

✓ Home Affairs: T. Skeet's Youth & Community Bill: Oct 79

PRIME MINISTER

Mark Carlisle proposes to set up a small review group to look at youth service provision. The proposed composition and terms of reference are set out in the annex to his minute below. The proposal for a review comes out of the debate on Trevor Skeet's Motion in July.

Always in.

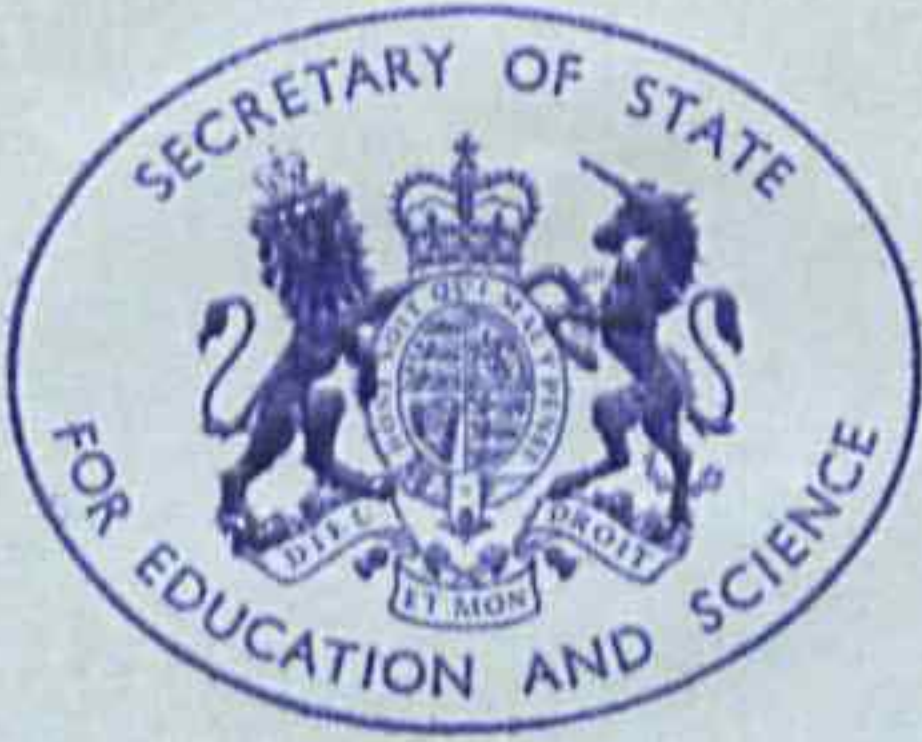
The youth lobby is very unhappy with the Government at the moment, and I think the Government is committed to some kind of review. But you may think that point (iii) of the terms of reference is too much of a hostage to fortune - any review group given that kind of invitation seems bound to propose legislation and to ask for more money. The words used are taken from Neil Macfarlane's speech in the debate, so it will not be easy to draw back.

You may also dislike at least one of the nominees for membership.

Do you want to await colleagues' comments before responding to Mr. Carlisle?

12 December 1980

No (i) is much too wide
It is an open invitation
to demand more.
Can we substitute "report on progress
of some more limited
work than existing
units" - having reviewed
the youth services.
M.F.



✓ Home Affairs: T. Skeet

Youth + Community Bill: Oct 79

PRIME MINISTER

YOUTH SERVICE REVIEW

You will recall Trevor Skeet tabling his Private Members motion in July which was unhelpful to the Government and one which the Chief Whip and I felt would produce a very difficult vote. Our only solution therefore was to ensure no vote and persuade Skeet to change the wording. This we did, but the price was the commitment which Neil Macfarlane gave on my behalf during the debate: that the Government would "pursue a review of provision for youth which would include an assessment of the need for legislation during the lifetime of this Parliament".

We have now considered the pattern this review should take, acknowledging public expenditure constraints and the need to avoid arousing unrealistic expectations. It is clear to me that it must be focussed on the Youth Service. A review of all aspects of society's concern with young people would take us well into the realm of unreality, as well as being extremely difficult to mount. I am also clear that it should not be an exercise on the scale of the Albemarle Committee's Report in 1958, or the Youth Service Development Council's Report in 1969.

I am therefore proposing to set up a very small review group, with a membership (including the chairman) of half a dozen.

I attach a note of the terms of reference I am proposing, and the names I have in mind. All have been sounded and will be willing to serve if formally asked. I see this as a low-key exercise by a workmanlike body able to produce in a reasonable period (which I expect to be between a year and eighteen months) a sensible report taking full account of the constraints. Alan Thompson, who has only just retired, can be relied on to steer the group sympathetically, but in the correct way. You will note that our nominees embrace the appropriate background in regional and local government terms, as well as business.

We are under much pressure within and outside the House to announce the form that the review will take. I am sure we must do so before the Christmas recess, and I would like to do so by the middle of next week. May I have your agreement to proceed in this way?

I am copying this to the Lord Chancellor, in view of my previous correspondence with him about the promise of a review - and to Michael Jopling in case he wishes to comment on the proposed membership of the review group. Copies also go to Geoffrey Howe, Christopher Soames, Jim Prior, Patrick Jenkin, Willie Whitelaw, George Younger, Nicholas Edwards and Sir Robert Armstrong.

P. A. Shaw

for

MARK CARLISLE

" 11 December 1980

(Dictated by the Secretary of State and signed in his absence)

REVIEW OF YOUTH SERVICE PROVISION

Terms of Reference

To conduct a review of the Youth Service in England and Wales, in both statutory and voluntary sectors, in order to:

- ~~X~~ i. assess the ~~extent and quality of~~ present provision;
- ii. consider whether available resources could be deployed more effectively, and
- iii. assess the need for legislation in the light of i and ii.

Proposed composition

Chairman: Mr Alan Thompson, former Deputy Secretary,
Department of Education and Science

Members: Mr John Collins, Chairman, British Youth Council
and is from Swansea

Mr Eric Hopwood, Senior Education Officer, Community
Education and Careers Service, Essex LEA

Mr W R Knight, Chief Administrative Officer,
Directorate of Educational Services, Bradford

Mr Dennis Stevenson, Businessman, and Chairman of the
National Association of Youth Clubs, former Chairman
Peterlee New Town Development Corporation

Mrs Judith Walpole, Chairman, County Education
Committee, Norfolk.