

*Note - Please draw
Chancellor's attention
to this
mt*

c. Mr. Whitmore

PRIME MINISTER

MPs' PAY

Clive and I thought that before you see the Chief Whip on Monday, you might like to look again at the most recent commitment on Members' pay given by the Chancellor of the Duchy in the House.

It was on 4 March this year, during his speech on the TSRB Report on secretarial allowances and the other minor changes which were recommended at the same time.

The Hansard extract is attached. You will see (at Flag A) that the Chancellor of the Duchy said:

"This year the up-dating of the second stage payment by the Review Body on Top Salaries has been accepted in advance by the Government, and the Government are committed to implementing the up-dating from this summer."

and, later -

Presumably that refers only to the second stage without updating.

This is meaningless.

"My commitment and that of the Government is that the first of those upratings which will take place in the summer of this year, whatever the Boyle Committee recommends - obviously the Boyle Committee will take inflation into account - will be implemented by the Government."

I am bound to say that that commitment is so unequivocal that it seems to me that it would be very difficult for the Chancellor of the Duchy to maintain his own position and not to give the House the opportunity, when the time comes, to vote - on a Government Motion - for full implementation of this year's upratings. If an

/amendment

amendment for a lower figure is proposed and can be carried, so much the better; but the terms of the assurances which the Leader of the House has given are so firm that I am in no doubt that the House will expect, and if necessary demand, an opportunity to vote on the possibility of full uprating.

MS

7 June 1980