

CONFIDEN

CHANCELLOR

CC Chief Secretary Sir D Wass Mr Ryrie Sir K Couzens Mr Burns Mr Middleton Mr Britton Mrs Lomax

NIEHANS

I have seen Mr Middleton's critique of the Niehans report - and of its serious shortcomings - circulated on 16 February.

Mr Middleton's analysis is, in my judgement, wholly valid. We would be crazy to go this route - at least unless and until we have succeeded in turning the UK into Switzerland in more substantial ways.

SAJL

NIGEL LAWSON 17 February 1981

