

Prime Minister (2)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

cc Mr. Mount  
Mr. Ingham

MR. SCHOLAR

hus 4/1

UNEMPLOYMENT: CAUSE AND CURE

|| Patrick Minford is going to appear on Weekend World this Sunday. I hear he is going to talk about the studies which have been done at Liverpool on the causes and cures for unemployment. He will be speaking about the substance of his analysis and proposals.

Since the work at Liverpool was financed by the SSRC, there is the necessary condition that it be freely available for publication. Minford, therefore, is going ahead with a planned publication in two or three months' time. But in order to ensure that there is no association with Number Ten or official sources, the manuscript has been edited by Adrian Smith to exclude any suggestion of special official help or, in particular, Number Ten cooperation. There is merely a general reference to thanking officials of departments who helped with the statistics. This is no more than appears in virtually all other SSRC-financed studies.

I doubt if the publication of Minford's report will cause much of a stir. His views are already well documented in various other papers such as the Selsdon Group Policy Series No. 5, as well as the working papers of the department at Liverpool. The new proposals will be seen as variants on his original themes. But the academic community and research institutes will have much more to mull over; the comparative data for European countries are new and Minford has analysed them in an interesting way.



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