

in the letter
to the Prime Minister

Prime Minister

Agree that Mr. Prior
should proceed on
the lines he proposes?

PRIME MINISTER

out

SLADE ENQUIRY

T 22/5

As I told you on Friday I intend to appoint this enquiry under my general powers, to be conducted by an independent person with simple and comprehensive terms of reference which, subject to consultations with the parties, would be on the following lines:

"To enquire into recent industrial relations developments, including in particular union recruitment activities, in the art work, advertising and associated industries; and to report".

The enquiry would thus encompass not only the activities of Slade but also the similar tactics employed by the National Graphical Association.

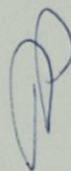
2. The aim of the enquiry will be to establish the facts, including whether Slade has indeed abandoned its "blacking" tactics as it claimed in March. I envisage the enquiry taking two or three months and I hope that its findings will assist in our review of trade union immunities.

3. Of the names I mentioned who might undertake the enquiry, you expressed a preference for ^{ANDREW} Peter Leggatt, who is a distinguished QC with a good deal of arbitration experience, and I shall be taking further soundings with him in mind. Patrick Mayhew agrees that Peter Leggatt would be a good choice.

4. Following our talk I have discussed these proposals with John Methven who has confirmed that the CBI will be content with them. I shall be seeing Len Murray very soon to try to secure his support also and shall then pursue the other necessary consultations of employers and unions directly concerned. We may expect some union opposition to the enquiry, but I hope that they will agree to cooperate.

5. I aim to have completed the consultations and be ready to set up the enquiry within the next two or three weeks.

6. I am copying this minute for information to colleagues in E(EA) and to Sir John Hunt.



J P

22 May 1979

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