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OFFICE OF MANPOWER ECONOMICS

22 KINGSWAY  
LONDON WC2B 6JY

Telephone 01-405 5944

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

29 February 1980

*Dear Prime Minister.*

Thank you for your letter of 14 February 1980 setting out the Government's views on our Report No 13 recommendations.

We are glad to learn that the Government intends to propose acceptance of most of them. We understand the difficulties about improvements in the present travel arrangements, but we hope that the recommendation will not be lost for all time. We particularly welcome the decision not to pursue the proposition about some form of link for MPs' salary and, instead, to undertake annual reviews of Parliamentary pay. If the Review Body is indeed invited to take this on we will be happy to accept.

We accept that the Government does not feel able to oblige Members to arrange for their secretaries to be paid directly by the Fees Office, and we welcome the fact that it is the intention to encourage them to do so. On the question of central employment of secretaries, I should perhaps draw attention to the fact that we saw this as an option for MPs to take up or not as they chose. The main purpose was to ease the burdens that can fall on individual Members as the 'employers', and also to ensure that adequate provision would be available for the secretaries as regards pensions, redundancy payments and so on. However, as the Leader of the House recognised in his statement, no doubt the matter will be discussed further in next week's debate.

*Yours sincerely*

*Edward Boyle*

BOYLE OF HANDSWORTH, CHAIRMAN  
REVIEW BODY ON TOP SALARIES

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20540  
Telephone 475-7244



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