



Parliament 2

Prime Minister

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This is the more general note on the legislative programme promised by the Chancellor of the Duchy.

PRIME MINISTER

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1979-80

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Your minute to the Lord Chancellor of 26 July expressed your concern that Bills in the Legislative Programme should be prepared in good time, and your Private Secretary's letter to mine of 29 August asked for progress reports on four of them. I have seen copies of the reports which departments have sent in reply, and I have assessed the situation as a whole with advice from First Parliamentary Counsel and the Cabinet Office.

2. It should be possible to introduce the Industry, Education, Official Information, Isle of Man, Insurance Companies, Shipping Contracts and Commercial Documents (Amendment), Consular Fees (Amendment) and Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa and Naru Bills by the end of October; and I hope to add to these the Local Government, Planning and Land Bill. Work is also proceeding with the aim of introducing the Civil Aviation, Transport, Aircraft (Denationalisation), National Heritage Fund and Ports (Financial) Bills by the end of October, but the position on these should be clearer in a fortnight's time.

3. I hope that during November we shall be able to introduce the Social Security and Matrimonial Homes (Rights of Occupation) Bills, together with the European Communities (Enlargement) Bill if it is needed and a number of Scottish Bills - Remuneration of Teaching Staff, Valuation and Rating, Housing and Criminal Justice. We should be able to add the Bills on Health Services (Miscellaneous Provisions), Police (Negotiating Machinery), International Organisation (Amendment) and Currency, but again the position should be more clear in a fortnight's time. For the reasons which departments have already given I do not think we should expect the Housing or Trade Union Bills before December. Other Bills for introduction in December or later

will then be Wildlife and Countryside; Coal Industry (Finance); Petroleum and Submarine Pipelines (Amendment); Contempt of Court; Parliamentary Commissioner (Amendment); Broadcasting; Energy; Efficiency and Safety; Civil Government (Scotland); Diplomatic Privileges (Special Missions); International Military Services (Financial Provisions); Merchant Shipping Liner Conferences; Damages; Matrimonial Homes (Rights of Occupation) (Scotland); Air Services in the Highlands and Islands (Scotland); Employment Protection (Amendment) and National Health Services (Dispensing Arrangements). I understand that it is now doubtful whether the Nationality Bill will be for introduction this session.

4. These plans will obviously be affected if we have to prepare and introduce an urgent Bill to provide for Rhodesian independence.

5. I need hardly say that work is proceeding with all possible speed, both in Parliamentary Counsel's Office and in the departments concerned, and I shall personally keep the situation under close review. I do not consider that any immediate action or reappraisal of the programme is needed at this stage, but a reappraisal may be needed if further difficulties arise as the session proceeds or if departments do not keep to their promised deadlines. I shall let you have a further report in about a fortnight.

6. I am sending copies of this minute to colleagues in Cabinet, to the Minister of Transport and Chief Whip, and to First Parliamentary Counsel and Sir John Hunt.

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10 September 1979



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