

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Prime Minister is working at No. 10 this morning and would be seeing Roy Jenkins, the President of the EEC Commission, at 11.30 to discuss Community business. We would be surprised if this did not include some discussion of current issues such as our budgetary contribution.

STATEMENTS

Patrick Jenkin - help with heating costs.

PNQs RUNNING

Stan Newens - to ask the Foreign Secretary if he will make a statement on British food aid and other assistance for Cambodia.

ANSWERS OF INTEREST

- 304: Michael Grylls - to Minister of Transport on Report of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration about the Land Compensation Act 1973 (deals with compensation connected with motorway).
- 303: Iain Mills - to Minister of Transport on motorway service areas.

EEC BUDGET

We did not know where the stories in the weekend and today's papers were coming from about threats if we did not achieve a solution to the budget problem at the European Council in Dublin. The British position remains clear: we have identified the problem and we expect the timetable agreed by Heads of Government at the European Council in Strasbourg last June to be followed. This called for the Commission to draw up a paper containing proposals for a solution to be submitted to the Finance Ministers and then to the European Council in Dublin for a decision. We were not speculating about what would happen after Dublin.

GAS PRICES

We did not think any decision had yet been taken. There was likely to be a statement in Parliament on fuel prices generally, including gas, but we could not offer any guidance on timing.

This morning's briefing was repeated.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

We said that the White Paper for 1980/81 might be available on 31 October or very early in November. The White Paper giving public expenditure forecasts for the medium term would be published later on this year, perhaps in late November.

CVA