

SECRET

SUBJECT.



10 DOWNING STREET

Ind 801
SW #
fu
bcc: J. Verelst

From the Private Secretary

6 July, 1982

se. market alt.

Dear Barnaby,

Employment Bill

The Prime Minister had a brief discussion with your Secretary of State this afternoon about the possibility of taking up amendments proposed in the House of Lords designed to make a secret ballot mandatory ~~before strike action could be taken by trade unions.~~

for elections for office holders in

Your Secretary of State said that it would be neither practical nor desirable to alter the Bill at this stage, as was being proposed. There were major policy questions to be settled; and it would be unprecedented to introduce a clause of this kind without some prior warning and consultation with those most closely concerned. After discussion, the Prime Minister agreed that no change on these lines should be made to the present Bill. She asked your Secretary of State to push ahead with the preparation of a clause on these lines for use in a future Bill; it would be for consideration whether this would be in the 1982/3 or the 1983/4 Session.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Peter Jenkins (H.M. Treasury), David Heyhoe (Lord President's Office) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,

Michael Scholar

J. B. Shaw, Esq.,
Department of Employment

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