

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister.

Do you want to set up
a group under your own
management?

MR. WHITMORE

If so, are you content with
the membership proposed or X1?
Do you wish to include Mr St John
Strikers and Supplementary Benefits
Whip?

Strikers and Supplementary Benefits

When we discussed forthcoming Cabinet business with the Prime Minister on Monday, she said she was unhappy at the proposal to discuss this subject in Cabinet on 8th November.

full
30x

2. The minute of 26th October from the Secretary of State for Industry reports the inconclusive discussion in E(EA). It was inconclusive, at least in part, because the Chancellor of the Exchequer had put his own very strong views in writing, but was not able to attend the meeting to discuss them. The Secretary of State for Employment and the Secretary of State for Social Services (for differing reasons) could not accept all the Chancellor's points. The result was therefore bound to be deadlock. One would not necessarily reach the same situation in full Cabinet, but it would be a complicated and difficult discussion. It would also need a fresh paper from DHSS with clear proposals.

X

3. If the Prime Minister prefers, as she tentatively suggested yesterday, to handle this in a smaller group, then I suggest that the composition should include, as a minimum, the Prime Minister herself; the Secretary of State for Employment; the Secretary of State for Social Services; the Chancellor of the Exchequer; the Secretary of State for Industry; and (useful but not essential) the Attorney General. The Prime Minister might also want to consider including either the Chancellor of the Duchy or the Chief Whip: the parliamentary tactics of these proposals will be important.

4. The timetable is tight, but not desperately so. The Secretary of State for Social Services wants to get his Bill to Legislation Committee on 28th November, in time for introduction before Christmas. Provided that the new group can come to conclusions within the next couple of weeks, it should be possible to maintain this timetable.

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5. If the Prime Minister, on consideration, agrees, we will make the necessary arrangements. Mr. Lankester will also need to send a "chaser" to his letter of 29th October, making it clear that the group proposed in this minute will take delivery of the report commissioned in his letter.

RA

(Robert Armstrong)

in K. Dwyer with
min with the PM.
possibly next week.
R.

30th October 1979



COMMISSIONER

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... the ...
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30 OCT 1957

(Signature)

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