

C.C. Mr. Waldson

PRIME MINISTER

~~to~~ Go ahead. But as the  
 funding is done to them - strike,  
 I think it that the office contribute  
 within the gates.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PAYMENT OF SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT TO STRIKERS

MS.

As proposed in his minute to you of 21 September, I have urgently discussed this issue with Patrick Jenkin and John Belstead.

We agreed that the established arrangements whereby temporary offices are opened to handle claims from relatively large numbers of strikers should be continued. The major consideration is the disruption which would otherwise arise in local offices, which would result <sup>in</sup> intolerable delays in meeting the needs of ordinary claimants. We should be the readier to explain publicly that their protection has to be our first concern. Although we could look to the police to maintain order in and around local offices if they had to deal with crowds of strikers on top of their normal case-load, experience shows that ugly scenes could well develop with the risk of damage to property and even personal injury. Disorder would be courted and we could not be sure that local office staff would be ready to continue working normally in such conditions.

We thought Patrick Jenkins should continue with the special arrangements planned for the payment of benefit to the families of strikers from Rolls Royce plants although these arrangements had been suspended following the discussion at E Committee last week. The management has been very ready to co-operate in establishing these arrangements. Entitlement to benefit will I understand begin at the end of this week, and in the circumstances we agreed it was necessary to start to make the arrangements now. We hope you will agree.

I am copying this minute to members of E Committee Angus Maude, Sir Michael Havers, John Belstead and Sir John Hunt.

JP  
 24 September 1979



25 SEP 1979

