



10 DOWNING STREET

With the compliments of

JOHN HOSKYNS

The PPB might have this as one of its hidden objectives - a general statement of the principles at stake and the Government's position on, in particular, public sector strikes.

5 June 1981

MR HOSKYNS

MR DUGUID

AMBULANCEMEN'S DISPUTE

Government needs to make a general "attitude to strike" statement.

1. The Government deplures all strikes. Reasons:

(a) It is not a mature way for adults to behave.

(b) It is no longer a rational act to strike in times of high unemployment, when the search for wages may remove the job. (Clearly this does not apply to all industries.)

(c) Inconveniencing or actually harming other members of the community is at least anti-social, frequently criminal and on occasion murderous (the latter will apply in the case of an ambulancemen's strike).

(d) Without a perfect and accepted incomes policy, there will always be disagreements. But the strike solution will be shown by history to be increasingly irrelevant and positively harmful in many ways - employment, social relationships, fracturing society, inculcating a wrong and selfish set of values out of keeping with a maturing, caring, tolerant society.

Unions can't protect their members from other union actions. They can only lash out in return.

(e) It will increasingly be Government policy to make citizens' attitudes towards strikes change so that they are seen to be anti-social. As part of this process, and with correct timing, we will be seeking more no-strike agreements which are reflected in pay contracts, and increasingly tough legislation against strikes.

Deplure

quit rates.

2. We should state categorically to the ambulancemen that until such time as we have a comparative pay policy at all, each pay case is taken on its merits. One of its merits from the Government's point of view is whether or not they have enough power to defeat what the

*If this was more by why don't they go elsewhere
if they do will want more ambulance men
a lot: have to pay more*

Government regards as an exorbitant pay claim. In the case of the ambulancemen, they have that power and they intend to fight them. However, if the ambulancemen can make positive proposals for a pay agreement which gives them a no-strike bargaining plan for the future, the Government is interested. At the moment, the Government admits it does not know how to do it.

NORMAN STRAUSS

u

I know the price many of you are paying
for what must be done ^{for} what should have been done ^{years} ago

TV
L'v'v'v'

I also know the far greater price you ~~would~~ have
paid (your children) had you had to pay in the future
if we did not do it now

↑
Spend more time and

NORMAN STRAUSS

10480/43/4