LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11.00 **date:** 25/10/79

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Cabinet met at 9.30 am. All were present.

After Questions at 4.15 pm PM will go to County Hall where she will address The Young People's Parliament. She will make a short informal speech — no advance text.

At 5.30 pm the PM will meet the PM of Egypt, Mr Mustafa Khalil who is in London for the autonomy talks being hosted by the Americans.

This evening the PM will give a dinner for Sir John Hunt who is retiring as secretary to the Cabinet.

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

Statement by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, "Political Progress in Northern Ireland", followed by Business Statement.

Two Written Answers to Ministry of Transport of interest:

190 — Robert Adley — to ask whether he has considered the report of the joint working party (British Rail and D/Transport) — Level Crossing Protection — published in July last year. (Minister will give press conference on this at 3.30 pm in Cinema, South Tower Basement, 2 Marsham Street).

225 — Roger Moate — if he will make statement on question of the sale of alcoholic refreshments at motorway service areas.

Education Bill published tomorrow (S/S giving press conference at 10.00 am tomorrow at Elizabeth House).

GAS PRICES

We do not accept newspaper reports of a disagreement in Cabinet — there was, of course, discussion. The announcement (which is not imminent) should be seen in the context of financial targets for nationalised industries.

PARAFFIN

A new Order is expected to be laid today.

JL

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 4.00   date: 25.10.79

This morning's Lobby was repeated.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE WHITE PAPER

It was likely to be published some time next week. The reason
a definite date was not given was discussion on the timing; the
content was agreed.

EXCHANGE CONTROL ACT 1947

The Act could not be repeated at present due to the need for
exchange controls being maintained against Rhodesia. Even if there
was not this necessity, there would be no need to repeal the Act –
it could simply lapse.

JL