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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD  
WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON SW1A 2HH



From the Minister

16 July 1980

PRIME MINISTER

*Mr. C. ...*

COMPUTERISATION OF PAYE: PROCUREMENT OF EQUIPMENT

As you know, I shall not be able to attend E Committee today. Having read the three Memoranda which have been prepared on this subject, I should like to say that I attach the greatest importance to the points in paragraph 4(b) of the paper by the Secretary of State for Industry. The US multi-nationals have themselves had a long period of preference in their own country and it is only through similar treatment on our part in respect of projects of this nature that we can ever hope to see our own industry secure a sound base.

2. My own Department - and of course others - have a large investment in ICL mainframe machines and we are wholly dependent on them for much of our work. Continued support for ICL is a safeguard for this investment.

3. I also support the CPRS view that we should take all practicable steps to minimise the risks in taking single tender action with ICL.

4. I am copying this minute to members of E Committee, the head of CPRS and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Peter Walker*

PETER WALKER

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