

PRIME MINISTER

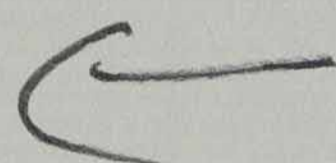
cc Education Sept 79  
Parl (Leg) P43

Parliament Members

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

There are two matters which I think ought to be discussed after we have dealt with next week's business:

(i) The votes in the House on Members' expense allowances and severance pay and secretaries' pensions;



— See minute behind from the Chancellor of the Duchy. Page A

(ii) The prospects for the school transport provisions of the Education (No. 2) Bill.

You might ask the Chancellor of the Duchy to comment on the implications of the votes on Members' allowances. He will of course say that the Government has to accept the will of the House, and I take it that your colleagues will agree.

On school transport, you might ask the Secretary of State for Education to outline the position. He will say that he intends to table an amendment in the Lords restricting the right to charge to the first two children in any family, but does not think that this will be enough to carry the day. If the provisions are defeated, he proposes to accept that decision and not to seek to reinstate them in the Commons. The RSG for 1980-81 has been allocated on the assumption that there will be a saving of £20 m. and Mr. Carlisle will say that LEAs will have to find that by other means. The savings in subsequent years (£35 m. in 1981/82, £45 m. in 1982/83 and £50 m. in 1983/84 - all for England and Wales only) will have to be the subject of further negotiations.

You might like to ask Earl Ferrers to comment on the prospects in the Lords, and the Chief Whip and Chancellor of the Duchy on the possibility of seeking to reinstate the Clause in the Commons. The Chief Secretary will want to put in a view on the public expenditure implications. You might remit the issue to the Treasury and the DES for further discussions.

/ Other matters

Other matters

There are two other matters which I suggest should not be discussed tomorrow. The first is the congestion which lies ahead in the House of Lords. You will remember that Lord Ferrers minuted you about the problem. With your agreement, I asked that Ministers with points to raise should put them direct to Lord Ferrers, and this process is still going on. Cabinet can consider the shape of the programme when those discussions have been completed. I attach a further minute from the Lord Chancellor about the Contempt of Court Bill; you will see that it is to be discussed in Legislation Committee next week.

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Finally, I see no need to discuss the Abortion Bill in Cabinet. I have minuted you separately about the state of play on it.

MS

5 March 1980