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PRIME MINISTER

Here is Part II of Lord Boyle's Report on Parliamentary Pay and Allowances, covering all the topics which were not included in his earlier Report.

The most important recommendations are that:

1. There should be two allowances with separate maxima for secretarial assistants and research assistants. The secretarial maximum should be £5,500 and the research maximum £1,250. Payments should be made direct to secretaries or research assistants by the Fees Office;
2. There should be no new arrangements for redundancy payments for secretaries;
3. The House might consider the possibility of introducing a system of central employment of secretaries on an optional basis;
4. The present accrual rate for Members' pensions is satisfactory;
5. The constitution of the Members' Fund should be changed to entitle former Members without service since October 1964, their widows or other dependents, to a measure of benefit as of right; or, if this is judged to be too expensive, as a minimum a grant should be made available to all such former Members or their dependents who are aged 75 or over at the date upon which a change is made;
6. There should be no further improvement in the pension scheme for Members who left the House on or after 16 October 1964 and before 2 August 1978;

7. There should be no extension of the existing criteria under which severance payments are made to Members;
8. Severance payments should be increased for those Members who are more than 50 years of age and who have served in the House for more than 10 years;
9. A new separate allowance should not be introduced for office equipment;
10. There should not be a further allowance for constituency surgery costs;
11. All travel within the United Kingdom on Parliamentary business should be reimbursed or should qualify for payment of the car mileage allowance;
12. There should not be greater provision for free travel by wives and husbands of Members, except that spouses should be able to claim a car mileage allowance for a maximum of 15 return journeys to the constituency each year;
13. There is no case for introducing special travel facilities for the wives or husbands of Peers;
14. Ministers and other office holders in the House of Lords should receive an allowance of a maximum of £1,000 a year to help with the cost of secretarial assistants needed to deal with non-Departmental correspondence, but such an allowance should not be made available so long as Ministers retain their present entitlement to claim against the Peers' expenses allowance;
15. There should not be an allowance to enable Ministers in the House of Lords to meet the costs of maintaining a home outside London;
16. The previous recommendations on salary linkage stand (see paragraphs 90-98);

We have asked the Chancellor of the Duchy, in consultation with his colleagues as necessary, to give you urgent advice on the handling of this Report. We can look further into the details when we have that advice.

MS

16 January 1980