

~~PRIME MINISTER~~

Employment Bill: Lord Soames

Lord Soames's office telephoned to say that he would be glad to have a few words with you about the Employment Bill after your meeting on the Civil Service at 2015 tonight, if you would like to discuss it with him.

His office said that Lord Soames is very worried by rumours, which are rife in the House of Lords, that you personally are in favour of revising clauses 7 and 17 of the Bill. I gather that he would like you to scotch those rumours publicly.

Your meeting with Lord Harris, Lord Orr-Ewing and others is known to the Press already. Our Press Office have been taking a very quiet line about it.

Finally, we had a message from the Solicitor General earlier in the day that he was unhappy about the draft replies to the President of the Law Society and so on which the Department of Employment had submitted to you. In view of your decision to send only a very short reply, the need to change the draft does not, of course, arise.

MS

2 July 1980