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cc Mr. Mount
Mr. Vereker
Mr. Smith

please see his
note (attached)

Prime Minister

(4)

MR. SCHOLAR

shall I ask that John Sparrow brings
forward the study by a month or so?

CPRS UNEMPLOYMENT STUDY

1. John Sparrow's memorandum on the current state of play on this study covers a lot of ground. But in being comprehensive, it may divert attention from the crucial policy issues.
2. First the new anticipated time of completion, namely the end of the summer recess (end October) is some months later than the original date which Robin Ibbs envisaged (and which was reported in the Press as July). This delay could result in Ministers not having the results of the study in adequate time to take them on board for the next relevant policy decision - the mid-November uprating announcement of Social Security benefits for 1983. The part of the study we are doing in No. 10 will be available in August and there would be advantages if the CPRS timetable could be advanced two or three months.
3. Secondly, in their final report I hope that CPRS avoids unnecessary descriptive material and concentrates on an analysis of the labour market. We can then focus upon crucial policy decisions, such as the 1983 budget decisions.

Yes - I agree with Alan. The end of the summer recess is much later than the end of August in the original plan. The end of August is the date for the next decision for next year.

AW

26 May 1982

ALAN WALTERS

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