

Kws.

Prime Minister

ms

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE BILL

1. Michael Heseltine had a meeting with the Executive of the 1922 Committee last evening.
2. Charles Morrison was the only one in favour of withdrawing the bill completely - ie in favour of doing nothing to curb overspending. Only Terrence Higgins was implacably opposed to the proposed local poll.
3. Michael Heseltine is very strongly opposed indeed to withdrawing the Bill. After consultation with the Leader of the House and the Chief Whip, and with the agreement of the Chairmen of the Finance and Environment committees, (Bill Clark and Tony Durant) it has been agreed to hold a special general meeting of both committees at 6.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 24th November. Michael Heseltine and Tom King will be there and Michael will suggest, as an alternative to the local poll proposal, that those Councillors who wish to increase expenditure and impose a supplementary rate should be required to submit themselves for re-election. After that meeting it is hoped that we will be able to assess opinion in the Party as to whether we would be able to get the Bill, if amended in this way, through the House.
4. Although Michael Jopling remains convinced that we would not get the present Bill through the House, because of objections to the local poll provision, I detect some weakening of the opposition to the local poll idea.

He wants
for central
authority