

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

HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

PRIME MINISTER

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The Housing Bill will be published this week, but Mr Biffen and Mr Heseltine have not resolved their

HOUSING BILL argument.

MAD 19/12/79

We considered the Housing Bill at Legislation Committee this morning, taking account of your views as recorded in your Private Secretary's letter of 17 December. We agreed to the immediate introduction of the Bill into the House of Commons and publication on Thursday.

I am sorry to say, however, that the dispute between the Secretary of State for the Environment and Treasury Ministers about the sources of finance for mortgages has not been resolved. There will be further urgent discussions about it, and the matter may have to go to Cabinet. Depending on the outcome, amendments may have to be made to Part I of the Bill in Committee. The Government's intentions to make any such changes would then have to be announced to Parliament, probably at Second Reading, rather than to the press when the Bill is published.

I am sending copies of this minute to the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for the Environment, the Secretary of State for Wales, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Chief Secretary and Sir Robert Armstrong.

H: of S: M

18 December 1979

19 DEC 1979

