

Tim

17 March 1981

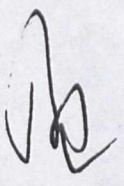
Policy Unit

PA

PRIME MINISTER

NATIONALISED INDUSTRIES: PRIVATISATION

1. Geoffrey's minute of 10 March proposed that we should move to a more radical phase in our basic policy of privatisation. We agree.
2. To achieve anything, a new impetus will be needed. We suspect that the Chancellor is right in arguing that a Treasury Chairman for E(DL) is the best way of challenging the objections of sponsor Ministers. But we also think that the character of E(DL) itself could be changed by the addition of one or two key outsiders. David Young would be one obvious candidate. It would not be difficult to suggest others.
3. We think Geoffrey's idea for an initial "brains trust" meeting is a good one. Once again, the presence of outsiders is an excellent idea: Sir William Barlow would be well-placed to tell us how things look from the position of an NI Chairman.
4. As Geoffrey says, this initiative would fit well with the proposals from Sir Robert Armstrong for CPRS work on relations with the industries that remain nationalised.



JOHN HOSKYNS