

FROM:

THE RT. HON. LORD HAILSHAM OF ST. MARYLEBONE, C.H., F.R.S., D.C.L.

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HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

Prime Minister

PRIME MINISTER

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6/12*

STRIKERS AND SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT

I have seen a copy of Sir Keith Joseph's minute to you dated 28th November 1979 proposing a scheme to force unions to bear a part of the costs of strikes.

I do not myself find this scheme an attractive proposition for the following reasons:

- (1) It hits the family man rather than the bachelor;
- (2) It hits the non-unionist rather than the unionist;
- (3) The real incentive to strike, which is the automatic tax refund, is untouched;
- (4) We have enough controversy on our hands for the time being. It is admitted that the practical consequences of this scheme will be small. In my view we should save the controversy for something that will be more cost effective *in time for Parliamentary debate & practical results*

*not
necessarily
TL*

There are many commitments contained in our manifesto. I see no reason why we should rush into doing something about all of them all at once. There are serious objections which can be made to this proposal and I think it deserves very serious consideration before we go ahead with it.

H: of S: M.

I am sending copies of this to all those who received copies of Keith Joseph's minute.

6th December 1979



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