

- 1. MR. SANDERS
- 2. MR. WHITMORE

*MW.*

In my view, there is not much in "Questions of Procedure" which would prove genuinely embarrassing, and we have already published in extenso the section on Ministers' commercial interests. But no doubt we must see Mr English off.

*MJS*

*2/1/80*

RTA reports that Michael English is making inquiries about "Questions of Procedure".

I am sure that Mr. English's real concern is to get his hands on the current document. Much of what it contains is already publicly known, but it is nevertheless an internal guidance document and I doubt whether the Prime Minister would wish to make it available to Members generally. The most sensitive aspect of the document in its present form is probably the extent of Prime Ministerial control of activities revealed in it - in some cases with the specific instruction that this should not be made known, as, for example, in the case of clearance of public appointments.

I believe that Mr. English started his inquiries by asking the House of Commons Library for the current document. The Library contacted me about it. Whilst observing the rule that Members should not be identified, the librarian in question told me that she was following up an inquiry from a particularly difficult and persistent Member. I mentioned this to David Wright, in the expectation that it was either Mr. English or Mr. Maxwell Hyslop, and that they would try the Cabinet Secretary next. This appears to be the result.

No action for us, I think. But Mr. Sanders may wish to mention to the Prime Minister the possibility of Mr. English raising the point in Question time.

*MJS*