



QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

~~Mr. Prior~~

28 Oct 1980

Dear Jim

DP

CODES OF PRACTICE ON THE CLOSED SHOP AND PICKETING

Thank you for copying to me your minute of 22nd October to the Prime Minister covering revised texts of these Codes.

My officials have passed to yours copies of the comments made by the police organisations on the earlier draft of the Code on Picketing. On the whole they have given it a general welcome. As your summary indicates, the most significant comment by the Association of Chief Police Officers expressed unease at the reference to six pickets. Chief officers are not just concerned at anything which might fetter their discretion to decide the appropriate number of pickets in each case; they are anxious that the figure might assume a degree of significance without regard for the circumstances of the particular dispute.

Nevertheless, while they would have preferred not to see six or any other specific number in the Code, I do not think chief officers will vigorously oppose it. I am sure they fully recognise the Government's commitment to limiting excessive numbers on picket lines. And they will welcome the extent to which the amendments you are proposing to make to this section of the Code help to emphasise the unfettered nature of police discretion.

For my part I am content with the revised drafts you have circulated.

I am copying this letter to the other recipients of your minute.

Yours
Lillian

29 OCT 1950

