LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 4.30 date: 15.5.79

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

We had nothing to add to Mrs. Thatcher's public programme.

RHODESIA

The official who would be having talks with Bishop Muzorewa - referred to by Mrs. Thatcher - was in fact Sir Anthony Duff. Asked what the Prime Minister meant by "new reality", we explained that she was referring to the reality of a situation where there was now a "one man - one vote" Government. But Lobby could be assured that there was no question of a unilateral decision on the legality of the regime before the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Lusaka in August and until after there had been lengthy consultations with our American allies.

FORTHCOMING LEGISLATION

We were unable to give any order or priority or even hint at those Bills which might come before the recess (some clearly would).

HANGING - FREE VOTE

Again, no indication of likely timing.

ORDER OF SPEAKERS THIS WEEK

The attached list gave the proposed Government Speakers.

PRICE COMMISSION

This decision had been taken at a recent meeting of Ministers of which Lobby was aware.

NEB/WDA/SDA

We thought Sir Keith Joseph would be dealing with this next Monday.

QUEEN'S SPEECH DEBATE: Subject and speakers

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

Health, education and social security: Mr Mark Carlisle and Mr George Younger

THURSDAY, MAY 17

Housing and local government

Mr Michael Hesæltine and Mr John Stanley (M o S (Housing)

FRIDAY, MAY 18

Foreign affairs

Sir Ian Gilmour and Mr Peter Walker

MONDAY, MAY 21

(opposition amendment therefore they will open) Industrial policy and employment

Sir Keith Joseph and Mr James Prior

TUESDAY, MAY 22

(opposition amendment therefore they will open) The economy, pay and prices.

Nir Geoffrey Howe and Mr Norman St John Stevas.