

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Prime Minister is now on her way to Dublin. Lunch at Dublin Castle is followed by the First Session of the European Council (from 1500) - the only council of the Irish presidency. Tonight there will be a dinner given by the Taoiseach for the delegates (PM and Lord Carrington only). After dinner opportunities for informal discussions - often bilateral.

IN THE HOUSE

PM's Questions will be taken by the Home Secretary.

Answers of Interest - Nos. 69 and 117 on Blunt.

RHODESIA

It looked as though there was a favourable outcome from Lord Carrington's meeting this morning with the Patriotic Front. We were not aware of any statements in the House today on Rhodesia.

NORTHERN IRELAND

We thought that ^{timing of the} the Northern Ireland Conference would be mentioned in the debate.

SOCIAL SECURITY BILL - WHITE PAPER

We said that the issuing of the White Paper yesterday had been due to a clerical error.

The Section in the White Paper dealing with immigrants we assumed had been agreed with the Home Office.

PAY POLICY

There was no sign that the Government was ^{or would be} engaged in a pay policy. There was no doubt that very high wage demands would affect jobs.

The Prime Minister would be chairing NEDC on 9 January - the first time since taking office.

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 4.00

date: 29.11.79

This morning's briefing was repeated.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Lobby, expressed disappointment at the guidance they had been given at yesterday's 4 o'clock Lobby on the Social Security Bill White Paper. We explained that this was due to a clerical error. The parcels containing the White Paper had been incorrectly labelled and were opened and distributed by the Vote Office in the afternoon. When DHSS realised that the mistake had occurred, they did what they could in the circumstances to try to ensure that the copies of the White Paper were circulated to all who should have it. All we could do was apologise on behalf of DHSS and ourselves.

JL