PRIOR MEETING WITH P.P.S's AT (PRIOR)

6.00p.m. ON WEDNESDAY
6th FEBRUARY 1980.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT BILL

LAST CHANCE to get industrial relations on an even keel. If we go too far, in great danger as a democracy.

Not necessary just to have one Bill.

Easier to add, than to subtract.

Very delicate & difficult task.

Unremitting hostility from T.U.C

SECOND READING — McShane. Put law back to Court of Appeal.

Consultative Document.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Good settlement with miners — 17% not 20%

Telegraphers — O.K.

Leyland Better.

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Leyland did NOT handle ROBINSON well.
A.U.E.W. helpful at.

STEEL

B.S.C. management appalling.

Pressure to enable employees to use Unions, because of Independent Steel Companies. If we had tried to do this Scargill would have done his utmost to wreck the Bill.

WE MUST LEGISLATE BY CONSENT.

Regrettably, I cannot legislate because of the action that would follow.

Union Leaders are turning very much against us.

We must carry public opinion with us. We have done this so far.

We have carried active Trade Union opinion with us in this Bill.

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to Consultative Document until end of next week.

We will need new clause in the Bill

EMPLOYMENT

Groups who should be helped.

80/81 £560m less than Labour

but Lab planned – about 1/3 less.

JOB RELEASE SCHEME.

If you believe it is right to stick to a line in what you believe and what you believe to be right for the Conservative Party and for the nation – then:

Don't react – Have patience, do not be bulldozed.

FORMAN 100% in SUPPORT
revolving Pickets
The Thatcher Line + Incomes Policy Point.

NELSON

Prior Attendance is a CRIMINAL OFFENCE
Trade Union loyalty at working class
solidarity go by death.

WHITNEY CLOSED SHOP

Prior Does not really believe that
Closed Shop gives extra power to Union
to call a strike
Union Bill will, in effect, stop new
Closed Shop.

DENTON Can the employer only sue the
individual – Thatcher Line.

Average employer NOT interested in
damages. He wants to get his chaps
back to work. Unions will always
stand behind the Ranks.

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If we go direct for union funds, right back in 1972 territory. We would drive moderates into hands of extremists. Unions would refuse to pay. Or men will stay on strike until the fine is paid for them. WE MUST NOT GO DOWN THAT ROAD. 95% of STRIKES ARE UNOFFICIAL. NOT ON.

SAINSBURY

Regards Jim.