

PRIME MINISTER

B/Kendrick  
for Hansard

Post + Telecom.

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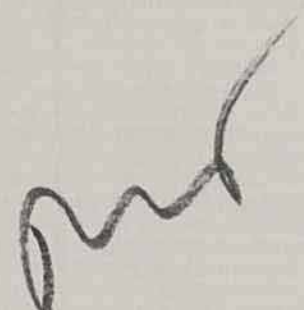
Keith Joseph's statement on the Post Office

Keith Joseph's statement (copy attached) went off peacefully this afternoon. He was consistently very generous to Sir William Barlow and this took the sting out of any criticism the Opposition might have had. Keith Joseph denied allegations by John Silkin that there had been a long series of disagreements with Barlow over the size of the investment programme, the cash limits and the ending of ~~the~~ monopoly and break up of the Post Office.

Mr. Silkin called the cash limits "rigid and unimaginative". Keith Joseph said that there would be no point in having "slack and imaginative" cash limits, and emphasised the need for co-operation by the members of the UPW in an effort to raise their productivity.

Various Members complained about the size of the telephone waiting list and there was a little criticism, if only from Bob Cryer, of the appointment of someone from the "magic circle".

Keith Joseph said more than once that the discipline of cash limits was essential, but that he was looking into ways of getting private capital into the telecommunications investment programme. He also re-emphasised the role of the unions in improving the performance of the postal service.



Ms

16 April 1980





## DRAFT STATEMENT ON POST OFFICE MANAGEMENT CHANGES

With permission, Mr Speaker, I understand it would meet the wishes of the House if I were to make a short statement about impending changes in the senior management of the Post Office.

Sir William Barlow has made excellent progress with the administrative preparations for the legislation the Government intend to introduce soon to separate the Post Office into two Corporations.

Sir William knew that I hoped he would become the Chairman of British Telecommunications but to my great regret told me shortly before Easter that he would prefer to resume his career in the private sector. Sir William has always had my respect and admiration for all that he has done and sought to do in the Post Office during the past 2½ years. His departure later this year will be a heavy loss to the public sector, though I have no doubt it will be a great gain to private industry.

I also announced yesterday that after consideration of a number of other possible candidates I was appointing Mr Ron Dearing, a Deputy Secretary in my Department, to be a Deputy Chairman of the Post Office and Chairman-designate of the postal business.



16 APR 1960

