

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Prime Minister was working at Downing Street today. Lord Thornycroft called on her for a meeting at 10.30. There would be a meeting of Ministers at 11.30 and Lobby would be informed of the composition. There was likely to be a further meeting of Ministers this afternoon, though this was not yet firm.

There would be an Eve of State Opening dinner at No. 10 to acquaint Ministers of the contents of the Queen's Speech and to celebrate the Session ahead. This would be attended by all Ministers down to Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State level. Most Ministers would already be aware of the general contents of the Speech and what was likely to happen was that Mrs. Thatcher would make a few introductory comments about the contents. The Queen would have had a copy of the final Speech today.

TOMORROW'S BUSINESS IN THE HOUSE

The proposer and seconder of the Loyal Address in tomorrow's Debate would be William Elliott and Kenneth Baker respectively. The Leader of the Opposition would probably not start his speech until at least 3 p.m. and his speech would be followed by that of the Prime Minister. The Debate would end next Monday and there would be a business question on Thursday. An announcement by the Department of the Environment on the sale of council houses could come during the Debate. Correspondents could assume that there was likely to be a long Session. The Budget date would come during the Debate on the Address. If it did not come tomorrow it would probably come on the day on which economic affairs were debated.

RESIGNATION HONOURS

We had no indication on the timing of the previous Prime Minister's Resignation Honours list but, as correspondents knew, there was no time limit on these but clearly it would be preferable if they were published before the Queen's Birthday Honours. The Birthday Honours this year would be a very concentrated exercise. Staff here were already working on them in preparation for their announcement on June 16. It was perhaps fortunate that the date for the Honours was a little later this year than normal.

MP'S PAY

We expected to receive this report soon but we could give no indication as to how long it would take for an announcement to be made following the receipt.

POLICY UNIT APPOINTMENT

Correspondents were informed that an announcement had been made to PA on Friday of the appointment of Mr. John Hoskyns as Head of the No. 10 Policy Unit. A confirmatory press notice was issued today.

GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS

We would let Lobby correspondents have, as soon as it was available - and we did not know if that would be today - the list of outstanding appointments of Whips in the Commons.