

PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Affairs

Once again there are a number of matters arising from the business. You might perhaps take them in this order:-

1) Next week's business

Since the attached provisional business order was put forward, Murdo has secured agreement from the Opposition that the censure debate will be on Tuesday. The Supply Day which was due to take place on Tuesday will now take place on Wednesday so that the business for Tuesday and Wednesday will essentially be exchanged. We are not yet sure of the details of the subsidiary business on those two days.

I understand from Murdo that the present intention of the Opposition is that the Supply Day will be devoted to textiles until 7 o'clock and that the remaining half a Supply Day may be given to the Liberals.

You will need to confirm that the Chancellor will wind up in the censure debate and to identify speakers for the Government on the Supply Day in the light of the subjects which are finally chosen.

2) Housing Bill

The Secretary of State for the Environment has circulated a minute reporting on the five Government defeats in the House of Lords earlier this week and proposing to ~~accept~~^{reject} four of the changes but ~~not~~^{accept} the fifth. The Secretary of State for the Environment will want to speak to his minute and the Lord President will no doubt wish to report to colleagues on feeling in the House of Lords.

3) Health Services Bill

There was an earlier Government defeat in the House of Lords in the Health Services Bill, on the subject of payment to GPs' wives to act as secretaries or in some other capacity associated with the practice. I understand from DHSS that this matter has not yet been resolved. You might ask the Secretary of State for Social Services to tell his colleagues how things stand and what he proposes to do. *There is a letter to Lady Masham in the papers attached.*

4) Act of Settlement (Amendment) Bill

A brief from Robert Armstrong is attached.

5) Recess Dates and Date of State Opening

As you know, the business managers have agreed today that the summer recess will start on 8 August and that the House of Lords will come back on 6 October and the House of Commons on 27 October. *Mon*
It is intended that the State Opening should take place on 11 November. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster will want to report these dates and the Lord President may want to add something about the prospects facing the House of Lords and the need to avoid further Government amendments to bills coming before the Lords wherever possible.

MJ

11th or 12th Nov

F. Sec.

23 July 1980