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*SUBJECT*



*Parliament*

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Personal Minute

No. *M9/79T*

LORD CHANCELLOR

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1979-80: PROGRESS WITH BILLS

I emphasised in Cabinet this morning the need to make rapid progress with the preparation of legislation so that as many as possible of the session's major bills will be ready for introduction as soon as Parliament returns from the long recess.

The present targets must not be allowed to slip. As you reminded us this morning, all our more substantial bills must reach the Lords no later than the Whitsun recess if we are to rely on getting them through, and some will need to have passed all their stages before the end of the financial year. Most of the bills are central to our economic policies or essential for other reasons, and there are very few to which we are not already publicly committed.

Colleagues must therefore ensure that work on the preparation of bills is pressed forward during the recess, and that those bills which have been promised for October and early November are brought to Legislation Committee in good time.

If introduction dates prove to be at risk, it may be necessary to reduce the scope of bills to ensure that dates can still be met; but we should not rely on amendments in Committee to correct omissions or mistakes.

/ Colleagues

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Colleagues should immediately inform you, as Chairman of Legislation Committee, if any risk appears so that you can consider with the Leaders of both Houses, and the Chief Whips the effect on the Parliamentary timetable and on the programme as a whole.

I am copying this minute to other members of the Cabinet, to the Attorney General, the Minister of Transport and the Chief Whips in both Houses, and to First Parliamentary Counsel and Sir John Hunt.

*Raymond Stobart*

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26 July 1979

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