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PREM 19/1882

Confidential Filing

Queen's Speeches on the Provoation  
and Opening of Parliament

PARLIAMENT

Televising the State Opening  
Televising proceedings of the  
House of Commons.

Pt 1: MAY 1979

Pt 6: NOVEMBER 1984

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
<del>5.11.84</del>		<del>28.10.85</del>					
<del>9.11.84</del>		<del>30.10.85</del>					
<del>12.11.84</del>		<del>6.11.85</del>					
<del>22.11.84</del>		<del>12.11.85</del>					
<del>27.11.84</del>		<del>14.11.85</del>					
<del>29.3.85</del>		<del>20.11.85</del>					
<del>1.4.85</del>		<del>10.3.86</del>					
<del>21.6.85</del>		<del>11.3.86</del>					
<del>25.6.85</del>							
<del>26.6.85</del>		PT 6					
<del>27.6.85</del>		ENDS					
<del>8.7.85</del>							
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<del>16.10.85</del>							

PREM 19/1882

PART 6 ends:-

TF to PS/LPC 11/3/86

PART 7 begins:-

PCO to TF 21/7/86



## 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.

1. Her Majesty's Speech to Both Houses of Parliament on 6 November 1985 [ISBN 010 499986 1]
2. House of Lords Hansard, 27 November 1984  
Columns 764-860 "Televising the House: Select Committee Report"
3. House of Commons Hansard, 12 November 1985  
Columns 465-534 "Debate on the Address"
4. House of Commons Hansard, 20 November 1985  
Columns 277-366 "Televising of the House"

Signed Wayland Date 5 February 2015

**PREM Records Team**

SUBJECT  
cc Master



DE2AX1

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 March 1986

Dear Joan,

STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT: 1986/7

This is just to confirm that the Prime Minister discussed with the Lord President today the date for the State Opening of Parliament for the 1986/7 Session. They noted that of the two possible dates (Tuesday 4 November and Wednesday 12 November) the latter looked to be the likely option even though it would involve the Prime Minister making two major speeches, one to the Lord Mayor's Banquet and one in the Debate on the Address, in three days. Neither of the options for ensuring an earlier start, i.e. the Lords sitting into August or during Party Conference week, seemed attractive, although the Lord President thought that it might be possible to sit for two days in August. It was agreed that a final decision should be left for the moment, presumably until July.

I will let the Palace know of this outcome. They had already indicated that they would be content with either of the two days which had been canvassed so far.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Michael Stark (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

Tim

Timothy Flesher

Miss Joan MacNaughton,  
Lord President's Office.

085

MR. FLESHER

PA  
/

STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

The Prime Minister discussed your minute of 10 March with the Lord President this morning.

The Lord President said that it was possible for the Lords to sit for two days in August, though he was not much attracted to that. An alternative would be for the House to sit during the Party Conference. The Prime Minister ruled out that option immediately. In further discussion the Prime Minister made clear that she was ready to make the two major speeches, one to the Lord Mayor's Banquet on 10 November and one in the Debate on the Address on 12 November, if that were necessary.

It was agreed that Wednesday 12 November looked to be the likely option, but no final decision should be taken at that meeting.

TEMPORARILY RETAINED. J. Gray 20/10/15

N.L.U

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS  
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)  
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

(N.L. WICKS)

11 March 1986

1. MR. WICKS

N.L.W.  
10.3

2. PRIME MINISTER

## STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

You will recall that when you discussed the legislative programme with the Lord President he was talking in terms of a four week Lords spill-over which would leave Parliament sitting until well into November. He is now consulting on possible dates for the State Opening. The two dates which he suggests are Tuesday 4 November and Wednesday 12 November (you will recall that in the past we have avoided 5 November for obvious reasons and I am sure that we would wish to avoid 11 November since it is Armistice Day). The former date would be desirable if the Lords spill-over was shorter than at present seems likely but the later date of 12 November seems the more likely runner if the Lord President's predictions of a four week spill-over are fulfilled. You will also recall that the Cabinet decision of a shorter legislative programme was also predicated on the assumption of a later State Opening.

There would be no problem with the date of 12 November were it not for the fact that the Lord Mayor's Banquet speech is on 10 November. This would leave you with the very difficult task of making two major speeches in three days: moreover the Lord Mayor's Banquet speech would have to be made not only in advance of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement (the traditional problem) but also in advance of the unveiling of the Government's legislative programme.

You might therefore like to have a preliminary discussion of the position with the Lord President at your bilateral tomorrow. Before accepting the timetable outlined above we will need to be sure that there is no practical alternative.



For example

- (i) How far can the Lords be pressed to sit into August to enable an earlier date for the State Opening? The risk here is of the Government losing its supporters to the attraction of August holidays which is at the time when the most controversial legislation will be before the Lords.
  
- (ii) Are we tied to a Tuesday or a Wednesday for the State Opening? If the State Opening is to be later in November could we not go for Thursday 13 November rather than Wednesday 12th. This would at least give you three days between the Lord Mayor's Banquet and the State Opening.
  
- (iii) Alternatively could we go for Thursday 6 November?

The Lord President wants to leave a final decision until July and I suspect there is no alternative to that.

*W*  
(Tim Flesher)

10 March 1986

TEMPORARILY RETAINED S. Gray 20/10/15

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RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)  
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

1. MR LANGDON  
2. MR STARK

cc Miss MacNaughton  
Mr Watson

Mr Flesher

Any Comments

~~c - Miss Bowdery~~

Carl  
7/3

STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT: 1986/87 SESSION

1. The Lord President held a meeting yesterday with the Lord Privy Seal and Chief Whips of both Houses to review the progress of the current Session. It was agreed that the exceptionally heavy programme this year made it likely that there would need to be a four week spill-over in the Autumn. This might possibly be avoided if the Lords were to sit for a full week into August but there would be problems with such a course which would be unprecedented in recent times. In the light of this consideration it appeared that there were two possible dates for the State Opening of the 1986/87 Session; Tuesday 4 November and Wednesday 12 November. (The reason for adopting a Wednesday for the later option rather than the traditional Tuesday is that in earlier discussions the Prime Minister had already indicated that she would prefer to avoid having the State Opening on 11 November which is, of course, Armistice Day. There is no difficulty in having the State Opening on a Wednesday. This occurred last year in order to avoid the State Opening falling on another evocative date - 5 November).

2. The Lord President would prefer to keep the choice between these two dates open until progress with the legislative programme became a little clearer. Ideally this would mean deferring a final decision until July. He thought it would be advantageous, however, if the Prime Minister were to be sounded out now on the acceptability of the two alternative dates

3. I believe that the normal practice is for you to approach Mr Flesher on these questions I would be grateful if you could let me know the outcome.

MJS.

M J ELAND  
6 March 1986

temporarily retained. J. Gray 20/10/15

**THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS  
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)  
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT**



10 DOWNING STREET

Mr Weeks

Mr Clarke

*From the Press Secretary*

Murdo Maclean Esq  
PS/Chief Whip  
12 Downing Street  
London SW1

14 November 1985

*Dear Murdo,*

TELEVISIONING THE COMMONS

This note confirms my oral briefing of the Prime Minister's reaction to my minute of the above date on the televising of the Commons.

The Prime Minister confirmed that she wished no action to be taken on her behalf. She had, however, told George Gardiner MP that she was not in fact leading the move for television but was having increasing reservations about it.

She rejected as inaccurate in the draft of P2 of my minute the idea that she thinks televising would bring advantage to herself and the Government in office.

After some discussion, I was authorised, if asked, to say:

"The Prime Minister has always been in favour of televising the great Parliamentary occasions. She continues to have some reservations about the effects of televised broadcasting of the House's proceedings on the lines of radio broadcasting.

"Should the matter go to a Select Committee she hopes the Committee will consider all these matters. She is most anxious that any television should do nothing to undermine the dignity and authority of Parliament."

If asked how the Prime Minister is going to vote, I can say:

"She is thinking hard about it."

I think the Prime Minister accepts that the answer to the last question will produce stories that the Prime Minister is going relatively cool on the televising of the Commons.

Yours sincerely

Bernard

BERNARD INGHAM

c: Chief Whip

1. MR WICKS
2. PRIME MINISTER

The Chief Whip has spoken to me in similar terms. He thinks some MPs may vote in favour of TV because they think you are.

W. C. W.

14.11

### TELEVISIONING THE COMMONS

The Chief Whip and I are concerned lest news of your approach to televising the Commons gets out today or to the Sunday newspapers, as it might.

There are both substantive and presentational considerations.

Substantially, if you would like to rally the troops against televising the Commons, it would perhaps be useful to let your view be known soon, along with your reasoning. Otherwise MPs who are lukewarm, solely out of loyalty to your supposed support for televising the Commons, may make commitments this weekend they would prefer not to enter into.

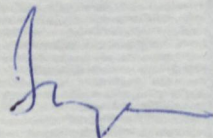
If, on the other hand, you wish to take a passive line (perhaps abstaining in the end) we could rest more or less comfortably on the line: "The Prime Minister will not make up her mind until the time comes. She sees a case for televising the Commons but thinks it is a big decision and is thinking very hard about it. We think she is more likely to be swayed by her perception of what is in the longer term interest of Parliament than on an assessment of Government/Party advantage."

Presentationally, I find myself in difficulty. The Chief Whip believes that most MPs think you have been brought reluctantly to favour televising the Commons. I am bound to say that that accurately reflects my briefing over the last couple of years.

It is therefore extremely important to manage the presentation of any change of view. If you want to be seen to be against television I think I can best protect your position, personally and politically, with this line:

"The Prime Minister has been considering the case for televising the Commons for some time now and she started from a position of being against it. Gradually she came to see a case for it - a case which she still thinks includes ~~advantage to herself as Prime Minister and the Government in office.~~ But at the forefront of her mind all along has been the good of Parliament and Parliamentary democracy. She has reluctantly come to the conclusion that television, on the basis of radio coverage before it, would not be helpful to Parliament. And that is the crucial point. I think the Prime Minister would be in favour, subject to agreed ground rules, of continuous televising of the Commons' proceedings on a separate television channel. She might even be prepared to vote for televising great occasions, such as the Budget or debates on the really major issues of our time. What she is not convinced of is the value to Parliament of television on the same basis that radio covers Parliament."

You may care to comment on the substantive and presentational points.



BERNARD INGHAM

14 November 1985

1. ~~MR. WICKS~~

1. PRIME MINISTER

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

Attached is the Business Note for next week which, with the exception of the debate on televising the House on Wednesday, looks pretty humdrum. I imagine the Cabinet will want to have a brief discussion about television and you might like to ask the Lord Privy Seal to explain at slightly greater length his views which were set out in his minute of 12 November, a copy of which I attach.

Statements next week:

Only the Scottish Office have put in a firm bid for one on Tuesday about the Aggregate Exchequer Grant to Local Authorities but of course you may be making one on Monday yourself.



Timothy Flesher  
13 November 1985

PROVISIONAL

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

MONDAY  
18 NOVEMBER

SECOND READING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL

TUESDAY  
19 NOVEMBER

REMAINING STAGES OF THE OKEHAMPTON BYPASS  
(CONFIRMATION OF ORDERS) BILL

THERE WILL BE A DEBATE ON A MOTION ON THE EUROPEAN  
COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 85/397/EEC ON HEALTH AND  
ANIMAL HEALTH PROBLEMS AFFECTING INTRA-  
COMMUNITY TRADE IN HEAT-TREATED MILK  
AND THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,  
FISHERIES AND FOOD'S EXPLANATORY  
MEMORANDUM OF 26 JUNE 1985.

WEDNESDAY  
20 NOVEMBER

THERE WILL BE A DEBATE ON A MOTION ON THE  
TELEVISIONING OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE  
OF COMMONS.

MOTION ON THE SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT (REQUIREMENTS  
AND RESOURCES) MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS (NO.2)  
REGULATIONS ORDER.

THURSDAY  
21 NOVEMBER

SECOND READING OF THE ARMED FORCES BILL FOLLOWED BY  
SECOND READING OF THE MUSEUM OF LONDON BILL

FRIDAY  
22 NOVEMBER

THERE WILL BE A DEBATE ON UNESCO ON A MOTION FOR  
THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE. THE 5TH REPORT  
FROM THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SESSION  
1984/85, "UNITED KINGDOM MEMBERSHIP OF  
UNESCO", HOUSE OF COMMONS PAPER No.461  
WILL BE RELEVANT.

MONDAY  
25 NOVEMBER

SECOND READING OF THE AGRICULTURE BILL

13.11.85.



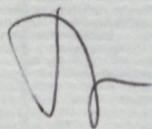
1. MR. WICKS  
2. PRIME MINISTER

N.L.U  
13.11

TELEVISIONING PARLIAMENT

You were worried about the Lord Privy Seal's minute. This will be an unwhipped debate as usual on the subject and although the Lord Privy Seal himself will vote in favour he will offer no advice on behalf of the Government. As soon as the Lord Privy Seal announces that there will be a debate, there will be pressure on the Press Office to confirm that you are going to vote in favour of television. Bernard would like to be in a position to confirm that this is indeed your view. Can we have a brief talk on the issue <sup>during</sup> ~~after~~ Questions briefing tomorrow morning at 09~~00~~ hours?

If you like we could also arrange for a discussion with the Lord Privy Seal and the Chief Whip.



We spoke  
my

Timothy Flesher  
13 November 1985

810  
See  
I get more money  
worried about this  
prospect. Is it  
covered to vote -  
for it?  
not

PRIME MINISTER



- 1, Mr Wickes <sup>and</sup> 12-11
- 2, Prime Minister

Agree this approach:  
It involves an experiment  
beginning in the 1986/7  
session

TELEVISIONING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

W  
12/11

You will have seen the recent exchanges in the House and I have agreed with the Chief Whip that a Debate will take place next week, probably on Wednesday 20 November. I shall also make a brief reference to our intentions in my wind-up speech tomorrow night.

The Motion before the House next week will propose a public experiment in the televising of the proceedings of the House and the establishment of a Select Committee to consider how that should best be done. It would probably report in Spring 1986 enabling the House to approve the Select Committee's report very soon thereafter; thus enabling the experiment to commence by the start of the 1986/87 Session. Its duration will be for the House to decide but of the order of 6-12 weeks would be the broadcasters' preference.

There are two aspects which have emerged in the course of my consultations. First from discussions with them it seems likely the Alliance may make a strong bid in the Select Committee that when proceedings are televised, far greater prominence should be given to what they say in the House. Clearly meeting any such demand would be totally unacceptable since the balance of coverage could only reflect the balance of actual proceedings in the House. The Chief Whip will have an important say in the composition of the Committee, and we will therefore be able to ensure that the Government's view is fully represented on this as well as any other difficult matters.

Secondly the speed with which an experiment can take place will be largely conditioned by whether the Select Committee recommends manned or unmanned cameras in the Chamber. The former are readily available; the latter, which

./..

would cause less inconvenience, could take up to six months to procure as new design and technology is involved. This point could be material as to how quickly we make progress generally.

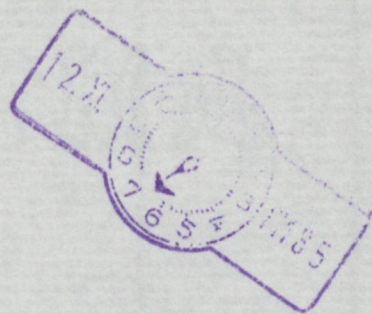
Finally you commented that the financing of any experiment should be carried out from within the BBCs existing revenue. I understand that the Broadcasting Authorities will be willing to bear the main staffing and equipment costs between them.

I am copying this minute to Cabinet colleagues, the Chief Whips of both Houses and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

W J B

W J B

12 November 1985



# THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

WEDNESDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER, 1985

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

I look forward with great pleasure to receiving His Highness the Amir of Qatar, their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain and the President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Freifrau von Weizsaecker on State Visits during the next 12 months.

I also look forward to paying a State Visit to Nepal in February, followed by visits to New Zealand and Australia and to paying a State Visit to China and visiting Hong Kong in October.

My Government continue to attach the highest importance to the maintenance of national security and the preservation of peace with freedom and justice. They will continue to play a full and active part in the Atlantic Alliance and to enhance the United Kingdom's own defences. They will make vigorous efforts to combat international terrorism.

My Government will continue to work for progress in arms control and disarmament negotiations and for greater co-operation and trust between East and West.

My Government welcome the accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Community and will introduce the necessary legislation. Within the Community, they will work for improved decision taking, strengthened co-operation on foreign policy, early completion of the common market, improvements in world trade rules and reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

While honouring their undertakings to the people of the Falkland Islands, my Government will continue to seek more normal relations with Argentina. They will also continue to discharge their obligations to the people of Hong Kong; and will propose provisions to implement the nationality arrangements arising from the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

My Government will work for peaceful and fundamental change in South Africa with the European Community and the Commonwealth; for the restoration of peace and stability in Lebanon; and for solutions to the conflict between Iraq and Iran and the Arab/Israel dispute. They will seek to restore an independent and non-aligned Afghanistan. They will support United Nations efforts for a settlement in Cyprus, and those of the Contadora Group to resolve the tensions in Central America.

My Government will give full support to the Commonwealth, and play a constructive role at the United Nations. They will maintain a substantial aid programme; play their part in the relief of famine and of other disasters; and encourage investment in developing 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

Within the framework of firm monetary and fiscal policies designed to secure a continuing reduction in inflation, my Government will do all in their power to encourage the growth of new jobs. Firm control of public expenditure will be maintained, with a view to diminishing its share of overall national output and facilitating further reductions in the burden of income tax.

My Government will pursue vigorously their programme of privatisation, as a means both of improving the efficiency of the industries concerned, and of encouraging wider share ownership. Measures will be introduced to permit the transfer of the assets of the British Gas Corporation to the private sector and to enable the Atomic Energy Authority to operate as a trading fund from 1st April 1986 with a capital structure and borrowing powers.

A Bill will be proposed to introduce private capital into the British Airports Authority, to require larger local authority airports to be formed into companies, and to regulate certain airport activities.

My Government will bring forward legislation to introduce commercial management to my Naval Dockyards, as a significant contribution to encouraging a commercial approach and securing value for money in spending on defence.

Legislation will be introduced to facilitate funding by the industry of agricultural research, advice and related services; and to implement European Community arrangements to protect areas of particular environmental sensitivity.

Measures will be introduced to establish a new regulatory framework for the financial services sector, which will enhance its efficiency and competitiveness whilst providing greater safeguards for the interests of investors, and to modernise and liberalise the law governing Building Societies.

Measures will be brought forward to reform the operation of Wages Councils, to make provisions concerning the payment of wages and to amend the law on sex discrimination in employment.

Legislation will be introduced to encourage the sale of public sector flats to their tenants and wider private sector involvement in the ownership and management of council housing, and to improve the planning system.

For Scotland, Bills will be introduced to extend the rights of public sector tenants and to facilitate the private ownership of public sector housing stock, to improve legal aid arrangements, and to modify and extend the management structure of salmon fisheries, including further measures to combat illegal salmon fishing throughout Great Britain.

In Northern Ireland my Government will continue to support the security forces in enforcing the law and in working for the eradication of terrorism. They will seek widely acceptable arrangements for the devolution of power. They will seek to improve further their co-operation with the Government of the Irish Republic. Renewed efforts will be made to create and sustain employment, particularly by the encouragement of the private sector.

A Bill will be introduced to reform social security.

Legislation will be introduced for England and Wales to improve the management of schools and to promote the professional effectiveness of teachers.

Measures will be introduced to strengthen the powers of the police in combating disorder, to modernise and codify the common law public order offences in England and Wales and to provide the courts in England and Wales with power to confiscate the proceeds of drug trafficking and to penalise the handling of such proceeds.

A Bill will be introduced to remove statutory restrictions on shop opening hours.

A Bill will be brought before you to make new provision for the protection of animals used for experimental or other scientific purposes.

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.



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Press Secretary*

Brian Mower Esq  
Director of Information  
Home Office  
50 Queen Anne's Gate  
London SW1

5 November 1985

*Dear Brian,*

The Lord President, meeting with the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Lord Privy Seal and the Chief Whip, today approved the attached Speaking Note on the Queen's Speech for circulation to members of the Government and to be available in the Whips Office from lunch time tomorrow.

I would be most grateful if you would clear those bits affecting your Department overnight and let me know of any amendments by 10am tomorrow. I would also like you to ring me if you have no comments.

I am copying to other Heads of Information with the same request to meet the same deadline, and to ring in nil returns as well as any changes.

*John Samuel*

*Bernard*

BERNARD INGHAM

DRAFT SPEAKING NOTE - QUEEN'S SPEECH

The Queen's Speech sets out the most substantial and radical programme of legislation for many years.

It builds on policies of sound money and enterprise which have already brought substantial economic and industrial progress in Britain.

The programme gives the lie to the claim that the Government is running out of steam.

In fact, the Government is building up a head of steam which will carry it to a third victory at the next election.

First, let us examine what the Government has achieved. Nothing less than the dream of all Governments since the war - sustained growth with low inflation and a balance of payments surplus.

This is our fifth year of continuous growth and we face the certain prospect of a sixth. At the same time inflation will probably be below 4% by the middle of next year. The CBI's latest survey shows the number of firms expecting their prices to rise is the lowest for 17 years.

And manufacturing is doing well, too - output up 4% last year - the highest growth since 1973; investment up 14%; exports up 11% to a record.

We are also creating new jobs, though not yet fast enough to offset the combined effects of the 1960s' bulge in the birth rate and the temporary effects of new technology and changing patterns of international trade.



The Government's determination to promote a new spirit of enterprise in Britain has produced a substantial increase in the number of self employed since 1979 of 500,000. The number of British businesses is up by 140,000 since 1980. And in the last two years Britain has generated 675,000 new jobs, the fastest rate of job creation since 1973.

This is the success on which the Government's new legislative programme aims to build.

First, private ownership. Twelve state-owned companies, employing 400,000, have already been transferred to private ownership. Most of those employees have acquired shares in them. The British Telecom share issue alone doubled the number of shareholders in Britain.

This session the Government will pave the way for more with Bills to:

- transfer British Gas to the private sector
- introduce private capital into the British Airports Authority and establish private sector companies to operate major local authority airports
- move the Atomic Energy Authority further towards a fully commercial basis of operation
- introduce commercial management into the Royal Dockyards.

These measures, with the forthcoming flotation of British Airways, represent the greatest privatisation programme in any year since the Government came to office. And there is more to come after this.

By the end of this Parliament the Government expects to have transferred 40% of the State sector it inherited in 1979 to private ownership.

But that is not the end of the effort to make the economy more competitive. Other measures directed to this end are Bills to:

- reform the ban on shop trading hours and to end the present confusion arising from illegal trading on Sundays
- removal of the dead hand of Wages Councils from wage rates for young people because all the evidence suggests existing rates are reducing job opportunities for youngsters
- simplify planning zones to reduce the burdens on business while protecting the environment
- liberalise the operations of building societies and promote more competition in the City whose financial services are a big money spinner abroad.

These are the economic policies which provide the money to pay for better social services.

And this session will bring a Bill to implement the most fundamental review of the Social Security system for 40 years. It is aimed at:

- directing resources to those most in need
- strengthening the incentive to work
- simplifying the system to make it easier to understand and administer.

But the Government is concerned not merely to provide better social services, but also to ensure that the money spent on them already gives value for money.

That is why there will be Bills to:

- provide a national system of appraisal and better training for teachers
- end the unscrupulous use of ratepayers' money by some local authorities for political ends.

The Government will also be publishing shortly its proposals for reforming the rating system as a whole. We can no longer tolerate a system of local taxation which falls on less than half the electorate and positively encourages extravagance by some local authorities at the expense of the unrepresented business ratepayer.

Finally, to complete a major programme relevant to the country's needs, the Government will bring forward a Bill to help the police deal with violence and disorder - balancing freedom of speech and the right to protest with effective police powers against the violent.

It will also legislate against the drugs menace which is confronting our society - and principally to trace and confiscate the proceeds of drug trafficking.

All this - and the Government's determination to promote peace with security at a lower but balanced and verifiable level of armaments - demonstrate conclusively the Government's continued radicalism, vigour and resolve to make Britain a strong, secure, decent and fair society.



10 DOWNING STREET

5 November 1985

*Dear Helen,*

I now enclose a copy of The Queen's  
Speech signed by Her Majesty for the State  
Opening of Parliament.

*Yours ever  
Nicky Roche*

Miss Nicky Roche  
Parliamentary Clerk

Miss H Tuffs  
Lord Chancellor's Office

CONFIDENTIAL



*file*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

5 November 1985

*Dear Mr Molyneux,*

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.

*Yours sincerely*

*Tim Flesher*

Tim Flesher

The Rt Hon James H Molyneux JP MP

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL



*file*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

5 November 1985

*Dear Mr Steel,*

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.

*Yours sincerely*

*TF*

Tim Flesher

The Rt Hon David Steel MP

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL



*file*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

5 November 1985

*Dear Dr Owen,*

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.

*Yours sincerely*

*T. F.*

Tim Flesher

The Rt Hon David Owen MP

CONFIDENTIAL



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

5th November, 1985.

Dear Tim,

Thank you for your letter of 4th November 1985 enclosing two copies of The Queen's Speech at the Opening of Parliament. I am returning one copy signed by Her Majesty.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Glanville

---

Tim Flesher, Esq.



CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

4 November 1985

*Dear Helen,*

I enclose one special and 2 ordinary copies of The Queen's Speech on the Opening of Parliament for the Lord Chancellor's use.

I will send the special copy signed by Her Majesty to you as soon as possible.

*Yours ever  
Nicky Roche*

Miss Nicky Roche  
Parliamentary Clerk

Miss H Tuffs  
Lord Chancellor's Office  
House of Lords

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL



P.A

NR  
6/11

CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 7665

4 November 1985

Dear Wicks,

I enclose 3 special and 210 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,  
Mike Eland

M J ELAND

N L Wicks Esq  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1

Encs

CONFIDENTIAL

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT 1985

ARRANGEMENTS FOR DESPATCH AND DISTRIBUTION OF COPIES

Copies of the Speech despatched from the Cabinet Office on 4 November 1985 for further distribution by recipients as follows -

Recipients	No of Copies	For distribution to -
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister	210+3 Special copies (The Queen's copies)	Her Majesty The Queen (2 Special - one to be signed and returned, the other to be retained)  Private Secretary to the Lord Chancellor (signed copy + one Special and 2 Ordinary) for Lord Chancellor  Leader of the Opposition (2) Leader of the Liberal Party (1) Leader of the SDP (1) Leader of the Ulster Unionists (1) Advance release to Press (200)
Private Secretary to the Leader of the House of Lords	15	15 30 4   " 11 30 5   "  Leader of the House (1) Leader of the Opposition (1) Leader of the Liberal Party (1) Leader of the SDP (1) Chief Whip (1) Mover and Seconder, House of Lords (2) (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)  Editor of Official Report (Lords) (2) Clerk of the Parliaments (1)
Private Secretary to the Leader of the House of Commons	10+2 Stiff	Leader of the House (2) Mr Speaker (1 Stiff) Clerk at the Table (1 Stiff) Editor of Official Report (Commons) (2) Clerk of the Journals (2)
Private Secretary to the Chief Whip	25	For Mover and Seconder, House of Commons and for issue to Opposition Front Bench

Wicksy 1

PRIME MINISTER

In previous years we have sent the leaders of the opposition parties a copy of the Queen's Speech 24 hours in advance of the ceremony.

Agree to the same procedure this year?

AT Yes not

4 November 1985

Pam. State opening  
A 6

file



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

4 November 1985

*Dear Philip,*

I enclose two copies of The Queen's Speech on the Opening of Parliament.

I should be grateful if you would kindly arrange for one copy to be signed by Her Majesty The Queen and then returned to me for the ceremony on Wednesday. The second copy is for you to keep.

*Tim*

*Tim*

Tim Flesher

The Rt Hon Sir Philip Moore GCVO KCB CMG

MRS LAWSON  
MISS ROBILLIARD  
MR TAYLOR  
SUPERVISOR CUSTODY GUARDS  
POLICE  
DUTY CLERK  
DUTY GARDEN ROOM GIRL  
DUTY MESSENGER  
DUTY TELEPHONIST

(separate copies)

STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

You may wish to know that a full rehearsal of the procession for the State Opening of Parliament will take place on 1 November. The head of the procession will cross Horse Guards Parade at about 0615 hrs. The procession will return across Horse Guards Parade some time after 0700 hrs.

*P.S. Joce.*  
P.S. Joce

31 October, 1985



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

30th October, 1985.

Dear Tim

In confirmation of my telephone call, I write to confirm that The Queen has approved the proposed amendment to the Speech for the State Opening of Parliament set out in your letter of 30th October.

James

Beir

Tim Flesher, Esq.





VCL4ADE  
cc Micky

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

30 October 1985

As I mentioned on the telephone, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary has proposed and the Prime Minister has agreed that there should be an amendment to The Queen's Speech on the Opening of Parliament in respect of the sentence dealing with South Africa. The text currently reads: "My Government will work for peaceful change in South Africa."

In view of the recent agreement within the Commonwealth and the European Community the Prime Minister would like the text to be amended to read:

"My Government will work with the European Community and the Commonwealth for peaceful and fundamental change in South Africa."

I should be grateful if you could seek The Queen's approval for this amendment.

TIM FLESHER

Sir William Heseltine, KCVO, CB.

*file*

**CONFIDENTIAL**



**10 DOWNING STREET**

*From the Private Secretary*

30 October 1985

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

TIM FLESHER

The Rt Hon David Owen MP

**CONFIDENTIAL**

file

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

30 October 1985

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

TIM FLESHER

The Rt Hon Neil Kinnock MP

CONFIDENTIAL

file

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

30 October 1985

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

TIM FLESHER

The Rt Hon James Molyneaux JP MP

CONFIDENTIAL

file

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

30 October 1985

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

TIM FLESHER

The Rt Hon David Steel MP

CONFIDENTIAL



*Prime Minister*

Ref. A085/2736

PRIME MINISTER

*Agree this  
change?*

*Yes no*

The Queen's Speech on the Opening of Parliament 1985

*29/10*

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary has asked whether a later amendment to the Opening Speech in respect of South Africa might be made.

2. The text currently reads:

"My Government will work for peaceful change in South Africa". In order to emphasise the recent agreement within the European Community and the Commonwealth, the FCO has suggested that the text be amended to read:

✓ "My Government will work with the European Community and the Commonwealth for peaceful and fundamental change in South Africa".

3. I understand that there is still time to alter the final text, and I should be grateful therefore for your approval to make this alteration.

*RIA*

*Shed  
mt*

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

29 October 1985

CONFIDENTIAL



State  
Opening  
file

CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 7665

28 October 1985

pa please

Dear Wicks,

I enclose 34 copies (4 being on stiff paper) of The Queen's Speech on the Prorogation of Parliament. These are for distribution in accordance with the usual arrangements which are shown on the enclosed copy of the full distribution list.

yours sincerely,

Mike Eland.

M J ELAND

N L Wicks Esq  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1

Encs

CONFIDENTIAL

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT 1985

ARRANGEMENTS FOR DESPATCH AND DISTRIBUTION OF COPIES

Copies of the Speech despatched from the Cabinet Office on 28 October 1985 for further distribution by recipients as follows -

Recipients	No of copies	For distribution to -
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister	30+4 Stiff	Her Majesty The Queen (2 Stiff; 1 to be signed and returned and the other to be retained) Private Secretary to the Lord Chancellor (signed copy + 2 Stiff copies for the Lord Chancellor) Leader of the Opposition (1) Leader of the Liberal Party (1) Leader of the SDP (1) Leader of the Ulster Unionists (1) Advance release to Press (20)
Private Secretary to the Leader of the House of Lords	10	Leader of the House (1) Leader of the Opposition (1) Leader of the Liberal Party (1) Leader of the SDP (1) Chief Whip (1) Editor of Official Report (Lords) (2)
Private Secretary to the Leader of the House of Commons	10+2 Stiff	Leader of the House (1) Mr Speaker (1 Stiff) Clerk at the Table (1 Stiff) Clerk of the Journals (2) Editor of Official Report (Commons) (2)
Clerk of the Parliaments	150	Printed Paper Office (150)
The Principal Clerk, Vote Office, House of Commons	500	Vote Office (500)
Private Secretary to the Chief Whip	1	Chief Whip (1)

*sent 28/10*

*sent 28/10  
29/10*

*sent 10.30am 30/10*



State Opening / Queen's Speech 17-6

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

WEDNESDAY, 30TH OCTOBER, 1985

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Duke of Edinburgh and I were pleased to receive the State Visits of the Life President of Malawi in April and the President of Mexico and Senora de la Madrid in June. We were saddened by the devastation caused by the earthquake in Mexico in September, for which my Government provided prompt assistance.

We recall with much satisfaction the State Visit to Portugal in March. I have also visited Belize, and was in the Bahamas for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Our tour of Commonwealth countries in the Eastern Caribbean is still in progress.

My Government welcomed the decision of the Maldives and of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to become full members of the Commonwealth.

My Government have maintained Britain's contribution to Western defence, and enhanced the United Kingdom's own defences through improvements in equipment and in the regular and reserve forces. They have played a full part in the Atlantic Alliance, and promoted British and Western defence interests outside the NATO area.

My Government have continued to work vigorously for agreements on verifiable arms control and disarmament, and to seek improved relations with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. They warmly welcomed the opening of talks in Geneva between the United States and the Soviet Union and fully support the United States' efforts to reach concrete agreements.

My Government have signed the Treaty on the Accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Communities, and have signed and ratified the third Convention of Lomé. An Act has been passed implementing the Fontainebleau Agreement on the future financing of the European Communities, including the correction of the British budgetary contribution.

My Government share the widespread public concern for the victims of the famine in Africa. They have continued to provide substantial emergency assistance both directly and through the European Community.

My Government have continued fully to honour their undertakings to the people of the Falkland Islands, while taking positive steps to seek more normal relations with Argentina. The Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong was signed last December and an Act consequent upon its terms was passed. My Government have reached agreement with Spain on the implementation of the Lisbon statement concerning Gibraltar.

My Government have supported efforts to restore the independence and non-aligned status of Afghanistan. They have urged peaceful change in South Africa and the early independence of Namibia.

My Government welcomed to the United Kingdom in June the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China. The great importance my Government attach to their relations with the Countries of South East and South Asia was marked by the Prime Minister's visit there in April and by the visit here this month of the Indian Prime Minister.

#### MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

I thank you for the provision which you have made for the honour and dignity of the Crown and for the public service

#### MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

My Government have maintained the policies necessary to bring down inflation and sustain economic growth. Inflation remains low, the output of the nation is at its highest level ever and continues to increase, as does the number of people in work.

Further steps have been taken to help the unemployed into jobs by extending the Youth Training Scheme and enlarging the Community Programme, and in other ways, including a reform of the structure of national insurance contributions.

To promote economic efficiency and encourage the spread of share ownership, not least among employees, my Government have continued their programme of returning state-owned businesses to the private sector, including the successful public flotation of British Telecommunications.

An Act has been passed to complete the transition of the Trustee Savings Banks to full private sector status and to permit wide public participation in their ownership.

An Act has been passed to increase competition in the provision of local bus services in Great Britain and to enable the operations of the National Bus Company to be transferred to the private sector.

Legislation has been enacted to make further provision for the payment of grants to the National Coal Board and to abolish the British National Oil Corporation.

Legislation has been enacted to remove the statutory levy on cinema admissions, to provide for alternative financial assistance for film production and to reduce the regulatory burden on the film and cinema industries.

An Act has been passed for the better protection of food and the environment.

An Act has been passed to establish in England and Wales a Crown Prosecution Service independent of the police, and to enable time limits to be imposed on criminal proceedings.

An Act has been passed giving the right to vote at Parliamentary and European Parliament elections to many British citizens resident abroad, and extending postal and proxy voting to electors who cannot reasonably be expected to vote in person.

Legislation has been passed to establish a comprehensive statutory framework governing the interception of communications.

An Act has been passed to deal with the problem of drunkenness at designated sporting events.

Considerable advance has been made in the consolidation of our statute law; provision has been made to apply international Conventions on child abduction and for the administration of justice.

An Act has been passed to abolish the Greater London Council and the Metropolitan County Councils on 1st April 1986 and to transfer most of their functions to the borough and district councils.

In Northern Ireland, my Government have attached high importance to the maintenance of law and order. They have continued the search for ways in which responsibility can be returned to a local administration on a widely acceptable basis. They have sought to develop a solid working relationship with the Government of the Republic of Ireland.

For Scotland, measures have been passed to introduce a rebate scheme following rating revaluation, to establish trustee bodies to manage certain Scottish institutions, and to make a number of reforms in Scots law.

Legislation has been passed to reform insolvency law in England and Wales, and in Scotland.

My Government have published proposals to improve the quality of school education, the effectiveness of teachers and the development of higher education into the next decade.

My Government have conducted a fundamental review of the social security system and published proposals for radical reform.

In addition, my Government have protected the real value of the retirement pension and other related benefits, and passed an act to improve employees' rights under occupational pension schemes, and to extend statutory sick pay.

#### MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

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



10 DOWNING STREET

28 October 1985

I enclose two copies of the Prorogation Speech.

I should be most grateful if one copy could be signed by the Counsellors of State and, if at all possible, returned to me tomorrow.

TIM FLESHER

Sir William Heseltine KCVO CB

file.

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

28 October 1985

Dear Helen

As discussed on the telephone I enclose two advance copies of the Prorogation Speech.

I will send the top copy on to you as soon as it has been signed by the Counsellors' of State (in the Queen's absence abroad).

Yours ever  
Nicky Roche

Miss Nicky Roche  
Parliamentary Clerk

Miss Helen Tuffs  
Lord Chancellor's Office

CONFIDENTIAL

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

WEDNESDAY, 30TH OCTOBER, 1985

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Duke of Edinburgh and I were pleased to receive the State Visits of the Life President of Malawi in April and the President of Mexico and Senora de la Madrid in June. We were saddened by the devastation caused by the earthquake in Mexico in September, for which my Government provided prompt assistance.

We recall with much satisfaction the State Visit to Portugal in March. I have also visited Belize, and was in the Bahamas for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Our tour of Commonwealth countries in the Eastern Caribbean is still in progress.

My Government welcomed the decision of the Maldives and of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to become full members of the Commonwealth.

My Government have maintained Britain's contribution to Western defence, and enhanced the United Kingdom's own defences through improvements in equipment and in the regular and reserve forces. They have played a full part in the Atlantic Alliance, and promoted British and Western defence interests outside the NATO area.

My Government have continued to work vigorously for agreements on verifiable arms control and disarmament, and to seek improved relations with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. They warmly welcomed the opening of talks in Geneva between the United States and the Soviet Union and fully support the United States' efforts to reach concrete agreements.

My Government have signed the Treaty on the Accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Communities, and have signed and ratified the third Convention of Lomé. An Act has been passed implementing the Fontainebleau Agreement on the future financing of the European Communities, including the correction of the British budgetary contribution.

My Government share the widespread public concern for the victims of the famine in Africa. They have continued to provide substantial emergency assistance both directly and through the European Community.

My Government have continued fully to honour their undertakings to the people of the Falkland Islands, while taking positive steps to seek more normal relations with Argentina. The Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong was signed last December and an Act consequent upon its terms was passed. My Government have reached agreement with Spain on the implementation of the Lisbon statement concerning Gibraltar.

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#### MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

I thank you for the provision which you have made for the honour and dignity of the Crown and for the public service

#### MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

My Government have maintained the policies necessary to bring down inflation and sustain economic growth. Inflation remains low, the output of the nation is at its highest level ever and continues to increase, as does the number of people in work.

Further steps have been taken to help the unemployed into jobs by extending the Youth Training Scheme and enlarging the Community Programme, and in other ways, including a reform of the structure of national insurance contributions.

To promote economic efficiency and encourage the spread of share ownership, not least among employees, my Government have continued their programme of returning state-owned businesses to the private sector, including the successful public flotation of British Telecommunications.

An Act has been passed to complete the transition of the Trustee Savings Banks to full private sector status and to permit wide public participation in their ownership.

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My Government have conducted a fundamental review of the social security system and published proposals for radical reform.

In addition, my Government have protected the real value of the retirement pension and other related benefits, and passed an act to improve employees' rights under occupational pension schemes, and to extend statutory sick pay.

#### MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

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



file

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

16 October 1985

I write to confirm that the Queen has now given Her approval to the draft speeches on the Prorogation and State Opening of Parliament which you submitted last week.

Tim Flesher

M Stark Esq  
Cabinet Office





10 DOWNING STREET

*Appd - C1*

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*

14 October 1985

**CONFIDENTIAL**

## THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT 1985

### My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

The Duke of Edinburgh and I were pleased to receive the State Visits of the Life President of Malawi in April and the President of Mexico and Senora de la Madrid in June. We were saddened by the devastation caused by the earthquake in Mexico in September, for which my Government provided prompt assistance.

We recall with much satisfaction the State Visit to Portugal in March. I have also visited Belize, and was in the Bahamas for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Our tour of Commonwealth countries in the Eastern Caribbean is still in progress.

My Government welcomed the decision of the Maldives and of St Vincent and the Grenadines to become full members of the Commonwealth.

My Government have maintained Britain's contribution to Western defence, and enhanced the United Kingdom's own defences through improvements in equipment and in the regular and reserve forces. They have played a full part in the Atlantic Alliance, and promoted British and Western defence interests outside the NATO area.

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**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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Members of the House of Commons

I thank you for the provision which you have made for the honour and dignity of the Crown and for the public service.

My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

My Government have maintained the policies necessary to bring down inflation and sustain economic growth. Inflation remains low, the output of the nation is at its highest level ever and continues to increase, as does the number of people in work.

Further steps have been taken to help the unemployed into jobs by extending the Youth Training Scheme and enlarging the Community Programme, and in other ways, including a reform of the structure of national insurance contributions.

To promote economic efficiency and encourage the spread of share ownership, not least among employees, my Government have continued their programme of returning state-owned businesses to the private sector, including the successful public flotation of British Telecommunications.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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My Government have conducted a fundamental review of the social security system and published proposals for radical reform.

In addition, my Government have protected the real value of the retirement pension and other related benefits, and passed an act to improve employees' rights under occupational pension schemes, and to extend statutory sick pay.

My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

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

**CONFIDENTIAL**



10 DOWNING STREET

*Appd - A*

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

*Margaret Thatcher*

14 October 1985

**CONFIDENTIAL**

## THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT 1985

### My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

I look forward with great pleasure to receiving His Highness the Amir of Qatar, their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain and the President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Frau von Weizsaecker on State Visits during the next 12 months.

I also look forward to paying a State Visit to Nepal in February, followed by visits to New Zealand and Australia and to paying a State Visit to China and visiting Hong Kong in October.

My Government continue to attach the highest importance to the maintenance of national security and the preservation of peace with freedom and justice. They will continue to play a full and active part in the Atlantic Alliance and to enhance the United Kingdom's own defences. They will make vigorous efforts to combat international terrorism.

My Government will continue to work for progress in arms control and disarmament negotiations and for greater cooperation and trust between East and West.

My Government welcome the accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Community and will introduce the necessary legislation. Within the Community, they will work for improved decision taking, strengthened cooperation on foreign policy, early completion of the common market, improvements in world trade rules and reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

While honouring their undertakings to the people of the Falkland Islands, my Government will continue to seek more normal relations with Argentina. They will also continue to discharge their obligations to the people of Hong Kong; and will propose provisions to implement the nationality arrangements arising from the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

My Government will work for peaceful change in South Africa: for the restoration of peace and stability in Lebanon: and for solutions to the conflict between Iraq and Iran and the Arab/Israel dispute. They will seek to restore an independent and non-aligned Afghanistan. They will support United Nations efforts for a settlement in Cyprus, and those of the Contadora Group to resolve the tensions in Central America.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

My Government will give full support to the Commonwealth, and play a constructive role at the United Nations. They will maintain a substantial aid programme; play their part in the relief of famine and of other disasters; and encourage investment in developing 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

Within the framework of firm monetary and fiscal policies designed to secure a continuing reduction in inflation, my Government will do all in their power to encourage the growth of new jobs. Firm control of public expenditure will be maintained, with a view to diminishing its share of overall national output and facilitating further reductions in the burden of income tax.

My Government will pursue vigorously their programme of privatisation, as a means both of improving the efficiency of the industries concerned, and of encouraging wider share ownership. Measures will be introduced to permit the transfer of the assets of the British Gas Corporation to the private sector and to enable the Atomic Energy Authority to operate as a trading fund from 1 April 1986 with a capital structure and borrowing powers.

A Bill will be proposed to introduce private capital into the British Airports Authority, to require larger local authority airports to be formed into companies, and to regulate certain airport activities.

My Government will bring forward legislation to introduce commercial management to my Naval Dockyards, as a significant contribution to encouraging a commercial approach and securing value for money in spending on defence.

Legislation will be introduced to facilitate funding by the industry of agricultural research, advice and related services; and to implement European Community arrangements to protect areas of particular environmental sensitivity.

**CONFIDENTIAL**



**CONFIDENTIAL**

Measures will be introduced to establish a new regulatory framework for the financial services sector, which will enhance its efficiency and competitiveness whilst providing greater safeguards for the interests of investors, and to modernise and liberalise the law governing Building Societies.

Measures will be brought forward to reform the operation of Wages Councils, to make provisions concerning the payment of wages and to amend the law on sex discrimination in employment.

Legislation will be introduced to encourage the sale of public sector flats to their tenants and wider private sector involvement in the ownership and management of council housing, and to improve the planning system.

For Scotland, Bills will be introduced to extend the rights of public sector tenants and to facilitate the private ownership of public sector housing stock, to improve legal aid arrangements, and to modify and extend the management structure of salmon fisheries, including further measures to combat illegal salmon fishing throughout Great Britain.

In Northern Ireland my Government will continue to support the security forces in enforcing the law and in working for the eradication of terrorism. They will seek widely acceptable arrangements for the devolution of power. They will seek to improve further their co-operation with the Government of the Irish Republic. Renewed efforts will be made to create and sustain employment, particularly by the encouragement of the private sector.

A Bill will be introduced to reform social security.

Legislation will be introduced for England and Wales to improve the management of schools and to promote the professional effectiveness of teachers.

Measures will be introduced to strengthen the powers of the police in combatting disorder, to modernise and codify the common law public order offences in England and Wales and to provide the courts in England and Wales with power to confiscate the proceeds of drug trafficking and to penalise the handling of such proceeds.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

A Bill will be introduced to remove statutory restrictions on shop opening hours.

A Bill will be brought before you to make new provision for the protection of animals used for experimental or other scientific purposes.

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**



*N*  
*W*

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

14 October 1985

*Dear Richard*

CARRYING THE CAP OF MAINTENANCE AT THE STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

As last year, it has been agreed that, should the Lord Chancellor be absent from the State Opening of Parliament, or should he be incapacitated during the ceremony itself, the Leader of the House of Lords will carry The Queen's Speech (though he will not use the Lord Chancellor's Purse).

The Leader of the House will be carrying the Cap of Maintenance again this year, and it is therefore necessary to arrange for someone else to carry the Cap if the Leader has to carry the Speech. If it is known in advance that the Leader will be carrying the Speech, Lord Young of Graffham will stand in to carry the Cap. I suggest that you should give me warning if Lord Young of Graffham is likely to be needed, and I will liaise with his office. I should be grateful if Stephen Ratcliffe (to whom I am sending a copy of this letter) could ensure that I am told of Lord Young of Graffham's movements during the 24 hours before the ceremony.

Should the Lord Chancellor become incapacitated during the ceremony, the Lord Privy Seal (who will be in the procession in any case) will take over the carrying of the Cap.

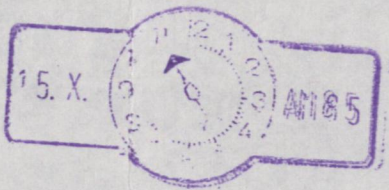
I am sending copies of this letter to Stephen Ratcliffe (Lord Young of Graffham's Office) (as indicated above), and also to Alison Smith (Lord Privy Seal's Office), Sir Philip Moore (Private Secretary to Her Majesty The Queen) and Tim Flesher (No 10 Downing Street).

*Yours ever*

*David*

D R BEAMISH

R C Stoate Esq  
Private Secretary to the Lord Chancellor



*Parly- Queen's speech file please*

MR LANGDON

COPY NO

*6*

cc Mr Watson  
Mr Stark  
Mr Eland  
Miss Drever, No 10 (2 copies)

*Rome*

PROCEDURE FOR PREPARING THE QUEEN'S SPEECHES  
ON THE PROROGATION AND OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

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The attached revised version (July 1985) of the procedure to be followed for preparing The Queen's Speeches supersedes the one issued in June 1981.

J ROBERTSON

14 October 1985

**RESTRICTED**

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

Guide to Procedure

1. At both the Opening and the Prorogation of each Session of Parliament a Queen's Speech is delivered before Members of both Houses. The Opening Speech, which is normally delivered by The Queen in person<sup>1</sup>, is a programme of the more important business for the coming Session. The Prorogation Speech, which is read on behalf of The Queen by the Lord Chancellor, is a review of business transacted during the Session which is just ending. The work of preparing the Speeches is undertaken in the Cabinet Office, where material provided by Departments is collated and drafts are prepared for submission, first to the Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee (QL), then to the Cabinet and finally to The Queen for approval<sup>2</sup>.

2. The detailed procedure differs somewhat between the Prorogation and the Opening Speeches, but both Speeches are normally handled at the same time by one Committee. The main stages are set out in the attached schedule, which deals primarily with a year in which there is no complication due to a General Election. Normally, QL Committee will have already prepared, and the Cabinet will have approved, a provisional legislative programme for the new Session before the preceding Summer recess. Where this is not so, the procedure may have to be modified.

3. In general, documents covering drafts of the Speeches are classified "Confidential", but on occasion the content of certain passages proposed for the Opening Speech may require a higher security classification.

Cabinet Office

Revised July 1985

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<sup>1</sup> If for any reason (as in 1959 and 1965) The Queen is unable to open Parliament in person, the Speech will be read on her behalf by the Lord Chancellor.

<sup>2</sup> Should The Queen be on tour while the Speeches are in preparation, Counsellors of State may have to approve them.

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ACTION	BY	APPROXIMATE TIMING	COMMENTS	DRAFT AT APPENDIX
1. Timetable	QL Secretary	Early June	A provisional timetable for the preparation of the Speeches is prepared. It is prudent to allow time for 2 meetings of QL and 2 of Cabinet, although the aim should be to manage with one meeting of each. The timetable for 1984 is appended as an example of when the Speeches are considered together. The timetable for 1980 is an example for a 'split' timetable. (1980 Prorogation and Opening of Parliament were delayed by 1 week due to the business of the 1979-80 Session not being completed.)	A
2. Letter to Ministers' Private Secretaries	QL Secretary	Mid-June	A letter seeking contributions to both Speeches is sent to the Private Secretaries of all departmental Ministers, with copies to Private Secretaries of other senior Ministers marked 'For Information' (Circulation B of standard list for letters to Private Secretaries (held in Committee Section)). About a month should be allowed for replies. If the new Session is likely to start in early November, contributions are required by mid-July.	B
3. Date of Prorogation and State Opening	QL Secretary	Late June	A meeting of the Business Managers is arranged to settle provisionally dates for the Summer Adjournment, the length of the spillover and dates for Prorogation and State Opening. PS/Leader of the House of Commons then writes to PS/Prime Minister with this information and No. 10 talk to the Palace to confirm the State Opening	

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ACTION	BY	APPROXIMATE TIMING	COMMENTS	DRAFT AT APPENDIX
3. (Continued)			date. PS/Chief Whip is subsequently responsible for advising when these dates should be announced.	
4. Prepare first drafts of Speeches	QL Secretary	late July/ early August	Departmental contributions are consolidated, with such editorial shortening and alteration as necessary, into first drafts of the Speeches which are then sent to the contributing Departments for comments at official level. Comments are requested by late August.	
5. Circulation of first drafts to QL Committee	QL Secretary	1 week before QL meeting	When the Chairman of QL has approved the drafts, they are circulated to QL Committee under cover of a Chairman's Note. They may form a single paper or two separate papers.	
6. Circulation of previous Speeches to QL Committee	QL Secretary	1 week before QL meeting	It may be helpful to the Committee to have by them the texts of last year's Speeches, although it is usually sufficient for the Chairman and Secretaries to have copies by them at the QL meetings.	
7. Meeting of QL Committee and follow-up	QL Secretary	Mid-Sept	One meeting should suffice. Provided the Committee gives clear guidance the drafts can be revised (in consultation with particular Departments as necessary) and circulated by the Chairman of QL to all members of the Cabinet for written comment.	C



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ACTION	BY	APPROXIMATE TIMING	COMMENTS	DRAFT AT APPENDIX
8. Circulation of draft Speeches to Cabinet	QL Secretary	late Sept (for meeting early in October)	The Chairman of QL approves the revised draft Speeches, taking account of Cabinet Ministers' comments; and submits them to Cabinet under a covering note. They may form a single paper or 2 separate papers.	D
			Revised drafts are if necessary circulated by the Chairman of QL for consideration at the following meeting of Cabinet.	E
9. Submission of final drafts to Prime Minister	PS/Secretary of Cabinet	pm of day on which Cabinet approves final drafts	The Secretary of the Cabinet submits final drafts to the Private Secretary to the Prime Minister.	F
10. Despatch of confidential text to printer	Head of Committee Section	Simul- taneously with 9.	Preparatory work by the printer at this stage will reduce the time needed for his last-minute work - see 14 below.	
11. Submission for The Queen's approval	PS/Prime Minister	As soon as PM approves	Draft prepared and typed by Private Office and sent to No. 10 for submission to The Queen.*	
12. Circulation of final drafts to members of Cabinet and QL	QL Secretary	As soon as The Queen approves	Any amendments suggested by The Queen need to be checked with Departments before final incorporation in the Speeches.	G

\* On occasions the drafts submitted by Private Office are used or No. 10 will retype.

**RESTRICTED**

ACTION	BY	APPROXIMATE TIMING	COMMENTS	DRAFT AT APPENDIX
13. Obtain last-minute amendments from Departments	QL Secretary (PS/Secretary of the Cabinet PS/Prime Minister)	Simul- taneously with 12.	A circular letter is sent to Private Secretaries of all departmental Ministers inviting last-minute amendments arising from changes in policy or factual corrections. (Any changes must be approved by the Chairman of QL; if they are of substance it may also be necessary to obtain the Prime Minister's and The Queen's approval.)	H
14. Printing and despatch of copies	Head of Committee Section	Preferably 7, and a minimum of 3, <u>working</u> days before delivery of Speech	If time is very short, overtime working will be necessary; but this increases costs. . . . If for any reason the text of either speech cannot be finalised until the very last minute, it may be necessary to print 2 alternative texts simultaneously. The precise timetable should always be agreed in advance with the Head of Committee Section and the printer.	
15. Distribution	Head of Committee Section, QL Secretary	48 hours before delivery of Speech	<u>Prorogation Speech</u> Copies are distributed in accordance with the arrangements at Appendix J, under cover of letters from QL Secretary. They should be accompanied by a distribution list, which is kept in Committee Section and which should be regularly updated.	J  K

RESTRICTED

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ACTION	BY	APPROXIMATE TIMING	COMMENTS	DRAFT AT APPENDIX
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	Head of Committee Section	48 hours before delivery of Speech	<u>Opening Speech</u> Copies are distributed in accordance with the arrange- ments at Appendix L, under cover of letters from the QL Secretary. They should be accompanied by a distribution list, which is kept in Committee Section and should be regularly updated.	L  M
--	---------------------------------	---	---	------------

*TEMPORARILY RETAINED S. Gray 20/10/15*

**THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS  
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)  
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT**

N

Head of  
Committee  
Section

Queen's Signature  
The Assistant Private  
Secretary 10 Downing Street  
should be informed when final  
copies of the Speeches will  
be available for The Queen.  
(It is customary for Her  
Majesty to sign the Proro-  
gation Speech in the top  
right hand corner of the  
page and the Opening Speech  
at the foot of the last  
page.)

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**RESTRICTED**

APPENDIX A

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

TIMETABLE JUNE-NOVEMBER 1984

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DATE	STAGE
Tuesday 19 June	Letter to Private Secretaries requesting contributions
Wednesday 18 July	Material from Departments due in Cabinet Office
Tuesday 7 August	Cabinet Office circulate officials' drafts
Thursday 23 August	Departmental replies due
Monday 3 September	QL Chairman circulates first 'Ministerial' drafts to QL Committee
Thursday 20 September	Drafts circulated to Cabinet for written comments
Thursday 27 September	Drafts circulated to Cabinet for discussion
Thursday 4 October	Cabinet meeting considers drafts
Monday 8 October	Drafts submitted to Prime Minister, and to The Queen
Monday 8 October	Hidden copies sent in confidence to the printer
Friday 19 October	Final texts circulated to Cabinet for information
Wednesday 24 October	Final texts to printer
<u>Tuesday 30 October</u>	Prorogation Speech, delivery from printer
<u>Friday 2 November (am)</u>	Opening Speech, delivery from printer
<u>Wednesday 31 October</u>	<u>Prorogation</u>
<u>Tuesday 6 November</u>	<u>Opening</u>

**RESTRICTED**

APPENDIX A (Contd.)

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

TIMETABLE JULY-NOVEMBER 1980

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DATE	STAGE
Tuesday 15 July	Letter to Private Secretaries requesting contributions
Wednesday 20 August	Material from Departments received in Cabinet Office
Tuesday 9 September	First drafts of Speeches submitted to the Home Secretary
Thursday 11 September	Draft Speeches circulated to QL Committee
Tuesday 16 September	First QL Committee Meeting
Monday 29 September	Revised drafts circulated to QL
Thursday 2 October	Second QL Meeting
Tuesday 14 October	Drafts circulated to Cabinet
Thursday 16 October	Cabinet considers draft Speeches
THENCE -	

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PROROGATION SPEECH	OPENING SPEECH		
Monday 20 October	Submitted to Prime Minister	Tuesday 21 October	Revised Speech circulated to Cabinet
*Friday 31 October	Submitted to The Queen	Thursday 23 October	Cabinet reconsiders Speech
Monday 3 November	The Queen approves Speech	Tuesday 28 October	Revised Speech circulated to Cabinet
Tuesday 4 November	Circulated to Departments for last minute comments	Thursday 30 October	Cabinet again considers revise
Wednesday 5 November	Deadline for draft comments	*Thursday 6 November	Submitted to Prime Minister
Thursday 6 November	Speech sent to printer	Friday 7 November	Submitted to The Queen
		Monday 10 November	The Queen approves Speech
		Monday 10 November	Circulated to Departments for last minute comments

\*Delay due to The Queen's absence abroad

8 \*Delay due to last minute changes

**RESTRICTED**

**RESTRICTED**

DRAFT

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PROROGATION SPEECH

OPENING SPEECH

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Tuesday 11 November	Copies received from Printer and circulated	Tuesday 11 November	Deadline for comments
Thursday 13 November	Prorogation at 11.00 pm <sup>ø</sup>	*Friday 14 November	Speech sent to Printer
		Tuesday 18 November	Copies received from Printer and circulated
		Thursday 20 November	State Opening of Parliament

<sup>ø</sup> This timing is unusual.  
See file.

\*Delay due to last minute changes.

**RESTRICTED**

**RESTRICTED**

DRAFT

APPENDIX B

Dear Private Secretary

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

During the Summer Adjournment The Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee will need to prepare drafts of The Queen's Speeches on the Prorogation and Opening of Parliament for consideration by Cabinet.

I should be grateful if you would let me have by .....  
the texts of any passages which your Minister wishes to propose for inclusion in the Speeches. Contributions should be short and clear and should give the exact wording of the suggested text. It should be assumed that each of the Speeches will follow the normal sequence with a section on foreign and European Community policies followed by one on domestic policies and legislation. Normally references to legislation are confined to the politically more important measures, corresponding broadly with the 'programme' category of Bills.

It would be helpful if you would use separate sheets of paper for the material proposed for each Speech, classify it CONFIDENTIAL, and let me have three copies of each text.

I am sending this letter to the Private Secretaries to 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

Private Secretary to

QL SECRETARY

Circulation B of standard list for letters to Private Secretaries held in Committee Section

**RESTRICTED**

**RESTRICTED**

DRAFT

APPENDIX C

Dear Private Secretary

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

I attach drafts of The Queen's Speeches on the Prorogation and Opening of Parliament which have been prepared following a discussion at a meeting of the Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee.

I should be grateful if you could let me know by whether your Minister wishes to comment on the terms of the drafts.

Yours sincerely

QL SECRETARY

The Private Secretary to -

[The same circulation as Appendix B]

**RESTRICTED**



RESTRICTED

APPENDIX D

CABINET

---

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

Note by the [Chairman of QL]

---

I attach, for the consideration of the Cabinet, drafts of The Queen's Speeches on the Prorogation of the current Session of Parliament and the Opening of the new Session, which have been prepared by The Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee.

[Any points of detail]

RESTRICTED

**RESTRICTED**

APPENDIX E

CABINET

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

Note by the [Chairman of QL]

---

I attach drafts of the two Queen's Speeches on the Prorogation and Opening of Parliament, which have been revised in accordance with the discussion in Cabinet on ..... The amended and added passages are indicated by side-lining.

[Any points of detail]

**RESTRICTED**

**RESTRICTED**

DRAFT

APPENDIX F

PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE  
PRIME MINISTER

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

I attach for the Prime Minister's approval drafts of the Queen's Speeches in the terms in which they were agreed by Cabinet today.  
[Any points of detail.]

If you could let me know as soon as the Prime Minister has approved the draft, I will let you have immediately a copy of the final version for the Prime Minister to submit to The Queen for her consideration. It will be necessary to obtain The Queen's approval of the drafts by ....., so that final instructions can be given to the printer.

I will circulate for the information of Cabinet and the other members of The Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee a copy of the Speeches as soon as they have been approved by The Queen.

A copy of this minute and of the draft Speeches go to the Lord President.

(Signed)

SECRETARY OF THE CABINET

**RESTRICTED**

RESTRICTED

APPENDIX G

CABINET

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

Note by the Secretary of the Cabinet

---

I attach, for the information of the Cabinet, copies of The Queen's  
Speeches on the Prorogation of Parliament and the Opening of the new  
Session in the form in which they have been approved by The Queen.

(Signed)

SECRETARY OF THE CABINET

Circulation: all members of Cabinet, and any non-Cabinet Members of  
QL (currently the Attorney-General, the Lord Advocate, the Chief Whip  
and the Captain of the Gentlemen-at-Arms).

RESTRICTED

**RESTRICTED**

DRAFT

APPENDIX H

Dear Private Secretary

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

The texts of The Queen's Speeches on the Prorogation and Opening of Parliament, which have now been approved by The Queen, are today being circulated to the Cabinet.

If it is essential to make any alteration to the Speeches please let me know immediately - at the latest by ..... in respect of the Prorogation Speech, and ..... in respect of the Opening Speech. You will understand that no changes can be made at this stage except for the most compelling reasons.

QL Secretary

The Private Secretary to

[Same circulation as Appendix C]

**RESTRICTED**

## THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT 1985

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR DESPATCH AND DISTRIBUTION OF COPIES

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

Recipients	No of copies	For distribution to -
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister	30+4 Stiff	Her Majesty The Queen (2 Stiff; 1 to be signed and returned and the other to be retained) Private Secretary to the Lord Chancellor (signed copy + 2 Stiff copies for the Lord Chancellor) Leader of the Opposition (1) Leader of the Liberal Party (1) Leader of the SDP (1) Leader of the Ulster Unionists (1)  Advance release to Press (20)
Private Secretary to the Leader of the House of Lords	10	Leader of the House (1) Leader of the Opposition (1) Leader of the Liberal Party (1) Leader of the SDP (1) Chief Whip (1) Editor of Official Report (Lords) (2)
Private Secretary to the Leader of the House of Commons	10+2 Stiff	Leader of the House (1) Mr Speaker (1 Stiff) Clerk at the Table (1 Stiff) Clerk of the Journals (2) Editor of Official Report (Commons) (2)
Clerk of the Parliaments	150	Printed Paper Office (150)
The Principal Clerk, Vote Office, House of Commons	500	Vote Office (500)
Private Secretary to the Chief Whip	1	Chief Whip (1)

RESTRICTED

DRAFT

APPENDIX K

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

To: The Private Secretary to the Prime Minister

I enclose 30 copies (4 being on stiff paper) of The Queen's Speech on the Prorogation of Parliament. These are for distribution in accordance with the usual arrangements which are shown on the enclosed distribution list.

To: The Clerk of the Parliaments,  
House of Lords

I enclose 150 copies of The Queen's Speech on the Prorogation of Parliament for the Printed Paper Office. Copies have been distributed as shown on the enclosed list.

To: Deliverer of the Vote, Vote Office,  
House of Commons

I enclose 500 copies of The Queen's Speech on the Prorogation of Parliament, to be made available in the Vote Office on Prorogation Day. The full distribution list is also enclosed.

To: The Private Secretary to the Leader of the House of Commons

I enclose 10 copies (2 being on stiff paper) of The Queen's Speech on the Prorogation of Parliament. These are for distribution in accordance with the usual arrangements, which are shown on the attached distribution list.

To: The Private Secretary to the Leader of the House of Lords

I enclose 10 copies of The Queen's Speech on the Prorogation of Parliament. These are for distribution in accordance with the usual arrangements which are shown on the attached distribution list.

To: The Private Secretary to the Chief Whip

I attach a copy of The Queen's Speech on the Prorogation of Parliament together with a copy of the distribution list.

RESTRICTED

## THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT 1985

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR DESPATCH AND DISTRIBUTION OF COPIES

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

Recipients	No of Copies	For distribution to -
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister	210+3 Special copies (The Queen's copies)	Her Majesty The Queen (2 Special - one to be signed and returned, the other to be retained)  Private Secretary to the Lord Chancellor (signed copy + one Special and 2 Ordinary) for Lord Chancellor  Leader of the Opposition (2) Leader of the Liberal Party (1) Leader of the SDP (1) Leader of the Ulster Unionists (1) Advance release to Press (200)
Private Secretary to the Leader of the House of Lords	15	Leader of the House (1) Leader of the Opposition (1) Leader of the Liberal Party (1) Leader of the SDP (1) Chief Whip (1) Mover and Seconder, House of Lords (2) (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)  Editor of Official Report (Lords) (2) Clerk of the Parliaments (1)
Private Secretary to the Leader of the House of Commons	10+2 Stiff	Leader of the House (2) Mr Speaker (1 Stiff) Clerk at the Table (1 Stiff) Editor of Official Report (Commons) (2) Clerk of the Journals (2)
Private Secretary to the Chief Whip	25	For Mover and Seconder, House of Commons and for issue to Opposition Front Bench



**RESTRICTED**

DRAFT

APPENDIX M

To:- The Private Secretary to the Prime Minister

I enclose three special and 210 ordinary copies of The Queen's Speech on the Opening of Parliament. They are for distribution in accordance with the usual arrangements which are shown on the accompanying distribution list.

.....

To:- The Private Secretary to the Leader of the House of Lords

I enclose 15 copies of The Queen's Speech on the Opening of Parliament, two to be shown in confidence, to the Mover and Seconder of the Motion in the House of Commons/Lords for an Address in reply to the Speech.

.....

To:- The Private Secretary to the Chief Whip

I enclose 25 copies of The Queen's Speech on the Opening of Parliament in accordance with the usual arrangements, which are shown on the accompanying distribution list.

.....

To:- The Private Secretary to the Leader of the House of Commons

I enclose 10 ordinary copies and 2 stiff copies of The Queen's Speech on the Opening of Parliament in accordance with the usual arrangements, which are shown on the accompanying distribution list.

Signed QL SECRETARY

**RESTRICTED**

RESTRICTED

DRAFT

APPENDIX N

*TEMPORARILY RETAINED. G. Gray 20/10/15*

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OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

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DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS: OUTLINE SPEECH

OPENING

(i) On proposer and seconder of the Loyal Address

(ii) Reply to speech of Leader of the Opposition including the following points:

- Mr Kinnock's speech and Labour Party Conference show that Labour's prescription has not changed.

- A fantasy world in which choices do not have to be made, eg. Joel Barnett "You name it we were pledged to increase it". The policy is the same only the figures have increased.

- The same tired old social contract already repudiated by the unions.

- The repeal of legislation giving union members a say and ballots before strikes.

- A return to penal taxation, eg. Hattersley's recent speech.

Labour's approach would turn the clock back to 1974. It demonstrates that Labour is a reactionary party.

Alliance would turn the clock back even further - to the 1960s.

By contrast the Government approach as set out in The Queen's Speech underlines the Conservative claim to be the only truly radical party - the most substantial programme of legislation for many years.

## THE ECONOMY

The Queen's Speech continues the approach which has brought:

- Fourth successive year of growth now up to 4 per cent at underlying rate.
- Investment at all time record.
- Five successive balance of payments surpluses.
- Living standards well up - over 600,000 new jobs.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

On unemployment, of course it remains high. This year will see:

- Two-year YTS
- Expanded community programme
- Implementation of budget measures to reduce labour costs.

The Queen's Speech contains further measures but what the Labour Party will not recognise is that the only way to keep jobs is to stay competitive. That is why the UK won against substantial competition the Saudi contract which will protect thousands of jobs - but did we hear the Opposition praising that deal?

## THE QUEEN'S SPEECH

The core of The Queen's Speech this year is a series of major measures to promote enterprise and efficiency.

Promotion of Enterprise and Efficiency

(a) In the public sector

The programme includes a further extension of the Government's policy of introducing commercial principles and where possible competition into the public sector. Different solutions are appropriate for different industries, eg.

- commercial management of the Royal Dockyards;
- trading fund for the Atomic Energy Authority;  
and
- full privatisation for British Airports Authority and British Gas.

All these will build on the success of the privatisation policy which has transferred 400,000 workers to the private sector in the last six years.

(b) In the private sector

The programme contains a series of proposals to remove obstacles to competition and to employment, eg.

- the Financial Services Bill
- the Building Societies Bill
- the Housing and Planning Bill
- the Shops Bill
- the Wages Bill

Value for money in public services

It is only by continuing these policies will we increase our national wealth sufficient to secure increases in expenditure on public services. Such increases have taken place but we need to get better value for money from existing programmes.

Only by increasing our national wealth could we secure increases in expenditure on public services. That has already happened but we need to get better value for money from existing programmes, eg.

- Social Security Bill will better direct expenditure towards those most in need.
- The Education Bill will improve teacher training and a better promotion structure.
- Continue programme of better management in the NHS, eg. new management structure and contracting out of services.

Next steps in the restoration of accountability to local government including

- the Local Government Bill to end the abuse of political advertising by local authorities and end contract discrimination
- continue progress with the success of rate capping
- progress with proposals for replacement of the rating system.

### The fight against crime and disorder

In addition to the major economic programme, the session contains:

- the most far-reaching revision of public order legislation since 1936 as well as new measures to combat football hooliganism.
- In addition we will take further steps to control the evil of drug abuse.

### The Pursuit of Peace Abroad

- Continue commitment to multilateral disarmament in comparison with Labour's policy of giving something for nothing.
- Prospects for Reagan/Gorbachev.

### CONCLUSION

Legislation in The Queen's Speech is the next step in the transformation of Britain begun in 1979. The Government has been radical, but radical within the Law. In the Debate on the Address last year, I identified the critical issue facing this country as acceptance by all political parties of the rule of law. We got our answer at the Labour Party Conference

- retrospective reimbursement of those who quite flagrantlly choose to flout the law
- politically-inspired refusal of the cases of those found guilty in the courts of criminal charges
- support for councillors who deliberately break the law and ignore the interests of those they purport to represent.

file

DJLAPF

PRIME MINISTER

cc: NW  
CAP  
DN  
SS  
NA

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS

You may like to give some thought now to the shape of the speech for the Debate on the Address on 6 November. I attach at Flag A a copy of the speech in its present form and at Flag B a copy of your speech last year.

There are two major differences from last year. First, the coal strike to which you devoted about a third of your speech last time is over; and second, the legislative programme which last year was rather disparate and dominated by the Abolition Bill is this year substantial and dominated by Bills reflecting the Government's major priorities. This suggests that the speech this year should be less of a general economic analysis and more of an explanation of the legislative programme. The outline speech attached is based on that assumption.

I do not think that the speech need concentrate too heavily on foreign affairs this year. You will only recently have spoken at the United Nations and your statement on CHOGM will, I hope, have dealt with the South Africa issue. The speech will need to look forward to the Reagan/Gorbachev meetings on disarmament. But I do not think that we need a general foreign affairs section.

One thing which you stressed last year is still current this year: that of adherence to the law. You picked out two points in the Debate on the Address last year: the support by the Labour Party of unions which break the law; and the willingness of Labour Councils to step outside the law. Both themes are equally relevant this year, and I suggest that you return to them.



I suggest, therefore, that the overall balance of the speech is directed towards demonstrating the falsity of the proposition that the Government has run out of steam. In contrast to the Opposition, who wish to repeat the experience of the 'Seventies, this year's legislative programme points very firmly to the 'Nineties.

Timothy Flesher

10 October 1985



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

10 October 1985

I enclose, as we discussed, copies of the latest drafts of The Queen's Speeches on the Prorogation and Opening of Parliament. As I mentioned, the Prime Minister will not be able to see these drafts until the weekend and therefore they remain subject to any comments Mrs. Thatcher may have. I would hope to get you the versions approved by the Prime Minister, together with the formal submission, in time for the Monday morning bag.

Timothy Flesher

Sir William Heseltine, K.C.V.O., C.B.

TIF  
Seen

Ref. A085/2595

MR WICKS  

---

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

I attach for the Prime Minister's approval drafts of The Queen's Speeches in the terms in which they were approved by Cabinet on 3 October.

2. If the Prime Minister agrees with the drafts, I should be grateful if you would arrange for them to be submitted to The Queen. It would be helpful if The Queen's approval, or any comments, could be communicated to us within about a week.

3. There may still need to be a change in the paragraph about Northern Ireland in the Speech on the Opening: whether that is necessary will depend on possible forthcoming events whose timing is still uncertain.

4. I am sending a copy of this minute and its enclosure to the Lord President of the Council as Chairman of QL.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

9 October 1985

file



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

9 October 1985

Dear Alison,

Last year the Lord Privy Seal contributed some extremely helpful notes for the Prime Minister's speech in the Debate on the Address. I know that Mrs Thatcher will be grateful if he could do the same this year. For background, perhaps I might say that the strength of the legislative programme this session is such that it is likely that the Prime Minister will be concentrating most on that aspect of the Gracious Speech. But, it would be extremely useful for the Prime Minister to have the Lord Privy Seal's thoughts on the themes which she should stress.

Given the Prime Minister's heavy schedule in the second half of this month, contributions will be gratefully received as soon as possible.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Tim Flesher'.

Tim Flesher

Miss Alison Smith  
Lord Privy Seal's Office



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

9 October 1985

*Dear Rachel,*

I am writing to commission material for the Prime Minister's speech in the Debate on the Address on 6 November. Could I commission from your Department short speaking notes on the Building Societies Bill, together with any other points which you would wish the Prime Minister to make in her speech.

Could I ask please for contributions by Thursday 17 October. I apologise for the somewhat early request which is prompted by the Prime Minister's extremely crowded schedule during October.

Tim Flesher

Mrs R Lomax  
HM Treasury



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

9 October 1985

*Dear Tom,*

I am writing to commission material for the Prime Minister's speech in the Debate on the Address on 6 November. Could I commission from your Department short speaking notes on the Financial Services Bill, together with any other material you think appropriate.

Could I ask please for contributions by Thursday 17 October. I apologise for the somewhat early request which is prompted by the Prime Minister's extremely crowded schedule during October.

*Yours*  
*Tim Flesher*  
Tim Flesher

J Mogg Esq  
Department of Trade and Industry



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

9 October 1985

*Dear Richard,*

I am writing to commission material for the Prime Minister's speech in the Debate on the Address on 6 November. Could I commission from your Department short speaking notes on the Civil Aviation Bill and any other material which you think appropriate.

Could I ask please for contributions by Thursday 17 October. I apologise for the somewhat early request which is prompted by the Prime Minister's extremely crowded schedule during October.

*Tim Flesher*  
Tim Flesher

R Allan Esq  
Department of Transport



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

9 October 1985

*Dear Richard,*

I am writing to commission materials for the Prime Minister's speech in the Debate on the Address on 6 November. Could I ask for short notes on the Dockyards Bill for next session from your Department, stressing, in particular, its contribution to improvements in the efficiency, together with any other material which you think might be included in the Prime Minister's speech. I should stress, however, that, especially since Mrs Thatcher is likely to be speaking at the United Nations only 2 weeks previously, the speech in the Debate on the Address is likely to concentrate on domestic issues and, in particular, the legislative programme.

Could I ask please for contributions by Thursday 17 October. I apologise for the somewhat early request which is prompted by the Prime Minister's extremely crowded schedule during October.

*Yours ever*

*Tim Flesher*

Tim Flesher

R Mottram Esq  
Ministry of Defence





10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

9 October 1985

*Dear Leigh,*

I am writing to commission material for the Prime Minister's speech in the Debate on the Address on 6 November. Could I ask for short notes on:

- i) The Wages Bill;
- ii) The introduction of the 2 year YTS;
- iii) The extension of the community programme.

In addition, I should be grateful for an up-beat section on the Government's policies of promoting enterprise and deregulation, especially in the context of this year's legislative programme, as a means of creating jobs. This list is not inclusive of course, and we would be grateful for any other contributions you wish to make.

Could I ask please for contributions by Thursday 17th October. I apologise for the somewhat early request which is prompted by the Prime Minister's extremely crowded schedule during October.

*Yours*  
*Tim*  
Tim Flesher

Leigh Lewis Esq  
Department of Employment



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

9 October 1985

*Dear Geob,*

I am writing to commission material for the Prime Minister's speech in the Debate on the Address on 6 November. Could I commission from your Department short speaking notes on the Atomic Energy Authority Bill and the Gas Bill, together with any other material you think appropriate.

Could I ask please for contributions by Thursday 17 October. I apologise for the somewhat early request which is prompted by the Prime Minister's extremely crowded schedule during October.

*Yours*  
*TF*

Tim Flesher

G Dart Esq  
Department of Energy



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

9 October 1985

*Dear Sir,*

I am writing to commission material for the Prime Minister's speech in the Debate on the Address on 6 November. Could I commission from your Department short notes on next session's Education Bill, together with any other material which you think might be appropriate.

Could I ask please for contributions by Thursday 17 October. I apologise for the somewhat early request which is prompted by the Prime Minister's extremely crowded schedule during October.

It may be that we shall need material on the teachers' pay dispute but we will ask for this much nearer the time if there is a need for the Prime Minister to cover this.

*Yours*

*T. F.*

Tim Flesher

R Smith Esq  
Department of Education and Science



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

9 October 1985

*Dear R.A.,*

I am writing to commission material for the Prime Minister's speech in the Debate on the Address on 6 November. Could I commission from your Department short speaking notes on:

- i) the Housing and Planning Bill;
- ii) the Local Government Bill;
- iii) the rate reform;
- iv) the success of ratecapping;
- v) other reforms in local authority finance, eg capital controls;
- vi) Liverpool.

Could I ask please for contributions by Thursday 17 October. I apologise for the somewhat early request which is prompted by the Prime Minister's extremely crowded schedule during October. This does not, however, apply to the speaking notes on Liverpool which, given the fluidity of the situation, we shall not need until much nearer the time.

*Yours  
T.F.*  
Tim Flesher

R Young Esq  
Department of the Environment



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

9 October 1985

*Dear Tony,*

I am writing to commission material for the Prime Minister's speech in the Debate on the Address on 6 November. Could I commission from your Department material on the Social Security Review and the forthcoming Bill, together with any other material you think appropriate including new initiatives in the management of the Health Service.

Could I ask please for contributions by Thursday 17 October. I apologise for the somewhat early request which is prompted by the Prime Minister's extremely crowded schedule during October.

It may be that the material on the Social Security Review will need to be updated nearer the time but it will be helpful if you could provide such material as is appropriate at present.

*Yours*

*Tim Flesher*

Tim Flesher

T Laurance Esq  
DHSS



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

9 October 1985

*Dear Stephen,*

I am writing to commission material for the Prime Minister's speech in the Debate on the Address on 6 November. Could I ask your Department for short speaking notes on the following:

- i) Shops Bill;
- ii) the Public Order Bill;
- iii) policing in the inner cities;
- iv) new provisions to control drug trafficking.

Could I ask please for contributions by Thursday 17 October. I apologise for the somewhat early request which is prompted by the Prime Minister's extremely crowded schedule during October.

*Yours*

*Tim*

Tim Flesher

S Boys-Smith Esq  
Home Office

*Mr Flesher*



10 DOWNING STREET

MISS ROBILLIARD

Could you ask Mr Thatcher  
whether he wants to attend  
the State Opening of Parliament  
on 6 November?

T.

*No, thank you*

(TIM FLESHER)

*A 4/10*

3 October 1985

*Passed to Black Rod's  
office 4/10 AP.*



Ref. A085/2515

PRIME MINISTER

The Queen's Speeches on the Prorogation and Opening of Parliament  
(C(85) 22)

## BACKGROUND

*Flay A* — The draft Queen's Speeches attached to the Lord President's memorandum (C(85) 22) have been prepared by the Queen's Speeches and Legislation Committee (QL) from contributions provided by Departments. The basis is the legislative programme agreed by Cabinet on 6 June (CC(85) 19th Conclusions) with the addition of two Bills to deal with the confiscation of the proceeds of drug trafficking and scientific experiments on animals and the substitution of the Salmon Fisheries Bill for the Law Reform (Parent and Child) (Scotland) Bill. A complete list of the programme as it now stands is attached at Annex A.

*Flay B* — 2. The present texts of the Speeches reflect comments made by Ministers on earlier drafts and there should be little need for detailed discussion of either the substance or the drafting. Since the Lord President's memorandum was circulated, the Lord Chancellor has suggested that a reference to the earthquake in Mexico might be inserted in the Prorogation Speech. The Secretary of State for Scotland has pointed out a number of changes which need to be made in paragraphs 18, 21 and 22 of the Opening Speech to make it clearer that those changes in the law will apply to England and Wales only. These points can be taken on board by the Secretary of the Cabinet, together with any other points of drafting which arise in discussion. There are no outstanding substantive issues.





## HANDLING

3. You will wish to ask the Lord President to introduce his memorandum. You may then find it convenient to proceed first with discussion of the Prorogation Speech. You may wish to ask the Lord Chancellor (who delivers the Speech) if he has any final points. He may wish to suggest a form of words for a reference to the Mexican earthquake (perhaps at paragraph 7, which already deals with the famine in Africa).

4. On the Opening Speech you will wish to ask if there are any points of substance; if not, any drafting points should be sent to the Secretary of the Cabinet.

5. You will wish to indicate that there is always the possibility of last-minute changes to reflect sufficiently important developments.

## CONCLUSIONS

6. It would be convenient to send both Speeches to be printed on 24 October, although the Opening Speech could be deferred by a few days if necessary. It seems unlikely that the Cabinet will wish to reconsider the Speeches (if they wished to do so, it would have to be at a specially arranged Cabinet early in the week of 14 October and that would leave little time for The Queen to comment). It would therefore be preferable if Cabinet could approve both Speeches at this meeting, subject to any last-minute alterations. You may therefore wish to guide the Cabinet:

(a) if any substantive issues are raised, to invite the Lord President, in consultation with Ministers concerned, to revise the draft Speeches attached to C(85) 22 as necessary in the light of the discussion;



(b) subject to (a), and to any further changes necessary in the light of subsequent developments or minor drafting changes, to approve the draft Speeches for submission to The Queen.

RIA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

CONQUEROR

2 October 1985

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1985/86

Essential (4)

L	1.	MOD	Armed Forces
L	2.	FCO	European (Spanish and Portuguese Accession)
	3.	FCO	Crown Agents (Waiver of Interest)
	4.	NIO	Northern Ireland (Loans)

Programme (23)

	17.	MAFF	Agriculture
	19.	MOD	Royal Dockyards
L	20.	DES	Education
	22.	DEm	Wages
	25.	DEn	Atomic Energy Authority
	25a.	DEn	Gas
	27	DOE	Housing and Planning
	28.	DOE	Local Government
	34.	FCO	Commonwealth Development Corporation (Overseas Subsidiaries)
	35.	DHSS	Social Security
L	38.	HO	Animals (Scientific Procedures)
	39.	HO	Shops
	41.	HO	Public Order
L	41a.	HO	Drug Trafficking
L	46.	LCD	Latent Damage
	49.	OAL	Museum of London (Amendment)
	50.	SO	Housing (Scotland)
L	51.	SO	Legal Aid (Scotland)
L	53.	SO	Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries
	56.	DTI	Financial Services
	61.	DTp	Civil Aviation
	62.	HMT	Building Societies
	62a.	DTp	Okehampton Bypass

'L' indicates a presumption that the Bill will be introduced in the House of Lords, although the final decision will be taken by Legislation Committee.

CONFIDENTIAL

Uncontroversial (8)

64.	DES	Fellowship of Engineering and Further Education Unit (Grants)
65.	FCO	Superannuation (British Council etc)
66.	FCO	Irish Soldiers and Sailors' Land Trust (Winding Up)
L 45.	LCD	Public Trustee and Funds Administration
L 69.	LCD	Family and Matrimonial (Miscellaneous Provisions)
L 70.	LCD	Land Registration
L 71.	DTI	Regulation/Outer Space
L 72.	DTI	Trade Marks (Consequential Amendments)

Contingent (10)

5.	DEm	Sex Discrimination (Amendment)
6.	DOE	Local Government (Commissioners)
8.	DOE	Private Water Supplies
9.	FCO	Australia (Request and Consent)
10.	FCO	Territorial Sea
11.	FCO	Arms Control Observers and Inspectors (Immunities)
12.	DTI	Companies (Companies Registration Office and Charges)
14.	DTI	British Shipbuilders (Borrowing Powers)
15.	DTI	Export Credits (ECGD)
16.	DTP	Channel Fixed Link

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
WHITEHALL  
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

The Private Secretary to  
the Lord President  
Privy Council Office  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AT

N

30 September 1985

Dear Joan,

with TF?

The Secretary of State was grateful to receive copies of the draft Speeches on the Prorogation and Opening of Parliament attached to the Lord President's minute of 17 September to the Prime Minister. He has at present no changes to propose to the references to Northern Ireland in either. However, developments in the Anglo-Irish talks over the next few weeks may mean that some last minute alterations will be necessary.

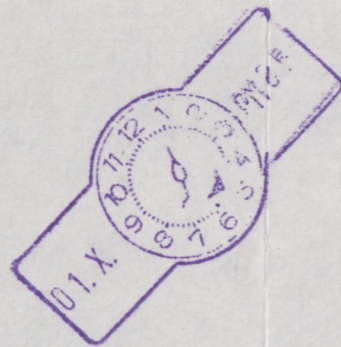
I am sending copies of this letter to Private Secretaries to Members of the Cabinet, to the Attorney General, the Lord Advocate, the two Chief Whips, the Minister of State (Privy Council Office) and Sir R Armstrong.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Duke-Evans

J B DUKE-EVANS  
Assistant Private Secretary

**CONFIDENTIAL**





PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

26 September 1985

*Dear Douglas*

*W 307*

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

Thank you for your letter of 24 September about the outcome of QL's further consideration of the programme. I do, of course, understand what you have in mind on the Drugs Bill; but I have to say that the imbalance of the programme is such that there is a real risk that some Bills could not be got through the Lords at all unless there is more business for our House in the earlier part of the session. I am sorry therefore that I must ask you to accept that this Bill should be introduced in the Lords.

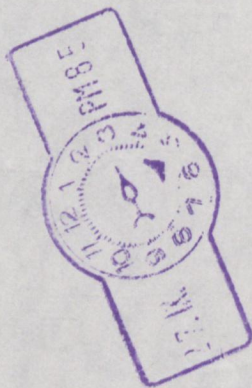
I can see the risk of Peers making difficulties with what I entirely accept will be a complex piece of legislation. But, wearing my Leader's hat, I think I would only say by way of reply that if this risk is a real one it might be better to tackle the problem earlier on. Besides, it is more than possible that Peers who have experience in these areas might actually contribute to getting some of the difficult legal aspects right before the Bill is taken in the Commons.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of QL, Sir Robert Armstrong and to the QL Secretariat.

*Yours in  
W.H.H.*

The Rt. Hon. Douglas Hurd, MP.

Queens Speech: Parliament P 6







BALMORAL CASTLE

25th September, 1985.

Dear Nigel,

Thank you for your letter of 24th September, which I have laid before The Queen.

Her Majesty is pleased to approve that Lord Whitelaw should carry the Cap of Maintenance at this year's Opening of Parliament.

Yours was,  
Philip Glanville

---

Nigel Wicks, Esq., CBE.

PARLIAMENT  
QUEEN'S SPEECHES  
PT 6





BALMORAL CASTLE

25th September, 1985.

*Dear Tim,*

I write in reply to your letter of 23rd September to say that The Queen will be accompanied by The Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips at the Opening of Parliament on Wednesday 6th November 1985.

*Yours truly,*

*Philip & Louise*

---

Tim Flesher, Esq.

PARLIAMENT

QUEEN'S SPEECHES  
PT 6





QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

24 September 1985

Dear Willie,

N 25/9

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

I am extremely grateful for the fact that QL has agreed to add to the legislative programme Bills dealing with the confiscation of proceeds of drug trafficking and scientific experiments on animals. I am particularly appreciative of the support which you and others have given for the inclusion of the latter Bill. I am sure this is the right decision; and we will do everything we can to ensure that progress on the preparation of the Bill is kept up.

Can I just add one further thought on the Drugs Trafficking Bill<sup>?</sup> I see that it has been selected for introduction in the House of Lords. I fully understand the timetable considerations which no doubt lie behind that. I do wonder, however, if some of the political impact of the Bill may be lost if it is not introduced in the Commons, particularly if individual Peers make difficulties with what is bound to be, I am afraid, a pretty complex piece of legislation.

Finally, on the draft speech itself, with which I am otherwise entirely content - we would prefer, on balance, the deletion of the square bracketed word in the reference to the Shops Bill in paragraph 23.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of QL, Sir Robert Armstrong and to the QL Secretariat.

Yours,

Douglas

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw, CH, MC

file



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

24 September 1985

Opening of Parliament

Thank you for your letter of 20 September asking whom the Prime Minister would wish to recommend to carry the Cap of Maintenance at this year's Opening of Parliament.

The Prime Minister would like to suggest Lord Whitelaw. I should be grateful if you could seek The Queen's approval to this proposal.

I am copying this letter to Jean McNaughton (Lord President's Office) and to David Beamish (Government Whips' Office).

NIGEL WICKS

The Rt Hon Sir Philip Moore GCB GCVO CMG

Pam Opening P+6

PRIME MINISTER

Opening of Parliament

The Palace have asked whom you wish to propose for carrying the Cap of Maintenance at the Opening of Parliament. Lord Whitelaw, who did it last year, has agreed to carry it this year if you are content.

Agree?

Yes

T.F.

TIM FLESHER

23 September 1985



PAM Opening P+6

11.11



CF - Questions  
dealing with this



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

23 September 1985

State Opening of Parliament

I should be grateful to know which immediate members of The Queen's family will be accompanying Her to the Opening of Parliament on Wednesday 6 November.

TIM FLESHER

Robert Fellowes Esq LVO



BALMORAL CASTLE

20th September, 1985.

Dear Nigel.

I should be grateful to know whom  
The Prime Minister would wish to  
recommend to carry the Cap of Maintenance  
at the Opening of Parliament on Wednesday  
6th November 1985.

Yours was,

Philip Snow

Nigel Wicks, Esq., CBE.



BALTIMORE CASTLE



CONFIDENTIAL



grateful if colleagues who have comments on the drafts could let me have them, with copies to the QL Secretariat, no later than Tuesday 24 September. This does not of course preclude any further changes which might be necessary in the light of developments.

4. I am sending copies of this minute to members of Cabinet, to the Attorney General, the Lord Advocate, the two Chief Whips, the Minister of State (Privy Council Office) and Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. MacNaughton".

(Private Secretary to the Lord President)

Approved by the Lord President  
and signed in his absence

Privy Council Office  
17 September 1985

CONFIDENTIAL

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1985/86

Essential (4)

L	1.	MOD	Armed Forces
L	2.	FCO	European (Spanish and Portuguese Accession)
	3.	FCO	Crown Agents (Waiver of Interest)
	4.	NIO	Northern Ireland (Loans)

Programme (23)

	17.	MAFF	Agriculture
	19.	MOD	Royal Dockyards
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	22.	DEm	Wages
	25.	DEn	Atomic Energy Authority
	25a.	DEn	Gas
	27	DOE	Housing and Planning
	28.	DOE	Local Government
	34.	FCO	Commonwealth Development Corporation (Overseas Subsidiaries)
	35.	DHSS	Social Security
L	38.	HO	Animals (Scientific Procedures)
	39.	HO	Shops
	41.	HO	Public Order
L	41a.	HO	Drug Trafficking
L	46.	LCD	Latent Damage
	49.	OAL	Museum of London (Amendment)
	50.	SO	Housing (Scotland)
L	51.	SO	Legal Aid (Scotland)
L	53.	SO	Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries
	56.	DTI	Financial Services
	61.	DTp	Civil Aviation
	62.	HMT	Building Societies
	62a.	DTp	Okehampton Bypass

'L' indicates a presumption that the Bill will be introduced in the House of Lords, although the final decision will be taken by Legislation Committee.

2

CONFIDENTIAL

Uncontroversial (8)

	64.	DES	Fellowship of Engineering and Further Education Unit (Grants)
	65.	FCO	Superannuation (British Council etc)
	66.	FCO	Irish Soldiers and Sailors' Land Trust (Winding Up)
L	45.	LCD	Public Trustee and Funds Administration
L	69.	LCD	Family and Matrimonial (Miscellaneous Provisions)
L	70.	LCD	Land Registration
L	71.	DTI	Regulation/Outer Space
L	72.	DTI	Trade Marks (Consequential Amendments)

Contingent (10)

	5.	DEm	Sex Discrimination (Amendment)
	6.	DOE	Local Government (Commissioners)
	8.	DOE	Private Water Supplies
	9.	FCO	Australia (Request and Consent)
	10.	FCO	Territorial Sea
	11.	FCO	Arms Control Observers and Inspectors (Immunities)
	12.	DTI	Companies (Companies Registration Office and Charges)
	14.	DTI	British Shipbuilders (Borrowing Powers)
	15.	DTI	Export Credits (ECGD)
	16.	DTP	Channel Fixed Link



THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT 1985

1. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

I look forward with great pleasure to receiving His Highness the Amir of Qatar, [their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain] and [the President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Frau von Weizsaecker] on State Visits during the next 12 months.

2. I also look forward to paying a State Visit to Nepal in February, followed by visits to New Zealand and Australia and to paying a State Visit to China and visiting Hong Kong in October.

3. My Government continues to attach the highest importance to the maintenance of national security and the preservation of peace with freedom and justice. They will continue to play a full and active part in the Atlantic Alliance and to enhance the United Kingdom's own defences. They will make vigorous efforts to combat international terrorism.

4. My Government will continue to work for progress in arms control and disarmament negotiations and for greater cooperation and trust between East and West.

5. [My Government will introduce a Bill on the accession of Spain and Portugal, which they greatly welcome, to the European Communities. They will continue to work for the further development of the European Community; reforms in the Common Agricultural Policy; early completion of the common market in goods and services; and close cooperation on foreign policy and security issues.]

6. While honouring their undertakings to the people of the Falkland Islands, my Government will continue to seek more normal relations with Argentina. They will also continue to discharge their obligations to the people of Hong Kong; and will propose provisions to implement the nationality arrangements arising from the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

CONFIDENTIAL

7. My Government will work for peaceful change in South Africa: for the restoration of peace and stability in Lebanon: and for solutions to the conflict between Iraq and Iran and the Arab/Israel dispute. They will seek to restore an independent and non-aligned Afghanistan. They will support United Nations efforts for a settlement in Cyprus, and those of the Contadora Group to resolve the tensions in Central America.

8. My Government will give full support to the Commonwealth, and play a constructive role at the United Nations. They will maintain a substantial aid programme; play their part in the relief of famine and of other disasters; and encourage investment in developing countries.

9. Members of the House of Commons

Estimates for the Public Service will be laid before you.

10. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

Within the framework of firm monetary and fiscal policies designed to secure a continuing reduction in inflation, my Government will do all in its power to encourage the growth of new jobs. Firm control of public expenditure will be maintained, with a view to diminishing its share of overall national output and facilitating further reductions in the burden of income tax.

11. My Government will pursue vigorously its programme of privatisation, as a means both of improving the efficiency of the industries concerned, and of encouraging wider share ownership. Measures will be introduced to permit the transfer of the assets of the British Gas Corporation to the private sector and to enable the Atomic Energy Authority to operate as a trading fund from 1 April 1986 with a capital structure and borrowing powers.

12. A Bill will be proposed to introduce private capital into the British Airports Authority, to require larger local authority airports to be formed into companies, and to regulate certain airport activities.

13. My Government will bring forward legislation to introduce commercial management to my Naval Dockyards, as a significant contribution to encouraging a commercial approach and securing value for money in its spending on defence.

14. Legislation will be introduced to facilitate funding by the industry of agricultural research, advice and related services; and to implement European Community arrangements to protect areas of particular environmental sensitivity.

15. Measures will be introduced to establish a new regulatory framework for the financial services sector, which will enhance its efficiency and competitiveness whilst providing greater safeguards for the interests of investors, and to modernise and liberalise the law governing Building Societies.

16. Measures will be brought forward to reform the operation of Wages Councils, to make provisions concerning the payment of wages and to make certain amendments to the law on sex discrimination in employment [following a judgement of the European Court of Justice.]

17. Legislation will be introduced to encourage the sale of public sector flats to their tenants and wider private sector involvement in the ownership and management of council housing, to improve the planning system and to provide greater control over the storage of hazardous materials.

18. For Scotland, Bills will be introduced to extend the rights of public sector tenants and to facilitate the private ownership of public sector housing stock, to improve legal aid arrangements, and to modify and extend the management structure of salmon fisheries, including strengthening measures to combat illegal salmon fishing.

19. In Northern Ireland my Government will continue to support the security forces in enforcing the law and in working for the eradication of terrorism. They will seek widely acceptable arrangements for the devolution of power. They will seek to improve further their co-operation with the Government of the Irish Republic. Renewed efforts will be made to create and sustain employment, particularly by the encouragement of the private sector.

20. A Bill will be introduced to reform social security.

21. Legislation will be introduced to improve the management of schools and to promote the professional effectiveness of teachers.

22. Measures will be introduced to strengthen the powers of the police to prevent disorder, to modernise and codify the common law public order offences in England and Wales and to provide the Courts with power to confiscate the proceeds of drug trafficking and to penalise the handling of such proceeds.

23. A Bill will be introduced to remove [all] statutory restrictions on shop opening hours.

24. A Bill will be brought before you to make new provision for the protection of animals used for experimental or other scientific purposes.

25. Other measures will be laid before you.

26. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

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

**THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT 1985**

1. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

The Duke of Edinburgh and I were pleased to receive the State Visits of the Life President of Malawi in April and the President of Mexico and Senora de la Madrid in June.

2. We recall with much satisfaction the State Visit to Portugal in March. I have also visited Belize, and was in the Bahamas for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Our tour of Commonwealth countries in the Eastern Caribbean is still in progress.

3. My Government welcomed the decision of the Maldives and of St Vincent and the Grenadines to become full members of the Commonwealth.

4. My Government have maintained Britain's contribution to Western defence, and enhanced the United Kingdom's own defences through improvements in equipment and in the regular and reserve forces. They have played a full part in the Atlantic Alliance, and promoted British and Western defence interests outside the NATO area.

5. My Government have continued to work vigorously for agreements on verifiable arms control and disarmament, and to seek improved relations with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. They warmly welcomed the opening of talks in Geneva between the United States and the Soviet Union and fully support the United States' efforts to reach concrete agreements.

CONFIDENTIAL

6. My Government have signed the Treaty on the Accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Communities, and have signed and ratified the third Convention of Lome. An Act has been passed implementing the Fontainebleau Agreement on the future financing of the European Communities, including the correction of the British budgetary contribution.
  
7. My Government share the widespread public concern for the victims of the famine in Africa. They have continued to provide substantial emergency assistance both directly and through the European Community.
  
8. My Government have continued fully to honour their undertakings to the people of the Falkland Islands, while taking positive steps to seek more normal relations with Argentina. The Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong was signed last December and an Act consequent upon its terms was passed. My Government have reached agreement with Spain on the implementation of the Lisbon statement concerning Gibraltar.
  
9. My Government have supported efforts to restore the independence and non-aligned status of Afghanistan. They have urged peaceful change in South Africa and the early independence of Namibia.
  
10. My Government welcomed to the United Kingdom in June the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China. The great importance my Government attach to their relations with the Countries of South East and South Asia was marked by the Prime Minister's visit there in April.

11. Members of the House of Commons

I thank you for the provision which you have made for the honour and dignity of the Crown and for the public service.

12. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

My Government have maintained the policies necessary to bring down inflation and sustain economic growth. Inflation remains low, the output of the Nation is at its highest level ever and continues to increase, as does the number of people in work.

13. Further steps have been taken to help the unemployed into jobs by extending the Youth Training Scheme and enlarging the Community Programme, and in other ways, including a reform of the structure of national insurance contributions.

14. To promote economic efficiency and encourage the spread of share ownership, not least among employees, my Government have continued their programme of returning State-owned businesses to the private sector, including the successful public flotation of British Telecommunications.

15. An Act has been passed to complete the transition of the Trustee Savings Banks to full private sector status and to permit wide public participation in their ownership.

16. An Act has been passed to increase competition in the provision of local bus services in Great Britain and to enable the operations of the National Bus Company to be transferred to the private sector.



17. Legislation has been enacted to make further provision for the payment of grants to the National Coal Board and to abolish the British National Oil Corporation.
18. Legislation has been enacted to remove the statutory levy on cinema admissions, to provide for alternative financial assistance for film production and to reduce the regulatory burden on the film and cinema industries.
19. An Act has been passed for the better protection of food and the environment.
20. An Act has been passed to establish in England and Wales a Crown Prosecution Service independent of the police, and to enable time limits to be imposed on criminal proceedings.
21. An Act has been passed giving the right to vote at Parliamentary and European Parliament elections to many British citizens resident abroad, and extending postal and proxy voting to electors who cannot reasonably be expected to vote in person.
22. Legislation has been passed to establish a comprehensive statutory framework governing the interception of communications.
23. An Act has been passed to deal with the problem of drunkenness at designated sporting events.
24. Considerable advance has been made in the consolidation of our statute law; provision has been made to apply international Conventions on child abduction and for the administration of justice.

25. An Act has been passed to abolish the Greater London Council and the Metropolitan County Councils on 1st April 1986 and to transfer most of their functions to the borough and district councils.

26. In Northern Ireland, my Government has attached high importance to the maintenance of law and order. They have continued the search for ways in which responsibility can be returned to a local administration on a widely acceptable basis. They have sought to develop a solid working relationship with the Government of the Republic of Ireland.

27. For Scotland, measures have been passed to introduce a rebate scheme following rating revaluation, to establish trustee bodies to manage certain Scottish institutions, and to make a number of reforms in Scots law.

28. Legislation has been passed to reform insolvency law in England and Wales, and in Scotland.

29. My Government have published proposals to improve the quality of school education, the effectiveness of teachers and the development of higher education into the next decade.

30. My Government have conducted a fundamental review of the social security system and published proposals for radical reform.

31. In addition, my Government have protected the real value of the retirement pension and other related benefits, and passed an act to improve employees' rights under occupational pension schemes, and to extend statutory sick pay.

32. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

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

Qf 0011

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CABINET OFFICE  
70 WHITEHALL  
LONDON SW1A 2AS

01-998 XX22 XXK  
233 7251

23 August 1985

Dear Private Secretary

*will request if req*

QUEEN'S SPEECHES ON THE PROROGATION AND OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

I was very grateful for the prompt responses to my letter of 9 August and in particular to the Foreign Office and Northern Ireland Office for the considerable reductions which they were able to make in their contributions to the speeches.

I now attach a further revised draft which includes the Treasury contribution. As the latter is not as long as I had feared, I have been able to be more receptive to the requests for reinsertions from the Home Office and the Department of the Environment than might otherwise have been the case. However, the almost certain need to include material on bills not yet approved as part of the programme means that we have no room for manoeuvre, and I have not therefore felt able to include the passage on the Lord Chancellor's bills (most of which are Second Reading Committee Bills) or the changes proposed by the Department of Employment.

These and other issues will, of course, be considered by QL when they meet on 11 September and all Ministers will have an opportunity to comment on the draft as approved by QL when it is circulated to Cabinet.

If there are any further new comments I would be grateful for them by 30 August. If necessary, they can be telephoned to Simon Hickson on 29 or 30 August.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries of all Ministers in the Cabinet, to the Law Officers, and to the Chief Whips of both Houses.

Yours sincerely

R WATSON  
QL Secretary

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT 1985

1. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

I look forward with great pleasure to receiving His Highness the Amir of Qatar, [their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain] and [the President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Frau von Weizsaecker] on State Visits during the next 12 months.

2. I also look forward to paying a State Visit to Nepal in February, followed by visits to New Zealand and Australia and [to paying a State Visit to China and visiting Hong Kong in October].

3. My Government's highest priority remains the maintenance of national security and the preservation of peace with freedom and justice. They will continue to play a full and active part in the Atlantic Alliance and to enhance the United Kingdom's own defences. They will make vigorous efforts to combat international terrorism.

4. With their Allies, my Government will continue to work for progress in arms control and disarmament negotiations and for greater cooperation and trust between East and West.

5. My Government will introduce a Bill on the accession of Spain and Portugal, which they greatly welcome, to the European Communities. They will continue to work for the further development of the European Community: reforms in the Common Agricultural Policy: early completion of the common market in goods and services: and close cooperation on foreign policy and security issues.

6. My Government will fully honour their undertakings to the people of the Falkland Islands while continuing to seek more normal relations between the United Kingdom and Argentina. They will continue to discharge their obligations to the people of Hong Kong; and will propose provisions to implement the nationality arrangements arising from the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

7. My Government will work for peaceful change in South Africa: for the restoration of peace and stability in Lebanon: and for solutions to the conflict between Iraq and Iran and the Arab/Israel dispute. They will seek to restore an independent and non-aligned Afghanistan. They will support United Nations efforts for a settlement of the Cyprus problem, and those of the Contadora Group to resolve peacefully the tensions in Central America.

8. My Government will give full support to the Commonwealth, and play a constructive role at the United Nations. They will maintain a substantial aid programme; play their part in the relief of famine and other disasters; and encourage investment in developing countries.

9. Members of the House of Commons

Estimates for the Public Service will be laid before you.

10. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

Within the framework of firm monetary and fiscal policies designed to secure a further and continuing reduction in inflation, my Government will do all in its power to encourage the growth of new jobs. Firm control of public expenditure will be maintained, with a view to diminishing its share of overall national output and facilitating further reductions in the burden of income tax.

11. My Government will press ahead vigorously with its programme of privatisation, as a means both of improving the efficiency of the industries concerned, and of encouraging wider share ownership. Measures will be introduced to permit the transfer of all the assets of the British Gas Corporation to the private sector and to enable the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority to operate as a Trading Fund from 1 April 1986.

12. A Bill will be proposed to introduce private capital into the British Airports Authority, to require sizeable local authority airports to be formed into companies, and to regulate certain airport activities.

13. My Government intends to introduce commercial management to my Naval Dockyards, as a significant contribution to encouraging a commercial approach and securing value for money in its spending on Defence. Legislation will be introduced to give effect to this.

14. Legislation will be introduced to facilitate industry funding of agricultural research, advice and related services; and to implement European Community arrangements to protect areas of particular environmental sensitivity.

15. Measures will be introduced to establish a new regulatory framework for the financial services industry, which will enhance its efficiency and competitiveness whilst providing greater safeguards for the interests of investors, and to modernise and liberalise the law governing Building Societies.

16. Legislation will be brought forward to reform the operation of Wages Councils.

17. A Bill will be introduced to regulate certain practices in local government.



18. Legislation will be introduced to encourage the sale of public sector flats to their tenants and the privatisation of council housing estates, to improve the planning system and to provide greater control over the location of hazardous substances.

19. For Scotland, Bills will be introduced to extend the rights of public sector tenants and to facilitate the privatisation of public sector housing stock, to improve legal aid arrangements, and to reform the law relating to parents and children in the light of the Scottish Law Commission report on illegitimacy.

20. In Northern Ireland my Government will continue to support the security forces in enforcing the law and in working for the eradication of terrorism. They will seek widely acceptable arrangements for the devolution of power. They will seek to improve further their co-operation with the Government of the Irish Republic. Renewed efforts will be made to create and sustain employment, particularly by the encouragement of the private sector.

21. Legislation will be introduced to strengthen the powers of the police in England and Wales to prevent disorder and to modernise and codify the common law public order offences.

22. A Bill will be introduced to remove all statutory restrictions on shop opening hours whilst giving protection to existing shop workers who do not wish to work on Sundays.

23. A Bill will be introduced to reform social security in line with my Government's published proposals.

24. Legislation will be introduced to improve the management of schools and to promote the professional effectiveness of teachers.

25. Other measures will be laid before you.

26. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

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

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT 1985

1. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

The Duke of Edinburgh and I were pleased to receive the State Visits of the Life President of Malawi in April and the President of Mexico and Senora de la Madrid in June.

2. We recall with much satisfaction the State Visit to Portugal in March. I have also visited Belize, and was in the Bahamas for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Our tour of Commonwealth countries in the Eastern Caribbean is still in progress.

3. My Government welcomed the decision of the Maldives and of St Vincent and the Grenadines to become full members of the Commonwealth.

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4. My Government have maintained Britain's contribution to Western defence, and enhanced the United Kingdom's own defences through improvements in equipment and in the regular and reserve forces. They have played a full part in the Atlantic Alliance, and promoted British and Western defence interests outside the NATO area.

5. My Government have continued to work vigorously for agreements on verifiable arms control and disarmament, and to seek improved relations with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. They warmly welcomed the opening of talks in Geneva between the United States and the Soviet Union and fully support the United States' efforts to reach concrete agreements.

6. My Government have signed the Treaty on the Accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Communities, and have signed and ratified the third Convention of Lomé. An Act has been passed implementing the Fontainebleau Agreement on the future financing of the European Communities, including the correction of the British budgetary contribution.

7. My Government share the widespread public concern for the victims of the famine in Africa. They have continued to provide substantial emergency assistance both directly and through the European Community.

8. My Government have continued fully to honour their undertakings to the people of the Falkland Islands, while taking positive steps to seek more normal relations with Argentina. The Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong was signed last December and an Act consequent upon its terms was passed. My Government have reached agreement with Spain on the implementation of the Lisbon statement concerning Gibraltar.

9. My Government have supported efforts to restore the independence and non-aligned status of Afghanistan. They have urged peaceful change in South Africa and the early independence of Namibia.

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11. Members of the House of Commons

I thank you for the provision which you have made for the honour and dignity of the Crown and for the public service.

12. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

My Government have maintained the policies necessary to bring down inflation and sustain economic growth. Inflation remains low, the output of the Nation is at its highest level ever and continues to increase, as does the number of people in work.

13. Further steps have been taken to help the unemployed into jobs by extending the Youth Training Scheme and enlarging the Community Programme, and in other ways, including a reform of the structure of national insurance contributions.

14. To promote economic efficiency and encourage the spread of share ownership, not least among employees, my Government have continued their programme of returning State-owned businesses to the private sector, including the successful public flotation of British Telecom.

15. An Act has been passed to complete the transition of the Trustee Savings Banks to private sector status and to permit full public participation in their ownership.

16. An Act has been passed to increase competition in the provision of local bus services in Great Britain and to enable the operations of the National Bus Company to be transferred to the private sector.

17. Legislation has been enacted to make new provision for the payment of deficit grants to the National Coal Board and to abolish the British National Oil Corporation.

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19. An Act has been passed for the better protection of food and the environment.

20. An Act has been passed to establish in England and Wales a Crown Prosecution Service independent of the police, and to enable time limits to be imposed on criminal proceedings.

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24. Considerable advance has been made in the consolidation of our statute law; provision has been made to apply international Conventions on child abduction and for the administration of justice.



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25. An Act has been passed to abolish the Greater London Council and the Metropolitan County Councils on 1st April 1986 and to transfer most of their functions to the borough and district councils.

26. In Northern Ireland, my Government has given high priority to the maintenance of law and order. They have continued the search for ways in which responsibility can be returned to a local administration on a widely acceptable basis. They have sought to develop a solid working relationship with the Government of the Republic of Ireland.

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28. Legislation has been passed to reform insolvency law in England and Wales, and in Scotland.

29. My Government have published proposals to improve the quality of school education, the effectiveness of teachers and the development of higher education into the next decade.

30. My Government have conducted a fundamental review of the social security system and published proposals for radical reform.

31. In addition, my Government have protected the real value of the retirement pension and other related benefits, and passed an act to improve employees' rights under occupational pension schemes, and to extend statutory sick pay.

32. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

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

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CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

1-19 VICTORIA STREET

LONDON SW1H 0ET

TELEPHONE DIRECT LINE 01-215 5422  
SWITCHBOARD 01-215 7877

PS/ Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

22 August 1985

R Watson Esq  
QL Secretary  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1W 2AS

MBPM

Dear Richard,

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

Thank you for your letter dated 9 August 1985.

*can request if required*

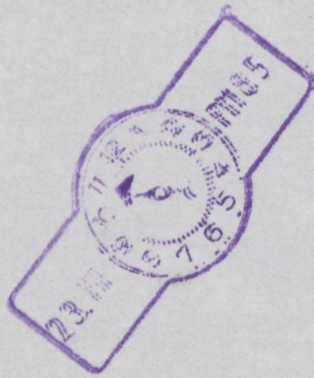
- 2 We are content with the amendments to our original submissions.
- 3 We would like to expand paragraph 5 at the end to read:  
"They will within the Community and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade promote/pursue the conclusion of a further Multi-Fibre Arrangement and the opening of a round of multilateral trade negotiations."

4 I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to all Ministers in the Cabinet, to the Law Officers and to the Chief Whips of both Houses.

Yours sincerely,  
Maureen Dodsworth

MAUREEN DODSWORTH  
Private Secretary

JFLACX



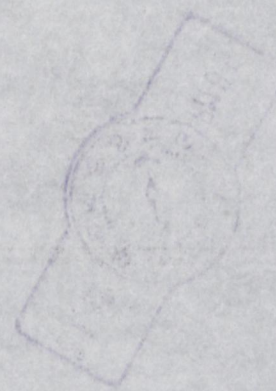
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Caxton House Tothill Street London SW1H 9NF

Telephone Direct Line 01-213.....6460.....

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R Watson Esq  
Cabinet Office  
Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1

NBPM

21<sup>st</sup> August 1985

Dear Richard,

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

with TF?  
or will request.

Thank you for your letter of 9 August enclosing the first consolidated drafts of the Speeches.

My Secretary of State has asked me to let you know of his concern at the deletion of the reference to the repeal of the Truck Acts and the new provisions concerning deductions from pay which will form an important and potentially controversial part of the Wages Bill. He does of course recognise the need for brevity. But he believes that by restricting the statement in the Speech to the reform of Wages Councils the Government would be giving an inadequate and misleading idea of the scope of the Wages Bill and would be open to serious criticism on that score. He hopes therefore that the original wording can be reinstated.

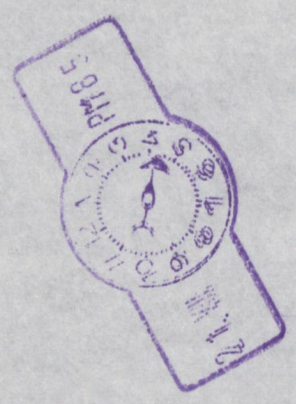
I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours sincerely,

Iain Mackinnon

IAIN MACKINNON  
Private Secretary

PARLIAMENT: Queen's Speech: Pt 6.





HOME OFFICE  
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE  
LONDON SW1H 9AT

15 August 1985

*NSM.*

*Den Richard*

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

Thank you for your letter of 9 August enclosing copies of the drafts of The Queen's Speeches.

The Home Secretary is content with the changes made to our contribution on the Representation of the People Bill in the prorogation speech, but has asked me to record his concern at the deletion of the second half of the passage on the Shops Bill from the opening speech. While recognising that anything in square brackets - pending, as in this case, policy approval - constitutes an obvious editorial target, the reference to additional protection for existing shopworkers is of some political importance. Against a background of widespread fears about the effect on shopworkers of the removal of restrictions on Sunday trading, the Home Secretary gave a commitment during the debate on the Auld Committee report in May that he would "look sympathetically at the best way of ensuring that established shopworkers cannot be compelled to work on Sundays". As you will be aware, proposals aimed at meeting this undertaking were set out in the Home Secretary's letter of 1 August to the Lord President. This emphasised that without the protection provisions the passage of the Bill would be seriously hindered. The Home Secretary's view is that the omission of any reference to this in The Queen's Speech might be noticed and misinterpreted, so putting the Government on the defensive from the outset. He hopes, therefore, that the reference can be reinstated in the draft speech.

You will no doubt have seen a copy of the Home Secretary's letter of 13 August to the Lord President seeking QL's agreement to including a Bill on confiscation of drug traffickers' assets in next session's programme and suggesting a possible form of words for the opening speech. For ease of reference, I repeat this below:

"A Bill will be introduced to provide the courts with power to confiscate the proceeds of drug trafficking, and to penalise the handling of such proceeds."

Copies of this letter go to the recipients of yours.

*Yours sincerely*  
*William Pittall*

W R FITTALL



01-992X942X 900X  
233 7251

CABINET OFFICE  
70 WHITEHALL  
LONDON SW1A 2AS

9 August 1985

Dear Private Secretary

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

Thank you for your reply to Simon Hickson's letter of 21 June.

I enclose the first consolidated drafts of the Speeches. Wherever possible the editing has been designed to maintain the sense of the contribution, but it has been necessary, in the interests of limiting length, to remove some elements completely.

Editing is by no means complete because of the absence of a Treasury contribution. This will not be available until after 20 August and may well result in further changes, both to integrate it with the existing text and to shorten the latter still further if it is longer than expected.

The purpose of this first draft is to iron out minor problems and identify any major ones at this stage. Length is always a problem; we are expected to limit the Opening Speech in particular to about 1,000 words. The present drafts are still too long and I would welcome further suggestions for reductions.

The order of contributions is provisional at this stage. We have departed from precedent in not putting Scotland and Northern Ireland at the end. I should be grateful in particular for comment on their positioning.

QL Committee will meet to consider the drafts on 11 September. The Chairman will then circulate the texts to Cabinet colleagues for written comments. Revised drafts will be circulated in time for Cabinet discussion on 3 October. We would hope to circulate a final text for checking by mid October.

I would appreciate comments on the existing texts, bearing in mind the need to assimilate the Treasury contribution, by 21 August. If possible, I will circulate a revised version including the Treasury text very soon thereafter.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to all Ministers in the Cabinet, to the Law Officers and to the Chief Whips of both Houses.

Yours sincerely

R WATSON  
QL Secretary



THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT 1985

1. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

The Duke of Edinburgh and I were pleased to receive the State Visits of the Life President of Malawi in April and the President of Mexico and Senora de la Madrid in June.

2. We look back with much satisfaction on the State Visit to Portugal in March.

I have also visited Belize, and was in the Bahamas for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Our subsequent tour of Commonwealth countries in the Eastern Caribbean is still in progress.

3. My Government welcomed the decision of the Maldives and of St Vincent and the Grenadines to become full members of the Commonwealth.

4. My Government have maintained Britain's contribution to Western defence, and have played a full part in the Atlantic Alliance. They have enhanced the United Kingdom's own defences through the introduction of new and improved equipment and by strengthening the regular and reserve forces. They have continued to promote British and Western defence interests outside the NATO area.
  
5. My Government, with the United Kingdom's allies, have continued to work vigorously for agreements on verifiable arms control and on disarmament and to seek improved relations with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. They warmly welcomed the opening of talks in Geneva between the United States and the Soviet Union on nuclear weapons and arms in space and fully support the United States' efforts to reach concrete agreements. They have expressed the hope that the forthcoming meeting between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev will help this process.

6. My Government have signed the Treaty on the Accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Communities, and have signed and ratified the third Convention of Lomé. An Act has been passed implementing the Fontainebleau Agreement on the future financing of the European Communities, including the correction of the British budgetary contribution.
  
7. My Government share the widespread public concern for the victims of the famine in Africa. They have continued to provide substantial emergency assistance both directly and through the European Community.
  
8. My Government welcomed the wide measure of agreement on economic and political issues reached at the Bonn Economic Summit in May.

9. My Government have continued fully to honour their undertakings to the people of the Falkland Islands, while taking positive steps to seek more normal relations with Argentina. The Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong was signed last December and an Act consequent upon the terms of the Joint Declaration was passed. My Government have reached agreement with Spain on the implementation of the Lisbon statement concerning Gibraltar.
10. My Government have supported efforts to restore the independence and non-aligned status of Afghanistan. They have urged peaceful change in South Africa and the early independence of Namibia. They have continued to support United Nations efforts to reach a settlement of the Cyprus problem.
11. My Government welcomed to the United Kingdom in June the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China. The great importance my Government attach to their relations with the countries of South East and South Asia was marked by the Prime Minister's visit there in April.

12. Members of the House of Commons

I thank you for the provision which you have made for the honour and dignity of the Crown and for the public service.

13. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

[Treasury contribution]

14. An Act has been passed to increase competition in the provision of local bus services in Great Britain and to enable the operations of the National Bus Company to be transferred to the private sector.

15. Legislation has been enacted to make new provision for the payment of deficit grants to the National Coal Board and to abolish the British National Oil Corporation.

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17. An Act has been passed for the better protection of food and the environment.
  
18. An Act has been passed to establish in England and Wales a Crown Prosecution Service independent of the police, and to enable time limits to be imposed on criminal proceedings.
  
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21. An Act has been passed to deal with the problem of drunkenness at designated sporting events.
  
22. Considerable advance has been made in the consolidation of our statute law; provision has been made to apply international Conventions on child abduction and for the administration of justice.

CONFIDENTIAL

23. An Act has been passed to abolish the Greater London Council and the Metropolitan County Councils on 1st April 1986 and to transfer most of their functions to the borough and district councils.
  
24. In Northern Ireland, my Government has given the highest priority to the maintenance of law and order. They have encouraged the constitutional political parties in Northern Ireland to seek ways in which responsibility can be returned to a local administration, on a widely acceptable basis. In supporting the economy, particular attention has been given to creating the conditions for an expanding private sector. My Government has sought to maintain and develop a more solid working relationship with the Government of the Republic of Ireland.
  
25. For Scotland, measures have been passed to introduce a rebate scheme following rating revaluation, to establish trustee bodies to manage certain Scottish institutions, and to make a number of reforms in Scots law.
  
26. Legislation has been passed to reform insolvency law in England and Wales, and in Scotland.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT 1985

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I look forward with great pleasure to receiving His Highness the Amir of Qatar, [their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain] and [the President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Frau von Weizsaecker] on State Visits during the next 12 months.

2. I also look forward to paying a State Visit to Nepal in February, followed by visits to New Zealand and Australia and [to paying a State Visit to China and visiting Hong Kong in October].

3. My Government's highest priority remains the maintenance of national security and the preservation of peace with freedom and justice. They will accordingly continue to play a full and active part in the Atlantic Alliance and maintain their programme of strengthening the United Kingdom's own defences. They will continue their vigorous efforts to combat international terrorism.



4. With their allies, my Government will work for progress in arms control and disarmament negotiations. They will continue to strive for greater cooperation and trust between East and West.
  
5. My Government will introduce a Bill on the Accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Communities and looks forward to welcoming these two countries to full membership. My Government will continue to work for the further development of the European Community, for reforms in the Common Agricultural Policy which have a proper regard to the interests of our farming and food industries, for the early completion of the common market in goods and services, and for close cooperation on foreign policy and security issues.
  
6. My Government will continue fully to honour their undertakings to the people of the Falkland Islands while continuing to seek more normal relations between the United Kingdom and Argentina. [They still look to Argentina for a constructive response]. My Government will also continue to discharge their obligations to the people of Hong Kong; and will propose provisions to implement the nationality arrangements arising from the Sino-British Joint Declaration on the question of Hong Kong.

7. My Government will continue to seek peaceful change in South Africa, including a settlement in Namibia. In the Middle East they will work for the restoration of peace and stability in Lebanon, and for solutions to the conflict between Iraq and Iran and to the Arab/Israel dispute. They will seek the restoration of an independent and non-aligned Afghanistan and a settlement of the Cyprus problem. They will support the efforts of the Contadora Group to resolve peacefully the tensions in Central America.
  
8. My Government will give full support to the Commonwealth, and play a constructive role at the United Nations. They will continue to maintain a substantial aid programme, to play their part in the relief of famine and other disasters and to encourage investment in developing countries.
  
9. [A Bill will be introduced to give effect to an Australian request to terminate certain remaining constitutional links between the United Kingdom and the Australian States].

10. Members of the House of Commons

Estimates for the Public Service will be laid before you.

11. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

[Treasury contribution].

12. In line with its policies of freeing industries from unnecessary state intervention, my Government will introduce a Bill to permit the transfer of all the assets of the British Gas Corporation to the private sector. A Bill will be introduced to enable the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority to operate as a Trading Fund from 1 April 1986.

13. Legislation will be brought forward to introduce private capital into the British Airports Authority, to require sizeable local authority airports to be formed into companies, and to regulate certain airport activities.

14. It is my Government's intention to introduce commercial management to my Naval Dockyards, as a significant contribution to encouraging a commercial approach and securing value for money in its spending on Defence. Legislation will be introduced to give effect to this.
  
15. Legislation will be introduced to facilitate industry funding of agricultural research, advice and related services; and to implement the European Community arrangements to protect areas of particular environmental sensitivity.
  
16. A Bill will be introduced to establish a new regulatory framework for the financial services industry, which will enhance its efficiency and competitiveness and provide greater safeguards for the interests of investors.
  
17. Legislation will be brought forward to restrict the operation of Wages Councils.
  
18. A Bill will be introduced to regulate certain practices in local government.

19. Legislation will be introduced to encourage the sale of public sector flats to their tenants and the privatisation of council housing estates, and to improve the planning system.
  
20. For Scotland, Bills will be introduced to extend the rights of public sector tenants and to facilitate the privatisation of public sector housing stock, to improve legal aid arrangements, and to reform the law relating to parents and children in the light of the Scottish Law Commission report on illegitimacy.
  
21. In Northern Ireland, my Government will continue to support fully the security forces' efforts to enforce the law and eradicate terrorism. They will seek widely acceptable arrangements for devolving powers to the elected representatives of Northern Ireland's constitutional parties. They will seek to improve further their cooperation with the Government of the Irish Republic. Renewed efforts will be made to create and sustain employment, particularly by the encouragement of the private sector.

22. Legislation will be introduced to strengthen the powers of the police to prevent disorder and to modernise and codify the common law public order offences.
23. A Bill will be introduced to remove all statutory restrictions on shop opening hours.
24. A Bill will be introduced to reform social security in line with my Government's published proposals.
25. Legislation will be introduced to improve the management of schools and to promote the professional effectiveness of teachers.
26. Other measures will be laid before you.
27. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

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

27. My Government have published proposals to improve the quality of school education, the effectiveness of teachers and the development of higher education into the next decade.
28. My Government have conducted a fundamental review of the social security system and published proposals for radical reform.
29. In addition, my Government have protected the real value of the retirement pension and other related benefits, and passed an act to improve employees' rights under occupational pension schemes, and to extend statutory sick pay.
30. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons
- I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may attend you.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

25th July, 1985.

*Handwritten:* <sup>FB</sup>  
Dear Robin,

Thank you for your letter of 19th July 1985 about the State Opening of Parliament on Wednesday 6th November 1985. I have noted that the Lord Privy Seal will announce the date today and we will make a simultaneous release from Buckingham Palace.

*Handwritten:* Yours sincerely,

*Handwritten signature:* Philip Clark

Robin Butler, Esq.







file DG

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

19 July 1985

Dear Philip,

STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

When I wrote to you on 8 July I promised to let you know when the date of 6 November for the State Opening of Parliament could be promulgated. I understand that when he makes his Business Statement on Thursday 25 July, the Lord Privy Seal will announce this date to the House of Commons. No doubt you will wish to make a simultaneous announcement of the date of the State Opening.

Yours ever,

Robin Butler

The Rt. Hon. Sir Philip Moore, GCVO, GCB, CMG.

MR. BUTLER

Pl. despatch  
PERB

The Lord Privy Seal's Office have now confirmed that Mr. Biffen intends to announce that the date of the new Session will be 6 November in his Business Statement next week. A draft is attached for you to write to the Palace to confirm that they may promulgate the date on the same day.

*D.*

19 July 1985

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 July 1985

*not to see*

*Dear Simon,*

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

In response to your letter of 21 June, I enclose three copies of our proposed contributions to The Queen's Speeches on the Prorogation and Opening of Parliament.

Some of the material in the drafts must be regarded as provisional at this stage and may need to be brought up to date nearer to the time. The passages in square brackets in the first two paragraphs of the Opening Speech concern State Visits which have not yet been officially announced. Those on defence have been approved by the Defence Secretary.

The words in square brackets in the passage on Hong Kong in the Opening Speech have been cleared with Home Office officials who are now consulting their Ministers.

I am copying this letter, with enclosures, to Charles Powell (No 10), Richard Mottram (MOD) and Hugh Taylor (Home Office).

*Yours ever,*  
*L V Appleyard*  
(L V Appleyard)  
Private Secretary

S B Hickson Esq  
Cabinet Office

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DRAFT (16 July)

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT  
1985

The Duke of Edinburgh and I were pleased to receive the State Visits of the Life President of Malawi in April and the President of Mexico and Senora de la Madrid in June.

We look back with much satisfaction on the State Visit to Portugal in March. I have also visited Belize, and was in the Bahamas for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Our subsequent tour of Commonwealth countries in the Eastern Caribbean is still in progress.

My Government welcomed the decision of the Maldives and of St Vincent and the Grenadines to become full members of the Commonwealth.

My Government have maintained Britain's contribution to Western defence, and have played a full part in the Atlantic Alliance. They have enhanced the United Kingdom's own defences through the introduction of new and improved equipment and by strengthening the regular and reserve forces. They have continued to

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CONFIDENTIAL

promote British and Western defence interests outside the NATO area.

My Government, with the United Kingdom's allies, have continued to work vigorously for verifiable agreements on arms control and disarmament and to seek improved relations with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. They warmly welcomed the opening of talks in Geneva between the United States and the Soviet Union on nuclear and space arms and fully support the United States' efforts to reach concrete agreements. They have expressed the hope that the forthcoming meeting between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev will help this process.

My Government have signed the Treaty on the Accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Communities, and have signed and ratified the third Convention of Lomé. An Act has been passed implementing the Fontainebleau Agreement on the future financing of the European Communities, including the correction of the British budgetary contribution.

My Government share the widespread public concern for the victims of the famine in Africa. They have continued to provide substantial emergency assistance both directly and through the European Community.

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CONFIDENTIAL

My Government welcomed the wide measure of agreement reached at the Bonn Economic Summit in May on economic and political issues.

My Government have continued fully to honour their undertakings to the people of the Falkland Islands, while taking positive steps to seek more normal relations with Argentina. The Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong was signed last December and instruments of ratification were exchanged in May. An Act consequent upon the terms of the Joint Declaration was passed. My Government reached agreement with Spain on the implementation of the Lisbon statement concerning Gibraltar.

My Government have supported efforts to restore the independence and non-aligned status of Afghanistan. They have urged peaceful change in South Africa and the early independence of Namibia. They have supported the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General to reach a settlement of the Cyprus problem.

My Government welcomed to the United Kingdom in June the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China. The great importance my Government attach to their relations with the countries of South East and South Asia was marked by the Prime Minister's visit there in April.

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CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT (16 July)

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT 1985

I look forward with great pleasure to receiving His Highness the Amir of Qatar, [their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain] and [the President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Frau von Weizsaecker] on State Visits during the next 12 months.

I also look forward to paying a State Visit to Nepal in February followed by visits to New Zealand, and Australia and [to paying a State Visit to China and visiting Hong Kong in October].

My Government continue to hold as their highest priority the maintenance of national security and the preservation of peace with freedom and justice. They will accordingly continue to play a full and active part in the Atlantic Alliance. They will also maintain their programme of strengthening the United Kingdom's own defences.

My Government will make vigorous efforts to combat international terrorism.

With their allies, my Government will work for progress in arms control and disarmament negotiations.

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CONFIDENTIAL

They will continue to strive for greater cooperation and trust between East and West.

My Government will introduce a Bill on the Accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Communities to enable the United Kingdom to ratify the Accession Treaty, and look forward to welcoming these two countries to full membership. My Government will continue to work for the further development of the European Community, for continued reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, for the early completion of the common market in goods and services, and for close cooperation on foreign policy and security issues.

My Government will continue fully to honour their undertakings to the people of the Falkland Islands while continuing to seek more normal relations between the United Kingdom and Argentina. [They still look to Argentina for a constructive response.] My Government will also continue to discharge their obligations to the people of Hong Kong; and will propose provisions to implement the nationality arrangements arising from the Sino-British Joint Declaration on the question of Hong Kong.

My Government will continue to seek peaceful change in South Africa, including a settlement in Namibia. In the Middle East they will work for the

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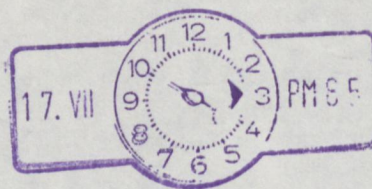
restoration of peace and stability in Lebanon, and for solutions to the conflict between Iraq and Iran and to the Arab/Israel dispute. They will seek the restoration of an independent and non-aligned Afghanistan and a settlement of the Cyprus problem. They will support the efforts of the Contadora Group to resolve peacefully the tensions in Central America.

My Government will give full support to the Commonwealth, and play a constructive role at the United Nations. They will continue to maintain a substantial aid programme, to play their part in the relief of famine and other disasters and to encourage investment in developing countries.

[A Bill will be introduced to give effect to an Australian request to terminate certain remaining constitutional links between the United Kingdom and the Australian States.]

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PARLIAMENT : Opening of HC : PEU



CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

cc LPO  
HO  
GWO, HL  
CWO  
CO

HL

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

15 July 1985

TELEVISIONING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Prime Minister has seen the Lord Privy Seal's minute of 11 July and, subject to any comments from other colleagues who received it, is content with the Lord Privy Seal's proposals. She has commented that the financing of any experiment from the House of Commons should be carried out from within the BBC's existing revenue.

I am copying this letter to Joan MacNaughton (Lord President's Office), Hugh Taylor (Home Office), David Beamish (Government Whips' Office, House of Lords), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

E. E. R. BUTLER

David Morris, Esq.,  
Lord Privy Seal's Office

CONFIDENTIAL

HL



Prime Minister

Content with this?

FEB 12.7.

Yes

PRIME MINISTER

TELEVISIONING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

1. You will remember that, at the meeting that you held on 1 April, you asked me to consider further with the Lord President the timing of a debate in the Commons on this subject.

2. I said in the House on 4 July (OR, Col 320), in answer to Neil Kinnock, that I hoped this matter "would be available for a Commons decision early in the new session". I accordingly propose, with the agreement of the Lord President and the Chief Whip (Commons), that this debate should now take place towards the end of November. This would have the advantage of coming directly after the debate on the Loyal Address and also give Members an opportunity to assess the Lords' experiment. It will be too soon for the Select Committee on the Lords experiment to have delivered their final report but the Lords are expected to hold a debate before the summer recess on the question whether television cameras should continue to be admitted pending a final decision on future televising; it seems likely that the Lords will agree to this. Any further delay therefore, on a debate in the Commons would, in our view, lead to speculation that the Government was being unnecessarily tardy. If you are content, therefore, we will proceed on that basis.

3. We have now contacted the BBC and IBA and are arranging meetings at official level with them during September. This will enable me to give the House some general indication of the basis on which an experiment might take place, although the details would be for consideration by the Select Committee that would need to be appointed for that purpose if the House votes in favour of the principle of an experiment. In order to ensure appropriate inter-Departmental liaison, the Cabinet Office

will be co-ordinating the work of an informal group of officials to prepare, as necessary, for the proposed discussions with the broadcasting authorities. These will cover such matters as the financing of any experiment, its timing, and other questions such as privilege and copyright, on which the preliminary views of the broadcasting authorities would be useful.

*From the  
D. B.'s  
meeting  
minutes*

4. The House authorities will need to be kept in touch with the work of this group, but it will be important to ensure that this is done in a way which does not give the impression of regarding the introduction of television in the House as a fait accompli.

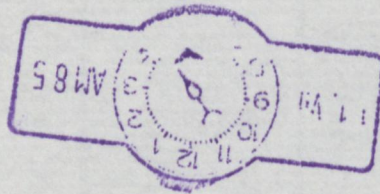
5. I am copying this minute to the Lord President, the Home Secretary, the Chief Whip of both Houses and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

W J B

W J B

11 July 1985

PARLIAMENT: Opening of HC: PE 6.





BUCKINGHAM PALACE

CONFIDENTIAL

9th July, 1985.

~~Ken Robinson~~

Tim Fisher

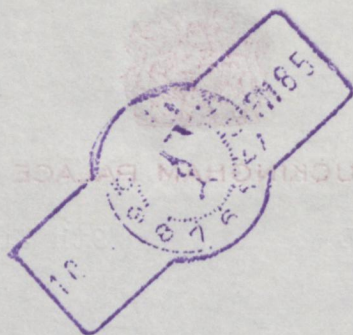
I write in reply to your letter of 8th July 1985 to say that The Queen is pleased to give her approval for the State Opening of Parliament to take place on Wednesday 6th November 1985. I note that you will let me know when this can be promulgated.

Yours sincerely,  
Philip Blom

Robin Butler, Esq.



Opening: Parliament. Pt 6





10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

8 July 1985

State Opening of Parliament

We have discussed informally the date for this year's State Opening of Parliament and you indicated that Her Majesty The Queen would be content if this took place on 6 November. The Prime Minister was grateful for Her Majesty's agreement and I am writing to confirm that she now wishes to propose formally that 6 November should indeed be the date for the State Opening. I shall let you know when this can be promulgated.

RB

The Rt. Hon. Sir Philip Moore, G.C.V.O., G.C.B.,  
C.M.G.

Boe

MR. BUTLER

Now that the Prime Minister has agreed that the State Opening of Parliament should be on 6 November you might like to write to the Palace to confirm this and I attach a draft. The promulgation of the date is normally by simultaneous announcement by the Palace with the Leader of the House of Commons at Business Questions. He would normally do this in the last Business Question before the House rises for the Summer Recess i.e. on 25 July. I shall remind the Lord Privy Seal's office of the need to confirm this to us in good time for the Palace to be informed.

TJ.

8 July 1985



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

8 July 1985

HL  
Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 4 July about the timetable for the remainder of this Parliamentary Session and for the beginning of the next one. The Prime Minister is content with the arrangements proposed by the Lord Privy Seal and, as you know, Her Majesty The Queen has indicated that She is content that the State Opening of Parliament should take place on 6 November. No doubt you will let me know when this can be promulgated.

I am sending copies of this letter to Joan MacNaughton (Lord President's Office), Richard Stoate (Lord Chancellor's Office), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office), David Beamish (Government Whips' Office, House of Lords) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

TF

Tim Flesher

D.R. Morris, Esq.,  
Lord Privy Seal's Office.

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Prime Minister:

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE

WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

The Business Managers propose:

the Commons to rise on 26 July  
to return on 21 October 1985  
to prorogue on 30/31 October

State opening on Wednesday 6 November.

HM The Queen is content with 6 November  
for the state opening (and prefers it)

Agree to accept this timetable?

Dear Tim,

OK 4/7

Yes

I am writing to let you know that the Lord Privy Seal has recently discussed with the Lord President and the Chief Whips of both Houses the timetable for the remainder of this Session and the start of the next one.

There is still considerable work for both Commons and Lords this summer. Royal Assent is needed for both the Local Government and Social Security Bills, and Lords Committee stage must be completed on the Oil and Pipelines and Transport Bills. The Business Managers are confident that the Commons can rise by 26 July, though the Lords will need to run on until 31 or, preferably, 30 July.

The Party Conference is from 8 to 11 October, and it seems clear that the Lords - which will have most business to do in the spillover - ought to resume on the following Monday, 14 October. They will need to deal with Report, Third Reading and remaining stages of the Transport Bill, and amongst others will also have to take the European Communities (Finance) Bill and final stages of the Oil and Pipelines Bill. Nevertheless we expect that they will be able to rise on 30 or 31 October. The Commons can return a week later (21 October) and complete their business at the same time. This points to Prorogation on 30 or 31 October and State Opening on Tuesday 5 or Wednesday 6 November.

The State Opening is normally on a Tuesday and there is no reason why the fact that on this occasion it would be 5 November should make us seek to avoid it. However, I understand that the Queen will only have returned to the country from her tour abroad very late on 3 November and that, for this reason, State Opening on Wednesday 6 November would be more convenient

./...

T Flesher Esq  
Private Secretary to the  
Prime Minister

for her. In these circumstances the Lord Privy Seal recommends that the State Opening should be on Wednesday 6 November. If the Prime Minister is content with this timetable, you may wish to consult the Palace formally about the proposed State Opening date.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Lord President, the Lord Chancellor, both Chief Whips and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours,  
David*

D R MORRIS  
Private Secretary

BT  
TF - to see



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

27th June, 1985

Dear Tim,

Thank you for your letter of 26th June about the televising of the State Opening of Parliament this year. Your letter has been laid before The Queen, who has been pleased to give her approval for the BBC to televise the occasion.

Yours ever  
Robert

Mr Nesher

Shall write to BBC  
(Rosebet Douglas) in reply  
re: permission

T. Flesher

T. Flesher, Esq.



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SS

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

26 June 1985

It falls to the BBC this year to televise the State Opening of Parliament and, rather earlier than usual, the BBC have approached us formally seeking permission to televise. Unless you would prefer that the request were presented somewhat nearer the event, I should be grateful if you would seek the approval of Her Majesty The Queen.

TIM FLESHER

Robert Fellowes, Esq., L.V.O.,  
Buckingham Palace

08



E. R.

Tim Hughes

I think you deal with  
Kic?

MR BUTLER

REVB  
25.6

BBC STATE OPENING

BBC are quick of the mark this year with  
a formal request for permission to  
broadcast the State opening.

Would you now process?

*[Handwritten signature]*

CF

1 prs pre - see Pt 5.

BERNARD INGHAM  
25 June 1985



CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 7665

21 June 1985

a  
24/6

Dear Private Secretary

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

During the Summer Adjournment The Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee (QL) will need to prepare for consideration by Cabinet drafts of The Queen's Speeches on the Prorogation and Opening of Parliament.

I should accordingly be grateful if you would let me have by 17 July the texts of any passages which your Minister wishes to propose for inclusion in the Speeches. Contributions should be short and clear, and should give the exact wording of the suggested text. It should be assumed that each of the Speeches will follow the normal sequence, with a section on foreign and European Community policies followed by one on domestic policies and legislation. Normally references to legislation are confined to the politically more important measures, corresponding broadly with the 'programme' category of Bills.

I should be grateful if you would use separate sheets of paper for the material proposed for each Speech, classify it CONFIDENTIAL and let me have three copies of each text.

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

Yours sincerely

S B HICKSON

The Private Secretary to -

Prime Minister

cc BT.

TF - to see



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

27th June, 1985

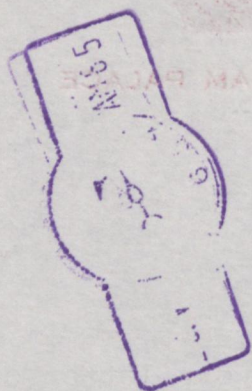
Dear Tim,

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Yours ever  
Robert.

T. Flesher, Esq.

Quebec Speeches + opening of Parl  
Parliament. PE-6



BLKXINGHAM P...  
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JL AgI

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

1 April 1985

Dear David,

TELEVISIONING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS  
IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Lord Privy Seal's minute of 27 March was mentioned at the Prime Minister's meeting with the Lord President, the Lord Privy Seal, the Chief Whip and the Paymaster General this morning.

In discussion it was agreed that the right course was to provide an opportunity for the House of Commons to have a debate, with a free vote, on a motion similar to the motion in the House of Lords which preceded the current experiment. This would enable the Commons to express a view in principle on televising the House of Commons and would establish an all-Party Select Committee to advise on the arrangements on the lines proposed in the Lord Privy Seal's minute. The Prime Minister asked the Lord Privy Seal to consider further with the Lord President the timing of such a debate.

I am sending copies of this letter to Janet Lewis-Jones (Lord President's Office), Hugh Taylor (Home Office), David Beamish (Government Whips Office, House of Lords), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever,

Robin Butler

David Morris, Esq.,  
Lord Privy Seal's Office.

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PRIME MINISTER

TELEVISIONING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Lord President and I recently discussed with the Chief Whips of both Houses the general handling of this issue in the light of the progress of the current experiment in the televising of proceedings in the Lords.

The Lords experiment with television is proceeding and plans have been made for it to be reviewed after the Lords has risen for the summer recess.

In the aftermath of the initial televising of the Lords there was a degree of Commons interest. I then told Dr Owen on 28 January that 'The House will wish to consider the matter further and I hope that I shall be in a position to offer time when the occasion arises' [Hansard col 16].

Since then interest has ostensibly slackened. However the situation could change quickly as the end of the Session draws near. Questions are now being tabled and the matter has been raised in the context of next week's business. A substantial body of opinion could be speedily mobilised to support an Early Day Motion or a Ten Minute Rule Bill on the issue.

In anticipation of that event, it would now therefore be an appropriate time to consider whether there should be a general Commons debate on this subject. Exact timing would depend on how opinion in both

./....

Lords and Commons develops. We suggest that the Motion before the House should enable Members to express their view, as to whether they were, in principle, in favour of a public experiment in the televising of proceedings in the Commons; and that, if the House passed this Motion, a Select Committee should be established to advise on the necessary arrangements for the experiment. In accordance with past practice, there would be a free vote.

It would then be for that Committee to consult with the broadcasting authorities on questions such as the format of the experimental programmes, editorial control, accommodation etc. The House would need to have a further opportunity to debate the Committee's detailed proposals before any experiment could actually begin. In view of the importance of the issues involved, the membership of the Select Committee would require careful consideration. We would also need to contact the broadcasting authorities before any debate to tell them what we had in mind.

The above suggested response is low key but should be able to keep the timing of the debate within Government hands. This will be necessary to secure co-ordination between the Lords and Commons, and for the Government to provide the framework for a major political decision of considerable public interest.

We appreciate the strong views that are held on this subject. You may therefore like to discuss the issue further. At the same time the Lord President will be able to bring you up to date with progress on the Lords experiment.

I am copying this minute to the Lord President, the Home Secretary, the Chief Whips of both Houses and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

WJB

W J B

27 March 1985

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28 MAR 1985

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MJ

CCMA

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

12 November 1984

Dear Mr Shore

I very much regret that I shall not be in the House for the winding up speeches in the Debate on the Address. I am giving a dinner in honour of the President of Finland who is on an official visit here, which means making a speech myself at just about the time you speak. *The official visit had been fixed for a considerable time. I am so sorry to miss the*

Please excuse me.

*customary wind-up speeches.*

Yours sincerely

*Royal and Shaker?*

The Right Honourable Peter Shore, M.P.

*888*



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

12 November 1984

*Dear John,*

Since our discussion this morning I have decided that it really would be embarrassing vis-à-vis President Koivisto if I were to leave in the middle of my dinner for him to come down to the House for your winding up speech. I shall have to make a speech myself at dinner and it seems bound to come at just the moment when you will be on your feet. I am sure that you will understand.

I am writing to Peter Shore to explain my absence.

*Yours*

*Raymond*

The Right Honourable John Biffen, M.P.

—

*88*

*Pite* *MJ*  
*CCMA*

CONFIDENTIAL

CC AT  
FERB



Caxton House Tothill Street London SW1H 9NF

Telephone Direct Line 01-213 6400

Switchboard 01-213 3000

Robin Butler Esq  
Principal Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

9 November 1984

*Dear Robin:*

... I attach, as requested, a copy of the latest version of the Secretary of State's speech for Monday's debate on the Address. I am sorry that this is partly in manuscript, but the changes which have been made reflect the Secretary of State's initial comments on the first draft.

As I said to you on the telephone, the Secretary of State will be working on the text over the weekend and I suspect that the final version will be significantly different from the present one.

*Yours sincerely*

*David Normington*

D J NORMINGTON  
Principle Private Secretary

CONFIDENTIAL

Where do jobs come from?

1. The Rt Hon Gentleman has said a great deal about the need for more Government action to create jobs and thus reduce unemployment. Rt Hon and Hon Members on both sides of the House expressed a deep concern about unemployment in the recent debate and no doubt they will also have a great deal to say on this important subject today. Everyone agrees that unemployment is far too high. It represents not only a waste of resources, but considerable hardship and real personal distress for many individuals and families.

2. But unemployment cannot be wished away. There is no magic solution to the creation of jobs, and I fear that many suggestions that have been put forward in the past, and may be put forward again today, ignore the hard economic realities of job creation. If we seriously want to encourage the creation of worthwhile permanent jobs, we have to establish how jobs arise. Many of the Government's critics seem to think that job creation is entirely within the Government's power. They say we should increase public expenditure above its current level, of over £130 billion. We should raise taxes or borrow more, to create more jobs, by undertaking indiscriminate public investment programmes, by subsidising uneconomic jobs, unprofitable firms, and declining industries, or simply by pumping more demand into the economy. All this without considering what the consequences may be of such ill-considered action - or recognising what the Government is already doing to tackle the problem of unemployment.

3. Of course there is a case for public investment provided that it shows a satisfactory return, or meets a demonstrable need, so that the extra taxation or borrowing - which is what increased public expenditure means - is warranted. For example, the Government spends some £750 million a year on capital investment in water and

sewerage systems in England and Wales. And, of course, the investment has to be sensible and cost-effective. There is for example, no sense in building a new reservoir if existing water supplies are inadequate because leaking mains and pipes prevent consumer demand being met. But it is facile to increase public investment simply and solely to create jobs irrespective of the underlying demand for the goods and services produced. That is bound to risk wasting a great deal of money which could have been spent on more worthwhile purposes, or left with people to spend on the goods and services they really want.

4. Again on subsidies, the Government does spend a good deal on subsidising some unprofitable enterprises and industries. A number of nationalised industries which are not yet profitable, including shipbuilding, vehicles and railways, are subsidised. And the Coal Board accounts show that the subsidy to that industry, in respect of losses made, is running at £130 per week for every miner employed. But subsidies have got to be related to some longer term prospect of reducing or eliminating losses. We cannot simply pour money into supporting enterprises, or employment, which have no chance of ever paying their way.

5. And this brings me to the main point about job creation. In a free society, ~~jobs don't come from subsidies. They come because people want to buy goods and services, and employers take on workers to produce those goods and services which they can sell. This is the market sector. There is also the non-market sector where most public employees work, and these jobs have to be paid for taxation or Government borrowing. Without a healthy and competitive market sector, jobs in the public sector are at risk.~~

not through subsidies, but

~~6. It all comes down to this. Jobs arise~~ mainly through production for domestic and international markets, ~~and~~ only by operating in these markets with existing and new products or services at competitive costs can we expect increased employment.

Products and services which are not competitive don't sell, markets are lost, and jobs disappear. Ever since [1945] we have had a competitiveness problem. Our cost and prices have tended to rise more sharply than our international competitors. So we have lost export markets and they have gained increasing shares of our home market; Indeed one of our main problems has been that increases in demand have tended to be spent on imports rather than home produced goods.

and if real wages rise too rapidly, people price themselves out of work, and others as well.

6. And of course one vital component of costs and prices is pay. If pay rises faster than output per man, prices have to go up and competitiveness is lost. I want to be very clear about this. It is up to all those involved in wage negotiations to realise it. The future of many unemployed people lies in their hands. By agreeing on high wage increases they are, in effect, keeping the unemployed out of work.

7. The Opposition recognised the truth of all this when they were in Government.

! M

Opposition Front Bench

They just lacked the vision and determination to do anything about it. The present Front Bench are even worse. They can't even get right the arithmetic of their misguided proposals. The Rt Hon Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition wants to spend £6 billion one day and £2.3 billion the next. Yet he patently has no idea of how many unemployed people he expects to get jobs as a result. ~~The Rt Hon Gentleman the Member for Plymouth Devonport suggest a £900 million expansion of the Community Programme without understanding that the true cost of his ideas are nearer £2 billion~~

8. Not, I suppose, that it matters very much if they do get their figures wrong when their policies are so often unrealistic. I suggest that it is because they know that, that they don't take any trouble over their arithmetic. And the main thing of which they are guilty is deluding the public into thinking that there are soft and easy answers to unemployment - that the Government can simply buy jobs.

9. 10. The Government's industrial and economic strategies, on the other hand, are directed at making markets work - at creating the free, flexible, efficient and competitive market environment in which industry, commerce and the labour market can respond quickly and efficiently to changes in technology and demand, and so create the new jobs we all want to see.

~~9. In the labour market this means removing impediments to the creation of employment, and unnecessary and outdated restrictions. We have done much in this area, but there is still more to do.~~ For industry, the Government's policy is to create the framework for growth, through stimulating competition and enterprise. My right honourable Friend the Minister for Industry will say more about this later.

~~11. At the same time, as we enable the product markets to work more efficiently and competitively, so we must improve the operation of the labour market in the pursuit of jobs. Future job prospects depend not only on achieving a better educated and better trained workforce, but also on greater flexibility in working practices and on wages that reflect economic conditions. Success in these areas depends primarily on the efforts of industry itself, but the Government can assist by removing restrictions on and otherwise encouraging enterprise, by reducing burdens on employers which add to labour costs, by aiding the establishment of more realistic wages, and by encouraging labour mobility and more flexible working patterns.~~ We have done much in this area, and will do more.

10. Efficiency in production and flexibility are the keys. But this Government has long recognised that, ~~in the transition,~~ there is a place for Government action to help the unemployed in ways which will also assist these longer term aims, particularly in making the labour market quicker to respond to changing needs. Since 1979 we have systematically developed a range of measures <sup>develop training and</sup> to help unemployed people ~~find their way~~ back to work. Nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  million people are now being helped, ~~and~~ nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  million of them ~~are being enabled to come off the unemployment count].~~ |  
~~and~~ <sup>has</sup> expenditure on these measures ~~have~~ risen from £332 million in 1979-80 to £2 $\frac{1}{4}$  billion in the current financial year. This is a tremendous programme of achievement, in which the Manpower Services Commission has played a colossal part. I am glad to announce now various improvements in the measures for the coming year.



EMPLOYMENT MEASURES

11. ~~10.~~ <sup>I deal first with</sup> ~~Now I move to other~~ <sup>which</sup> measures that we have developed to provide a constructive alternative to unemployment in ways which help improve the operation of the labour market and so add to employment opportunities. Here ~~we are also making a number of significant additions and improvements to ensure that greater help is given to those without jobs.~~

12. ~~11.~~ First, we are expanding the Enterprise Allowance Scheme for the third time. This scheme has amply justified the faith of my predecessors Jim Prior and Norman Tebbit that many unemployed people if given the chance would want to try to work for themselves, ~~and that with suitable help they had the skill and dedication to succeed.~~ As this House already knows, demand for assistance under the Scheme has been substantial, ~~so much so that earlier this year waiting lists increased to such a level that the Scheme looked like becoming a victim of its own success.~~ In July I announced extra resources for the Scheme this year, ~~and those waiting lists, I am glad to say, have now all but disappeared.~~ The features of the Scheme to date that ~~I have found particularly heartening are the extent to which the businesses created with help from the Scheme have managed to survive after that help has come to an end and the fact that those businesses are providing jobs not only for the recipients of the allowances but also for others.~~ <sup>The Scheme is creating viable businesses which create jobs.</sup> Figures published by my Department during the summer show that 6 months after the Allowance had stopped 7 out of 10 of the businesses supported were still trading, and for every 100 firms established over 50 additional new jobs were created. With these encouraging results we have therefore decided to ~~continue and~~ extend the Scheme next year. We are allocating to the Manpower Services Commission, who administer the Scheme with help from the Small Firms Service of the DTI, an extra £72 million next year ~~over and above the resources originally provided for this Scheme and~~ £125 million and £128 million subject to our normal process of annual review in subsequent years. This will enable the Commission to increase the programme by 25% - that is to provide up to about 1,250 opportunities a week for unemployed people. I have no doubt that these 1,250

Since the national scheme was launched 55,000 people have benefitted.

entrepreneurs a week which the Scheme will now start up will make an increasingly important contribution to the creation of new permanent job opportunities for the people of this country.

13. ~~12~~. The Enterprise Allowance Scheme helps the unemployed people who have sufficient confidence and skills to back their entrepreneurial abilities. I fully recognise and understand that for many a period of unemployment is a chastening and soul-destroying experience which leaves them less able to compete for available employment opportunities. The Community Programme, which offers 130,000 places to the long term unemployed on work of value to the community has already proved a major success <sup>in</sup> ~~in helping people back into permanent jobs~~. We are now building upon that success by introducing linked training and work preparation courses and I am sure this development will be of great benefit to those who take advantage of the Programme. The Voluntary Projects Programme also helps prepare unemployed people for work by providing them with constructive voluntary activity. This Programme is also to be extended, and I am providing altogether £12 million for the Scheme to continue next year and subsequently. I shall also be asking the Manpower Services Commission, who administer the Scheme, to seek to develop, on an experimental basis, types of project which have not hitherto been attempted under the Programme - notably more ambitious projects involving a greater commitment of volunteers' time, and projects which can help unemployed people who are <sup>1</sup>considering the possibility of setting up in business on their own account.

14. ~~13~~. I now turn to our measures which help create further employment opportunities in the regular labour market. The Young Workers Scheme has encouraged employers to employ more young people in full time permanent jobs at rates of pay which reflect their age and inexperience. I am continuing it for a further year. We also have to recognise that more flexible patterns of working time in industry are essential if we are to remain competitive and provide employment. I therefore believe it essential to <sup>develop and encourage new and different approaches</sup> ~~continue to encourage employers, employees and those who are currently~~

*working patterns which may*

~~unemployed to consider very seriously whether less than full time work might be~~  
*of individual enterprises. For my part,*  
desirable in these particular circumstances, I am therefore going to continue with  
two experiments: the part time Job Release Scheme enables those approaching retir-  
ing age to work part time while freeing an opportunity for an unemployed person on  
the Job Splitting Scheme. However, take-up on both schemes has so far been extremely  
poor and I shall therefore be making changes designed to improve their attractiveness  
and the help they can give to reducing the problem of unemployment. I shall also  
be continuing the full time Job Release Scheme on the present basis for a further  
year.

[29. Finally, I have two other announcements to make today, relating to redundancy  
and maternity pay provisions. One of the public expenditure savings announced by  
my Rt Hon Friend today is the reduction in employers' rebates on redundancy payments.  
The rebate, at present 41% of the statutory payment, will be reduced to 35% as from  
6 April next year, saving some £37 million a year. The percentage has been 41%  
since 1977 and proved extremely helpful in dealing with the enormous scale of redun-  
dancies when the older industries were shedding labour in 1980-82. Now redundancies  
are running at only half the rate they were in 1982 and it seems right to make  
the adjustment now. [There will be no increase in employers' costs: my Rt Hon Friend  
the Secretary of State for Social Services is announcing today a change in the lia-  
bility of statutory sick pay for National Insurance contributions which will reduce  
employers' outgoings by some £35-40 million].

30. I am also announcing today a change in the rate of maternity pay, also from  
6 April. When the maternity pay scheme was introduced in 1977 it was intended that  
employees with at least two years service with the same employer should be entitled  
to six weeks absence on full pay to have their baby. The employee was entitled to  
get from the employer 90% of full pay less the amount of the state maternity allow-

## TRAINING MEASURES

~~16. The first of these are in training. A skilled adaptable workforce is crucial to flexible competitive industry which can operate in world markets and expand to create new jobs and that is why we have adopted a market approach to training.~~

15. I move now to Training measures.

17. There is a growing body of evidence that more successful economies such as Germany, the United States and Japan invest more in training than we do. In these countries, ~~compared with ours,~~ the Government not only takes a less direct role but employers more readily accept their responsibilities and individuals too expect - and are expected to - play their full part in investing in training.

18. That is not to say that Government does not have its own important role to play in the nation's training effort. It does. We recognise and we are acting on it. In particular we are taking steps to ensure that general and vocational education *and training* are provided in such a way as to improve the transition to work and to reflect the changing needs of employment. ~~and arranging for the foundation training of young people.~~

<sup>YTS context,</sup>  
7. In ~~the case of the basic training for young people,~~ the Youth Training Scheme is proving itself the success we all hoped for. We guaranteed that every unemployed minimum age school leaver who wanted it would be offered a year of proper training and work experience and in the Scheme's first year we secured that objective. Unfortunately a vocal minority, including some members of the party opposite, set out from the start to belittle the Scheme. They said, "there won't be sufficient places to meet the guarantee". We have met it in full with places to spare. They said "young people won't want to join the Scheme". 350,000 youngsters proved them wrong last year. <sup>Compared with last year,</sup> ~~So far this year~~ nearly half as many young people again have <sup>so far</sup> come forward to take part in the Scheme. They said "it's a dead end". They won't get jobs at the end of it". Early results indicate that that was wrong too. Nearly 60% of those leaving YTS courses appear to be going into jobs and many more to further training or education.

18. YTS is clearly establishing itself with employers as a key way of developing the particular work skills that they need in young recruits. And we are going to continue to improve it. In particular we are going to put a major emphasis on developing and improving the quality of the training provided. It is right to consolidate and build on the great deal that has already been achieved - the need is to maintain stability, flexibility and simplicity. Nevertheless, <sup>however</sup> I have decided, at the suggestion of the Manpower Services Commission to extend eligibility to 3 <sup>small</sup> groups of 18 year olds who are not, because of their special circumstances, currently able to benefit from the Scheme. ~~young people who left education earlier but were unable to take up a place because of pregnancy or a custodial sentence, or who did not leave education until 18 because their recent immigration meant they had to stay at school to learn English.~~ Of course, Unemployed minimum age school leavers will continue to have the guarantee of the offer of a suitable place on the Scheme by Christmas, and as in previous years we would also expect next year to be able to provide for all unemployed 17 year old leavers who come forward for a place on the Scheme.

19. ~~Of course much of the initial work of preparing youngsters for the adult world falls to the education services. A number of initiatives have been taken to develop links between the education system and the world of employment. I want to concentrate on one of those today, since it is based on a partnership between the Manpower Services Commission for which I have responsibility within Government and local education authorities. The first 14 projects under the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative are already into their second year. Interest in and enthusiasm for the Initiative has grown steadily since it was first announced by my RHF, the Prime Minister, 2 years ago. A second round of 48 projects, including 5 in Scotland, started this autumn, and when the projects are all fully in operation something like 50,000 youngsters in 450 schools and colleges across the country will be taking part in what both my RHF the Secretary of State for Education and Science and I regard as one of the most important developments in this area for many years. I know there was a good deal of disappointment amongst local education authorities whose proposals were not accepted for inclusion in the Initiative this year. I am glad to be able to announce therefore that the Government is making additional resources available to the Manpower Services Commission in order to allow local education authorities not currently participating the further opportunity to put forward projects which would start in autumn 1985 or autumn 1986.~~

*It is also vitally important*

20. ~~What is as important as training to the vocational preparation of young people is to improve the skills of those already in the workforce. We therefore announced a new Adult Training Strategy earlier this year in the White Paper "Training for Jobs". Public expenditure on training in Britain compares well with public expenditure in other countries, and a recent Financial Times leader concluded "Skill shortages cannot simply be shuffled on to Government. they often reflect shortcomings in the way industry trains and uses its own employees".~~ However, we still have a long way to go to get the underlying realities recognised widely enough in industry. That is why we are launching on 20 November a major campaign to bring home to every

body the <sup>significance</sup> ~~vital importance~~ of training as an investment for our future and the central role of employers in making this investment. Attitudes cannot be changed overnight, and we therefore intend this to be a sustained campaign of activity over the next 2-3 years, involving all those concerned with adult training.

21. For its part, the Government is taking action to stimulate change and development in the training system - for example by funding the innovative Open Tech programme - to make it more responsive to the needs of employers and workers. We are restructuring the Government's own adult training programmes so as to double to over 250,000 the number of adults who will benefit from our various training programmes, and tailoring the provision offered to them more specifically to meet labour needs. About half of those helped will be unemployed people, including some 50,000 of the 200,000 long term unemployed people who take jobs on the Community Programme each year.

22. We are also continually seeking to increase the flexibility of the labour market by widening the options available to individuals. ~~As training plays such a key role in equipping people for employment~~ We want to give individuals more chance to invest in their own training, <sup>and</sup> I am therefore pleased to say that I have today published a consultative document setting out the Government's proposals for an experimental training loans scheme for adults. The scheme would give people who want to undertake training but for which funding is available neither from their employer nor the State, greater access to local funds for that purpose than is available at present. The experimental scheme would be operated on the Government's behalf by existing financial institutions. In the light of comments from interested parties I very much hope we can get such a scheme running next year.

once (paid directly by DHSS). The 10% was deducted because of what the employee could expect to get in Earnings Related Supplement. ERS was abolished in 1982 and this Government promised to remove the 10% deduction as soon as resources allowed. I am pleased to announce today the fulfilment of that promise. As from 6 April employees will be entitled to full pay less the maternity allowance, and the employee will be able to reclaim this amount from the Maternity Pay Fund].

23

25. I have spoken at some length about the improvements we intend to make in our programmes of employment and training measures. We will continue over the next year to review all the measures to ensure that they remain the best possible contribution towards improving employment opportunities and helping the unemployed. And if further genuine improvements, such as these I have just announced, can be made <sup>within available resources</sup> then I can assure the House we will not hesitate to make them.

the work of  
by RHF the  
minister  
without  
portfolio  
will be  
important  
in this.

32. Of course I recognise that there is a wish in some parts of the House to do even more. But there is a limit to what the Government can do. Others also bear an important responsibility - particularly employers and employees. They too must take their responsibilities seriously if we are to make a real impact on the problem of unemployment.

~~dealing with unemployment~~

33. The real key to ~~that~~ problem is to earn our way in the world and to win back those markets we have lost. Take the car industry for an example. Between 1963 and 1983, UK car production fell from 1.6 million to just over 1 million. Over the same period car production in Japan rose from 400,000 to 7.2 million. While we declined by 35%, they increased by over 1,600%. That is the scale of the challenge we face. And, of course, one of the main problems to have dogged the car industry in this country is strikes. Some members of that industry seem to be bent on reviving that unhappy tradition. But one thing is clear. Strikes won't help to reduce unemployment. If we can't buy our way back into work, or talk our way into work, we certainly can't strike our way back into work.

Doesn't  
work.



34. The Opposition seem to find it hard to accept the truth about the causes and cures of unemployment. But I believe that more and more - the vast majority of working people - both employers and employees, are showing a clear understanding of it. It is with their realism that our future lies.

*S/S wished to draft conclusion.*

## SESSION 1984-85

## DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS

State Opening: Tuesday 6th November 1984  
 Mover: Sir Paul Bryan  
 Seconder: Mr Richard Needham  
 Leader of Oppsn: Rt Hon Neil Kinnock  
 Prime Minister: Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher  
 followed by other Party Leaders

DATE	SUBJECT	SPEAKERS	
		GOVERNMENT	OPPOSITION
Wednesday 7th November 1984	local funt. + Transport	1. J. Jenkin 4. N. Ridley	2. Jack Cunningham 3. G. Dunwoody
Thursday 8 November 1984	Health + Loc. Gov. + Educ.	1. N. Fowler 4. K. Joseph	2. M. Meacher 3. G. Radice
Friday 9 November 1984	F. Aff. + O. Aid	1. G. Howe 4. T. Ransar	2. D. Healey 3. S. Halland
Monday 12 November 1984	Ind. + Employment ? Oppsn Amdt.	2. P. Channon 4. T. King	1. J. Smith 3. J. Prescott
Tuesday 13 November 1984	Economy ? Oppsn Amdt	2. N. Lawson 4. J. Biffen	1. R. Hattersley 3. P. Shovel

# BBC Broadcasting House London W1A 1AA

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

from Chief Assistant to Director-General

17th June, 1985

Dear Bernard,

As it falls to the BBC on this occasion to cover the State Opening, I make this formal approach asking for the various necessary permissions so that we may have access to broadcast the ceremony of the State Opening of Parliament by Her Majesty the Queen in November.

*Yours,*  
*Margaret Douglas*

(Margaret Douglas)

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

PARLIAMENT, Opening : Pt 6

BBC Broadcasting House London W1A 1AA

Telephone 01-270 1111 - Telex 200001 - Television and Radio Broadcasting London 1111

from Chief Assistant to Director General

CONFIDENTIAL

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT 1984My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

1. I look forward with great pleasure to receiving the President of Malawi and the President of Mexico on State Visits during the next twelve months, to paying a State Visit to Portugal in March, and to visiting the Caribbean in the autumn on the occasion of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in the Bahamas.
  
2. My Government consider as their highest priority the maintenance of national security and the preservation of peace. They will accordingly continue to play an active part in the Atlantic Alliance. They will promote Western defence interests outside the NATO area. They will make vigorous efforts to combat international terrorism.
  
3. With the allies of the United Kingdom, my Government will contribute to arms control and disarmament negotiations and will work for the resumption of negotiations where these have been broken off. They will work continually for a greater atmosphere of trust between East and West.
  
4. Following the agreement at Fontainebleau on the fairer sharing of the Community's budget burden and on the overall control of Community spending, my Government look forward to the further development of the European Community. They will continue to press for improvements in the Common Agricultural Policy and for completion of the common market in goods and services. They will work for the early conclusion of the negotiations to enable Spain and Portugal to join the Community, and to conclude a new agreement to succeed the Lomé Convention.



steadily rising, my Government remains deeply concerned about unemployment and will continue policies designed to achieve better opportunities for employment and to help the unemployed obtain the training or work experience needed to fill them. Firm control of public spending will be maintained. My Government will work for a more flexible and competitive economy through lower taxation, further reform of the tax system, increased efficiency in the public sector and encouragement of initiative and enterprise which will sustain rising living standards.

11. In order to promote efficiency and growth, my Government will continue their policies of exposing state-owned businesses to competition and, where appropriate, returning them to the private sector. A Bill will be introduced to increase competition in the provision of local bus services in Great Britain and to transfer to the private sector the operations of the National Bus Company.

[12. A Bill will be introduced to increase competition in retail banking by completing the transition of the Trustee Savings Banks to private sector status.]

13. Bills will be introduced to reform insolvency law in England and Wales, and in Scotland, and to remove the statutory levy on cinema admissions and establish an environment for the film and cinema industries free from regulation.

14. A Bill will be introduced to abolish the Greater London Council and the metropolitan county councils.

15. Legislation will be introduced to extend the franchise to certain British citizens resident abroad, to change absent voting arrangements in order to enable those on holiday to vote, and to increase the parliamentary election deposit but reduce the threshold for forfeiture. A Bill will be introduced to establish a national prosecution service independent of the police in England and Wales and to enable the Attorney General to refer Crown Court sentences for the opinion of the Court of Appeal. A further Bill will establish a new and comprehensive statutory framework governing the interception of communications.

16. Measures will be introduced for the administration of justice in England and Wales and making further reforms in the law following reports of the Law Commission. There will be a measure dealing with the international aspects of child abduction and the custody of children.

17. A Bill will be introduced to improve the occupational pension rights of people who leave schemes before pensionable age and to ensure that members are able to obtain information about their schemes.

18. Legislation will be introduced for the better protection of food and the environment.

19. A Bill will be introduced to give parents of children educated at public expense the right to exempt them from corporal punishment. My Government will continue to develop policies to raise educational standards.



20. My Government will encourage the constitutional parties in Northern Ireland to consider how powers can be restored to local administration on a basis acceptable to all sides of the community, and will seek to maintain good relations with the Government of the Republic of Ireland. The security forces will continue to receive my Government's full support. Legislation will be introduced to prevent personation at elections in Northern Ireland.

21. Bills will be introduced to establish trustee bodies to manage certain Scottish institutions, and to reform Scots law, including provisions on matrimonial property and financial provision on divorce, following Reports by the Scottish Law Commission.

22. Other measures will be laid before you.

My Lords, and Members of the House of Commons

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



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH &amp; SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Telephone 01-407 5522

*From the Secretary of State for Social Services*

The Rt Hon The Viscount Whitelaw CH MC  
 Lord President of the Council  
 Privy Council Office  
 Whitehall  
 LONDON  
 SW1A 2AT

S November 1984

*Dear Willie.*  
*will request if required*

*W  
 ofm.*

## THE QUEEN'S SPEECH: THE WATER FLUORIDATION BILL

I am writing, following the correspondence initiated by my letter of 23 October, to let you and colleagues know how I shall be handling questions arising from the non-inclusion of this Bill in the Queen's Speech.

As I said in my letter, I expect to report further on the implications of recent research on the effects of fluoride within the next few weeks. I think it most unlikely that the fuller evaluation which is now in hand will lead me to any other conclusion than that we should maintain the existing policy on the fluoridation of the public water supply. That is the purpose of my Bill. The reason for the delay is to ensure that our public position on the safety aspects, at the time of the introduction of the Bill, could be based on a more thorough evaluation of all the evidence than is immediately available.

For the time being I intend to deal with any queries about the omission of the Bill from the Queen's Speech by saying that

- not every Bill is specifically mentioned in the speech. This is a short one designed to clarify statutory powers, not to introduce a new policy. We expect to introduce it this session as planned.

I shall take the line that nothing in the research currently available gives me cause to want to change the policy - which the Bill is intended to reinforce. Equally, I am sure that we should urge water authorities who are facing legal challenge - in particular the Severn and Trent Authority where there is a case being actively pursued - to continue their preparations to defend the present position pending the Bill's introduction. I see no difficulty in justifying this

stance. If the evidence were ultimately to lead us to believe that we should not sustain the existing policy, we would of course have to say so publicly but that is not my expectation, nor should we give the impression that we expect it.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, members of L Committee, the Minister for Housing and Construction, First Parliamentary Counsel and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*John all.* *Norman Fowler*

NORMAN FOWLER

NOV 10 1951  
LONDON



*file*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

5 November 1984

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

TIM FLESHER

The Rt Hon David Steel MP

CONFIDENTIAL



*file*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

5 November 1984

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.

TIM FLESHER

The Rt Hon Neil Kinnock MP

CONFIDENTIAL



*file*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

5 November 1984

I enclose a copy of the Queen's Speech on the Opening of Parliament.

TIM FLESHER

Miss Janet Lewis-Jones  
Private Secretary to  
Lord President of the Council

CONFIDENTIAL



*file*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

5 November 1984

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.

TIM FLESHER

The Rt Hon James Molyneaux JP MP

CONFIDENTIAL



*file*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

5 November 1984

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

TIM FLESHER

The Rt Hon David Owen MP

CONFIDENTIAL





*file*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

5 November 1984

I enclose seven copies of the Queen's Speech on the Opening of Parliament.

These are for the Chief Whip, and for distribution at the appropriate time, to the Leader of the Opposition, of the Liberal Party, and of the SDP and the Mover and Seconder. I should be grateful if you would emphasise to Opposition Leaders and the Mover and Seconder that these advance copies of the Speech are made available to them in the strictest confidence.

TIM FLESHER

David Beamish Esq  
Private Secretary to the  
Government Chief Whip, House of Lords

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL



*file*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

5 November 1984

I enclose one special copy of the Queen's Speech and two ordinary copies. I will let you have a special copy signed by Her Majesty the Queen in time for the ceremony tomorrow.

TIM FLESHER

Richard Stoate Esq  
Lord Chancellor's Office

CONFIDENTIAL

Charlotte

Prince + Princess

of Wales will

be attending with

the Queen at opening

of Parliament.

Julia



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

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5th November, 1984.

Mr Robin.

Thank you for your letter of 2nd November 1984 enclosing two copies of The Queen's Speech on the Opening of Parliament. Her Majesty has signed one copy and I am returning it with this letter.

Yours ever,

Philip & Louisa

---

Robin Butler, Esq.

CONFIDENTIAL



233 7665

CABINET OFFICE  
70 WHITEHALL  
LONDON SW1A 2AS

2 November 1984

*Dear Robin,*

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  
Simon Hickson*

S B HICKSON

F E R Butler Esq  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1

Encs

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THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT, 1984

ARRANGEMENT FOR DESPATCH AND DISTRIBUTION OF COPIES

Copies of the Speech despatched from the Cabinet Office on 2 November 1984 for further distribution by recipients as follows -

Recipients	No of Copies	For distribution to -
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister	220 + 3 Special copies (The Queen's copies)	HM The Queen (2 Special - one to be signed and returned, the other to be retained) ✓  Private Secretary to the Lord Chancellor (signed copy, plus 1 Special and 2 Ordinary) for Lord Chancellor 9.45 6/11 11.30 5/11  Leader of the Opposition (2) } 11.30 Leader of the Liberal Party (1) } 5/11 Private Secretary to the Leader of the House of Lords (7) for Leader of the House (1) 5/11 Leader of the Opposition Party (1) leader of SDP Leader of the Liberal Party (1) Chief Whip (1) Mover and Seconder, House of Lords (2) (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	Advance release to Press (200) For Mover and Seconder, House of Commons and for issue to Opposition Front Bench
Private Secretary to the Home Secretary	10 + 2 Stiff	Mr Speaker (1) (Stiff) Clerk at the Table (1) (Stiff) Editor of Official Report, (Commons) (2) Clerk of the Journals (2) Editor of Official Report, (Lords) (2) Clerk of the Parliaments (1)
Private Secretary to the Lord Privy Seal	2	Leader of the House (2)

Cabinet Office  
2 November 1984

Nickery

1

PRIME MINISTER

In previous years we have sent the leaders of the opposition parties a copy of the Queen's Speech 24 hours in advance of the ceremony.

Agree to the same procedure this year?

Yes - of course  
ms  
D

2 November 1984



*file*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

2 November 1984

*Dear Philip,*

I enclose two copies of the Queen's Speech on the Opening of Parliament.

I should be grateful if you would kindly arrange for one copy to be signed by Her Majesty the Queen and then returned to me for the ceremony on Tuesday. The second copy is for you to keep.

*Yours ever,*

*Robin Butler*

The Rt Hon Sir Philip Moore GCVO KCB CMG

*NR*



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

SS/Scotland to SS/OHSS 31/10/84

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

FENB to Sir P Mome 2/11/84

Inches 1 2 3  
Centimetres 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

# Colour Chart #13

Blue Cyan Green Yellow



## Grey Scale #13



**A** 1 2 3 4 5 6 **M** 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 **B** 17 18 19

