

1. Secretary

If you agree

2. Minister

*This would seem to be a happy compromise out of an affecting of it can be achieved. HJ/4*

Sir Harold Banwell came into the office this evening to say that Mr. Reynolds had been in touch with his office about Mrs. Thatcher's Bill.

Mr. Reynolds said that he had it mind to approach Mrs. Thatcher at an appropriate stage to suggest that subsections (2), (3), (4) and (5) of Clause 2 of the Bill should be deleted, but that a provision should be included entitling the press, subject to appropriate safeguards, to attend meetings of committees which comprise all the members of the council.

Sir Harold Banwell said that this approach would be perfectly acceptable to him; and he had ascertained that it would be acceptable to Mr. Robert Jenkins. Sir Harold had himself come round to the view that there would be a positive advantage in having a Bill on these lines, which would apply to the council itself, but would not include provisions about committees of the council.

This seems much in line with your own approach, and now that Mr. Reynolds has taken the initiative it looks as though there may be some prospect of getting a compromise which will be generally accepted by the Committee.

I did not tell Sir Harold what your views were, but obtained his agreement to my reporting to you this information about the attitude now taken up by Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Robert Jenkins.

If I tell him on Monday that you would be disposed to look favourably on a compromise of this kind, he will pursue his enquiries, and should be able to muster quite a large body of support on both sides of the Committee.

May I have your authority to do this?

There will be a number of loose ends to be tied up (e.g. the position of education committees and police authorities, and what bodies the Bill is to apply to); and there is also bound to be quite a long discussion, I think, on the trade dispute point which is ~~to~~ due to come up on the next amendment (and on which we know that Mr. Yates and Mr. Pannell are very anxious to speak). But I should have thought that there was a good prospect, if the necessary amendments can be worked out and put down for consideration the following Wednesday, of real progress being made then with the compromise solution.

*HJ/4*

*Secretary (to see) I have so informed Sir H. Banwell  
2 Deputy Secretaries ~~reference~~ 4/60 PA 4/60*

*PA*

1st April, 1960.

*I would look favourably on this solution, & would be good to get the necessary amendments worked out.*

*Sir H. Banwell may be told this, but must also be told that he must keep my views secret, & not say to anybody "The Minister would back this".*

*He should also know that Mrs Thatcher & her friends would probably refuse to make any agreement with Mr Reynolds alone, partly because they thoroughly distrust him after his behaviour in Committee, & partly because they believe that Mr Yates & Mr Pannell would refuse to be bound by any such agreement.*

*H.B.  
1/4*