

DOCTORS AND DENTISTS REVIEW AND TOP SALARIES REVIEW REPORTS

I have spoken to Neville Taylor (DHSS) and John Beastall (CSD) about their respective reports. Both are close to publication and will be discussed by Ministers' E Committee on Friday morning. CSD see advantage in simultaneous publication and, given that substantial pay rises are likely to cause a fuss, it seems sensible to get the criticism over with in one go. I have mentioned this to Tim Lankester who shares this view.

Assuming that Ministers accept this, we are thinking in terms of publication at 12 noon on Tuesday, June 5, with CFRs earlier that morning (probably 9.30 a.m.) and we could advise the Lobby on the previous day. It will now be for Neville and John to tie up loose ends in their Departments and keep us informed.

Health Services Board Report

Neville mentioned in passing that a CFR for the Health Services Board Report "Withdrawal of Authorisation for the Use of NHS Beds for Private Patients" had arrived on his desk. This report will be laid in the House of Commons tomorrow with no CFRs and no DHSS Press Notice or statement in the hope that it will sink without trace.

HGR