



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

22nd December 1980

*It seems wrong to put the decision
on economies in public
service. We should not
start more sub-committees
just for that reason
PRIME MINISTER
Content with this line?
MS
23/12*

Dear Nick,

(it was not)

Mr Edward du Cann, the chairman of the Liaison Committee, has written to the Chancellor of the Duchy, as attached, seeking confirmation that the Government does not propose to recommend any further grant to select committees of powers to establish sub-committees during the present session.

In the light of the decision reached by the Home Affairs Committee on 21 October (H(80)21st Meeting) the Chancellor of the Duchy proposes to reply as follows:-

"You wrote to me on 11 December asking for confirmation of the Government's general position with regard to the grant to select committees of any further powers to set up sub-committees.

The Government's view is that at a time when it is necessary to make all possible economies in the public service, and to avoid placing further demands upon it, it would not be right to extend the powers of the Departmental select committees to establish further sub-committees. In these circumstances I would not expect to recommend any such extensions to the House during this session."

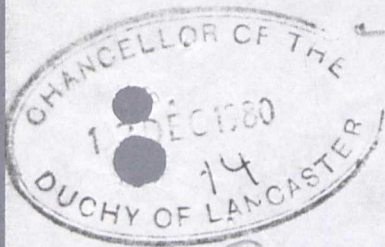
I should be glad to know if the Prime Minister would be content with a reply in these terms. I am copying this to John Halliday (Home Office).

Yours ever,

Robin

Nick Sanders
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London

Enc



From : Rt. Hon. Edward du Cann, MP

MT
LH
WH



11th December 1980

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Ed Cann

I know that some Committees have approached you with a request for power to set up a sub-committee. We have corresponded on the matter before.

The view of the Liaison Committee has always been, and continues to be, that if a select committee wishes to have a sub-committee, it should be so allowed.

I appreciate that it is possible to put forward counter-arguments, and that these have so far led you to take a different view. What I think would be helpful would be for you to let us know definitely if you would expect any or all committees to be allowed this power in, say, the current session.

I appreciate that any decision on this score is likely to upset someone or other, but the alternative to taking a firm decision is a rising irritation amongst committee members which, in the long run, may prove even more troublesome.

Norman St John-Stevas

CHAIRMAN OF THE LIAISON COMMITTEE

Rt. Hon. Norman St John-Stevas MP