

cc Press Office



PRIME MINISTER

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1979/80

1. This minute reviews progress with the Legislative Programme.
2. We have 21 bills which fulfil promises in the Queen's Speech. 16 have already been introduced, although we are not proceeding with the Protection of Official Information Bill. The Nationality Bill will not now come forward this session. There are, therefore, only four bills fulfilling promises in the Queen's Speech still to be introduced: the revised version of the Local Government, Planning and Land Bill, the Broadcasting Bill, the Contempt of Court Bill and the Petroleum and Submarine Pipelines Bill, which gives powers for sales by BNO.
3. In total, and including the Queen's Speech bills we have introduced 37 Government bills (excluding finance and consolidation bills) so far this session. The Annex shows their present position and also lists the other bills still to be introduced.
4. We have made reasonable progress with the bills we have introduced so far. Among our first batch of major controversial bills the Competition and Industry Bills are through Standing Committee. Others - including Education (No 2), Transport and British Aerospace - are still in Standing Committee. The Chief Whip and I agree that a guillotine will be necessary for the Education (No 2) Bill, and I propose to announce this on Thursday and to table the Motion for debate on Monday 28 January.
5. We then have a second batch of major controversial bills starting in Standing Committee this week. They include Employment, Housing and Social Security. A guillotine is likely to be necessary for the Social Security Bill, and we may need others. I believe we can get most or all of the major bills in both

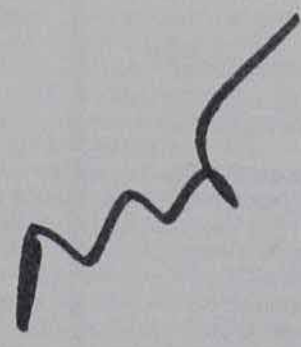
batches to the Lords in time for them to be dealt with by the end of July.

6. I recognise, however, that there will be considerable problems for the House of Lords, especially since they will have also to deal, either in July or during the spillover, with the Local Government, Planning and Land Bill.

7. You will see from the Annex that there are a number of bills in our programme which have yet to be introduced. Some will be going to Legislation Committee later this month. I must express concern, however, that we have not yet seen two of the Bills that the Secretary of State for Energy hopes to bring forward: the Petroleum and Submarine Pipelines Bill and the Energy Conservation Bill. The former in particular is bound to be controversial, and we must have a reasonable time to get it through.

8. I think we can complete the programme we have set ourselves, if necessary by sitting into the first part of August and having a spillover of about three weeks in October. There will be some unavoidable inconvenience to the Lords. I see no prospect of any further substantial bills being added to the programme.

9. I am copying this minute to Cabinet colleagues, the Attorney General, the Lord Advocate, the Minister of Transport, the Chief Whips of both Houses and the Minister of State MAFF. I am also sending a copy to Sir Robert Armstrong.



N. St.J.S.

21 January 1980

GOVERNMENT BILLS 1979/80

(excluding finance and consolidation bills)

POSITION AT 18.1.80

1. Bills already enacted
Education
Kiribati
European Assembly (Pay and Pensions)
European Communities (Greek Accession)
Shipbuilding
Pensioners' Payments and Social Security
Isle of Man
Charging Orders
Southern Rhodesia
Zimbabwe
2. Bills Awaiting Royal Assent
Bail Etc (Scotland)
3. Bills through Commons and in Lords
Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa and Nauru
Protection of Trading Interests
Petroleum Revenue Tax
4. Bills Awaiting Report and Third Reading in Commons
Companies
Competition
Bees
Industry
5. Bills Committed to Commons Standing Committee
National Heritage
Education (No 2)

Cont...

- British Aerospace
Transport
Civil Aviation
Employment
Housing
Social Security
Tenants' Rights, Etc (Scotland)
6. Bills Awaiting Commons Committee
Health Services
Limitation Amendment
7. Bills Awaiting Second Reading in Commons
Insurance Companies
Consular Fees
Highlands and Islands Air Services (Scotland)
Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland)
8. Bills in House of Lords and still to come to Commons
Police Negotiating Board
Criminal Justice (Scotland)
9. Bills still to be introduced
Port of London (Financial Assistance)
New Hebrides
Coal Industry
Local Government, Planning and Land (No 2)
Broadcasting
Petroleum and Submarine pipelines (Amendment)
Energy Conservation
International Organisations (Amendment)
Contempt of Court
Remuneration of Teaching Staff (Scotland)
Matrimonial Homes (Rights of Occupancy) (Scotland)



Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is arranged in several paragraphs and appears to be a formal document or report.

Cont...