

PRIME MINISTER

Post Office Dispute at Enfield

Post Office workers in Enfield are refusing to handle 150,000 Polling Cards for the European Election. They are also refusing to handle Election material from the political parties. This is part of a dispute which has been going on for sometime. They have now been sent home without pay. Enfield is of course part of the London North constituency.

The Home Office are unlikely to be able to make alternative arrangements for getting the Cards to voters in time. The absence of Cards does not of course affect the ability of people to vote; but they do act as a reminder. However, the Conservative Party is planning to deliver its Election material to the voters who are affected by hand. The Labour Party are talking of issuing an injunction against the Post Office, but it is thought they are unlikely to proceed with this. The Liberals do not have any Election material to deliver.

This is all highly unsatisfactory, though at least the Conservative Party are making alternative arrangements. But I do not think there is anything which can be done, short of meeting the Post Office workers' unreasonable demands, to get them to co-operate.

*It is disappointing - none the less*

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