



Caxton House Tothill Street London SW1H 9NA

Telephone Direct Line 01-213 6400

Switchboard 01-213 3000

PRIME MINISTER

There has been a  
long correspondence on  
this aspect of the  
Parliamentary  
timetable

1 September 1980

J R Wattleby Esq  
Private Secretary  
Civil Service Department  
Whitehall  
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

*Dear Jim,*

## CODES OF PRACTICE ON PICKETING AND THE CLOSED SHOP

Mr Prior has seen the letters of 26 August giving the replies of the Chancellor of the Duchy and of the Lord President to his request for a firm assurance that the necessary debates on the Codes would be fitted into the spillover session.

He fully understands the difficulties that they have in giving a guarantee at this time. They in turn will understand that, for the reasons given in his letter of 18 August, this could leave him in an awkward position vis a vis the Select Committee. However, Mr Golding has now substituted for his telephone request for an extension of the consultative period a formal letter stating that the Committee will not be able to provide views by 10 October but will seek to complete their consideration as soon as possible thereafter. They have also asked to see the Secretary of State again in the week beginning 13 or 20 October. In the light of this the Secretary of State has decided to stick to his preferred timetable, to tell the Committee that any further views from them will need to be expressed in the week beginning 13 October if they are to be in time to be taken into account before the final Codes are submitted to Parliament, and that he is prepared to appear before them on 15 October.

The Secretary of State has asked me to say that, in taking this position, he is placing great reliance on the assurances that the Chancellor of the Duchy and the Lord President will both do all that they can to ensure that the debates take place in the spillover; and he is grateful for those assurances. He is himself now working to an extremely tight timetable aimed at getting the Codes, in the form in which they are approved after consultation, to the JCSI on Tuesday 21 October, a full week before their meeting. It is possible of course, that attempts will be made in the JCSI to delay the process and he trusts that advance approaches will be made to friendly members to impress on them the need to deal with the Codes in time for them to be debated in the spillover.

CONFIDENTIAL



I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Prime Minister and to the other Ministers who received the earlier correspondence. I am enclosing for the information of the Chancellor of the Duchy and the Lord President a copy of the Secretary of State's correspondence with Mr Golding.

*Yours truly*

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "A. Hardman", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

ANDREW HARDMAN  
Private Secretary



100-400-47