



PRIME MINISTER

THE BAN ON CIVIL SERVICE RECRUITMENT

I have seen the Lord President's minute to you of July 17. in its effects.

You were reluctant to agree the lifting of the ban on civil service recruitment (Flag A). Do you wish to reconsider in the light of this minute? The key points are -

- i) Depts. will have to live within this year's cash limits
- ii) next year's cash limits won't be set until we have agreed the volume figures - and maybe not until the new year
- iii) The recruitment ban is pretty indiscriminate

As long as Ministers accept responsibility for achieving the manpower economies and managing expenditure within the cash limits, I would support his proposal that the recruitment ban need not be retained.

DL
20/7

I am copying this to other members of the Cabinet, the Minister of Transport and Sir John Hunt.

I still think that the ban is

W J B

a) a valuable way of keeping within the cash limits

b) an excellent way of saving

that Ministers know what is going on in their own departments.

After all, they have in urgent cases.

ps

JOHN BIFFEN
20 July 1979

CONFIDENTIAL

PM subsequently agreed with Lord Soames and John Hunt that the ban should be lifted; but this should not imply any letting up on the drive to find still unmet

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19 JUL 1979

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