

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11.00 date: 7.2.80

The Cabinet met at 1030. All present plus Earl Ferrers (representing Lord Soames).

PRESS NOTICE

Appointment of member of the Redundant Churches Fund.

EMPLOYMENT BILL/WORKING DOCUMENT

The meeting of Ministers yesterday had considered the working document covering immunities. It would be considered again next week. We could not guide on a date for publication - but probably not before the week after next. The working document is about immunities. We did not know at this stage whether it would go further. Ministers were determined that the final document should be adequate and therefore were giving it careful consideration.

MR. SIRS/GOVERNMENT SILENT U-TURN

We drew attention to Col. 234 in Hansard of 5 February when the Prime Minister had reiterated for what purposes the £450 million should be used. Therefore, there obviously was no U-turn.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

We expected the White Paper incorporating decisions on 80/81 and 81/84 to be published immediately before the Budget. We could not be more specific on the date.

CORRIE BILL

We could offer no guidance on a Government view. In reply to what Dr. Vaughan would be saying in the House tomorrow, we suggested the Lobby should contact DHSS.

JL

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 4.00

date: 7.2.80

Morning Lobby was repeated.

We drew the Lobby's attention to a substantive answer from the Department of Trade on the imports of synthetic textile products (answered at 4 p.m. today).

EMPLOYMENT BILL

We did not dissent from the Leader of the House's comment that the working document on immunities had been alluded to at Cabinet this morning - but it was not discussed. We expected the meeting of Ministers which had discussed it yesterday, would consider it again next week.

On public expenditure, we said the Cabinet did not discuss it this morning, nor was there a need for further discussion in Cabinet. We expected it would return to Cabinet in the form of a draft White Paper.

CONTROL OF MONEY SUPPLY

We suggested that the Lobby speak to Treasury for information on the report looking at the mechanics for controlling money supply referred to by the PM in the House this afternoon.

JL