



FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE  
HOUSE OF LORDS

PRIME MINISTER

RATES

I have seen Michael Heseltine's minute of 8 September to you on the proposed legislation to control local authority expenditure. I have also seen the minutes from Francis Pym and Michael Jopling both of 14 September.

The proposed timetable for legislation would also cause acute problems for the Lords. There could be no question of adhering to the recommended minimum intervals between stages of Bills and judging by our experience on last session's Local Government Bill, we could expect prolonged discussion on the floor of the House, not least from our own supporters and especially from those representing the local authority associations.

Whether at the end of the day the House would accept the sort of accelerated programme which is envisaged (even if this programme was announced from the start at introduction in the Commons), I really could not say. But in any event it would certainly be unwise to allow less time in the Lords than in the Commons. In these circumstances we would without any doubt need the Bill in the Lords before the Christmas recess. Indeed I doubt if 5th February for Royal Assent could be envisaged without achieving Second Reading in the Lords before the recess. Even then to bring both Houses back as early as 11th January would be singularly unpopular, particularly in the Lords which have now sat for 5 weeks without the Commons over the last year or so.

I agree with Francis Pym that the proposed programme looks unrealistic and I would have grave reservations about embarking upon it.

I am copying this to the recipients of Michael Heseltine's minute.

*Baroness Young*

BARONESS YOUNG  
15 September 1981