

Lawson ready for revolt on dole cut

By Our Political Reporter

Treasury ministers still appear ready for a confrontation with Conservative backbenchers over a possible cut in the real value of unemployment benefit.

Suggestions that the Government is unlikely to consider the issue because the savings involved would be trivial were denied by Treasury sources yesterday.

It was pointed out that in mooting the possibility of a cut the main concern of Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, had not been to make admittedly small savings. He had in mind the "disincentive" of a high rate of unemployment benefit.

Mr Lawson said last month that he could not give a guarantee on any particular uprating of unemployment benefits.