

PRIME MINISTER

Chain of Command in the Civil Service

1,  
Will consider them  
after the House  
minutes met

A The minute immediately below from the Lord President submits a report by a team led by Sir Geoffrey Wardale on the proposition that the chain of command of the Open Structure of the Civil Service should be shortened. Lord Soames also submits with his minute a draft letter with which he would like to circulate the Wardale report to other members of the Cabinet, seeking their agreement on how to proceed on its recommendations. I do not suggest that you should read the whole of the report, but you might like to go through its conclusions and recommendations which are set out on pages 35-37 (Flag A).

C I thought that the references in Lord Soames' minute to consultation with Sir Derek Rayner were so bland that I suspected that they covered up disagreement between him and the CSD, and I therefore asked his office for advice. This has been provided in the very long minute from Mr. Priestley at Flag B. There is too much of this for you to read in its entirety, and you will get the essentials of Sir Derek Rayner's views if you look at the draft letter at Flag C which Mr. Priestley suggests we should send, on your behalf, to Lord Soames' office in response to his minute to you.

I think that Sir Derek Rayner's criticisms of the Wardale report and of the way Lord Soames proposes to proceed are justified for the most part and I suggest that you agree that I should write in the terms of Mr. Priestley's draft. But I must warn you that the Lord President will almost certainly be unhappy to receive what he will regard as another rebuff from No.10; and you may take the view that, with everything else that is going on at the moment, you do not want another fight on your hands on an issue which, though important, is hardly central and which, even if we proceed as Lord Soames suggests, you could revert to at a later date if you so wished.

/Shall

Shall I write as in the draft at Flag C? Or shall we let Lord Soames go ahead as he proposes?

TWW.

Clive - I don't think either course is satisfactory

I think we should publish the Wankle report - as that's the Press can make their own comment.

It is not a good report - quite spart from its conclusion.

I don't think we can do both either feeds but I think we should have a target of reducing the total of both feeds to 1961 proportions. I should have no confidence in Wankle team.

Little outside Wankle's in food permanent resolution is likely (1) should be able to do it. Venetian? Wankle Jr. Critics have any view? If impossible to do it by October

24 July 1981