is in accordance with the United Nations resolution on Afghanistan;

iii. the Government's commitment to the European Community might be emphasised by the insertion of "strong" after "their" in the fourth paragraph of the first page. This would lend the right contrast to the passage on the Commonwealth and the United Nations, where the emphasis is on the "greater importance" which the Government attaches to both organisations.

6. Finally, it is proposed that the reference to changes to the fixed penalty system, in paragraph 4 of the penultimate page, should be made more specific by the addition of the words "for road traffic offences" before the words "improved and extended".
7. I think that all these amendments are acceptable.
8. It is for your office to arrange for submission to The Queen. It will be necessary to obtain The Queen's approval immediately after her return to London (and at the latest by 28 October) so that final instructions can be given to the printer.
9. I will circulate for the information of the Cabinet and the other members of The Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee a copy of the Speech as soon as it has been approved by The Queen.
10. A copy of this minute and the draft Speech goes to the Home Secretary.



ROBERT ARMSTRONG

(approved by Sir R Armstrong
& signed on his behalf)

19 October 1981

Text of 16 October.

of The
DRAFT QUEEN'S SPEECH ON
THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

I look forward with great pleasure to my State Visit to Sweden next June ~~and to my visits to Australia, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu and Kiribati in September and October.~~

My Government regard the security of the Nation and the preservation of peace as matters of the first importance. Increased resources will be devoted to defence and the most efficient use made of them. My Government will continue to play an active role within the North Atlantic Alliance.

International efforts to enable Afghanistan to resume her independence and ^t ~~neutrality~~ ^{non-aligned status} will have my Government's active support. Despite the / ^{situation} in Afghanistan and Cambodia, my Government will continue to work for better East-West relations, for an early and successful conclusion to the Madrid Meeting on the Helsinki Final Act, and for specific, equitable and verifiable measures of arms control. They welcome the forthcoming negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on limiting long-range theatre nuclear forces.

My Government reaffirm their ^{strong} / commitment to the European Community. During the remainder of the British Presidency, and thereafter as a Member State, the United Kingdom will play its full part in its development. My Government are anxious to see satisfactory decisions on restructuring the Community budget and improving the Common Agricultural Policy. They will seek early agreement on a revised Common Fisheries Policy, and will continue to support the accession to the Community of Spain and Portugal.

My Government support the contribution of the member States of the European Community towards a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israel dispute and will continue to work with all the parties to the dispute. They support the efforts of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Islamic Conference and the United Nations to bring about a negotiated settlement to the conflict between Iran and Iraq.

Efforts to reach an internationally recognised agreement in Namibia will be continued, in co-operation with our allies.

My Government attach great importance to the Commonwealth and the United Nations and will continue to play an active part in both organisations. They will join with other countries and responsible international organisations in efforts to resolve the economic difficulties of both developing and developed countries.

My Government will seek to maintain close relations between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

Estimates for the Public Service will be laid before you.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

My Government attach the utmost importance to maintaining progress in reducing inflation by the pursuit of firm monetary and fiscal policies, to further improving the efficiency of the economy, and to strengthening industry, /so as to restore competitiveness abroad and prosperity at home. They hope to see this assisted by further reductions in the level of wage settlements.

Plans for public expenditure will reflect the importance of restricting the

^{claims} of the public sector on the nation's resources and easing the burden of taxation. My Government share the nation's concern at the growth of unemployment and will continue to direct help to those groups and individuals most hard-pressed by the recession.

A Bill will be introduced on employment and labour relations.

Measures will be introduced to amend the financial arrangements of the National Coal Board and some other public undertakings, and to facilitate private investment in the oil-producing business of the British National Oil Corporation. Measures will also be proposed to facilitate private investment and promote competition in the activities of the British Gas Corporation.

State involvement in transport will be further reduced and the fixed penalty system improved and extended. / for road traffic offences

My Government's policies will seek to ensure that all individuals, whatever their race, colour or creed, have equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities.

My Government will continue to devote ^{themselves} ~~itself~~ to the complex problems of Northern Ireland. The search will go on for acceptable ways of enabling the people of Northern Ireland to play a fuller part in its administration. My Government will work for improvements in the security situation ~~and for a solution to the prisons protests which does not compromise essential principles.~~

The requirements of law and order and the services employed to uphold them will continue to enjoy my Government's complete support. Legislation will be introduced to improve the criminal justice system in England and Wales.

Measures will be brought forward to amend the law relating to the assumption of civil jurisdiction by courts in the United Kingdom and for the reciprocal enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters.

Legislation will be introduced to establish a scheme of unified housing benefit and to place a duty on employers to provide sick pay during the early weeks of sickness.

A Bill will be brought forward to improve the safeguards for detained patients and to make other reforms in the law on mental health in England and Wales.

Measures will be introduced to implement my Government's conclusions on the report of the Committee of Inquiry into Local Government in Scotland and to provide for a modernised Code of Civic Government in Scotland.

Legislation will be introduced to

improve the accountability of local authorities for the level of their rates.

Other measures will be laid before you.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.

Ref. A05758

MR PATTISON

*Prime Minister**Content with these amendments?**Yes**MAP 19/14*The Queen's Speech on the Prorogation of Parliament

We gave Departments the usual opportunity to say whether any last minute amendments were needed to The Queen's Speech on the Prorogation of Parliament which had been approved by The Queen. We have been asked to make two changes. (The references are to the text circulated under cover of Sir Robert Armstrong's note C(81) 49 of 12 October.)

2. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office think it would be undesirable not to make a reference to the death of President Sadat of Egypt, even though Egypt is not a Commonwealth country. They therefore propose that the fourth paragraph on page 1 should be amended to read:

"We were greatly saddened by the deaths of President Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt."

3. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food report that there have been recent developments within the European Community on fisheries. They would therefore like the last sentence of the first paragraph on the second page amended to read:

"Agreement has been reached on fishery conservation measures and improved marketing arrangements."

4. I should be grateful if you could obtain the Prime Minister's agreement to these two amendments. You will no doubt wish to advise the Palace of them, but we hope at this stage it will not be necessary to make a formal submission to The Queen.

5. I am copying this minute to Mr Halliday (Home Office), Mr Fall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Miss Timms (MAFF).

J. Wright

D J WRIGHT

19 October 1981

cc. Mr Whitmore ✓

✓
N. (C...)
K.

16x.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Press Secretary

16 October, 1981

Dear David,

I am writing to let you know, if you were not already aware, that it has been agreed that the BBC should be given the necessary facilities to provide full coverage of the State Opening of Parliament, both inside the House of Lords and outside.

It may be useful some time in the future if we could meet, along with David Nicholas, ITN (to whom I am copying this letter), to discuss the liaison arrangements over the State opening. They seem to be rather loose and we might perhaps agree improvements to our general benefit.

[Handwritten signature]

B. INGHAM

David Holmes, Esq.,
Chief Assistant to Director-
General,
B.B.C.

cc. D. Nicholas, Esq., ITN

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

Parliament



CONFIDENTIAL NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

R M Whalley Esq
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2AS

*Cabinet Office will be writing
to us with amendments from
all depts.*

*na
MAD
15/x*

14 October 1981

Dear Bob,

QUEEN'S SPEECHES AT THE PROROGATION AND OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Thank you for your letters of 12 October enclosing the two draft speeches.

My Secretary of State has looked again at the sections on Northern Ireland in the light both of the ending of the hunger strike and discussions at OD(AI) Committee about Anglo-Irish relations.

Mr Prior sees no need for any changes in the Prorogation speech but the Northern Ireland passage in the Opening Speech was drafted while the hunger strike, which of course caused so much concern nationally and internationally, was still in progress. The closing words (which refer to the "prisons protests") are not actually incorrect, because not all forms of protest have yet ended. However we hope that those lower levels of protest can now be brought to an end and that the great majority of prisoners will conform to Prison Rules. But even if they do not, it does not seem necessary or appropriate for Her Majesty to mention relatively minor forms of protest in a short reference to Northern Ireland, and Mr Prior would wish to see all the words after "in the security situation" omitted.

There is also the question whether a reference should be made to Anglo-Irish relations. At OD(AI)(81) 3rd Meeting, my Secretary of State, the Lord President and the Lord Privy Seal agreed that a brief reference would be appropriate as the Speech would be made only three days before the summit meeting. Mr Prior feels that on this occasion the absence of a reference might be taken by the Irish to imply that our interest in Anglo-Irish relations was now less than it was when Mr Haughey was Taoiseach, even though Dr FitzGerald's Government, in a very difficult electoral position, has courageously given helpful support over the hunger strike both

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in private and publicly in the Irish Foreign Minister's speech at the United Nations General Assembly. This will of course be the first Queen's speech after the joint studies were set up. That fact, and the proximity of the summit meeting, are distinctive and we would not expect such a formula to be repeated in future years. Mr Prior suggests something on the following lines:

"My Government will maintain close relations between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland."

I am sending a copy of this letter to Francis Richards (FCO), John Halliday (HO), and Michael Alexander (No 10).

Yours sincerely
Mike Hopkins

M W HOPKINS

CONFIDENTIAL



✓ MFD.

With the compliments of

THE MINISTER OF STATE

DOUGLAS HURD

FOREIGN and COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

LONDON, S.W.1 2AH



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London - SW1A 2AH

13 October 1981

Dear Whalley,

Mr Hurd has agreed that a reference should be made in The Queen's speech on the prorogation of Parliament to the death of President Sadat. We suggest that the reference should be made in paragraph 4 which would then read:

'We were greatly saddened by the deaths of President Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt'.

I am copying this letter to 10 Downing Street.

*Yours ever,
S M J Lampert*

S M J Lampert
Private Secretary to Mr Hurd

R M Whalley Esq
CABINET OFFICE



CABINET OFFICE
70 WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
01-233 7665

12 October 1981

The Private Secretary

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE
OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

(WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 1981)

✓ MJP

The Cabinet approved the text of The Queen's Speech on the Opening of Parliament at its meeting on 24 September. I am writing to ask whether any changes to the text have become necessary since then. If so, please let me know immediately - at the latest by 4.00 pm on Thursday 15 October.

R M Whalley

R M WHALLEY
QL Secretary

The Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister

DRAFT QUEEN'S SPEECH ON
THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

I look forward with great pleasure to my State Visit to Sweden next June [and to my visits to Australia, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu and Kiribati in September and October.]

My Government regard the security of the Nation and the preservation of peace as matters of the first importance. Increased resources will be devoted to defence and the most efficient use made of them. My Government will continue to play an active role within the North Atlantic Alliance.

International efforts to enable Afghanistan to resume her independence and neutrality will have my Government's active support. Despite the ^{situation} / in Afghanistan and Cambodia, my Government will continue to work for better East-West relations, for an early and successful conclusion to the Madrid Meeting on the Helsinki Final Act, and for specific, equitable and verifiable measures of arms control. They welcome the forthcoming negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on limiting long-range theatre nuclear forces.

My Government reaffirm their commitment to the European Community. During the remainder of the British Presidency, and thereafter as a Member State, the United Kingdom will play its full part in its development. My Government are anxious to see satisfactory decisions on restructuring the Community budget and improving the Common Agricultural Policy. They will seek early agreement on a revised Common Fisheries Policy, and will continue to support the accession to the Community of Spain and Portugal.

My Government support the contribution of the member States of the European Community towards a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israel dispute and will continue to work with all the parties to the dispute. They support the efforts of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Islamic Conference and the United Nations to bring about a negotiated settlement to the conflict between Iran and Iraq.

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Plans for public expenditure will reflect the importance of restricting the aims of the public sector on the nation's resources and easing the burden of taxation. My Government shares the nation's concern at the growth of unemployment and will continue to direct help to those groups and individuals most hard-pressed by the recession.

A Bill will be introduced on employment and labour relations.

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Legislation will be introduced to

improve the accountability of local authorities for the level of their rates.

Other measures will be laid before you.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.



CABINET OFFICE
70 WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AS

12 October 1981

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
01-233 7665

The Private Secretary

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE
PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

The text of The Queen's Speech on the Prorogation of Parliament, which has now been approved by The Queen, is today being circulated to the Cabinet.

If it is essential to make any alterations to the Speech please let me know immediately - at the latest by 4.00 pm on Thursday 15 October.

R M Whalley

R M WHALLEY
QL Secretary

The Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister

DRAFT QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Duke of Edinburgh and I recall with great pleasure the joy and affection shown by so many people on the marriage of The Prince and Princess of Wales.

We were pleased to receive the State Visits of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Nepal in November, the President of Nigeria in March and His Majesty The King of Saudi Arabia in June.

We look back with much pleasure on the visits we have made over the past year. We visited Belgium, the Commission of the European Communities, and the Headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation in November and Norway in May. We have just returned from visits to Australia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka. As Head of the Commonwealth, I was present in Melbourne on the occasion of the Commonwealth Conference.

We were greatly saddened by the tragic death of President Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh.

My Government welcomed the independence of Belize and its decision to join the Commonwealth. My Government took an active part in the successful Conference on Reconstruction and Development held in Salisbury in March.

My Government have worked within the North Atlantic Alliance to strengthen our common defence, have fulfilled our commitment to increase defence spending, and have announced plans to reshape Britain's defence forces.

My Government took part in consultations within the Alliance in preparation for the negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on long-range theatre nuclear forces. They have joined in other arms control and disarmament negotiations, and have strongly supported the proposal for a Conference on Disarmament in Europe.

My Government played a constructive role in the search for solutions to the problems in East-West relations. On behalf of the member states of the European Community, they have presented proposals for a Conference to enable Afghanistan to resume its independent status.

My Government welcomed the accession of Greece to the European Community. On 1 July the United Kingdom assumed the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. Discussions have begun on the review of Community policies and the budget. Agreement has been reached in the Community on safeguarding the steel industry. My Government have taken part in discussions on the Common Agricultural Policy and a revised Common Fisheries Policy. Agreement has been reached on fishery conservation measures.

My Government continue to seek a negotiated peace in the Arab-Israel conflict on the basis of the statement made at Venice by the Heads of State and Government of the Community last year.

The United Kingdom took part in the summit meetings near Ottawa in July and at Cancun in October.

My Government have continued to participate in efforts to achieve a settlement in Namibia, and have supported efforts to solve the problem caused by Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

I thank you for the provision that you have made for the honour and dignity of the Crown and for the public services.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

My Government have continued to give priority in fiscal and monetary policy to securing a substantial and lasting reduction in inflation as a basis for a sustainable growth of output and employment. Substantial net repayments of overseas debt have been made.

Steps have been taken to encourage and assist new and small firms, to help improve efficiency in the production of goods and services, and to direct help to those most adversely affected by unemployment.

Plans for a reduction in public expenditure in real terms over the years ahead have been published. Cash planning will improve control of expenditure. Civil Service manpower has been reduced in pursuit of greater economy and efficiency.

An Act has been passed to reorganise the Post Office, improve postal services increase telecommunications competition,

and permit wider participation in Cable and Wireless. Legislation has been passed to enable the British Steel Corporation to withdraw from unprofitable steelmaking, to encourage private sector investment, to ensure fairer competition, and to reconstruct the Corporation's finances.

A levy has been imposed on the British Gas Corporation in respect of certain purchases of gas from the United Kingdom Continental Shelf. Legislation has been enacted to reduce state involvement in the transport industries, to encourage private investment, and to improve road safety.

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An Act has been passed to amend the industrial training board arrangements. Steps have been taken to develop understanding, especially in schools, of information technology.

Powers have been taken to set standards for new space and water heating appliances. Interim provision has been made for British activity in deep sea mining.

Legislation has been passed to improve the conservation and marketing of fish and to assist fish farming. A strategy for the continued expansion of forestry has been announced and legislation passed to encourage private investment in land for forestry.

My Government have protected the real value of the retirement pension and other related benefits. Legislation has been passed to facilitate throughout Great Britain the education of children with special needs.

The law on nationality and the law on criminal attempts have been reformed. Disqualification from election to the House of Commons has been extended to certain convicted persons and the law on reviews of European Parliament constituencies has been amended.

The law on contempt of court has been reformed. Legislation has been passed consolidating and improving the law relating to the Supreme Court in England and Wales, and amending the law relating to county courts.

In Northern Ireland the security forces have been vigilant in the impartial maintenance of the rule of law in a situation made difficult by protests in the prisons and associated public disorder. Efforts to find ways of involving local people in the administration of the Province have continued.

Changes have been made to the laws affecting local government and education in Scotland.

Measures have been passed to promote and protect the natural environment.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may attend you.



1. CAW

To see if the record

KL 12/10

2. RA

MAR 12/1

Royal Party on Tour X.

at Adelaide.

10th October, 1981.

Dear Mike.

I write in reply to your letter to Robert Fellowes of 2nd October 1981 to say that The Queen is pleased to approve that the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster should carry the Cap of Maintenance at the Opening of Parliament on Wednesday 4th November. I am informing the Lord Great Chamberlain.

Yours truly,

Philip Snow

M. Pattison, Esq.

✓ MJP



10 DOWNING STREET

9th October 1981

By Mrs Michael,

Mover and Seconder of the Loyal Address

I have had a word with the Prime Minister about Murdo MacLean's letter to Mike Pattison dated 7th October.

The Prime Minister is content that Michael Shaw should move the Address.

She suggests that Bob Dunn should second the Address.

Handwritten initials and scribbles

Ian Gow
Parliamentary Private Secretary

The Rt Hon Michael Jopling MP
Chief Whip
12 Downing Street
London SW1

cc. *✓* M Pattison Esq

This is a copy. The original ^{14 June 1982} has been extracted and closed.
40 years.

WHITMORE

cc: Mr. Ingham

TELEVISIONING OF THE STATE OPENING

I have now ensured that all concerned know that the Palace is content for the BBC to provide full television coverage of the State Opening this year.

* ~ *

Despite the efforts which you and Nick made last year to ensure that the proper procedure was followed over clearance, matters have not been handled very satisfactorily this year. You will have noted that we had to get the necessary approvals long before the BBC had thought of making the formal approach which was the subject of your correspondence with the Director General last year. The BBC finally realised their oversight 10 days ago, and Ian Trethowan did write. I acknowledged his letter.

The lesson of this year's saga is that the left hand of the BBC is ignorant of its right hand, in the same way as we, Black Rod, and DOE were all acting individually last year.

* ~ *

MAD

9 October 1981

* ~ * Passages deleted and closed, 40 years, under FOI Exemptions.
Wayland
18 October 2011

✓ to Mr Gow



Prime Minister
Content?

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

MA 7/1x

7th October 1981

PM discussed with Chief
Whip. Mr Gow is meeting
Chief Whip. na

Dear Luke,

Mover and Seconder

MA 9/x

The Chief Whip would like to propose that Mr Michael Shaw (Scarborough) should be invited to move the Address in reply to The Queen's Speech, and that Mr Tristan Garel-Jones (Watford) should be asked to second.

If the Prime Minister is content the Chief Whip will sound them out. We will, of course, ensure that they are appropriately briefed.

Yours ever,

Murdo

(MURDO MACLEAN)

M Pattison Esq.,
Office of the Prime Minister



Feb 16

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

7 October 1981

CF -

In the absence of Mr. Whitmore with the Prime Minister in Australia, I am writing to thank you for your letter of 2 October, about the BBC's intentions for radio and television coverage of the State Opening of Parliament on 4 November.

As you say, we had already learned of your intentions from our informal contacts, but it is most helpful to have an early formal approach, so that we can ensure that the necessary clearances are obtained in good time. The BBC will by now be discussing the details with Black Rod.

M. A. PATTISON

Sir Ian Trethowan.

CF

BBC Broadcasting House London W1A 1AA

Telephone 01-580 4468 Telex: 265781 Telegrams and Cables: Broadcasts London Telex

from the Director-General

2nd October, 1981

Dear Mr. White

May I tell you formally, as I should have done some weeks ago, that the BBC is interested in giving 'live' coverage on radio and television of the State Opening of Parliament on 4th November. There have already been informal conversations between David Holmes and Bernard Ingham but I thought it right to make this approach for formal approval as has been done in most former years.

I should tell you that I have, also in line with precedent, written to the Lord Great Chamberlain.

Ian Trethowan

(Ian Trethowan)

Principal Private Secretary
to the Prime Minister,
10, Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

FILE

VLB

Parliament
Opening

Postman.

2 October 1981

Philip Moore wrote to Clive on 5 September, enquiring whom the Prime Minister wished to propose for carrying the Cap of Maintenance at the Opening of Parliament on Wednesday, 4 November.

The Prime Minister proposes that the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster should do so.

M A PATTISON

Robert Fellowes, Esq.





Parliament

MJP seen

GENTLEMAN USHER OF THE BLACK ROD
HOUSE OF LORDS LONDON SW1A 0PW

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Following enquiries by 10 Downing Street in order to clarify intentions, BBC TV have recently informed them that they do now wish to seek approval for TV cover of the State Opening of Parliament on 4th November.

Last year, they filmed a recording and excerpts were transmitted in the evening's BBC TV and ITV news. This year, they intend a reversion to fuller cover to be transmitted live at the time. ITN have also applied for coverage, and it can be assumed that the previous practice of BBC TV taking the lead while providing a feed-in service to ITN would again be negotiated between the two organisations.

10 Downing Street have ascertained that The Queen would be content that there should be TV cover of this year's State Opening but it will be necessary for me to inform the Lord Great Chamberlain of your views in order that he may advise The Queen accordingly.

Movietone have also asked for permission to film the State Opening for Newsreel purposes, but I assume that your views on TV cover would apply similarly to such filming.

As before, detailed arrangements would be made by my office in conjunction with the Serjeant at Arms of the House of Commons, and as usual, we would insist that the numbers of cameras and crews would be kept to a reasonable minimum in the now customary locations.

I should be grateful to know whether you approve of TV and film coverage of the coming State Opening, as outlined in this letter, in order that I may inform the Lord Great Chamberlain for him to advise The Queen accordingly.

I am writing similarly to the Leader of the House of Lords and am copying this letter to The Lord Chancellor and The Speaker.

Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod

1st October 1981



10 DOWNING STREET

Agd
ER

Mrs. Thatcher, with her humble duty to
The Queen, has the honour to submit the draft
of the Speech on the Prorogation of Parliament
for Your Majesty's most gracious approval.

Margaret Thatcher

1 October 1981



The National Archives

LETTERCODE/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i>	Date and sign
PIECE/ITEM <i>558</i> (one piece/item number)	
Extract/Item details: <i>Enclosure to submission from Prime Minister to HM The Queen dated 1 October 1981</i>	
CLOSED FOR <i>40</i> YEARS UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	<i>18 October 2011</i> <i>AWayland</i>
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	
MISSING ON TRANSFER	
MISSING	
NUMBER NOT USED	



The National Archives

LETTERCODE/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i>	Date and sign
PIECE/ITEM <i>558</i> (one piece/item number)	
Extract/Item details: <i>Letter to Whitmore dated 1 October 1981</i>	
CLOSED FOR <i>40</i> YEARS UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	<i>18 October 2011</i> <i>Wayland</i>
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	
MISSING ON TRANSFER	
MISSING	
NUMBER NOT USED	



The National Archives

LETTERCODE/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i>	Date and sign
PIECE/ITEM <i>558</i> (one piece/item number)	
Extract/Item details: <i>Letter from Whitmore dated 30 September 1981, and attached draft speech.</i>	
CLOSED FOR <i>60</i> YEARS UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	<i>18 October 2011 C. Wayland</i>
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	
MISSING ON TRANSFER	
MISSING	
NUMBER NOT USED	



1
10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

VLS
cc LPO
GWO (H/L)
RC Press Office
30 September 1981

Thank you for your letters of 21 July and 28 September about television coverage of the State Opening of Parliament this year.

We have also discussed the arrangements on the telephone, and I told you that we have recently learned from the BBC that they do, after all, wish to undertake full coverage this year, providing a feed for ITN news. I understand that we will be receiving a formal approach from the BBC shortly but, in view of The Queen's absence in Melbourne, we took steps to obtain her approval for what is proposed on the basis of the informal indications received from the broadcasting authorities. I can now confirm that she is content.

You will no doubt wish to check with the television companies the technical details of what is involved, so that the Leaders of both Houses can carry out the necessary consultations.

I am most grateful to you for the trouble you have taken to ensure that we were informed as soon as you had any approach on these matters this year. It seems that there is still some way to go before we can get the broadcasting authorities to take their decisions early enough to get the necessary clearances without causing confusion, but at least matters have worked out satisfactorily this year.

I am sending copies of this letter to David Heyhoe (Office of the Leader of the House of Commons) and Michael Pownall (House of Lords).

M. A. PATTISON

Lieutenant-General Sir David House, G.C.B., C.B.E., M.C.



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

29th September, 1981.

Dear Clive.

STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

We spoke some weeks ago about who should carry the Cap of Maintenance on 4th November.

I have consulted the Chancellor of the Duchy and she has agreed to do this in her capacity as Leader of the Lords. The only other leading candidate would be the Foreign Secretary but I understand that he may be away. As agreed, I leave it to you to clear this with the Palace.

*Yours ever
Michael Pownall*

(M.POWNALL)

C.A.Whitmore, Esq.

File No.
Department
Drafted by
(Block Capitals)
Tel. Extn.

OUTWARD
TELEGRAM

Security Classification
CONFIDENTIAL
Precedence
IMMEDIATE
DESKBY 2200 Z

FOR
COMMS. DEPT.
USE

Despatched

(Date)
(Time) Z

POSTBY Z

PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin) Z(G.M.T.) (Restrictive Prefix)
(Security Class.) CONFIDENTIAL (Caveat/Privacy Marking)
(Codeword) (Deskby) Z

TO IMMEDIATE MELBOURNE Tel. No. of
(precedence) (post)

AND TO (precedence/post)

AND SAVING TO

REPEATED TO (for info)

SAVING TO (for info)

Distribution:-

[TEXT]

FOLLOWING FOR WHITMORE, PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY
FROM PATTISON, 10 DOWNING STREET

Following is draft Prorogation Speech

/Quote

Copies to:-

Received by Melbourne

QUOTE

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

Edinburgh and
The Duke of / I recall with great pleasure the joy and affection shown by so
many people on the marriage of The Prince and Princess of Wales.

We were pleased to receive the State Visits of Their Majesties the King and
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We look back with much pleasure on the visits we have made over the past year.
We visited Belgium, the Commission of the European Communities, and the Head-
quarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation in November and Norway in May.
We have just returned from visits to Australia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka. As
Head of the Commonwealth, I was present in Melbourne on the occasion of the
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My Government have continued to participate in efforts to achieve a settlement in Namibia, and have supported efforts to solve the problem caused by Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

I thank you for the provision that you have made for the honour and dignity of the Crown and for the public services.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

My Government have continued to give priority in fiscal and monetary policy to securing a substantial and lasting reduction in inflation as a basis for a sustainable growth of output and employment. Substantial net repayments of overseas debt have been made.

Steps have been taken to encourage and assist new and small firms, ^{help efficiency in} to improve the production of goods and services, and to direct help to those most adversely affected by unemployment.

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E.R.

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Measures have been passed to promote and protect the natural environment.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may attend you.

UNQUOTE

DRAFT QUEEN'S SPEECH ON
THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

I look forward with great pleasure to my State Visit to Sweden next June [and to my visits to Australia, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu and Kiribati in September and October.]

My Government regard the security of the Nation and the preservation of peace as matters of the first importance. Increased resources will be devoted to defence and the most efficient use made of them. My Government will continue to play an active role within the North Atlantic Alliance.

International efforts to enable Afghanistan to resume her independence and neutrality will have my Government's active support. Despite the ^{situation} / in Afghanistan and Cambodia, my Government will continue to work for better East-West relations, for an early and successful conclusion to the Madrid Meeting on the Helsinki Final Act, and for specific, equitable and verifiable measures of arms control. They welcome the forthcoming negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on limiting long-range theatre nuclear forces.

My Government reaffirm their commitment to the European Community. During the remainder of the British Presidency, and thereafter as a Member State, the United Kingdom will play its full part in its development. My Government are anxious to see satisfactory decisions on restructuring the Community budget and improving the Common Agricultural Policy. They will seek early agreement on a revised Common Fisheries Policy, and will continue to support the accession to the Community of Spain and Portugal.

My Government support the contribution of the member States of the European Community towards a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute and will continue to work with all the parties to the dispute. They support the efforts of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Islamic Conference and the United Nations to bring about a negotiated settlement to the conflict between Iran and Iraq.

Efforts to reach an internationally recognised agreement in Namibia will be continued, in co-operation with our allies.

My Government attach great importance to the Commonwealth and the United Nations and will continue to play an active part in both organisations. They will join with other countries and responsible international organisations in efforts to resolve the economic difficulties of both developing and developed countries.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

Estimates for the Public Service will be laid before you.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

My Government attach the utmost importance to maintaining progress in reducing inflation by the pursuit of firm monetary and fiscal policies, to further improving the efficiency of the economy, and to strengthening industry, /so as to restore competitiveness abroad and prosperity at home. They hope to see this assisted by further reductions in the level of wage settlements.

Plans for public expenditure will reflect the importance of restricting the claims of the public sector on the nation's resources and easing the burden of taxation. My Government shares the nation's concern at the growth of unemployment and will continue to direct help to those groups and individuals most hard-pressed by the recession.

A Bill will be introduced on employment and labour relations.

Measures will be introduced to amend the financial arrangements of the National Coal Board and some other public undertakings, and to facilitate private investment in the oil-producing business of the British National Oil Corporation. Measures will also be proposed to facilitate private investment and promote competition in the activities of the British Gas Corporation.

State involvement in transport will be further reduced and the fixed penalty system improved and extended.

My Government's policies will seek to ensure that all individuals, whatever their race, colour or creed, have equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities.

My Government will continue to devote itself to the complex problems of Northern Ireland. The search will go on for acceptable ways of enabling the people of Northern Ireland to play a fuller part in its administration. My Government will work for improvements in the security situation, and for a solution to the prisons protests which does not compromise essential principles.

The requirements of law and order and the services employed to uphold them will continue to enjoy my Government's complete support. Legislation will be introduced to improve the criminal justice system in England and Wales.

Measures will be brought forward to amend the law relating to the assumption of civil jurisdiction by courts in the United Kingdom and for the reciprocal enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters.

Legislation will be introduced to establish a scheme of unified housing benefit and to place a duty on employers to provide sick pay during the early weeks of sickness.

A Bill will be brought forward to improve the safeguards for detained patients and to make other reforms in the law on mental health in England and Wales.

Measures will be introduced to implement my Government's conclusions on the report of the Committee of Inquiry into Local Government in Scotland and to provide for a modernised Code of Civic Government in Scotland.

Legislation will be introduced to

improve the accountability of local authorities for the level of their rates.

Other measures will be laid before you.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.



CONFIDENTIAL

MR. PATTISON

Queen's Speeches

I attach revised drafts of The Queen's Speeches on the Prorogation and Opening of Parliament. You told me on the telephone that you would deal with the question of despatching them to Melbourne.

2. The drafts incorporate all the changes agreed at Cabinet last Thursday, and several drafting amendments subsequently suggested to the Home Secretary by the Ministers concerned. The possible need for the addition of a reference to Canada remains, but no final decision on this can be taken until Ministers collectively have considered the implications of yesterday's ruling by the Supreme Court. We shall arrange for the final texts of the two speeches to be circulated to the Cabinet after they have been approved by The Queen.

3. The Cabinet Office agreed with the Home Secretary's Office that there was no need to bother the Home Secretary with the revised drafts unless any of the amendments involved a change of policy, but I am copying this minute and the attachments to John Halliday for information.

D.J. Wright

29th September 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

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PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

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Plans for a reduction in public expenditure in real terms over the years ahead have been published. Cash planning will improve control of expenditure. Civil Service manpower has been reduced in pursuit of greater economy and efficiency.

An Act has been passed to reorganise the Post Office, improve postal services, increase telecommunications competition, and permit wider participation in Cable and Wireless. Legislation has been passed to enable the British Steel Corporation to withdraw from unprofitable steelmaking, to encourage private sector investment, to ensure fairer competition, and to reconstruct the Corporation's finances.

A levy has been imposed on the British Gas Corporation in respect of certain purchases of gas from the United Kingdom Continental Shelf. Legislation has been enacted to reduce state involvement in the transport industries, to encourage private investment, and to improve road safety.

The financial arrangements of the National Enterprise Board, the Scottish and Welsh Development Agencies and the Development Board for Rural Wales have been modified. Company and insurance law has been amended.

An Act has been passed to amend the industrial training board arrangements. Steps have been taken to develop understanding, especially in schools, of information technology.

Powers have been taken to set standards for new space and water heating appliances. Interim provision has been made for British activity in deep sea mining.

Legislation has been passed to improve the conservation and marketing of fish and to assist fish farming. A strategy for the continued expansion of forestry has been announced and legislation passed to encourage private investment in land for forestry.

My Government have protected the real value of the retirement pension and other related benefits. Legislation has been passed to facilitate throughout Great Britain the education of children with special needs.

The law on nationality and the law on criminal attempts have been reformed. Disqualification from election to the House of Commons has been extended to certain convicted persons and the law on reviews of European Parliament constituencies has been amended.

The law on contempt of court has been reformed. Legislation has been passed consolidating and improving the law relating to the Supreme Court in England and Wales, and amending the law relating to county courts.

In Northern Ireland the security forces have been vigilant in the impartial maintenance of the rule of law in a situation made difficult by protests in the prisons and associated public disorder. Efforts to find ways of involving local people in the administration of the Province have continued.

Changes have been made to the laws affecting local government and education in Scotland.

Measures have been passed to promote and protect the natural environment.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may attend you.

DRAFT QUEEN'S SPEECH ON
THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

I look forward with great pleasure to my State Visit to Sweden next June [and to my visits to Australia, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu and Kiribati in September and October.]

My Government regard the security of the Nation and the preservation of peace as matters of the first importance. Increased resources will be devoted to defence and the most efficient use made of them. My Government will continue to play an active role within the North Atlantic Alliance.

International efforts to enable Afghanistan to resume her independence and neutrality will have my Government's active support. Despite the ^{situation} / in Afghanistan and Cambodia, my Government will continue to work for better East-West relations, for an early and successful conclusion to the Madrid Meeting on the Helsinki Final Act, and for specific, equitable and verifiable measures of arms control. They welcome the forthcoming negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on limiting long-range theatre nuclear forces.

My Government reaffirm their commitment to the European Community. During the remainder of the British Presidency, and thereafter as a Member State, the United Kingdom will play its full part in its development. My Government are anxious to see satisfactory decisions on restructuring the Community budget and improving the Common Agricultural Policy. They will seek early agreement on a revised Common Fisheries Policy, and will continue to support the accession to the Community of Spain and Portugal.

My Government support the contribution of the member States of the European Community towards a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute and will continue to work with all the parties to the dispute. They support the efforts of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Islamic Conference and the United Nations to bring about a negotiated settlement to the conflict between Iran and Iraq.

Efforts to reach an internationally recognised agreement in Namibia will be continued, in co-operation with our allies.

My Government attach great importance to the Commonwealth and the United Nations and will continue to play an active part in both organisations. They will join with other countries and responsible international organisations in efforts to resolve the economic difficulties of both developing and developed countries.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

Estimates for the Public Service will be laid before you.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

My Government attach the utmost importance to maintaining progress in reducing inflation by the pursuit of firm monetary and fiscal policies, to further improving the efficiency of the economy, and to strengthening industry, /so as to restore competitiveness abroad and prosperity at home. They hope to see this assisted by further reductions in the level of wage settlements.

Plans for public expenditure will reflect the importance of restricting the claims of the public sector on the nation's resources and easing the burden of taxation. My Government shares the nation's concern at the growth of unemployment and will continue to direct help to those groups and individuals most hard-pressed by the recession.

A Bill will be introduced on employment and labour relations.

Measures will be introduced to amend the financial arrangements of the National Coal Board and some other public undertakings, and to facilitate private investment in the oil-producing business of the British National Oil Corporation. Measures will also be proposed to facilitate private investment and promote competition in the activities of the British Gas Corporation.

State involvement in transport will be further reduced and the fixed penalty system improved and extended.

My Government's policies will seek to ensure that all individuals, whatever their race, colour or creed, have equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities.

My Government will continue to devote itself to the complex problems of Northern Ireland. The search will go on for acceptable ways of enabling the people of Northern Ireland to play a fuller part in its administration. My Government will work for improvements in the security situation, and for a solution to the prisons protests which does not compromise essential principles.

The requirements of law and order and the services employed to uphold them will continue to enjoy my Government's complete support. Legislation will be introduced to improve the criminal justice system in England and Wales.

Measures will be brought forward to amend the law relating to the assumption of civil jurisdiction by courts in the United Kingdom and for the reciprocal enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters.

Legislation will be introduced to establish a scheme of unified housing benefit and to place a duty on employers to provide sick pay during the early weeks of sickness.

A Bill will be brought forward to improve the safeguards for detained patients and to make other reforms in the law on mental health in England and Wales.

Measures will be introduced to implement my Government's conclusions on the report of the Committee of Inquiry into Local Government in Scotland and to provide for a modernised Code of Civic Government in Scotland.

Legislation will be introduced to

improve the accountability of local authorities for the level of their rates.

Other measures will be laid before you.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.



This is a copy. The original has been extracted and closed, 40 years

GENTLEMAN USHER OF THE BLACK ROD
HOUSE OF LORDS LONDON SW1A 0PW

28th September 1981

Dear Mr. Pattison,

Further to our telephone conversation this afternoon about TV cover of the coming State Opening of Parliament,

* ~~~~~ *
* ~~~~~ *, the attached request from Movietone has since been brought forward to me.

I assume that, if TV cover is to be permitted, the presence of the odd filming camera would also be permissible? You might, however, think it advisable to consult Mr. Michael Shea at Buckingham Palace to whom I have taken the liberty of copying this letter.

In the event, it would be a normal administrative function of my Office to ensure that the numbers of cameras and crews would be kept to a reasonable minimum.

Yours sincerely,

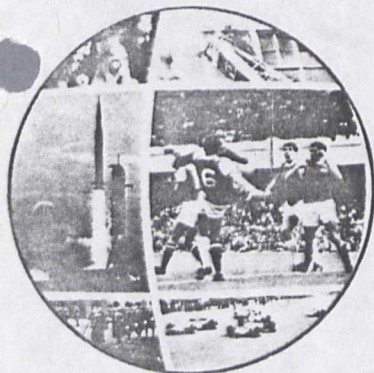
Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod

M.A. Pattison Esq.,
Prime Minister's Office,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1

c.c. Mr. Michael Shea

* ~ * Passage deleted and closed, 40 years,
under FOI Exemptions.

OWayland .
18 October 2011



MOVIETONE

A DIVISION OF BRITISH MOVIETONEWS LTD.
NORTH ORBITAL ROAD, DENHAM NEAR UXBRIDGE, MIDDLESEX.
Tele: ~~0904 0328~~ 0895 833072
Telegrams: MOVIETONE, DENHAM, UXBRIDGE.

EAC/BH

Lt. Gen. Sir David House, G.C.B., C.B.E., M.C.,
Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod,
The House of Lords,
London S.W.1.

14th September, 1981

Dear Sir,

Re: The State Opening of Parliament
4th November, 1981

We have applied to Mrs. Patricia Behr of The Department of the Environment for permission to film at 'The State Opening of Parliament', and she has suggested that we apply direct to you.

The last time we filmed at this event was in 1974 and we have had numerous requests from Overseas Newsreel Companies for more up to date coverage of this occasion. We understand that Independent Television News Ltd have already applied for this Facility and we would like to request that we may be included in the filming arrangements.

We do hope that you will look favourably on our application.

Yours faithfully,

E. A. Candy.
Director and General Manager.

Directors: THE VIS

DIRECTORS: MARY, VISCOUNTESS ROTHERMERE, P. LIVINGSTONE (MANAGING DIRECTOR), G. F. SANGER, C.B.E., J.P.,
J. P. MEEHAN (U.S.A.), E. BUYSE, D. E. TARR,
E. A. CANDY (GENERAL MANAGER).

3ER, C.B.E., J.P.,

REGISTERED OFFICE: 31/32 SOHO SQUARE, LONDON W1V 6AP REGISTERED IN ENGLAND. No. 241313

This is a copy. The original has been extracted and closed, 40 years.

1. MR. INGHAM ✓

* ~ *

No doubt you will wish to let the BBC and ITN know that it has been agreed that the BBC should be given the necessary facilities to provide full coverage of the occasion, both inside the House of Lords and outside.

* ~ *

2. MR. PATTISON - on return

I should be grateful if you would ensure that everybody in Whitehall and the Palace of Westminster, ie the Leaders of the Commons and Lords, Black Rod, the DOE and anybody else, who needs to know is told that the way is clear for the BBC to televise the State Opening.

KWW

24 September 1981

* ~ * passages deleted and closed, 40 years,
under FOI Exemptions.

Wayland
18 October 2011



The National Archives

LETTERCODE/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i>	Date and sign
PIECE/ITEM <i>558</i> (one piece/item number)	
Extract/Item details: <i>Letter to Whitmore dated 23 September 1981</i>	
CLOSED FOR <i>40</i> YEARS UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	<i>18 October 2011</i> <i>C. Wayland</i>
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
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NUMBER NOT USED	

Ref: A05643

PRIME MINISTERQueen's Speeches on the Prorogation and Opening
of Parliament

(C(81) 47)

BACKGROUND

1. The draft Queen's Speeches attached to the Home Secretary's memorandum have been prepared by QL Committee on the basis of contributions provided by Departments. These have been heavily edited to give a prorogation speech which is much shorter than last Session's, and an opening speech which is slightly shorter than the one delivered at the beginning of the present Session. As the Home Secretary points out in paragraph 5 of his memorandum, the drafts were agreed by QL before E Committee decided that the timetable for the Local Government Finance Bill should be shortened, and therefore take no account of the implications of this decision for next Session's legislative programme. That apart, the only passages to which the Home Secretary directs particular attention are those in both speeches on Northern Ireland, and those in the opening speech on relations with the Republic of Ireland and on the economy.

2. Your own commitments and those of The Queen, particularly in relation to the Commonwealth Conference, mean that the Cabinet should try to reach agreement this week on the texts of the two speeches, subject to any minor or drafting amendments or to any last minute changes dictated by events.

HANDLING

3. After the Home Secretary has introduced his memorandum, you may find it convenient to consider each of the draft speeches prepared by QL separately before turning to the more difficult question of how the agreed legislative programme for 1981-82 (and consequently the draft opening speech) should be modified in the light of the E Committee decision on the rating legislation.



4. The prorogation speech is read by the Lord Chancellor, some of whose drafting proposals are reflected in the latest text. Is he reasonably satisfied, within the constraints imposed by the conventions governing The Queen's Speeches, that the overall tone and balance are now about right? The Lord President and the Chancellor of the Duchy may also wish to comment. Is there scope for any further shortening? Is the revised passage on Northern Ireland (page 5) as positive as the situation in the Province will permit? Might it not be better to omit the last sentence of the passage, referring to the proposals for a representative Northern Ireland Council, given the dusty reception the proposals have had?

5. The Leaders of both Houses and the Chief Whip may have views on the general approach of the draft opening speech. On the particular issues mentioned by the Home Secretary -

i. The square-bracketted reference to the Republic of Ireland (page 2) represents a compromise between a more fulsome draft proposed by FCO Ministers (which went on about the "unique relationship") and QL's reluctance to become too far impaled on an Irish hook. You will wish to canvass the views of the Home Secretary, as chairman of QL, and the Lord Privy Seal and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, all of whom are likely to support its inclusion. The Lord President will take the opposite view, on the reasonable grounds that in a perfect world we should not add to the litany of empty phrases in praise of virtue (eg the Commonwealth and the United Nations) which have to be included each time. On the other hand, the speech is likely to be delivered (on 4 November) just before your Summit meeting with Dr Fitzgerald here on 6 November. That coincidence not only strengthens the case for including the proposed reference on this occasion but also enhances our chances of being able to avoid perpetuating it in the future.

ii. The Chief Secretary can explain the thinking behind the economic paragraphs (pages 2 and 3). Is the reference to improving the adaptability of the economy sufficiently clear? Would it be more in



line with the recent statement on the public sector pay factor to say that the Government "expect" rather than "hope" to see a fall in the level of wage (or pay?) settlements? Does the reference to unemployment strike the right note?

iii. The first sentence of the Northern Ireland passage (page 3) seems redundant. Unless the Secretary of State expects a radical change in the publicly adopted positions on the proposed advisory Council by early November, the second sentence might be deleted, and the square brackets around the third removed.

6. The Lord President, the Chancellor of the Duchy, and the Chief Whip will be able to explain why they consider it necessary to drop two of the agreed programme bills in order to meet the revised timetable for the Local Government Finance Bill, even if the Bill is guillotined from the outset. There are now only 17 bills in the main programme (though legislation on Canada and bank mergers may have to be added, while the Local Government (Scotland) Bill may no longer be suitable for Grand Committee procedure). The difficulty is one of timing - 7 bills require Royal Assent by April 1982 - rather than of the total amount of legislative time available next Session. The Chancellor of the Duchy may say that it will be impossible to secure Royal Assent by 5 February unless the Second Reading in the Lords takes place before Christmas. The Lord President and the Chief Whip may say that it is impossible for the Bill to leave the Commons until immediately before the Christmas recess; and that even this timetable will be impossible unless the Bill is ready for introduction as soon as the Session begins. The Secretary of State for the Environment will be able to comment on the state of preparation of the Bill. Possible ways of easing the problem might be -

i. to put back the Royal Assent date for the rating legislation from 5 February to (say) the first week in March. This depends on the advice of the Law Officers on the obligations of local authorities in relation to the striking of new rates. The Secretary of State for the Environment and the Attorney General can report the latest position on this issue; which is discussed in the letters of the Lord Chancellor and the Attorney General, which you have seen, and will have been discussed at E this afternoon;



ii. to put the Accounts Commission proposals, for which the deadline is less critical, into a separate bill. The Secretary of State for the Environment is opposed to this because he sees the audit proposals as an integral part of the package of measures for bringing local authority finances under control; but there is a strong case for restricting the legislation which has to be forced through on a timetable motion to those provisions which must be in force at the beginning of the financial year 1982-83;

iii. to enable the Lords to make some progress in considering the rating proposals before the Bill arrives from the Commons. Introduction of a No 2 Bill would probably not be helpful - it could not usefully be taken beyond Second Reading, and might be resented by the Commons - but the Lords might have a Second Reading type debate on the basis of a White Paper, in the hope that this would reduce the time they needed to spend on the Bill itself, by enabling the usual interval between Second Reading and Committee to be severely shortened. The Chancellor of the Duchy will wish to comment on this possibility;

iv. for the Secretary of State for Social Services to find administrative ways of coping with later Royal Assent dates than March for the Social Security Bill and April/May for the Housing Bill (if they are to remain in the programme at all; the Home Secretary proposes that the former and possibly the latter should be dropped);

v. for two or more of the short borrowing bills to be amalgamated. This has previously been rejected by the Cabinet as being of doubtful constitutional propriety and likely to provoke a major debate on the management of the nationalised industries;

vi. to restrict supply days and other non-legislative time to the minimum in the early part of the Session. This would no doubt be regarded as provocative by the Opposition, who will in any case be incensed by the need to guillotine the Local Government Finance Bill at an early stage. The Chief Whip will have views.



7. If the Cabinet agree that there is no alternative to dropping two major bills, you will wish to consider the options put forward in the Home Secretary's memorandum -

i. the Social Security Bill, which makes provision for the employers' statutory sick pay scheme, was firmly promised in this Session's opening speech. It was dropped from the programme for 1980-81 because of doubts about the Government's ability to carry it in its original form in the face of considerable opposition from their own supporters. Failure to proceed with it next Session may be seen as a climb down, and will probably make it impossible for the Secretary of State for Social Services to achieve his manpower targets;

ii. the Home Secretary will be able to report on the outcome of the previous day's discussion in H Committee on Unified Housing Benefit (UHB), the main provision of the Housing and Building Control Bill.

(H Committee agreed to go forward with UHB provided the Ministers concerned confirmed that a nil net cost scheme could be constructed on the basis of no claimant losing more than 75p a week. There were misgivings, particularly on the part of the Environment and Welsh Secretaries, about how a scheme on this basis would be received by the local authorities and the "poverty lobby". But H Committee was swayed by the substantial savings in Civil Service manpower which UHB would secure; without those savings the Social Services Secretary would be unable to meet his 1984 manpower target.) If it were decided not to proceed with UHB next Session the rest of the Housing Bill could be dropped or given a later Royal Assent date;

iii. the gas appliance legislation is not expected to be ready for introduction before December. It has no deadline for Royal Assent. Many of the Government's own supporters are reported to be increasingly unhappy about these proposals, but postponing the legislation could be regarded as a weakening of the Government's resolve to reduce the size of the public sector. The Secretaries of State for Energy and Trade may wish to comment.



CONCLUSION

8. You will wish to guide the Cabinet to approve the two draft speeches, subject to any points made in discussion and to any further changes which may be necessary in the light of developments before they are delivered, and to note that you will submit them to The Queen for approval.

ReA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

23rs September 1981

SECRET

sub
5

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

THE PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

I have shown the Prime Minister your minute A05633 of 22 September 1981, and she agrees that we should not pursue the possibility of dispensing with or drastically shortening the Prorogation Speech.

C. A. WHITMORE

23 September 1981

So

SECRET

SECRET

This is a copy. The original has been extracted and closed, 40 years.

Prime Minister.

Agree x1 hms ? 4

Ref. A05633

MR. WHITMORE

Yes
no

RM
2318

The Prorogation of Parliament

I sent the Prime Minister a minute on this subject (A03617) on 21st November 1980, and you responded on 29th December 1980.

2. We undertook a study here, from which we concluded that a full Prorogation Speech was not an indispensable part of the formal procedure for prorogation of Parliament, but that there are no precedents for dispensing with it entirely or for drastically shortening it. We do not believe that very much use is made of it as a record, either by Members of Parliament or outside Government and Parliament; and the process of its preparation, which involves a certain amount of official effort, hardly seems to be justified by its value.

Paragraphs 3 and 4 deleted and closed, 40 years, under FOI Exemptions.

CA Wayland

18 October 2011

X | 5. I therefore conclude that we should not take our ideas in this direction any further.

6. That need not preclude editorial shortening of the Prorogation Speech; and that process has been continued this year: this year's Prorogation Speech will be significantly shorter than last year's.

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

22nd September, 1981

SECRET

22 September 1981

Thank you for your letter of 18 September letting me know that The Prince and Princess of Wales and Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips will accompany The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh at the State Opening of Parliament on 4 November.

I have drawn your letter to the attention of the Prime Minister.

C A WHITMORE

The Rt. Hon. Sir Philip Moore, KCB, KCVO, CMG.



The National Archives

LETTERCODE/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i>	Date and sign
PIECE/ITEM <i>558</i> (one piece/item number)	
Extract/Item details: <i>Letter from 10 Downing Street dated 21 September 1981</i>	
CLOSED FOR <i>110</i> YEARS UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	<i>18 October 2011</i> <i>AWayland</i>
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
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MR. WHITMORE

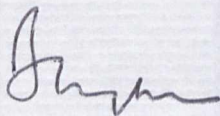
State Opening of Parliament

I have established the following position in messages received from David Holmes (BBC) and David Nicholas, Editor, ITN:

- i. it is fully recognised that this year is BBC's turn to cover;
- ii. BBC, in accepting that, will give ITN the usual feed;
- iii. BBC want to give full coverage both inside and out;
- iv. the most ITN are likely to require is a camera outside the Palace to cover the drive, and another outside the Palace of Westminster in Addington Green.

I have strongly urged ITN, at David Holmes' suggestion, to get in touch with him finally to sort themselves out.

I must add that my researches suggest to me that we need to call the lot in to ensure everyone clearly understands what is going on from the outset. The man handling the subject for ITN did not know BBC were planning full coverage; and D/Environment, according to ITN, had only just picked up BBC's interest in coverage over the last couple of days. This reveals an entirely unsatisfactory state of affairs. You may feel I should sort out for next and future years. If you agree, could you let me have the file after CHOGM?



B. INGHAM

18 September, 1981

010

2

Prime Minister

pm

21ix



BALMORAL CASTLE

18th September, 1981.

Dear Clive,

I am writing to let you know that the Prince and Princess of Wales and Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips will be accompanying The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at the State Opening of Parliament on Wednesday, 4th November.

Yours truly,

Philip Glass

Clive Whitmore, Esq.

Home Office (Miss Marks) informed. JH

Min. Doreen B.

Before I can write to him, Sir
P. Moore must be seen. He can be
seen later, perhaps with my reply.

MR. WHITMORE

HW
22ix

The Home Office start agitating at
this time of the year about which members
of the Royal Family will accompany The Queen
and the Duke to the Opening of Parliament.

I therefore attach a letter to
Sir Philip Moore for your signature if
you agree. You may however feel that this
is something which could be left for a while -
except that it might be more convenient to
try to extract this information before the
Royal party moves overseas.

16 Sept. 1981

J..

(Home Office)

Miss Marks informed
B 1-10-81

Min. (Mr.)

I enclose the correspondence
with the Queen on the Prorogation
Speech. HLS 4x.

MR. WHITMORE

The Queen's Speeches on the Prorogation
and Opening of Parliament

I have been looking at Sir Robert's minute of 15 August (flagged) about the preparation of these Speeches.

It is suggested that the Prime Minister might submit the Prorogation Speech to The Queen while they are in Melbourne. It would not in fact be necessary to do more than seek informal approval at that time. Once that has been given by The Queen, the Counsellors of State can give formal approval, and there would be time for a submission to be put to them by the Prime Minister after her return to this country. We have, in the past, sought The Queen's approval by telegram when she has been abroad at the operative time and then submitted the Speech formally to the Counsellors of State.

However, I attach a formal submission for the Prime Minister's signature when in Melbourne in case it is decided to seek formal approval at that time.

There is no timing problem about the Opening Speech.

16 September 1981



HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

*With the Compliments of the
Lord Chancellor's
Private Secretary*

FROM THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

Richard

HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW



10th September, 1981

D.J. Wright Esq.,
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of the Cabinet,
Cabinet Office,
70 Whitehall,
London,
SW1.

W.S.
W.S.

Our Ref : 4022/3/28
Your Ref: A05460

Dear David,

Queen's Speech on the Prorogation of Parliament

Many thanks for your letter of 28th August on the cost of printing the Queen's Speech on the Prorogation of Parliament in two different forms.

You state that the speech is printed in A4 and also in the different format with a wider spacing, that the cost of printing the specially widely spaced copy was about £170 in 1980, and that this sum could be saved if the Lord Chancellor were prepared to read from the normal A4 copy. In fact, it seems to me from your enclosures that the widely spaced version is on A4 paper, and the more closely spaced version on foolscap. But be that as it may, the Lord Chancellor is perfectly content for the speech to be printed in only one form, and for £170 - perhaps more this year - to be saved. I suggest that the speech be printed in whichever form is cheaper.

The same does not of course apply to the Queen's Speech for the Opening of Parliament, which She reads Herself. It would be for the Palace to decide whether any money were similarly to be saved on the printing of that speech.

I am copying this letter to Willie Rickett at No. 10.

Yours sincerely,
Richard Collon

M.H. Collon

also
previous papers. 2x3.
Parliament opening 4/11/81



BALMORAL CASTLE

5th September, 1981.

Dear Clive,

I should be grateful if you would let me know whom the Prime Minister wishes to propose for carrying the Cap of Maintenance at the Opening of Parliament on Wednesday 4th November 1981.

Yours ever,

Philip Snow

Clive Whitmore, Esq.

Spoke Michael Pinner
who will, in due course (there
is no great hurry), contact
both Soames and let us know
what is decided.

PHS
SIX.

W F S Rickett Esq



✓
MAR

CABINET OFFICE

With the compliments of
The Private Secretary to the
Secretary of the Cabinet

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS
Telephone 01-233 8319



Parliament

CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 8319

From the Secretary of the Cabinet: Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO

Ref. A05460

28 August 1981

The Queen's Speech on the Prorogation of Parliament

You wrote to Nick Sanders on 14 November last year about the cost of printing of the Prorogation Speech.

The Cabinet Office have looked into the printing arrangements for the Prorogation Speech to see what savings can be made. The speech is printed in A4 and also in the different format with a wider spacing, supposedly in order to make it easier to read. I attach copies of the two versions of the opening paragraphs of the 1980 Prorogation Speech, for comparison. The cost of printing the special widely spaced copy for the Lord Chancellor was about £170 in 1980; this sum could be saved if the Lord Chancellor were prepared to read from the normal A4 copy.

I would be grateful if you could let me know the Lord Chancellor's wishes so far as this year is concerned. It would be helpful to have a decision by the end of September, since the printer will be making arrangements to set up the Prorogation Speech early in October.

I am copying this letter to Willy Rickett (Prime Minister's Office).

D. J. WRIGHT

(D J Wright)
Private Secretary

M H Collon Esq

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

A

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE PROROGATION
OF PARLIAMENT

THURSDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER, 1980

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

My Husband and I were pleased to receive the State Visits of the President of Kenya in June 1979 and of the President of the Republic of Indonesia and Madame Tien Soeharto in November.

We look back with much pleasure on the visits we have made. We visited Denmark in May 1979; and Tanzania, Botswana, Malawi and Zambia in July and August. As Head of the Commonwealth, I was present in Lusaka on the occasion of the meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government. In May this year we visited Switzerland and we have recently returned from visits to Italy, the Holy See, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. We were greatly saddened by the death in July this year of President Khama of Botswana.

My Government welcomed the independence of Kiribati, St. Vincent, Zimbabwe and Vanuatu, and their decision to join the Commonwealth. Having brought Southern Rhodesia to independence in conditions of the widest international recognition, My Government have committed substantial aid to Zimbabwe's reconstruction and development.

My Government attach the highest importance to ensuring the security of the nation and the maintenance of peace. They have played a leading role within the North Atlantic Alliance to ensure that the defence capability of the West is such as to deter any would-be aggressor. British defences have been strengthened and action has been taken to improve the morale of the armed forces. My Government have taken steps to maintain the effectiveness of Britain's nuclear deterrent into the 1990s and beyond. Realistic, balanced and verifiable arms control measures have been sought in the Committee on Disarmament and in other negotiations.

In conjunction with the United Kingdom's partners and allies, My Government have sought to bring home to the Soviet Union the damage which its actions have done to East-West relations. My Government have played an active part in the international effort to enable Afghanistan to resume its traditional neutrality and non-alignment.

My Government have sought to play a constructive part in the work of the European Community and in European political co-operation. Arrangements have been agreed to reduce

B

**THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE PROROGATION
OF PARLIAMENT**

THURSDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER, 1980

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

My Husband and I were pleased to receive the State Visits of the President of Kenya in June 1979 and of the President of the Republic of Indonesia and Madame Tien Soeharto in November.

We look back with much pleasure on the visits we have made. We visited Denmark in May 1979; and Tanzania, Botswana, Malawi and Zambia in July and August. As Head of the Commonwealth, I was present in Lusaka on the occasion of the meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government. In May this year we visited Switzerland and we have recently returned from visits to Italy, the Holy See, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. We were greatly saddened by the death in July this year of President Khama of Botswana.

C 10/11/60

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS

I take great pleasure in the current State Visit of His Majesty the King of Nepal, and look forward to visiting later this month Belgium, the Commission of the European Communities, and the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

I look forward with equal pleasure to visiting Norway, Australia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka, and to being present in Melbourne on the occasion of the next meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government.

My Government believe that the best hope of lasting peace lies in the effective maintenance of Western security. They therefore attach great importance to defence and to contributing fully to the North Atlantic Alliance. They will continue to press for the complete withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and for a political settlement acceptable to the Afghan people. Despite events in Afghanistan and Cambodia, they will continue to seek more stable East-West relations, ~~will adopt a constructive but realistic approach to the forthcoming Madrid review meeting,~~ and will continue to work for effective measures of arms control.

Mr. Gaffin



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

25th August, 1981

Dear Mr. Gaffin,

I write to acknowledge your letter of 20th August, as Michael Shea is on holiday until the beginning of September. Thank you for letting us know that the BBC hope to cover the State Opening of Parliament with a full O.B. unit. I will make sure that Michael knows of their plan immediately on his return.

Yours sincerely,

John Gordan

Assistant Press Secretary to The Queen

Neville Gaffin, Esq.



10 DOWNING STREET

20 August, 1981

I am sure that you will wish to know that David Holmes, of the BBC, has just telephoned me to report that the BBC intend to use a full OB unit to cover the State Opening of Parliament on Wednesday, 4 November. The BBC plan to transmit live coverage on BBC1.

Neville Gaffin
DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY

Michael Shea Esq

"For Information"



CABINET OFFICE
70 WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AS

Prime Minister

To see these first drafts.

12 August, 1981.

233 7125

MAF 13/VIII

Dear Private Secretary,

QUEEN'S SPEECHES ON PROROGATION AND OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

1. I enclose copies of the drafts of The Queen's Speeches on the Prorogation and Opening of Parliament in the form in which we intend to submit them to the Home Secretary for approval and circulation to QL Committee.

2. The drafts are based on contributions provided by Departments, but a good deal of editing has been necessary to reduce the two texts to an acceptable length to meet various criticisms made by QL last year, and to give them a reasonable consistency of internal style within the limits imposed by the conventions surrounding The Queen's Speeches. The Home Secretary has it in mind to circulate, in addition to these two texts, an unedited version which will merely collate the original contributions, so that the Committee can readily see what changes have been made. QL will take a final decision in early September about the overall tone and balance of the drafts to be submitted first to the Cabinet and then to The Queen, and we are not at this stage looking for further purely drafting suggestions. I should, however, be very grateful if you could let me know by the end of next week (by telephone if you wish - 233 7125 or Fed. 2359) of any errors in the present drafts, or of any other major points which your Minister might wish to press at Cabinet if not satisfactorily covered in the drafts agreed by QL. As far as possible, any suggested changes should not increase the length of either speech.

3. Further textual amendments may be needed to reflect developments between now and the delivery of the two Speeches, but we are up against an unusually tight timetable this year, and we are anxious that the limited amount of time available for collective Ministerial consideration of the two Speeches should not be spent in discussing points of secondary importance which could have been resolved at the drafting stage.

Yours sincerely
Leonard Harris
L J HARRIS

Enc.

Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister

Can we not radically reduce the length of this speech? It is virtually an anachronism.

I spoke to Mr Harris.

re MAF 17/VIII

mt

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

My Husband and I were pleased to receive the State Visits of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Nepal in November, the President of Nigeria in March and His Majesty The King of Saudi Arabia in June.

We look back with much pleasure on the visits we have made over the last year. We visited Belgium, the Commission of the European Communities, and the Headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation in November and Norway in May. We have just returned from visits to Australia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka. As Head of the Commonwealth, I was present in Melbourne on the occasion of the meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government.

We were greatly saddened by the death in May this year of President Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh.

My Government welcomed the independence of Belize [and of Antigua and Barbuda] and its/their decision to join the Commonwealth. My Government took an active part in the successful Conference on Reconstruction and Development held in Salisbury in March. They note with satisfaction the progress made in Zimbabwe since Independence.

My Government attach the highest importance to safeguarding peace and the freedom of the Nation. They have worked with our Allies in the North Atlantic Alliance to strengthen our common defence further and have fulfilled our commitment to the

Alliance to increase defence spending. As part of our defence effort outside Europe, they have deployed naval forces in the Gulf of Oman.

My Government have taken part in consultations within the Alliance in preparation for negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on limiting long range theatre nuclear forces. They have joined in other arms control and disarmament negotiations, and strongly supported the proposal for a Conference on Disarmament in Europe.

Together with the United Kingdom's partners, my Government have played a constructive role in the search for acceptable solutions to the international problems which have placed East-West relations under strain. Acting on behalf of the member states of the European Community, they have presented proposals for a Conference on Afghanistan to enable Afghanistan to resume its non-aligned status.

My Government welcomed the accession of Greece to the European Community at the beginning of this year. On 1 July the United Kingdom assumed the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the European Community for six months. Discussions have begun on the review of the development of Community policies and the operation of the budget. Useful agreement was reached in the Community on measures safeguarding the future of the steel industry. My Government have taken a full part in discussions on the development of the Common Agricultural Policy so as to ensure that our interests are protected and have continued to work for

the conclusion of a new Common Fisheries Policy satisfactory to our industry. Agreement has been reached on a wide range of fish conservation measures.

My Government, together with the other members of the European Community, have continued to work for a negotiated peace in the Arab-Israel conflict acceptable to all parties, on the basis of the statement made at Venice by the Heads of State and Government of the European Community in June last year.

The United Kingdom took an active part both in the summit meeting of seven industrialised countries near Ottawa in July and in the summit meeting of twenty-two nations at Cancun in October, which sought to make progress in tackling the economic problems of developing countries.

My Government have continued to participate in efforts to achieve an internationally recognised settlement in Namibia. They have also supported the efforts of the countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations at the International Conference on Cambodia in New York in July and elsewhere to solve the problem caused by Vietnam's armed occupation of Cambodia.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

I thank you for the provision that you have made for the honour and dignity of the Crown and for the public services.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

My Government have continued to give priority to securing a substantial and lasting reduction in inflation so as to create

prospects for a sustainable growth of output and employment. Firm fiscal policies have been pursued to achieve a reduction in the rate of growth of the money supply without undue reliance on interest rates. Further substantial net repayments of overseas debt have been made.

My Government recognise the burdens imposed by the recession on industry. Further measures have been taken, including steps to increase the flow of funds from the private sector, to assist new and small firms and to improve the supply side of the economy. Help has been directed to those most adversely affected by unemployment.

My Government continue to attach great importance to reducing the public sector and making it more efficient, and to improving the functioning of markets. Plans for public expenditure have been published showing a decline in total over the period. Control of public expenditure will be improved following the change to cash planning. Civil Service manpower has been cut.

Measures have been taken to curtail the extent of state ownership and to subject nationalised industries to greater competitive pressures. An Act was passed to reorganise the Post Office, ensure better performance in postal services, introduce greater competition in telecommunications and provide for wider participation in the ownership of Cable and Wireless Limited.

Legislation has been passed to enable the British Steel Corporation to withdraw from sectors of steelmaking which cannot be made profitable, remove the limitations on private sector investment in the

Corporation, ensure fairer competition between the Corporation and the private sector, and effect a financial reconstruction of the Corporation.

An Act has been passed imposing a levy on the British Gas Corporation in respect of gas from the United Kingdom's Continental Shelf sold to the Corporation under contracts not subject to Petroleum Revenue Tax. Legislation has been enacted to reduce the extent of public sector involvement in the transport industry, to increase the opportunities for private investment, and to improve road safety.

An Act has been passed to amend the financial arrangements of the National Enterprise Board, the Scottish and Welsh Development Agencies and the Development Board for Rural Wales. Measures have been passed to amend the law relating to companies, business names and insurance. An Act was passed to amend the arrangements by which the scope of an industrial training board may be established, abolished or changed, and to enable a board to impose a levy to meet expenses. Steps have been taken to develop understanding, especially among children at school, of the importance of information technology.

Legislation has been passed giving powers to set standards for the efficiency and safety of new space and water heating appliances. Temporary provision has been made for encouraging and regulating British activity in deep sea mining, pending agreement on an international convention on the Law of the Sea.

Legislation has been passed to bring about conservation and marketing improvements in the fishing industry and to assist fish farming. A strategy for the continued expansion of forestry has been announced and legislation has been passed to provide greater opportunities for private investment in forestry land.

My Government has protected the real value of the retirement pension and related benefits. Legislation has been passed to facilitate the education of children, throughout Great Britain, with special needs.

The law on nationality has been changed to replace the concept of a single citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies with a system appropriate to present conditions. An Act has been passed reforming the law relating to criminal attempts. Legislation has been enacted to extend the disqualification for election to the House of Commons and to amend the law about the Boundary Commissions' reviews of the European Parliament constituencies. I have by charter extended the period of incorporation of the British Broadcasting Corporation until the end of 1996. A Deed of licence and agreement has been made with the Corporation covering the same period.

An Act has been passed to reform and improve the law of contempt of court and to achieve a better balance between freedom of speech and protecting the integrity of the administration of justice. Legislation has been passed which overhauls, improves and consolidates much of the law relating to the administration

of justice in the Supreme Court, and amends the law relating to county courts.

In Northern Ireland my Government have continued to seek a means of returning power to locally elected representatives which is acceptable to both parts of the community. Proposals for a representative Northern Ireland Council with an advisory role have been announced and discussed with the local political parties. The security forces have continued to uphold the law.

Changes have been made to the law affecting local government in Scotland. Parents in Scotland have been given greater freedom of choice in the education of their children.

Measures have been passed to improve environmental standards relating to mineral working and to promote the conservation of wildlife and the countryside.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may attend you.

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THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON
THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

[I look forward with great pleasure to paying State Visits to Sweden in June and to Australia, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu and Kiribati in September and October].

My Government regard the security of the Nation and the preservation of peace as matters of the highest priority. They will devote increased resources to defence and will seek to make the most efficient use of them. They will continue to play an active role within the North Atlantic Alliance.

The international efforts to enable Afghanistan to resume her independent and non-aligned status will have my Government's active support. My Government will continue to work for better East-West relations, for an early and successful conclusion to the Madrid Meeting on the Helsinki Final Act, and for specific, equitable and verifiable measures of arms control. They welcome the forthcoming negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on limiting long range theatre nuclear forces.

My Government will support the contribution of the members of the European Community towards a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israel dispute and will continue to work with all the parties to the dispute. They support the efforts of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Islamic Conference and the United Nations to bring about a negotiated settlement to the conflict between Iran and Iraq.

Efforts to reach an internationally recognised agreement in Namibia will be continued, in co-operation with our allies.

My Government reaffirm their strong commitment to the European Community. During the remainder of the British Presidency, and as a Member State, the United Kingdom will play its full part in the development of the Community. My Government are anxious to see early decisions on the essential issues

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of restructuring the Community budget and improving the Common Agricultural Policy, and will also seek early agreement on a revised Common Fisheries Policy. They will continue to work for the accession to the Community of Spain and Portugal.

My Government confirm their commitment to the Commonwealth and the United Nations. They will continue to join in efforts with other countries and with responsible international organisations to resolve the grave economic difficulties of both developing and developed countries.

My Government attach great importance to the unique relationship between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

Estimates for the Public Service will be laid before you.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

My Government attach the utmost importance to the control of inflation, by the pursuit of a firm monetary policy, and to improving the supply side of the economy, so as to restore competitiveness abroad and prosperity at home. They hope to see further progress in the reduction of the level of wage settlements. Fiscal policy will seek to achieve monetary targets without undue reliance on interest rates.

Plans for public expenditure will reflect the importance of restricting the claims of the public sector on the nation's resources and easing the burden of taxation. Help will continue to be directed to those groups and individuals most hard-pressed by the recession. Efforts will be continued to strengthen industry in the regions by concentrating the available resources on those areas of greatest need.

A Bill will be introduced on employment and labour relations.

Measures will be introduced to amend the financial arrangements of the National Coal Board and certain other public sector undertakings, and to facilitate private investment in British Shipbuilders, British Telecommunications and the oil-producing business of the British National Oil Corporation.

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Public sector involvement in transport will be further reduced and the fixed penalty system will be improved and extended. [Powers will be taken to improve control of public expenditure on urban transport].

Legislation will be put forward to require the British Gas Corporation to cease retailing appliances and to dispose of its showrooms.

The White Paper "Efficiency in the Civil Service" (Cmnd 8293) will continue to provide a basis for improved efficiency and effectiveness in the public services.

My Government is wholly committed to a society in which all individuals, whatever their race, colour or creed, have equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities.

My Government will continue its efforts to solve Northern Ireland's social and economic problems. The police, supported by the army, will continue to uphold the rule of law. A representative Northern Ireland Council, with an advisory role, will be established. My Government will continue to seek a transfer of powers to locally elected representatives on a basis acceptable to both parts of the community.

The law and order services will continue to have my Government's strong support. Legislation will be introduced to improve the criminal justice system in England and Wales [and to amend the law on public order].

Measures will be brought forward to amend the law relating to the assumption of civil jurisdiction by courts in the United Kingdom and for the reciprocal enforcement of judgements in civil and commercial matters.

Legislation will be introduced to place a duty on employers to provide sick pay for their employees during the early weeks of sickness.

A Bill will be brought forward to improve safeguards for detained patients and to make other changes in the law on mental health.

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Measures will be introduced to implement my Government's conclusions on the report of the Committee of Inquiry into Local Government in Scotland and to provide for a modernised Code of Civic Government for Scotland.

Legislation will be introduced to increase access to home ownership, to introduce a scheme of unified housing benefit, to reform the building control system, and to improve the accountability of local authorities.

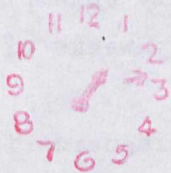
A Bill will be introduced to ensure the continued orderly marketing of hops in the United Kingdom.

Other measures will be laid before you.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.

13 AUG 1981



CONFIDENTIAL

MR INGHAM O/R

The Whitmore

To Mr. I hope this has
not increased the confusion
during my absence on holiday

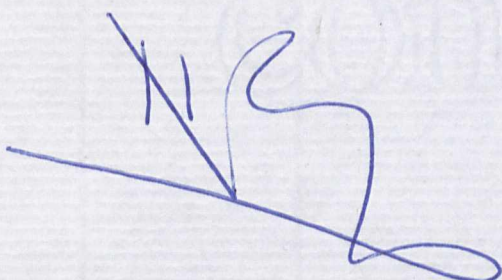
STATE OPENING

J 7/9

David Holmes, BBC, phoned today to give an interim report about the BBC's likely coverage of the State Opening. He said that either the OB unit or news would almost certainly take up the BBC's option to cover the State Opening; that, therefore, the BBC will want cameras in the House of Lords; and that he will confirm whether or not it will be a full OB operation later this week. The BBC will liaise direct about their facilities with the House of Lords.

2. The question seems to be one of informing the Palace that there will, in fact, be cameras present (about which there seems to have been a hiccup last year). David and I assumed that your inquiry was so that the Palace could be informed when the final position becomes clear.

3. I will update this if/when I hear further from David Holmes.


NEVILLE GAFFIN

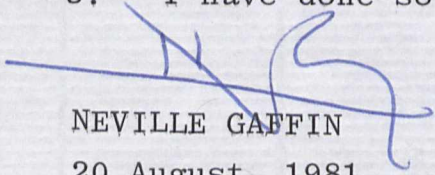
10 August, 1981.

One week later ...

2. David Holmes has now come back to confirm that the BBC will put in a full OB unit to cover the State Opening and intend to transmit it live on BBC1. His understanding is that the BBC (producer, John Vernon) will liaise with the Palace of Westminster (Black Rod) and I have assumed that it is for us to inform the Palace.

3. I have done so (see attached letter).

Filed at date
25/8
Reply from B. Palace
also attached.


NEVILLE GAFFIN

20 August, 1981.



Pasthamer

✓ NAD

The Home Secretary presents his compliments to the Lord Great Chamberlain and has the honour to confirm that it is The Queen's gracious intention to open Parliament in State at 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 4th November 1981. Her Majesty will be accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh.

8^k August, 1981

c.c. Private Secretary to Her Majesty
The Queen

Private Secretary to The Prime Minister

Ref. A05394

MR. WHITMORE

Prime Minister
To be aware of these
timing considerations.

Preparation of The Queen's Speeches on the Prorogation and Opening
of Parliament

MAD 7/VIII.

The timetable for the preparation of The Queen's Speeches on the Prorogation and Opening of Parliament may be a little more difficult than usual this year because of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Melbourne from 30th September to 7th October, and a number of Ministerial absences in the early part of September.

2. The Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee (QL) will meet on 11th September to consider drafts of both Speeches. They may not be able to complete their consideration at that meeting, and outstanding points may have to be considered in correspondence in the course of the following week. Nevertheless, we hope it will be possible for the Cabinet to consider at least the Prorogation Speech at their meeting on 24th September. Every effort will be made to have the Opening Speech ready by then, but, if not, or if further consideration is needed, Cabinet can return to the subject at their meeting on 20th October.

3. So far as submission of the Speeches by the Prime Minister to The Queen is concerned, the timetable needs to take account of The Queen's absence from 25th September to 25th October and the requirements of printing and distribution. Assuming Prorogation on 29th or 30th October the Prorogation Speech must reach the printer by 26th October. 30th October is the deadline for the Opening Speech to be in time for State Opening on 4th November. It may therefore be necessary for the Prime Minister to submit the Prorogation Speech to The Queen during her absence abroad: perhaps most conveniently between 29th September and 2nd October, when both The Queen and the Prime Minister will be in Melbourne. There will be enough time for The Queen to consider the Opening Speech after her return on 25th October.

RESTRICTED



4. I am sending copies of this minute to the Private Secretaries to the Home Secretary and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and to First Parliamentary Counsel.

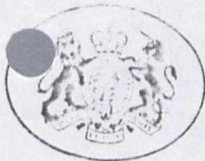
REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

CONQUEROR

5th August, 1981

RESTRICTED



MAJ

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 August 1981

Dear Whalley

The Queen's Speeches on the Prorogation and
Opening of Parliament

In response to your letter of 3 July to which I am replying jointly on behalf of the FCO and the MOD, I enclose three copies of our proposed contributions to each Speech.

Some of the material in the drafts must be regarded as provisional at this stage. The passage in square brackets in the Opening Speech concerns a State Visit which has not yet been officially announced. The inclusion of a reference to the independence of Antigua and Barbuda which is expected to be 1 November depends on the date of the Prorogation Speech. In other instances a number of the proposed passages may need to be brought up to date nearer the time of delivery.

There are also several subjects which we might wish to include but where we are not yet in a position to provide drafting suggestions. In particular we would like to keep open the possibility of including a reference to aid. It is also possible that we might wish to include references to Cyprus and Gibraltar but the events which might justify the inclusion of these subjects have yet to occur. If the Spanish were to implement the Lisbon Agreement before November, which is still just on the cards, we should wish to make a reference to progress on Gibraltar. In the event of real progress on Cyprus we might also possibly wish to refer to British support for UN efforts to secure a settlement.

I am copying this letter with enclosures to Brian Norbury (MOD) and to Michael Alexander (No. 10).

Yours ever,
B J P

(B J P Fall)
Private Secretary

R M Whalley Esq
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

1. My husband and I were pleased to receive the State Visits of President Shagari of Nigeria in March and His Majesty King Khalid of Saudi Arabia in June.
2. We look back with much pleasure on the visits we have made over the last year. We visited Norway in May. We have just returned from visits to Australia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka. As Head of the Commonwealth, I was present in Melbourne on the occasion of the meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government. We were greatly saddened by the death of President Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh in May this year.
3. My Government welcomed the independence of Belize [and of Antigua and Barbuda] and (its) (their) decision to join the Commonwealth. My Government welcome the progress made in Zimbabwe since Independence and took an active part in the successful Conference on Reconstruction and Development held in Salisbury in March.
4. My Government attach the highest importance to their duty to safeguard the peace and freedom of the Nation. They have worked with our Allies in the North Atlantic Alliance further to strengthen our common defence and have fulfilled our commitment to the Alliance to increase defence spending. In recognition that our security can be affected by events in other parts of the world as well as in Europe, they have deployed naval forces in the Gulf of Oman.
5. My Government have taken part in NATO consultations in preparation for negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on limiting deployment of long range theatre nuclear forces. They have played a full part in other arms control and disarmament negotiations, and strongly supported the proposal for a Conference on Disarmament in Europe to

/negotiate

negotiate confidence building measures of real military significance, applicable throughout the whole of Europe.

6. Together with the United Kingdom's partners, my Government have played a constructive role in the search for acceptable solutions to international problems which have placed East-West relations under strain. Acting on behalf of the Ten member states of the European Community, they have presented proposals for a Conference on Afghanistan designed to enable Afghanistan to resume its independent and non-aligned status.

7. My Government welcomed the accession of Greece to the European Community on 1 January this year. On 1 July the United Kingdom assumed the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the European Community for a period of six months. Important discussions have begun on the review of the development of Community policies and the operation of the budget to which member states committed themselves on 30 May 1980. The Community also reached useful agreement on measures safeguarding the future of the steel industry. My Government have continued to work for the conclusion of a new common fisheries policy which will protect the interests of our fishing industry.

8. My Government, together with the other members of the European Community have continued to work for a negotiated peace in the Arab-Israel conflict acceptable to all parties. The statement made at Venice by the Heads of State and Government of the European Community on 13 June 1980 has remained the basis for these peace efforts.

/9. The

9. The United Kingdom took an active part both in the Summit meeting of seven industrialised countries near Ottawa in July, which discussed international economic and political matters, and in the Summit meeting of twenty-two nations at Cancun in October, which sought to make progress in tackling the economic problems of developing countries.

10. My Government have continued to participate in efforts to achieve an internationally recognised settlement in Namibia. They have also supported the efforts of the countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations at the International Conference on Cambodia in New York in July and elsewhere, to promote a settlement of the problem caused by Vietnam's armed occupation of Cambodia.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

1. [I look forward with great pleasure to paying a State visit to Sweden in June.]
2. My Government place the highest priority on ensuring the security of the Nation and the preservation of peace. They will devote increased resources to defence and will strive to achieve the most cost-effective use of these resources, in order to deter any potential aggressor. They will continue to play an active role within the North Atlantic Alliance.
3. My Government will continue to play their full part in international efforts to enable Afghanistan to resume her independent and non-aligned status. Despite events in Afghanistan and Cambodia, they will continue to work for better East/West relations, for an early and successful conclusion to the Madrid CSCE Meeting, and for specific, equitable and verifiable measures of arms control. They welcome the negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union due to start shortly on limiting long range theatre nuclear forces.
4. My Government will carry forward with all due vigour the efforts of the members of the European Community to contribute to the just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israel dispute which is so urgently needed. They will continue to work with all the parties to the dispute to this end. They view with concern the continuing conflict between Iran and Iraq and will continue to support the efforts of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Islamic Conference and the United Nations to bring about a negotiated settlement.
5. My Government will continue their efforts in cooperation

/with our

with our allies to reach an internationally recognised agreement in Namibia.

6. My Government reaffirm their strong commitment to the European Community. They will continue during the period of the British Presidency to devote their efforts to the efficient management of its business, and will seek to ensure that both as the Presidency and as a Member state, the United Kingdom plays its full part in the development of the Community. My Government will continue to work for early decisions on the restructuring of the Community budget and the improvement of the Common Agricultural Policy, which they regard as essential for the Community's successful future development. They will also seek early agreement on a revised Common Fisheries policy, and will continue to work for the accession to the Community of Spain and Portugal.

7. My Government confirm their commitment to the Commonwealth and the United Nations and will continue to play a full part in their activities. My Government will continue to join in international efforts, both with other countries and responsible organisations, to resolve the grave economic difficulties faced by developing as well as developed countries.

8. My Government attach great importance to the further development of the unique relationship between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland as a means of achieving peace, reconciliation and stability.



✓ MAP

House of Lords · Westminster

01-219 3100

The Lord Great Chamberlain presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for the Home Department and has the honour to request confirmation that it is the gracious intention of Her Majesty The Queen, accompanied by His Royal Highness the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, to open Parliament in State at 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 4th November, 1981.

30th July, 1981

c.c Private Secretary to Her Majesty The Queen
Private Secretary (Home Affairs) to The Prime Minister

CONFIDENTIAL file

cc: B. Ingham
Parliament

28 July 1981

You wrote to me on 15 July conveying The Queen's approval that the State Opening of Parliament should take place on Wednesday, 4 November, and you asked me to let you know when the date could be promulgated.

It is proposed that the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster should mention the date during Business Questions in the House this Thursday, 30 July. No doubt you will wish to follow the normal practice of issuing a statement later the same day confirming that the Opening of the new Session will be a State occasion.

CS

C A WHITMORE

The Rt. Hon. Sir Philip Moore, KCB, KCVO, CMG

CONFIDENTIAL



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
and
Paymaster General

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

27 July 1981

2 pp
cc Pres
Office
MAP
to
see

Dear Clive,

SUMMER RECESS, PROROGATION AND STATE OPENING

Thank you for your letter of 16 July in which you asked if I could let you know when the Palace can promulgate the date of the State Opening. Following discussion between the business managers, and taking account also of Michael Pownall's letter to me of 20 July, it has been agreed that the Chancellor of the Duchy should indicate the date of the opening of the new Session during Business Questions this Thursday, 30 July. I understand that it would be customary for the Palace to make a subsequent announcement on the same day confirming that the Opening will be a State occasion.

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

Yours ever,
David.

D C R HEYHOE
Private Secretary

C A Whitmore Esq
Principal Private Secretary
10 Downing Street



MA
MA

GENTLEMAN USHER OF THE BLACK ROD
HOUSE OF LORDS LONDON SW1A 0PW

21st July, 1981

Dear Mr Whitmore,

STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT 1981

TV COVERAGE

I have received the attached letter from ITN and have done no more than acknowledge it back with the information that I have referred it to you.

I know that, following last year's experience of hurried consultations at too late a stage, you had written to the Director General of the BBC emphasising the need for an early approach to be made direct to your office about any bid for TV cover of State Openings of Parliament in succeeding years. This, I understood, was to enable you to consult Buckingham Palace in good time for the Queen's views. I am not sure whether a similar message was passed to ITV.

I have an impression, from an informal telephone call from a contact in the BBC, that the BBC TV Outside Programme Division is unlikely, based on present information, to make a bid for TV cover of the whole State Opening ceremony. I do not know, however, whether BBC TV News would want to make a bid, like the attached, for TV News coverage on similar lines as last year.

I trust, however, that I am doing the right thing in sending the attached on to you for your action, and in copying this letter to Michael Shea at Buckingham Palace for his early information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David House', written over a horizontal line.

Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod

C.A. Whitmore, Esq.,
Principal Private Secretary,
10 Downing Street.

Independent Television News Limited

ITN House, 48 Wells Street, London W1P 4DE
Registered office

Phone: 01-637 2424

Telex: 22101

Cables: Telindep, London PS4
Registered number 548648 England

20 July 1981
DW/SES

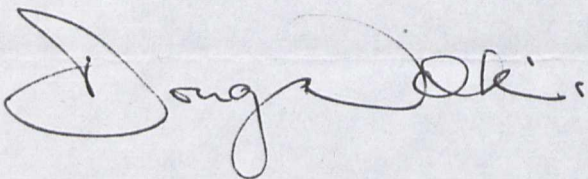
Lt. Gen. Sir David House, GCB, CB, MC,
Gentleman Usher of The Black Rod,
The House of Lords,
Westminster,
London SW1.

Dear Sir David,

Before the Summer Recess I am taking the opportunity to remind you that we wish to cover The State Opening of Parliament by H.M. The Queen in the Autumn.

I envisage a similar operation to last year i.e. a combined ITN/BBC News team coverage. We would wish to create minimum inconvenience to you and the Members.

Yours sincerely,



Doug Wilkins,
Manager, Operational Planning.

Directors:

Lord Buxton (Chairman), Norman Collins, Frank Copplestone, Bryan Cowgill, Paul Fox, William Hodgson, Alex Mair, David McCall, Daniel Moloney, David Nicholas (Editor), David Plowright, Brian Tesler.



MP

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

20 July 1981

Dear David,

STATE OPENING

I have seen Clive Whitmore's letter to you of 16 July.

There are, of course, good reasons for announcing publicly the proposed date of the State Opening (Wednesday 4 November) in good time. Black Rod, for instance, is already anxious to make *firm* arrangements. But Lord Denham is anxious that no date should be announced in the Commons (and this must presumably coincide with any promulgation by the Palace) until at the earliest the last few days of the current term. It would be particularly unfortunate if an announcement was made before the recess dates are confirmed or, so far as the Lords are concerned, before the conclusion of the Committee stage of the British Nationality Bill.

Perhaps you could let me know in advance of any² announcement. Ideally we would prefer to delay until after both Houses have risen but I don't know from the precedents whether this is possible.

Copies of this letter go to Clive Whitmore and the other recipients of his letter.

Yours ever
Michael Pownall

M G POWNALL

David Heyhoe Esq
Office of the Chancellor of the
Duchy of Lancaster

CONFIDENTIAL



1. Mr. Pattison
2. Miss Stephens
to see

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

16 July 1981

BF
Dear David,

SUMMER RECESS, PROROGATION
AND STATE OPENING

Thank you for your letter of 24 June 1981, about the dates of the start of the Summer Recess, Prorogation and the State Opening.

I have consulted the Palace about the date of the State Opening of the new Session and I have now heard that The Queen has agreed to Wednesday, 4 November 1981.

I should be grateful if you could let me know when the Palace can promulgate the date.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to other Members of the Cabinet, to the Attorney General, the Lord Advocate and to the Chief Whips of both Houses. Copies also go to Robert Armstrong and Henry Rowe.

Yours ever,

Muri Whimome.

D.C.R. Heyhoe, Esq.,
Office of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

File

Out



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

16 July 1981

Thank you for your letter of 15 July 1981 letting me know that The Queen has approved that the State Opening of Parliament should take place on Wednesday, 4 November 1981.

I will of course let you know as soon as I can when you can promulgate this date.

C. A. WHITMORE

The Rt. Hon. Sir Philip Moore, KCB, KCVO, CMG

SP

CONFIDENTIAL



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

CONFIDENTIAL

15th July, 1981.

has clive.

I write in reply to your letter of 2nd July 1981 to say that The Queen has approved that the State Opening of Parliament should take place on Wednesday 4th November 1981. I should be grateful if you could let me know when we shall be able to promulgate this.

Yours truly,

Philip Glass

Clive Whitmore, Esq.

CABINET OFFICE
70 WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2ASMAP
Parliament

OI- 233 7665

3 July 1981

Dear Private Secretary

THE QUEEN'S SPEECHES ON THE PROROGATION
AND OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

The Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee will be considering during the summer recess drafts for The Queen's Speeches on the Prorogation and Opening of Parliament.

I should accordingly be grateful if you would let me have the text of any passages which your Minister wishes to propose for inclusion in either of the Speeches. Contributions should be short and clear, and should give the exact wording of the suggested text. You should assume that the Speeches will follow the normal format, with a section on foreign and European Community policies, and a section on domestic policies and legislation.

I should be grateful if you would let me have 3 copies of your proposed texts for each Speech by TUESDAY 4 AUGUST. It would be helpful if you would use separate sheets of paper for your contributions to each Speech.

I am sending this letter to the Private Secretaries of all Ministers in the Cabinet, and to the Private Secretaries of the Law Officers, the Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury and the Captain of the Gentlemen-at-Arms.

Yours sincerely

RM Whalley

R M WHALLEY

The Private Secretary to
The Prime Minister

CONFIDENTIAL



File AH
Pottam

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

2 July 1981

Dear Philip,

STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

The Prime Minister has been advised by the Parliamentary business managers that from their point of view it would be helpful if the State Opening of the new Parliamentary session could be on Wednesday 4 November.

The Prime Minister would be glad to know whether this date is convenient for The Queen.

Yours sincerely,

John Whitman.

The Right Honourable Sir Philip Moore
KCB KCVO CMG

AH

CONFIDENTIAL

91°



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE

WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

24 June 1981

I am not sure that we shall be given a decision on the possibility of Canadian leg?
 M. Gwyn.

Dear Clive,

Yes

Prime Minister.

This date is all right from the diary point of view.
 Contact for me to put it to Sir Philip Moore?

HM

26th

SUMMER RECESS, PROROGATION AND STATE OPENING

Earlier this week, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster discussed with the Lord President and the Chief Whips of both Houses the likely progress of Parliamentary business during the remainder of the current session. On what now seems the fairly safe assumption that time will not have to be found for a Canada Bill before the Summer Recess, the business managers hope that it will be possible for both Houses to complete the essential business by the end of July. It is not yet certain, however, whether they can do so by 28 July or whether they will have to sit on 30 and 31 July. The Lords will need to sit for the greater part of October and the Commons for a shorter period in October to secure the passage of the remainder of this Session's programme of legislation, the exact dates to be settled later.

The business managers did conclude that it would now be safe to go firm on Wednesday 4 November as the date for the State Opening of the new Session. If this date is acceptable to the Prime Minister you will no doubt wish to consult the Palace on whether it is likely to be convenient for The Queen.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to other members of the Cabinet, and to those of the Attorney General, the Lord Advocate, the Chief Whips of both Houses, Sir Henry Rowe, and Sir Robert Armstrong.

OK for 4 Nov.

Yes arr.

Asid.

D C R HEYHOE
Private Secretary

C A Whitmore Esq
Principal Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1

PRIME MINISTER

Top Copy Palace
Royal Family
Prince Charles / Diana
Wedding

Parliamentary Affairs

There will probably be nothing to report under this item. But it may be useful for you to know the state of play on two points which Cabinet colleagues may wish to raise with the business managers:-

1) Loyal Address on the occasion of the marriage of the Prince of Wales.

The date for presentation of the Loyal Address at the Palace looks like 23 July. The suggestion is that the Address should be moved in the House on Monday 6 July. The Commons' delegation would comprise three from the Government side (yourself, Mr. Whitelaw, Mr. Pym?) Two from the Opposition and Mr. Steel. The Lords' delegation would be kept to a similar size and composition.

2) State Opening

The Leader of the House is about to propose to us 4 November.

24 June 1981



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

Parliament

12th January 1981

*PA
MS*

*Clive I agree
I think we can now
let this rest.
MS
1311*

Dear Nick,

Televising the State Opening of Parliament

Thank you for your letter of 23rd December, which we have discussed. You said that you were anxious to establish what had happened before Black Rod's minute to the Leader of the House of 2nd October.. As I explained, we had no previous papers and we have now made informal enquiries to Black Rod's office. They confirm that there was nothing in writing earlier than their minute of 2nd October to us. They referred to the usual practice of the DG of the BBC in writing direct to Number 10 asking for permission to televise the proceedings and seemed to have relied on this being done in the normal way. As we know, from Clive Whitmore's exchange with Sir Ian Trethowan the approach was not made because there was no full TV outside broadcast of the ceremony.

just so

I conclude from this that in future years when we hear from Black Rod on this subject, we ought to check with you right away whether or not you have heard directly from the Broadcasting Authorities. I hope this will be satisfactory.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Michael Pownall for information.

Yours ever,

R Birch

R A BIRCH

Nick Sanders
Private Secretary
No 10 Downing Street

SECRET



Parliament 3

MS
Nyl (on return)

To see

tbl

29/12

10 DOWNING STREET

B/R

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

THE PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

The Prime Minister considered your minute A03617 of 21 November 1980 about the Prorogation of Parliament over the Christmas holiday. I am sorry that we have not dealt with it before.

The Prime Minister thinks that there are two separate matters at issue here: first, the need for a Prorogation Speech; and second, the possibility of taking action to prevent another row with Black Rod and another challenge to the authority of the Chair at some time in the future.

She does not believe that we should do anything about the second of these two questions. She thinks that if the Government were in some way to inspire an attempt at changing the Parliamentary procedure on Prorogation, it would only arouse another confrontation; and she believes that some of those who caused trouble last month are only too anxious to try to diminish The Queen's Prerogative.

On the other hand, the Prime Minister thinks that the question of the need for a Prorogation Speech is worth pursuing. She would be grateful if you would explore whether a speech is required at all. If your preliminary conclusion is that we cannot do away with the speech altogether, she would like you to consider whether its compilation could be substantially simplified. She has herself suggested that we might reduce the speech to a one paragraph summary.

JWW

29 December 1980

SECRET

PRIME MINISTER

1. This is a copy. The original has been extracted and closed, 40 years.

Prorogation

The attached minute from Sir Robert Armstrong (Flag A) raises the question whether, in order to avoid the kind of row we saw in the House last month when Black Rod tried to deliver his summons to the Commons, we should think about abolishing the Prorogation Speech. As you will see from my manuscript note on Sir Robert Armstrong's minute, my first reaction was that such a change of procedure would be something the House would be likely to react against. But I delayed submitting the minute to you while Nick Sanders did some further research.

As Nick has pointed out, Sir Robert Armstrong has run together two separate issues: the need for a Prorogation Speech; and the possibility of taking action to prevent another row with Black Rod and another challenge to the authority of the Chair.

Amend
Nick and I are inclined to believe that it would be unwise to pursue the second of these ideas very far.

Amend.
Passage deleted and closed, 40 years,
under FOI Exemptions.

Wayland
18 October 2011

Moreover, as you will see from the letters from the Speaker to Mr. Alex Lyon at Flags B and C, the Speaker himself has taken a very firm line on this challenge to his authority, and I doubt very much whether he would welcome a change of procedure which some might suggest meant that he was backing down on the issue.

I think that we have to reckon that there may be another attempt to make trouble at the next Prorogation. But what we should not be doing is trying to change the arrangements in order to spare the Speaker difficulty and embarrassment. To do so might just

as easily provide a new challenge to Alex Lyon and his like-minded colleagues.

The other of the two issues - the need for a Prorogation Speech - might be more worth exploring. No one reads the speech; it is not reported; and it takes a lot of people a lot of time and effort to put it together. The cost of the exercise must be several thousand pounds, and the world is little the wiser for it when it has been completed. There is a good case for considering whether we could at least simplify our procedures for dealing with the Prorogation Speech, and preferably do away with it altogether.

Do you agree that we might investigate further the possibility of abolishing the Prorogation Speech, while retaining the present framework of the Prorogation ceremony (including the summons from Black Rod)?

thw.

The matter of the speech is worth
planning (we could have a one-page summary
if anything is needed) but I should not
touch the procedure. It would

24 December, 1980.

only arouse another confrontation
and some of those who caused
trouble last time are only too
anxious to diminish the Prorogation
ceremony.

Parliament opening
P. 3

FILE

VLS



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 December 1980

~~BE 8.1.81~~

Televising the State Opening of Parliament

I sent you a copy of Clive Whitmore's letter to Sir Ian Trethowan of 26 November about televising the State Opening of Parliament. I now attach a copy of the reply. We have taken up the specific point about the Department of the Environment with Mr. Heseltine's office, and there is no need for any further action at this stage.

I think that it might be helpful, however, if we could set down very briefly just what did happen and how the negotiations between Black Rod and the Leaders of both Houses and the broadcasting authorities were conducted. I have no wish to re-open any of the issues, since I am sure that similar problems will not arise in future, but I think it would be sensible to have on our files a very short summary of the sequence of events this year.

If it is not too much trouble, could you arrange for such a summary to be prepared, to reach us in the New Year?

N. J. SANDERS

Robin Birch, Esq.,
Office of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

93



Speaker's House Westminster London SW1A 0AA

9th December 1980

Thank you for your letter of 2nd December. I remain entirely convinced that my predecessor was right in the ruling which he gave in December 1962, and do not regard the proceedings of the turbulent years that preceded the Great Rebellion as having any relevance to the orderly way in which the House has conducted its relations with the Crown since the Restoration.

As far as the Chapter in Hatsell on which Speaker Hylton-Foster founded his ruling is concerned, I must admit that I am a little puzzled by what you say at the top of page 4 of your letter. The Chapter begins (Vol. II, pp. 369-70, enclosed) with the citation not of five but of seven precedents; of these, all except two are clear descriptions of proceedings which were actually interrupted by the arrival of Black Rod. The two exceptions were the precedents numbered 2, dealing with the setting up of the Committee in 1679 (from which, as you rightly observe, nothing concrete seems to have emerged), and 5, which describes dispositions taken in advance of Black Rod's arrival to lessen the inconvenience which this would otherwise have caused; neither of these seems in any way to controvert Hatsell's description of the practice.

You suggest that it would be "better to set a precedent that the needs of the House should be the governing consideration" and that "if the House's business is unfinished, it should be easy to keep Black Rod waiting for a little time". For my part, I am content to continue to observe the precedents and practice which have been observed over the last three hundred years, and for this reason see no necessity for the matter to be considered by a Procedure Committee. Even were this not so, I could not in any event subscribe to the view that physical obstruction deliberately offered in defiance of the Chair by a number of Members is an indication either of the needs of the House or of the existence of unfinished business.

Since you have sent copies of your letter to the party leaders and the Leader of the House, I am doing likewise with this.

Speaker

Alex Lyon Esq MP
House of Commons.

K I N G :

VIII. *Sends Black Rod for the House to attend Him.*

1. **O**N the 23d of April, 1666, a motion being made, and the question being put, and votes given in the affirmative, and Mr. Speaker being just putting the question in the negative, the Usher of the Black Rod knocking at the House door, no further proceeding could be had*.

2. On the 9th of May, 1679, a Committee is appointed to search for precedents; among other things, "Whether the House may debate after the message delivered by the Black Rod for the House to attend upon his Majesty †."

3. On the 25th of June, 1714, whilst the House was in a Committee of the whole House, a message comes by the Black Rod from the Lords, authorized by the Queen's commission to pass Bills; the Committee breaks up, and after the Speaker has reported what passed in the House of Lords, the Chairman of

* This was a message from the Lords, authorised by his Majesty's commission to prorogue the Parliament.—See an instance in the Lords Journal, 24th of June, 1701, where the Lords were dividing when the King came in—and the Journal says, "No resolution was given, by reason of his Majesty's coming into the House, before the votes were reported."

† On the 19th of March, 1627, the Commons were sent for to attend the King in the House of Lords, by a Mr. Crane.—"It was very ill taken, that

" Mr. Maxwell, Knight of the Black Rod, had not come himself to bring the message, as had formerly been used; insomuch, that sundry Members of the House advised, that Mr. Speaker elect should not stir, till they had received the message by Mr. Maxwell himself; but others (howsoever they acknowledged this to have been a great neglect in Mr. Maxwell, and wrong to the House) advised, because his Majesty, staid for them, that they should not now further insist upon it, but go up.—And so they did."

of the Committee reports, "That the Committee had made
" a progress, but that they arose by reason of the coming of
" the Black Rod *." And then moves to sit again.

4. On the 24th of June, 1721, the House were hearing an
election at the Bar, and being informed, that the Black Rod
was at the door, the counsel were directed to withdraw.

5. On the 9th of April, 1731, the House being in a Com-
mittee, the Speaker resumes the Chair, and the Chairman
reports, "That the Committee being informed that the Black
" Rod 'was at hand,' had directed him to report a progress,
" and ask leave to sit again."

6. On the 16th of March, 1741, the Black Rod comes, after
a motion made, and question proposed, "That a Bill do pass."
On return from the King, the Speaker reports what passed in
the House of Peers, and then the question is put.—See the
22d of March, 1743; and the 20th of February, 1794.

7. On the 15th of April, 1742, the Black Rod interrupts the
proceeding on a Bill.—See the 2d of March, 1743; the 17th
of April, 1753; the 23d of March, the 5th of April, and the
13th of December, 1759, et passim.

OBSERVATIONS.

It appears from the 7th vol. of Grey's Debates, p. 216, that
the reason for appointing the Committee, on the 9th of May,
1679, was, that, on the House receiving the King's message, the
Speaker had taken up with him a Money Bill, which had passed
both

* It appears from this, that the Committee had broke up, without having time
to give their Chairman directions to move the House for leave to sit again.

BBC Broadcasting House London W1A 1AA

Telephone 01-580 4468 Telex: 265781 Telegrams and Cables: Broadcasts London Telex

from the Director-General

4th December 1980

See Mr Whitmore

Thank you for your letter of 26th November about the preferred procedures for arranging television coverage of the State Opening of Parliament.

The reason for there being no approach to No. 10 this year is that there was no full television outside broadcast of the ceremony. It was, in any case, not "our year" for coverage but that of Thames Television, who decided not to take the opportunity to be present.

X { It is true that some extracts from the Queen's Speech were shown on our news bulletins. But these came from a single news camera invited into the Chamber by an approach from the Exhibition and Facilities section of the Department of the Environment who suggested that our Television News Organiser conduct detailed negotiations direct with Black Rod.

If we decide to give full 'live' television coverage to next year's State Opening we shall of course observe the usual formalities by making our first approach to your office.

Yours sincerely
Ian Trethowan

(Ian Trethowan)

~~Mr Sanders.~~

C.A. Whitmore, Esq.,
Principal Private Secretary
to the Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London S.W.1.

to provide full coverage would have meant that the BBC would not have been there at all. Is this so?

AWH
8xi

I had not realised that the broadcasting organisation's took time at covering the State Opening in full. Does this mean that we need to set up with the independent authorities arrangements similar to those we have with the BBC?

XI above is also a surprise. I had no idea the DoB were active in this field. Should we tell them to keep out of it? There is also an implication in this paragraph that if the BBC had not been the DoB's ministerial, the fear that it was Thames TV's turn

~~CCIG~~



Queen's
Spencer hite
Park PK 2
with class
6/12

*with the
compliments of*

2

~~PRIME MINISTER~~

MB

We have not heard
the last of it yet

MS
4/12

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



Parliament

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON, SW1

The Rt. Hon George Thomas
The Speaker.

2 December 1980

Dear Mr. Speaker,

Thank you for sending me a copy of the statement you proposed to make about the prorogation. I am sorry if I erred in any matter of personal or Parliamentary courtesy to you. I intended my original letter to go by the internal mail so that it would have reached you before publication in the press, but I accept that I should have brought it to you.

Since we were in recess and the argument was raging in the press, I thought the matter ought to be aired before the opening of Parliament. I certainly intended to raise it on the floor to give you an opportunity to make public your view and I am sorry that the intervention of the Whips deterred me from allowing you to make your condemnation. Naturally as a member of the House, I submit to your rebuke.

But I hope that unpleasantness will not overshadow the important issue of principle, namely your ruling that the House is unable to decline to admit Black Rod.

Rt. Hon George Thomas,
The Speaker.

It does seem contrary to common sense that the elected representatives cannot control their procedure when Black Rod arrives, only after a decision of the government who are part of that representative assembly. It becomes more absurd if we shut the door in his face in order to remind ourselves that we are independent of the Sovereign. For that reason Sir Ivan Jennings in "Parliament" Second Edition page 14 asserts as an established fact, "The Queen and the Queen's men come in only by permission of the House".

Starting from that elementary proposition, it would need very powerful precedents to prove that the House had limited its own discretion. You quote Speaker Hylton-Foster in Hansard 12th December 1962 who in turn quoted Hatsell's "Precedents of Proceedings in the House of Commons". That book was written about the time of the French Revolution and it is not surprising that it came in favour of royal authority. He "apprehends" and his examples are in the subjunctive because he can quote no reliable precedent.

Mr. Speaker Hylton-Foster, failed to read on. Hatsell (p. 267 of the Second Edition) refers to the incident on the 2nd March 1628 when the King sent Black Rod "for dissolution of Parliament and that he was refused admittance".

Rt. Hon George Thomas
The Speaker.

He says the incident cannot be true because the King was not in the Lords that day and the House was really objecting to the Speaker's attempt to adjourn the House by pretence. But the Parliamentary History Volume II page 487 is quite clear:-

"The Speaker being set in the chair delivered a Message from the King commanding him " To adjourn the House until Tuesday come seven nights following" To this the several members objected "That it was not of the office of the Speaker to deliver any such command unto them, for the adjournment of the House did properly belong unto themselves and after they had settled some things they thought convenient to be spoken of, they would satisfy the King".

There is no suggestion that the Speaker was misleading them; they chose to disobey a royal command. The precedent is exactly in line with the events on the prorogation of the last session.

The famous occasion when Mr. Speaker Lenthal refused to obey Charles I is on page 1009 of the same volume. It shows members to have been even more disruptive than Labour members on the occasion of which you complain.

Rt. Hon George Thomas
The Speaker.

The other cases referred to by Hatsell point in the same direction and he tries to explain them away unsuccessfully. He begins the chapter by citing five precedents, only the first two of which suggest that the House could not prevent the entry of Black Rod. The first quotes an occasion on 23rd April 1666 when a vote was interrupted by his entry and the negative vote could not be put. The only confirmation of that I can find is the Journal of 23rd April 1665 and it is belied by both Histories of Parliament I have consulted, which suggest that Parliament was not sitting at the time. The second precedent refers to the setting up of a Committee in 1679 to see whether there were any precedents to allow the House to debate after the entry of Black Rod. In fact the Committee was appointed to consider many issues and this point was tacked on at the end. So far as I can discover, it never reported.

All this may seem academic but I have gone into detail to show how flimsy are the precedents on which you rely. It would surely be better to set a precedent that the needs of the House should be the governing consideration. If the House's business is unfinished, it should be easy to keep Black Rod waiting for a little time.

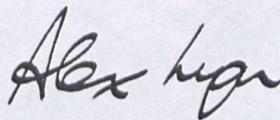
.....5/

Rt. Hon George Thomas,
The Speaker.

However if you do not find it possible to make such a ruling, would you consider referring the matter to the Leader of the House so that he can include it in the terms of reference of the Committee on Procedure which is soon to be appointed?

I have sent copies of this letter to the Party Leaders and Leader of the House.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alex Lyon".

Alex Lyon



CC, Press office

2. CDL

3. HoFL leader

10 DOWNING STREET

*Atkin PA
New names.
Mr.*

MR. WHITMORE

I think you need to write to Ian Trethowan about televising the State Opening. Here is a draft.

I have told the Leaders of both Houses and Black Rod that we are doing this.

I hope that it will do the trick.

MJS

26 November 1980



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

26 November 1980

Televising the State Opening of
Parliament

In previous years you have been good enough to write direct to us at an early stage about the possibility of televising the State Opening of Parliament. We have found this very helpful, because it has enabled us to carry out the necessary consultations in good order. I believe that I am right in saying that the procedure was changed this year, and that the first approach was made to Black Rod.

I should be grateful if we could revert to the previous practice next year and in succeeding years. I hope that this will not cause you any great problems; it will certainly be a great help to us here.

CW

Sir Ian Trethowan

This is a copy. The original
has been extracted and
closed, 40 years.

MR. WHITMORE

Prorogation

I promised that I would give you a little more background on Robert Armstrong's minute about the possibility of changing the arrangements for Prorogation.

He has run together two separate issues: the need for a Prorogation Speech, and the possibility of taking avoiding action to prevent another unseemly row with Black Rod and another challenge to the authority of The Chair.

My own view, which you share, is that it would be unwise to pursue the second of these ideas very far.

* ~~~~~ *

Some of the background to all this is summarised in paragraphs 27 - 36 of the Guide to General Election Procedure.

* ~~~~~ *

I think that we should be foolish to run away from the possibility of trouble at the next Prorogation. What we should ^{not} be doing is ~~not~~ trying to change the arrangements so as not to put The Speaker in an embarrassing position: in my view, that might just as easily prove a new challenge to the Opposition hardliners.

In this context, the attached letter from The Speaker is of direct relevance.

All that having been said, I do think it might be worth pursuing, later on, when the dust has settled, the question of whether we could at least simplify our procedures for dealing with

* ~ * passages deleted and / the Prorogation
closed, 40yrs, under FOI Exemptions
@Wayland, 18/10/11

the Prorogation Speech and preferably do away with it altogether. No-one reads it, it is not reported, and it takes a lot of people a lot of time and a lot of effort to put together. The cost of the exercise must be several thousand pounds and the world is little the wiser at the end of the day. Wilfred Hyde and I had been discussing at some length before the excitement in the House whether we ought not to suggest a new look at the Prorogation Speech, but Wilfred had not been able to feed this in to Robert before he sent his minute to you.

Do you think we could float with the Prime Minister the idea that while it would be unwise for various reasons to follow very far the thought of changing the essential nature of the Prorogation ceremony, we might investigate further the possibility of sticking to the present general framework (including the summons from Black Rod) but abolishing the Prorogation Speech?

MS

24 November 1980



I feel instinctively that to do what is suggested below would give rise to a lot of trouble in the House.

Should I tell Sir Robert Armstrong to drop the idea?

If, however, you would like to prove

The Prorogation of Parliament

it, I suggest the first step should be a word with the Home Secretary and Chief Whip. 2/11/41

Ref. A03617

MR. WHITMORE

Following the events of the evening of 13th November, my attention has been drawn to the implications of the fact that the Order in Council specifies the date on which Parliament is to be prorogued: if, last Thursday, it had been decided (as some members of the Cabinet envisaged) that prorogation should be postponed until the morning of Friday 14th November, there would almost certainly have had to be a fresh Order in Council, and a special meeting of the Council to approve it. Indeed arrangements of this kind would in theory have been necessary, if the proceedings had run after midnight into the early hours of the Friday morning.

2. These are points which it should be possible to cover by a rewording of the Order in Council, so that it provided for prorogation at the completion of the proceedings of Parliament for /13th November/ or at such later date as might seem appropriate to the Commissioners (or words to that effect). I am pursuing that separately. But I think that the events of last Thursday evening raise wider questions.

3. What happened on that evening was clearly a challenge to the authority of the Speaker, which was only averted by the Government's decision to withdraw the announcement of which the Opposition were complaining. It was also a challenge to the right of the Crown to prorogue Parliament. That challenge was made the more dramatic by the ritual nature of the procedure by which the right is exercised: the summons by Black Rod and the Speech from the Throne.

4. Having once tasted the possibility for drama and confrontation inherent in the obstruction of Black Rod, the Opposition may well look for an opportunity of a repeat performance next time Parliament is to be prorogued. The challenge could be renewed, in circumstances in which it would be more difficult to defuse it. This raises the question whether we should consider whether and how the procedure could be changed to remove some of the potentiality for drama and for challenge to the authority of the Speaker and the Crown.



5. It is not clear to me that the Prorogation Speech actually serves any necessary or useful purpose. I doubt whether the amount of attention given by Parliament, the Press or the public to the Prorogation Speech, as a record of the Session being prorogued, justifies the amount of Ministerial (and official) time invested in its preparation, and I do not believe that the Speech fulfils any constitutional function. It is certainly an optional extra when Parliament is being dissolved before an election: there are precedents for no prorogation (and no Prorogation Speech) when the House is dissolved during a Recess (cf. 1964 and October 1974) and even when the House is dissolved in the middle of a Session (e.g. February 1974).

6. If it were possible to abandon the tradition of a Prorogation Speech, there would be no need for the House of Commons to be summoned to attend the House of Lords, and thus no need for Black Rod to come to the House of Commons to summon it. The Queen's Commission could be addressed to the Lord Chancellor and the Speaker. If it was thought necessary for both Houses to be prorogued simultaneously, arrangements would have to be made to synchronise the events; but it might well be possible for prorogation to take effect separately in the two Houses, at times which made sense in terms of the business to be done. In that event, when the time came to prorogue, all that would need to be done would be for the Speaker to read his Commission from The Queen, and declare the House prorogued.

7. If the Prime Minister would be interested in following up these thoughts, without at this stage any commitment or decision, I should like to pursue them within Government, with a view to preparing something more fully worked out and tested. That would provide a basis for the Prime Minister to discuss the issues with Ministerial colleagues, and (if it was decided to take it further) with the Parliamentary authorities.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

21st November, 1980



Speaker's House Westminster London SW1A 0AA

21st November 1980

Thank you for your letter of 17th November, in which you indicated that you intended to raise on the floor of the House the words which I used following Black Rod's arrival in the Chamber on Thursday of last week for Prorogation.

I understand that it is not now your intention to do this, but in anticipation of the occasion I obviously had to prepare a ruling, a copy of which is now enclosed.

I am sending a copy of this letter and enclosure to each of the Party Leaders, in view of the publicity which you yourself have already given to this matter.

Speaker

Alex Lyon Esq MP
House of Commons.

Prorogation

Before I deal with the Hon. Member's Point of Order I must refer to the letter which the Hon. Member addressed to me. I had the advantage of reading its content in the Press before it reached me. It is a long established custom in this House that Hon. Members do not resort to the Press to criticise statements made by the Speaker. The Hon. Member had only to wait until today to raise a Point of Order and I consider that he has shown gross discourtesy.

The task of the Speaker of this House is difficult enough at any time, but it is intolerable that any Hon. Member should write the equivalent of an open letter to the Press in criticism of the Speaker, in the full knowledge that the Speaker is unable to enter into controversy in the media. This is the proper place for Hon. Members to air any grievance they have with a ruling from the Chair. I make this statement because I wish to protect the dignity and authority of this ancient office for those who will succeed me in future years. In my 35½ years in this House I have never known any Hon. Member to behave in the way the Hon. Member for York has done and I hope it will never happen again. We must maintain Parliamtary standards.

With regard to the substance of the Hon. Member's Point of Order, I would invite the attention of the Hon. Member and of the House to the ruling of my predecessor, Mr. Speaker Hylton-Foster, on 12th December 1962, which arose from certain Points of Order - but no more - which had arisen in the course of Prorogation on the previous 25th October. Mr. Speaker Hylton-Foster said:

The House will recall that I was asked to consider whether or no our practice now allows us to decline to admit the Gentleman-Usher of the Black Rod, or by implication, to delay our obedience to his request, for instance by the further transaction of Business.

The answer is, "No". For my assistance an examination has been made of the Journals of the House and of other authority. It confirms the accuracy as a statement of our practice since the Restoration of a passage in Hatsell's Precedents of Proceedings in the House of Commons at page 242 of the first edition of 1781.

The extract which Mr. Speaker Hylton-Foster then read contained the following words:

And, as it is the established custom, that when the Black Rod knocks at the door, he is immediately let in (without any notice given by the Serjeant to the House, or Question put, as is usual in Messages from the Lords, and in other cases) I apprehend that as soon as he knocks, all other Business, of what kind soever, must immediately cease, the doors must be opened, and when he has delivered his Message, the Speaker and the House must, without debate or delay go to attend the King in the House of Peers. Indeed a contrary/...

contrary doctrine might lead into much confusion; [for if the King came, as was not unusual in the reigns of the Stuarts, on a sudden to prorogue or dissolve 'the Parliament' and the House of Commons 'alone' could, by their forms, by refusing to open the door, or, after the Message was delivered, by debating, delaying, refusing to pay obedience to it, decline going to receive the King's commands, they would thereby have it in their power to resist, and render of no effect, the undoubted prerogative of the Crown."]

Mr. Speaker Hylton-Foster in reply to a subsequent Question [by the Hon. Member for Ebbw Vale], observed that before the Restoration the House had treated the Lord Protector's Black Rod in a fashion which, without historical allusion, he might call "Cavalier", but went on to say that he thought that for his duty to the House in 1962, 300 years of precedent would do. Speaking in 1980, I stand foursquare upon the words of my predecessor, and cannot accept that the actions of Mr. Speaker Lenthall in 1642 in the face of a total disregard of the privileges of this honourable House by the Sovereign in person, have any relevance at all to what happened last Thursday.

Finally, let me say that it is when Hon. Members are moved most deeply by anger and indignation that we should take the greatest care to maintain our Parliamentary traditions. This House is for argument and not for a display of force.

Published Papers

The following published paper(s) enclosed on this file have been removed and destroyed. Copies may be found elsewhere in The National Archives.

House of Commons Hansard,
20 November 1980, columns 1-130
"Queen's Speech: Debate on the Address"

Signed Wayland Date 18 October 2011

PREM Records Team



Party

10 DOWNING STREET

North - ATS has seen
26/11

Can you, at least,
take steps to ensure that
the BSE report to the paper
proceeds on releasing the BSE
Opening next year.

KW

20/11

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 November 1980

Debate on the Address:
Prime Minister's Speech

I attach a short section of the Prime Minister's draft speech for the Debate on the Address. You will see that it includes a reference to legislation which is your responsibility. I should be grateful if you could let me know at once if there are any factual inaccuracies in this draft. Please let us know by 1130 this morning.

I am copying this letter and its enclosure, with a similar request for help, to Godfrey Robson (Scottish Office), Peter Shaw (Department of Education and Science), Anthony Mayer (Department of Transport) and Don Brereton (Department of Health and Social Security).

N. J. SANDERS

J.F. Halliday, Esq.,
Home Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

Other Legislative Measures : THIRD DRAFT

Mr. Speaker, I have outlined some of our proposals for legislation in the economic field. The Gracious Speech also sets out other measures which we shall bring forward. I do not propose to deal with any of them in great detail, since we shall have opportunities for discussing them later in this debate and during the new Session. But I would like to mention a few of them now and to say a little about them.

First, the Nationality Bill.. We said in our Election Manifesto that we would introduce legislation on nationality, to define entitlement to British citizenship and the right of abode in this country. We published last July a White Paper containing an outline of the proposed legislation, and it is our intention to introduce a bill around the turn of the year.

My Right Honourable Friend the Home Secretary will also bring forward a Criminal Attempts Bill which will, among other things, repeal the suspected person offence. We have been concerned that its simple repeal might leave an unacceptably wide gap in the criminal law. The repeal of "sus" will therefore form part of a bill which will reform the law of attempt and ensure that the public are properly protected.

In the field of education, we propose to amend the law governing special education in the light of the Warnock Report. Our proposals will give the parents of handicapped children rights to early consultation about their children's education and will extend the appeals machinery of the 1980 Education Act to include them.

The Education (Scotland) Bill will make parallel provisions for special education in Scotland. It will also honour two of our Manifesto commitments: the extension of parents' rights to choose a school for their children and the introduction of an income-related Scottish Assisted Places Scheme to enable children who might not otherwise be able to do so to benefit from education at fee-paying schools.

Another of the measures we shall introduce will make employers statutorily responsible for sick-pay in the early weeks of sickness. Our proposals have been substantially amended in the light of comments on the Green Paper "Income During Initial Sickness". These amendments will concentrate particularly on the problems of small businesses and my Right Honourable Friend will be explaining the proposed scheme in detail later [in the Debate].

The Transport Bill [which I have already mentioned] will include measures to tackle our two most serious and urgent road safety problems - drinking and driving and motorcycle safety.

Northern Ireland

We had also hoped to bring forward legislation on Northern Ireland. For many months the Government have been seeking agreement in the province to proposals for a substantial transfer of responsibilities to elected representatives of the people there. That agreement has not been forthcoming. We are therefore



From the Secretary of State

Michael Alexander Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street

20 November 1980

Dear Michael,

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS

I enclose the statistics you requested this morning as background information for the Prime Minister this afternoon.

Yours ever,

Nicholas McInnes

N McINNES
Private Secretary

ENC

20 NOV 1980



*(Despatched 12.45 pm
Received 1.15 pm)*

PRIME MINISTER

overtake
- PAm

The Opposition have now told us what the topics for the Debate on the Address will be.

The timetable is as follows:-

Friday 21 November: Social services

Monday 24 November: Foreign affairs and defence

Tuesday 25 November: Housing

Wednesday 26 November: Unemployment

Thursday 27 November: Industry and the economy.

The choice of housing on Tuesday makes it a great deal easier to handle Mr. Heseltine's announcement. He can now deal with housing in his speech, and I have suggested to Murdo that we might consider the possibility of the Secretary of State for Scotland winding up on that day.

I will consult the business managers and the Departments involved during the morning tomorrow, so that we can sort out any difficulties which may arise; but it looks as if we shall be able to find a way through the problems which looked so difficult this morning.

MJS

19 November 1980

~~Parliament~~
opening

file

es



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 November 1980

Dear Anthony,

We were grateful for your suggested contribution to the Prime Minister's speech in the Debate on the Address. We have had to shorten it radically, as also in the case of the contributions from the Department of Industry on The Telecommunications Bill and from Energy on The Petroleum and Continental Shelf Bill. I enclose the draft section of the speech covering these three Bills, and would be grateful if you and other copy recipients could let me know in the course of tomorrow morning that it is satisfactory.

I am sending a copy of this letter and enclosure to Ian Ellison (Department of Industry) and Julian West (Department of Energy) and also, for information, to John Wiggins (HM Treasury).

~ ~

Anthony Mayer, Esq.,
Department of Transport.

Ti Laker.

es.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

CONFIDENTIAL

19th November, 1980.

MS
Dear Nick,

Thank you for your letter of 18th November 1980 enclosing two copies of The Queen's Speech on the Opening of Parliament.

I am returning with this letter the copy signed by The Queen for tomorrow's ceremony.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Glass

MS
Mr. Sanders

I have sent
this over to the
Lord Chancellor's Office.

N. Sanders, Esq.

J.P.
19/11.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 November 1980

We have spoken about your letter of 12 November, with which you enclosed the text which Mr. Jenkin proposes to use in the Debate on the Address when speaking of the long-term strategy questions on social security operations.

As I told you, the Prime Minister foresees a strong reaction to any forecast of what opponents might describe as a dossier approach.

The Prime Minister recognises that the wider use of the national insurance number, and other centralisation in the social security system, are options which clearly have to be considered in considering long-term strategy. She believes that there will be controversy, even if the possibilities are clearly stated to be amongst options for discussion. She is, however, content to leave the choice of language to your Secretary of State, against the background of her concerns as I have outlined them.

I am sending copies of this letter to Stephen Boys-Smith (Home Office) and Richard Prescott (Paymaster General's Office).

M. A. PATTISON

B.C. Merkel, Esq.,
Department of Health and Social Security.

R/H



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 November 1980

Debate on the Address

I enclose the text of a passage on foreign and defence affairs which the Prime Minister has approved for inclusion in her speech on the Address tomorrow. I should be grateful if you, and other recipients of this letter, could let me have any comments of substance by 10 a.m. tomorrow.

I am sending copies of this letter and its enclosure to Brian Norbury (Ministry of Defence), Stuart Hampson (Department of Trade) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

M. O. D. B. ALEXANDER

G.G.H. Walden, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

NRM

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The problems facing the international community are no less demanding than those which face us domestically. And just as at home, the Government have adopted a realistic approach. The hon. Members opposite are displaying in foreign and defence matters the irresponsibility which always characterises them when they are deprived of the restraints of office.

Once again they are ignoring the facts. They know that our future is inextricably involved with the fate of our neighbours in Europe; with that of our partners in America; and with that of our friends elsewhere. They know but few will say so.

As a result their attitude on three fundamental issues - on Europe, on defence and on international trade - is profoundly negative and destructive:

- If we stalk out of Europe our trade, of which over 40 per cent is with other members of the Community, will suffer; our economy will be damaged; and our international effectiveness will be gravely diminished. Today our major problems with the Community are on the way to solution; our trade with the Community is moving into surplus; and the political cohesion of Europe is being strengthened by the prospective entry into the

/Community

Community of three new democracies. How typical of the Opposition to choose this moment to try to throw it all away;

- If we disarm unilaterally or renege on our defence commitments the security of the West as a whole will be undermined. We here will render ourselves incapable of resisting pressure in time of peace and defenceless in time of war;

- If we indulge in protectionism, others will retaliate. Our foreign trade - which accounts for a larger proportion of our national product than in any other major industrialised country - will be crippled, and our trade with the poorer countries will be the first to suffer.

of

In all these matters the policies of the Opposition are deeply hostile to the true interests of the UK.

EUROPE

There was a time when the right hon. Gentleman expressed in this House the hope that we in Britain would be "determined to maintain our influence in Europe". He was right then and he would be right now if he chose to repeat the sentiment. Whether he does or not, I intend to see that our influence is maintained.

/Since coming

Since coming into office we have combined a determination to defend our national interests vigorously with a firm commitment to the idea and to the ideal of the Community. Through tough negotiation we have achieved a fair deal for Britain on a number of issues, on the budget, on sheepmeat, on conservation of fish stocks. We are on our way to achieving more - notably on the common fisheries policy as a whole.

We intend to continue in the same way. In the second half of next year we hold the Presidency of the Community. At that very time the Community will be deciding how to restructure its budget. We are determined not to miss the opportunity to put the long-term financing of the Community on a sound and equitable basis. We shall be seeking agreement on measures to reduce the proportion of the Community budget taken up by the Common Agricultural Policy; to cut the cost of that policy; and to limit agricultural surpluses.

Let me emphasise the Government's belief, shared by the Governments of France and Germany, that the necessary reforms can and will be achieved within the limits imposed by the 1 per cent ceiling on VAT receipts. The Community's budget must not grow faster than the economies of the member countries.

EAST/WEST RELATIONS AND DEFENCE

A Community with a soundly based budget will mean a stronger Community and a Europe better able to look after itself. But the security of Europe is indissoluble from that of North America.

/Governor Reagan

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Governor Reagan has already made it clear that he, like his predecessor, attaches the highest priority to the maintenance of a confident and powerful Alliance. This is good news. It creates the right basis for close co-operation and partnership between Europe and America.

Proposals from the party opposite to weaken the Alliance are irresponsible in the highest degree. The right hon. Gentleman was once an anti-appeaser: I fear that he is now an arch appeaser.

We for our part will fully maintain Britain's contribution to NATO. Despite the economic difficulties, we shall achieve or come very close to the 3 per cent target in both our first two years in office and will continue to increase defence expenditure thereafter. Let those to whom that seems too ambitious look again at the growth in the Warsaw Pact's military expenditure in the last decade and ponder the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

As for nuclear weapons, the Government has made its decisions and will stick to them. Of course we recognise the dangers of an unrestricted arms race. Of course we are anxious to reach agreement on arms control measures. But we intend to approach the necessary negotiations as an equal partner, not as a supplicant. The right hon. Gentleman - like all the unilateralists - is deluding himself if he thinks that mere eloquence or earnestness will win concessions or respect from the Russians. Such delusions are a luxury we can't afford.

/TRADE

239

TRADE

Protectionism is another delusion. It is a delusion in the first place because we would not get away with it. Retaliation is a reality not a vague spectre. The imposition of quotas on textile goods from Indonesia worth £3 million per year has lost us major orders for construction projects and for exports of high technology worth hundreds of millions of pounds. We cannot afford to lose the world markets on which so much trade and so many jobs depend.

And there is an even bigger delusion. Protectionism would do no more than disguise our problems - and then only briefly. ~~Imports enter this country because someone - industry or the consumer - wants to buy them.~~ The advocates of import restrictions are saying to the purchaser 'you cannot have the cheapest, you cannot have the best, you cannot have the most modern - all you can have is what we make here'. This is a recipe for preventing British industry from being competitive, for slowing down change, for increasing prices. And it is a declaration of total lack of faith in British industry.

Of course we cannot ignore the pursuit by other countries of unfair policies which discriminate against our manufactures or damage our industries. But we shall always seek to resolve such problems by discussion rather than by retaliation. Free trade must be fair trade.

PRIME MINISTER

You are uneasy about Mr. Jenkin's proposal to touch on the possible wider use of national insurance numbers in the social security system.

His intention is to touch on this as one possibility to be considered when examining operational strategy for social security, but to make it clear that the Government recognises the possibility of considerable resistance to this approach.

The issue is one which has to be considered in any examination of options in the social security field. Flag A is a note from Sir Derek Rayner's office on the point. If you want to stop Mr. Jenkin raising it, we should perhaps ask him not to put out a paper at all at this stage. It would be disingenuous to ignore the entire subject if there is to be a paper. All that Mr. Jenkin is offering is a process of consultation on future options.

Do you agree that he may go ahead, or do you want him to hold back publication of the proposals on long-term strategy?

18 November 1980

MAO

*Go ahead
MB*

CONFIDENTIAL

18 November 1980

I enclose the Lord Chancellor's special copy of The Queen's Speech on the Opening of Parliament, together with two ordinary copies.

I will let you have the copy signed by The Queen as soon as it reaches us from the Palace.

We will look at the question of possible economies in the printing arrangements for both the Prorogation and Opening Speeches after Thursday's ceremony.

Sgd N J Sanders

Michael Collon Esq,
Lord Chancellor's Department.

SP



The National Archives

LETTERCODE/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i>	Date and sign
PIECE/ITEM <i>558</i> (one piece/item number)	
Extract/Item details: <i>Minute from Sanders to Wright dated 18 November 1980</i>	
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PIECE/ITEM (one piece/item number) <i>558</i>	
Extract/Item details: <i>Letter from Sanders dated 18 November 1980</i>	
CLOSED FOR <i>40</i> YEARS UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	<i>18 October 2011</i> <i>Wayland</i>
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**THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE OPENING
OF PARLIAMENT**

THURSDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER, 1980

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

I take great pleasure in the current State Visit of His Majesty the King of Nepal, and look forward to visiting later this month Belgium, the Commission of the European Communities, and the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

I look forward with equal pleasure to visiting Norway, Australia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka, and to being present in Melbourne on the occasion of the next meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government.

My Government believe that the best hope of lasting peace lies in the effective maintenance of Western security. They therefore attach great importance to defence and to contributing fully to the North Atlantic Alliance. They will continue to press for the complete withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and for a political settlement acceptable to the Afghan people. Despite events in Afghanistan and Cambodia, they will continue to seek more stable East-West relations and will continue to work for effective measures of arms control.

My Government support the efforts of the European Community to work towards a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Arab/Israel dispute. They view with grave concern the present conflict between Iran and Iraq and will continue to work with other Governments for an end to hostilities. They will continue also to support the United States Government in their efforts to find an early and peaceful solution to the prolonged illegal detention of the United States' diplomatic hostages in Iran.

Negotiations to find an internationally recognised settlement in Namibia in accordance with the United Nations' plan will continue.

My Government reaffirm their strong commitment to the European Community. They look forward to the accession of Greece on 1st January 1981 and to the prospect of further enlargement. They will play a full part in discussions to improve the common agricultural policy and restructure the Community Budget. They will continue to work for agreement on a revised common fisheries policy. Legislation will be introduced to amend the law about the Boundary Commissions' reviews of the European Parliament constituencies.

My Government confirm their commitment to the Commonwealth and the United Nations, and will continue to play a constructive role in their activities.

My Government recognise the serious economic problems that affect both developed and developing countries and will continue to work with other countries and international organisations in seeking to alleviate them.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Estimates for the public service will be laid before you.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

The need to bring down the rate of inflation and create conditions for a sustainable growth of output and employment remains the prime concern of My Government. To that end they will take all steps necessary to maintain firm monetary and fiscal policies.

Plans for public expenditure will take account of the need to restrict the claims of the public sector on the nation's resources. Special attention will continue to be given to the encouragement of new businesses and to measures to permit small firms to expand and prosper.

My Government, recognising the hardships and worries of those suffering unemployment, will proceed urgently with an expanded programme of employment and training measures for the unemployed, particularly the young. Proposals will be put before you for improving industrial training in the longer term and for supplying those skills which will be needed when industry moves out of the current recession.

Further proposals will be brought forward to reduce the scope of nationalised and state industry, and to increase competition. My Government will take steps to permit wider participation in the fortunes of the British National Oil Corporation. Measures will also be laid before you to replace public involvement in transport industries with further opportunities for private investment; and to reorganise the Post Office, to encourage better performance in postal services and to introduce greater competition in telecommunications.

Legislation will also be introduced to amend the financial arrangements for the National Enterprise Board, the Scottish and Welsh Development Agencies, and the Development Board for Rural Wales; and to provide for a capital reconstruction of the British Steel Corporation.

Measures will be brought forward on company law and insurance.

My Government will continue to ensure that the nation's energy resources are appropriately developed and efficiently used. Legislation will be introduced to assist the conservation of energy and to impose a levy on the British Gas Corporation for specified gas purchases.

In Northern Ireland My Government will continue in its efforts to protect all members of the community against violence and terrorism, to foster its economic recovery, and to create arrangements for the government of Northern Ireland that will better meet the needs of all its people.

My Government are firmly committed to the maintenance of law and order in all parts of the United Kingdom. They will introduce legislation to improve the criminal law including repeal of the suspected person offence and will develop plans for giving effect to the proposals in the recent White Paper on young offenders.

A Bill will be introduced to change the law on nationality on the lines of the White Paper published last July.

Legislation will be brought forward to facilitate the education of children with special needs.

Measures to improve the law in Scotland relating to education and to local government and to protect wives' home rights will be laid before you.

My Government will propose measures to improve road safety.

Pensions, war pensions and other social security benefits will be increased on 24th November and reviewed again next year. Legislation will be brought forward to place a duty on employers to provide sick pay for their employees during the early weeks of sickness.

Legislation will also be laid before you to promote the conservation of wild life and the countryside.

A Bill will be introduced to reform the law of contempt of court.

Other measures will be laid before you.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.



file

cc: AIG

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 November 1980

I enclose a draft for the Economic Section of the Prime Minister's Speech in the Debate on the Address on Thursday. I would be grateful if you could have the figures checked, and for any other comments.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Richard Prescott (Paymaster General's Office).

T P LANKESTER

John Wiggins, Esq.,
HM Treasury

SP

CONFIDENTIAL

18 November 1980

The Prime Minister has asked me to send you, in confidence, the enclosed advance copies of The Queen's Speech on the Opening of Parliament.

Sgd N J Sanders

The Right Honourable Michael Foot, M.P.

Despatched at noon on 19/11.

CONFIDENTIAL

18 November 1980

The Prime Minister has asked me to send you, in confidence, the enclosed advance copy of The Queen's Speech on the Opening of Parliament.

Sgd N J Sanders

The Right Honourable David Steel, M.P.

Despatched at noon on 19/11.

CONFIDENTIAL

18 November 1980

I enclose seven copies of The Queen's Speech on the Opening of Parliament for the Leader of the House, the Chief Whip, the Leaders of the Opposition and Liberal Parties and the Mover and Seconder.

I should be grateful if you would emphasise to Opposition Leaders and the Mover and Seconder that advance copies of the Speech are made available to them in the strictest confidence.

Sgd N J Sanders

Michael Pownall Esq,
House of Lords.

*Despatched at noon
on 19/11.*



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

It is normal practice to send a copy of the Queen's Speech to the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Liberal Party on the day before the State Opening. Contact for us to send them, in confidence, to Mr Foot and Mr Steel just before lunch tomorrow?

Yes Mr.

MS 18/11

CONFIDENTIAL



CABINET OFFICE
70 WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AS

OR 233 7665

18 November 1980

Dear Clin,

I enclose 3 special and 220 ordinary copies of the Queen's Speech on the Opening of Parliament. These are for distribution in accordance with the usual arrangements which are shown on the enclosed distribution list.

Yours sincerely,

Bob.

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Encs.

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THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT 1980

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Copies of the Speech despatched from the Cabinet Office on 18 November 1980 for further distribution by recipients as follows -

Recipients	No of Copies for Distribution	
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		Leader of the Opposition (2) <i>Noon on 19/11.</i>
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		Private Secretary to the Leader of the House of Lords (7) for -
		Leader of the House (1)
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Private Secretary to Leader of the House of Lords	2 Ordinary)	To be shown in confidence to the Movers and Seconders of the Motions for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne in both Houses of Parliament
Private Secretary to the Chief Whip	25 Ordinary	For Mover and Seconder, House of Commons and for issue to Opposition Front Bench
Private Secretary to the Home Secretary	10 Ordinary	Mr Speaker (1) (Stiff)
	2 Stiff	Clerk at the Table (1) (Stiff)
		Editor of Official Report, (Commons) (2)
		Clerk of the Journals (2)
		Editor of Official Report (Lords) (2)
Private Secretary to the Chancellor of The Duchy of Lancaster		Clerk of the Parliaments (1)
		Leader of the House

Cabinet Office

18 November 1980

RESTRICTED

PRIME MINISTERPARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

There are some important decisions to be taken about the handling of business during the Debate on the Address, but it will not be possible to take a firm view on it at Cabinet because we shall not know the Opposition's wishes about the subjects to be debated on each day of the Debate.

We are all anxious that we should not give the Opposition a further excuse for irresponsible behaviour in the House, not least because some of the legislation shortly to be introduced (and the National Insurance Bill in particular) will be highly controversial and will cause a great row anyway.

It follows that I hope you will ask colleagues to keep closely in touch with the Business Managers over the next few weeks, and indeed throughout the Session, about the timing and method of announcements. Another fuss very early in the new Session would be seriously damaging, and we must do everything we can to avoid it.

As far as the Debate on the Address itself is concerned, we have definite bids from the Minister of Agriculture to make a statement on this week's Fisheries Council, and from the Secretary of State for Employment to make a statement on the Government's new proposals on Special Employment Measures.

①
②
* Chancellor's reply also attached ③
④
Mr. Heseltine has reflected on what to do next, and his latest proposal (letter attached) ^{*} is that he might make a statement about local government finance generally, after the Chancellor has made his statement on the Government's economic and financial decisions. As I understand it, the Chancellor is still uncertain about whether to make a statement on Monday or to wait until his turn comes in the Debate on the Address - which might well be on Thursday 27 November, but could of course be earlier. If the Chancellor's announcement is very late in the Debate on the Address, then in my view Mr. Heseltine has no choice but to make an oral statement on his housing proposals before the

/ Chancellor's

Chancellor's announcement. The final element in the jigsaw is that the unemployment figures are published next Tuesday.

The Times has today fairly accurately foreshadowed your announcement in your speech and Mr. Prior's statement about Special Employment Measures.

Given the degree of uncertainty surrounding all this, I am sure that Cabinet would be well advised not to spend too much time discussing the various permutations. I hope that instead it will conclude that decisions should be reached in close consultation with the Business Managers; we can then bring any problems to you.

Having said all that, my own view is that the Chancellor should make an oral statement early next week, so as to avoid giving the Opposition an excuse to make trouble; and that, unless it is convenient for him to do it during the Debate, Mr Heseltine ought to make an oral statement later next week.

One possible solution to the problem would therefore be:-

- Thursday, 20 November : Queen's Speech
No Statements
- Friday, 21 November : Statement by Mr Prior on Special
Employment Measures
Statement by Mr Walker on Fisheries
Policy
- Monday, 24 November : Statement by Chancellor of the
Exchequer
- Tuesday, 25 November : No Statements (Unemployment Figures)
- Wednesday, 26 November : Statement by Mr Heseltine

MR HESELTINE
IS THINKING OF
A FULL-BLOODED

STATEMENT ON TUESDAY,
DESPITE THE ATMOSPHERE

THERE MAY BE IN THE HOUSE

MJS

MJS

PART 2 ends:-

Moore to NJS

17.11.80

PART 3 begins:-

NJS to PM

18.11.80