

DEREK HOWE

Mark Schreiber of the Economist was persistent yesterday in seeking a definition of Derek Howe's position and, after consultation with Mr. Maude's Private Secretary and Clive Whitmore, I told the Economist the following.

Derek Howe's formal title is "Special Adviser to the Paymaster General" and he took up his position last month. (I did not specify a particular date). I said that Derek Howe divided his time between work for the Government and work for Central Office and that he was paid partly by the Civil Service and partly by Central Office. I did not specify the arrangements precisely but said the bulk of his work was on behalf of the Government and therefore the bulk of his salary came from that source. (For your own information, he spends 80 per cent of his time working on behalf of the Government and the remaining 20 per cent on behalf of the Conservative Party). It is not our policy to give details of salaries paid to special advisers. (For your own information, Derek Howe is paid at somewhere between the Principal and Assistant Secretary level).

Other Appointments in No. 10

Schreiber asked me various other questions and, after consultation, I gave him the following answers:-

Norman Strauss started work as John Hoskyns' deputy in the No. 10 Policy Unit at the beginning of this month. (For more details, see Bulletin of 8 June.)

Caroline Stephens, as Personal Assistant to the Prime Minister, is paid by Central Office - not by the Civil Service. As she worked for Mrs. Thatcher in Opposition, it was natural that this arrangement for her salary to be paid by Central Office should continue.

Professor Hague. In response to a question, I said that he was not employed by the No. 10 Policy Unit, although the Unit was "in touch with him" from time to time on economic subjects. He is a Professor of Managerial Economics at Manchester Business School.