

33/6

MT

Confidential orig

BBC Radio series on the
Civil Service

CIVIL SERVICE

FEBRUARY 1981

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
19-2-81							
30-3-81							
31-3-81							
24-4-81							
9-6-81							
14-82							
5-4-82							
5/7/82							

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PREM 19/678

file BK
and Series

5 July 1982

BBC RADIO FOUR SERIES ON
THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE

The Prime Minister has noted the contents
of your letter of 1 July.

JOHN COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

/



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

To note.

1 July, 1982

A.J.C. $\frac{2}{7}$

Dear John,

BBC Radio Four Series on the Diplomatic Service

Brian Fall wrote to Michael Alexander on 8 June last year about a proposal by the BBC to do a series of three programmes on the Diplomatic Service. Michael wrote back on 9 June to confirm that the Prime Minister saw no objection to programmes of the kind envisaged. We agreed ground rules for the programmes in October last year with the BBC, and are committed to them. We understand the BBC now have it in mind to do the necessary interviews with Diplomatic Service officers later this year.

We have considered whether, in the light of the proposed enquiry into the Falklands dispute and the likely accompanying publicity, we should not reconsider our agreement but have concluded that it would be wrong to appear defensive and that to attempt to backtrack now would be likely to attract bad publicity. We would, however, make clear to the BBC that questions on the Falklands would be met simply with the answer that an enquiry is being held.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street



HLK Civil Servants

cc: Bingham

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

BROADCASTS BY CIVIL SERVANTS

I have shown the Prime Minister your minute A07986 of 1 April, and she is content for Sir Ronald Mason to give an interview on the Radio 3 programme called "Scientifically Speaking". You may like to know, however, that she commented "He will just have to avoid the pitfalls of which there will be many".

J. A. WHITMORE

5 April, 1982

B

076
Ref. A07986

MR WHITMORE

1
Prime Minister.
Contract for Sir Ronald
Mason to give this interview?
Yes - he will not have
to avoid the
pitfalls - of
which there
will be
many
net.
KLL
1/1/82

Broadcasts By Civil Servants

Sir Ronald Mason, Chief Scientific Adviser in MOD, has been approached by the BBC to give an interview on the Radio 3 programme called 'Scientifically Speaking'. Their main interest is in the role of senior scientists within Government and it is proposed that the following topics should be covered:

- a. the role of the Chief Scientific Adviser in Government, and MOD in particular;
- b. Sir Ronald's own background and continued links with his research base and the outside scientific community;
- c. Defence R&D, which would probably cover issues such as the proportion of national R&D resources absorbed by defence and 'spin-off' to civil industry.

2. Sir Ronald Mason is the Ministry of Defence's (and the Government's) Chief Adviser on the scientific aspect of defence nuclear policy, and from that point of view it is inconvenient that the request for an interview comes so soon after the announcement about Trident 2. But MOD have reached an agreement with the producer that, if the programme goes ahead, the Department would have the right to 'vet' the recording. They would try to discourage any attempt to open up the question of the Chief Scientific Adviser's role in nuclear issues. An Information Officer would also be present.

3. Sir Ronald is known to have strongly critical views of the MPO's (formerly CSD's) role in the management of Government scientists. He is, however, experienced at handling the media and it would be made clear to him that he would be expected

to maintain the line adopted by the Government in its response to the Holdgate Report and not to anticipate or prejudice the Government's reply to the Report by the House of Lords Select Committee on 'Science and Government'.

4. There is (as always) an element of risk attached to this. But I understand that this is a responsible and serious programme on Radio 3. An interview with Sir Ronald Mason might help in improving the image of Government science, not least because we need to continue to attract good quality people for Chief Scientist posts and also more generally for the scientific Civil Service. I understand that the Secretary of State for Defence is content to let the proposal go forward. On balance I do not wish to advise the Prime Minister to object.

5. I should be grateful if you would seek her views before I respond to Sir Frank Cooper.

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

1st April 1982



Card Service

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

9 June 1981

BBC Radio 4 Series on the Diplomatic Service

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 8 June on this subject. She would have no objection to programmes of the kind envisaged being made about the Diplomatic Service.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

B.J.P. Fall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 June 1981

(2)

MS

In light of / see no objection, Subject to observance of guidelines for Home C.S. 8/9/80

Prime Minister

1 ind. 8/6

Dear Michael

BBC Radio 4 Series on the Diplomatic Service

The Prime Minister has taken an interest in the series of programmes being made by Mrs Anne Sloman and Mr Hugo Young for BBC Radio 4 on the Civil Service.

Mrs Sloman has now been to see the Permanent Under-Secretary to say that she and Mr Young had been so encouraged by their work with the Home Civil Service that they would like to do another three programmes on the Diplomatic Service. Although a final decision must wait upon a further discussion with Mrs Sloman later this month, Lord Carrington is in principle disposed to agree if the quality of the programmes seems likely to be satisfactory.

Yours ever,

(B J P Fall)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

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18 JUN 1981



Civil Service



10 DOWNING STREET

NSK.

Mr Hoskyns has decided
NOT to take part in the
programme on the Civil Service.

JW

24/11



CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01- 233 8224

W
SW

8 April 1981

Sir Ian Bancroft GCB

Spec. Sec.

BBC RADIO 4 SERIES ON THE CIVIL SERVICE

1. Thank you for my copy of your letter of 3 April to Douglas Wass.
2. I shall be seeing Mr Young and Mrs Sloman at 57 Baker Street early on Wednesday 15 April. They were briefed by Clive Priestley and David Allen on 24 March, when they explained that, as far as I am concerned, they were most interested in the size and efficiency of the Civil Service.
3. You refer on the second page of your letter to "the Quarry". May I please have a copy of this in good time for the interview?
4. I am copying this to Clive Whitmore.

[Handwritten signature]

Derek Rayner

H
m



- 8 APR 1981

[Faint red scribble]

3



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

From the Private Secretary

7 April 1981

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

CAW MW JW

*You have already seen
Ian Bancroft's letter, but
you should see the list
of interviewees attached
to this copy. MAR 7/4*

Dear Mike *MAD*

BBC RADIO 4 SERIES ON CIVIL SERVICE

You spoke to me about this last week.

The Producer of this series, Mrs Anne Sloman, has now sent - as she undertook to do when she discussed this series with Sir Ian Bancroft - a list of the interviews she has so far arranged with Ministers and civil servants. It is not a final list since she is still considering further interviews which she will let us know about in due course, but I thought you would be interested to see what our involvement amounts to so far.

There are obvious difficulties in attempting to co-ordinate contributions from so many Departments. I have written to my colleagues in other Departments to make sure they keep their Chief Information Officers informed of any approaches from Mrs Sloman about this series. They in turn have been asked by our Chief Press Officer (who is in touch with the No.10 Press Office) to let him know of any approaches their Departments might be considering and any interviews they have agreed to give.

Sir Ian Bancroft has also written a letter of guidance about the series to Permanent Secretaries with again a request to keep CSD informed. (I enclose a copy of his letter).

Finally, Mrs Sloman has undertaken in a letter to Sir Ian Bancroft that she or Mr Young will let prospective interviewees know a week in advance the ground they want to cover in their interview and that she will also tell them which programme or programmes their contribution will be used in.

As you know, Sir Robert Armstrong is declining Mrs Sloman's request for an interview, as is Sir Peter Carey.

*Yours Sincerely
Vivien Life*

P.P. J BUCKLEY

IN CONFIDENCE



CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2AZ

Telephone 01 273 5400

*Sir Ian Bancroft G.C.B.
Head of the Home Civil Service*

Sir Douglas Wass GCB
HM Treasury
Parliament Street
LONDON SW1

3 April 1981

Dear Douglas,

BBC RADIO 4 SERIES ON THE CIVIL SERVICE

As you know, we are cooperating with the BBC in the preparation of a series of six programmes to be broadcast in June. The Lord President's Private Secretary, Jim Buckley, wrote round to Ministerial Private Offices on 27 March about the series. Mrs Anne Sloman, the producer, is I know already busy arranging background chats with Permanent Secretaries; or, having already done that, fixing dates on which to interview them for this forthcoming series. Having given her permission for Ministers and serving senior civil servants to take part in the series, the Prime Minister is anxious that some general oversight and, where necessary, co-ordination is exercised over all our contributions. This task has been assigned to the CSD and our Chief Press Officer, Bert Jarman, will be seeking to keep an up-to-date list of the interviews Mrs Sloman intends to record with Ministers and officials in all Departments. I would be grateful if you could ensure that your Chief Information Officer keeps him informed, as far in advance as possible, of any interviews that are arranged for this series in your Department.

There are a number of difficulties which our participation in this series presents:

- i. Mrs Sloman will no doubt wish to make all her interviews as wide-ranging as possible. For example, in an interview which has as its centre a discussion about a particular aspect of Departmental work to be used as an example of the kinds of problems with which civil servants have to deal, she may very well insert more general questions on, for example, the size of the Civil Service, its efficiency (or lack of it), its professionalism (or lack of it) etc, simply to gather together as many and as widely divergent opinions by civil servants (and Ministers) on our profession as possible. There is nothing wrong with that approach in itself, provided the civil servants who are interviewed start from the same shared

IN CONFIDENCE

basis of fact. It cannot be automatically assumed that they do. It would simplify matters all round therefore if such general questions about the Civil Service were answered normally in interviews with Permanent Secretaries. I would be grateful, if any officials other than yourself are to be interviewed in your Department, if that general rule could be applied.

ii. The Civil Service has been under scrutiny, if not attack, from so many quarters for so long that Mrs Sloman and her presenter, Mr Hugo Young the Deputy Editor of the Sunday Times, will certainly not be lacking in material on which to draw to challenge us. It would be unfortunate, if, in the face of so many quotable critics, we became too defensive. The Quarry provides a good deal of useful ammunition on a number of basic issues which are bound to come up in one guise or another. I hope everyone who is involved with this series will make good use of it.

I think we should all, given a suitable opportunity in our interviews, be particularly concerned to emphasise the efforts that are being made to improve the efficiency of the Service, both within our own Departments and across the Civil Service as a whole. We are generally far too coy in asserting our achievements and the difficulties to be overcome in securing them. This series presents us with an opportunity to be a bit more forthcoming. I hope it will not be missed. The White Paper on Efficiency and Elimination of Waste is likely to be published shortly after Easter. It should provide useful material to deal with some at least of the questions Mrs Sloman and Mr Young are likely to aim at us.

The subject heads for the programmes in the series are:

Programme One: The Civil Service is too Big;
 Programme Two: The Civil Service is too Powerful;
 Programme Three: The Civil Service is Inefficient;
 Programme Four: The Civil Service should be more Accountable;
 Programme Five: The Civil Service should be more Political;
 Programme Six: The Effect of the EC.

I do not think it would be wise for serving civil servants to become too involved with questions on Programme Two or on Programme Five for obvious reasons. Mrs Sloman is at liberty to interview senior retired civil servants on those questions.

We are now seeking to obtain from her a more up-to-date and detailed outline of the series which I will send to you as soon as I can.

Mrs Sloman has undertaken in a letter to me on 4 March that:

a. Her presenter Hugo Young would "telephone everyone taking part in the programme about a week before the interview to go over the area of questioning". We should hold her to that undertaking.

b. "It would of course be made absolutely clear to those taking part which programme they were being interviewed for".

Once these facts are known about any interviews which may be taking place in your Department for this series, it would be helpful if they could be relayed to Jarman via your Chief Information Officer, so that we in turn can keep No 10 informed.

I am copying this to other Heads of Departments; and also to Derek Rayner and Clive Whitmore (for information).

*Yours ever,
Ian*

IAN BANCROFT

BBC RADIO 4 SERIES ON CIVIL SERVICE

Timetable of Interviews with Ministers
and Civil Servants

Weds. 8th April

- 0930 Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State
for the Environment
- 1100 Les Barclay, Assistant Secretary, Dept. of Energy
- 1630 Rt. Hon. Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food
- 1730 Sir Brian Hayes, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Weds. 15th April

- 0800 Sir Derek Rayner

Tues. 28th April

- 1530 Michael Partridge, Deputy Secretary, Dept. of Health
and Social Security
- 1615 Tim Nodder, Deputy Secretary, Dept. of Health and
Social Security

Weds. 29th April

- 1115 Barney Hayhoe, Minister of State, Civil Service Dept.
- 1200 Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council
- 1500 Sir Donald Maitland, Permanent Secretary, Dept. of Energy

Tues. 19th May

Sir Ian Bancroft, Head of the Home Civil Service

- 1500 Valerie Smith, Principal, Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food
- 1700 Sir Brian Cubbon, Permanent Secretary, Home Office

Tues. 26th May

- 1700 Sir Patrick Nairne, Permanent Secretary, Dept. of Health
and Social Security

To be arranged

- Rt. Hon. James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment



CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT
 WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2AZ
 Telephone 01 273 5400

Sir Ian Bancroft G.C.B.
 Head of the Home Civil Service

Sir Douglas Wass GCB
 HM Treasury
 Parliament Street
 LONDON SW1

Dear Douglas,

BBC RADIO 4 SERIES ON THE CIVIL SERVICE

As you know, we are cooperating with the BBC in the preparation of a series of six programmes to be broadcast in June. The Lord President's Private Secretary, Jim Buckley, wrote round to Ministerial Private Offices on 27 March about the series. Mrs Anne Sloman, the producer, is I know already busy arranging background chats with Permanent Secretaries; or, having already done that, fixing dates on which to interview them for this forthcoming series. Having given her permission for Ministers and serving senior civil servants to take part in the series, the Prime Minister is anxious that some general oversight and, where necessary, co-ordination is exercised over all our contributions. This task has been assigned to the CSD and our Chief Press Officer, Bert Jarman, will be seeking to keep an up-to-date list of the interviews Mrs Sloman intends to record with Ministers and officials in all Departments. I would be grateful if you could ensure that your Chief Information Officer keeps him informed, as far in advance as possible, of any interviews that are arranged for this series in your Department.

There are a number of difficulties which our participation in this series presents:

- i. Mrs Sloman will no doubt wish to make all her interviews as wide-ranging as possible. For example, in an interview which has as its centre a discussion about a particular aspect of Departmental work to be used as an example of the kinds of problems with which civil servants have to deal, she may very well insert more general questions on, for example, the size of the Civil Service, its efficiency (or lack of it), its professionalism (or lack of it) etc, simply to gather together as many and as widely divergent opinions by civil servants (and Ministers) on our profession as possible. There is nothing wrong with that approach in itself, provided the civil servants who are interviewed start from the same shared

Mr Griffin
 When are we met in
 Mr Haskyns' participation
 in the programme?
 Mr
 7iv

Mr Whitmore
 Its 1 hold you:
 1. Spoken to 3 April 1981
 Mr Haskyns
 who has
 2. Not yet taken soundings
 + w/h, I suggested.
 3. Might want to keep
 you in touch.
 I also asked how to let us
 have a note about the
 discussion
 7-4

basis of fact. It cannot be automatically assumed that they do. It would simplify matters all round therefore if such general questions about the Civil Service were answered normally in interviews with Permanent Secretaries. I would be grateful, if any officials other than yourself are to be interviewed in your Department, if that general rule could be applied.

ii. The Civil Service has been under scrutiny, if not attack, from so many quarters for so long that Mrs Sloman and her presenter, Mr Hugo Young the Deputy Editor of the Sunday Times, will certainly not be lacking in material on which to draw to challenge us. It would be unfortunate, if, in the face of so many quotable critics, we became too defensive. The Quarry provides a good deal of useful ammunition on a number of basic issues which are bound to come up in one guise or another. I hope everyone who is involved with this series will make good use of it.

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a. Her presenter Hugo Young would "telephone everyone taking part in the programme about a week before the interview to go over the area of questioning". We should hold her to that undertaking.

b. "It would of course be made absolutely clear to those taking part which programme they were being interviewed for".

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I am copying this to other Heads of Departments; and also to Derek Rayner and Clive Whitmore (for information).

*Yours ever,
Ian*

IAN BANCROFT

Handwritten scribble or signature.



-7 APR 1981



cc CSD 2/6
Mr. Giffin

Civil Service

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

I have shown the Prime Minister your minute AO4580 of 30 March 1981 about the forthcoming BBC Radio 4 programme on the Civil Service and she is content with the way in which you are proposing to proceed. She has commented:-

"I hope no one is going to say how the Cabinet Office works".

I am sending a copy of this minute to Mr Buckley (Civil Service Department).

JW

31 March 1981

AN

Civil Service.



BF 14-14-81

10 DOWNING STREET

Clive ^{Muki} / Thank you. July 20th 81

We are getting a variety of bits & pieces about the BBC lines of enquiry for this series. I think it is time I asked the CSD for a progress report giving the whole picture. I will put in hand.

MFD
30/3.

(Done by phone)

MFD
30/3.

cc Mr Gaffin

2 pps

Yes - I agree with his decision. I hope no-one is going to say how the cabinet office works

Prime Minister

Agree with the way Sir Robert Armstrong is preparing to proceed?

30

Ref. A04580

MR. WHITMORE

I understand that the Prime Minister has given her agreement to Ministers and serving civil servants taking part in a series of programmes on the Civil Service on BBC Radio 4.

2. The producer of the series, Mrs. Anne Sloman, has asked to come and see me. She will, I understand, ask me to give an interview in the series; and, if I say no, she will ask whether I would object to her asking Lord Hunt of Tanworth and would encourage him to agree to do so.

3. Unless the Prime Minister wants me to give an interview, I propose to decline to do so. I have not accepted any invitations to give radio or television or press interviews since I became Secretary of the Cabinet, and the longer I spend in the job the less inclined am I to do so. In some ways I regret this, because I think that those at the top of the Service ought to be ready to respond to opportunities to improve public understanding of the Civil Service and what it does; and how the centre of Government works is a subject of considerable public interest. But I think that, if I or any other Secretary of the Cabinet were to give such interviews, it would be bound to risk forfeiting some of the confidence and trust of the Prime Minister and of other members of the Cabinet on which one's ability to do the job properly substantially depends.

4. As to my predecessor, I shall say that it is up to him, and I do not object to his being asked. But I shall go on to say that, if I were the former Secretary of the Cabinet, I should be very conscious of the possible implications of any interview I might give for my successor in post, and should probably decline to give interviews, as I know both Lord Hunt of Tanworth and Lord Trend have so far consistently declined to do. I shall have to tell Mrs. Sloman that, if Lord Hunt consulted me, that is what I should be bound to say.

5. I believe that one of those whom Mrs. Sloman is to interview is Sir Patrick Nairne. He did a spell in the Cabinet Office, in charge of the European Secretariat, and I will suggest to her that she puts to him any points she has to ask about the centre.

6. I am sending a copy of this minute to Mr. Buckley, Civil Service Department.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

30th March, 1981

Civil Service Department,
Whitehall,
London, SW1A 2AZ

*With the Compliments
of the
Private Secretary
to the
Lord President of the Council*



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

From the Private Secretary

John Halliday
Private Secretary to the Secretary of
State for the Home Department
50 Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON SW1H 9AT

27 March 1981

Dear John,

*HW
30/3*

BBC RADIO 4 SERIES ON CIVIL SERVICE

The Prime Minister has given her agreement to Ministers and serving civil servants taking part in a series of six programmes on the Civil Service which are now being prepared for broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in June.

Each of the programmes, which will be presented by Hugo Young, Deputy Editor of the Sunday Times, will deal with a specific area of controversy about the Civil Service: Is it too big? Is it too powerful? Is it efficient? Is it sufficiently accountable? Should it be more political? The impact of the EEC.

In giving her agreement to participation in the series, the Prime Minister has stressed the need to keep a close watch on its preparation and has asked CSD to take responsibility for co-ordinating the total Ministerial and official contribution and for keeping her office informed. This will be done by our Chief Press Officer, Bert Jarmany.

While the producer of the series, Mrs Anne Sloman, has undertaken to let us know in advance whom she wants to interview, we cannot rely solely on that. It would be helpful if, through your Chief Information Officer, you could let Mr Jarmany know of any approaches you might have from Mrs Sloman and what action you propose taking on them. He in turn is ready to supply you with any further background information he can about the series and our approach to it.

I am copying this to the Private Secretaries to other Cabinet Ministers.

*Yours sincerely,
Jim Buckley.*

J BUCKLEY



#15
Civil Service
cc CDLO
Ingham

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 February 1981

The Prime Minister has seen the Lord President's minute of 9 February, about the proposed BBC radio series on the Civil Service. The Prime Minister is content in principle for Ministers and senior officials to take part in the series. She wishes to ensure that a close watch is kept on events. She would therefore expect CSD to co-ordinate the programme, providing a common overall brief for those taking part. She has asked that CSD should keep her Chief Press Officer closely informed as the series develops, and she would want him to know who is taking part in which programme. She would expect him to be particularly closely involved in liaising on the programme which examines whether the Civil Service should be more political.

Subject to these points, she believes that the balance of advantage lies in co-operating, despite the risks involved.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mary Scott (Office of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster).

M. A. PATTISON

Jim Buckley, Esq.,
Lord President's Office.

VUB



10 DOWNING STREET

MR. PATTISON

You said you would deal
with this one.

S. Wainwright

BP. B. INGHAM

19 February, 1981

PRIME MINISTER

BBC Radio (producer Mrs. Anne Sloman) wants to make a series of five 25-minute programmes on the Civil Service interviewing past and present Ministers and past and present senior Civil Servants. The presenter would be Hugo Young, Sunday Times.

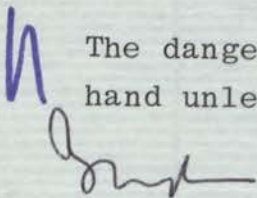
Lord Soames sets out the position in the attached note. While recognising that these things can go wrong, he would on the whole like to recommend co-operation.

We shall not stop the BBC from making this series even if we wanted to do so. Nor can we prevent them from interviewing former Ministers or Civil Servants. But that would not do justice to your efforts to reform the Civil Service or indeed the Service itself.

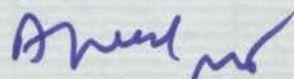
Consequently, I would advise you to give your general approval to Ministers and senior officials taking part subject to:

- co-ordination of the programme through CSD, reporting to me on your behalf, with a common overall brief for those taking part;
- your office knowing who is to take part in which programme; and
- particularly close liaison, with me acting on your behalf, on the programme which examines whether the Civil Service should be more political.

The danger with this type of programme is that they can get out of hand unless there is reasonably firm control at the centre.


B. INGHAM

13 February, 1981





with Mr Ingham
for advice

MAD 19.

PRIME MINISTER

BBC RADIO SERIES ON THE CIVIL SERVICE

Following an original approach to Sir Patrick Nairne, Sir Ian Bancroft has now been approached by a BBC Radio producer, Mrs Anne Sloman, for help in preparing a series of five programmes on the Civil Service to be broadcast on Radio 4 in late May/early June; each would last for 25 minutes.

Each of the programmes, which will be presented by Hugo Young, the Political Editor of the Sunday Times will, as I understand it, deal with a specific area of controversy about the Civil Service: Is It Too Big? Is It Too Powerful? Is It Efficient? Is It Sufficiently Accountable? Should It Be More Political?

The producer wants to interview some serving Ministers and former (Labour) Ministers on these questions. She would also like to interview some serving senior civil servants - mainly Permanent Secretaries - as well as some now retired. It is for this reason that she approached Ian Bancroft.

The series would offer a good opportunity for the Government to give an account of the work it has been doing in this field, particularly with regard to reductions in manpower and improvements in efficiency - and we would encourage the producer to make as much use as possible of serving Ministers on these topics. She has (I am told) a good reputation for producing serious, sensible programmes, including two previous series - Talking Politics and Talking Law: in the latter both serving and retired members of the judiciary appeared. From their point of view it was a notable success.

Clearly the thrust and tone of the broadcast would be in the producer's hands, and these things can of course go wrong. But on the whole I think the programmes could be of benefit to both the Government and the morale of the Service. I would be grateful for your views as to whether we should take it further, before arriving at a decision.

I am copying this to the Chancellor of the Duchy.

S

SOAMES

9 February 1981



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COLLECTION

