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CC NO

Prime Minister CC ST

Home Secretary and CST have worked out a system which gives extra help to Notts but still leaves them paying something at the margin. If the strike goes on a lot longer, I suspect even this may need to be revised.

AT 27/6

I agree. Had we better go the whole way now? Especially with the need to overcome internal dissension in the village round me.

HOME SECRETARY

QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SWIH 9AT

27 June 1984

MINERS' DISPUTE: POLICING COSTS

In my letter of 18 June I proposed that no police authority's contribution from the rates to the additional costs of policing the miners' dispute should exceed the product of three quarters of a penny rate. I added that I would not propose to make an early announcement of that, since our decision to make Nottinghamshire and other forces bear at least 10 per cent of the costs had encouraged economy; but it was essential to give some indication of our thinking, in order to prevent excessive cuts being made in police budgets.

You replied on 19 June, acknowledging that the formula I announced on 11 May might need to be reconsidered, but pointing out the difficulty of relieving Nottinghamshire of their most pressing anxieties without revealing that, in the end, expenditure above a certain level would be reimbursed in full and thus removing the incentive to economy.

Officials have discussed this dilemma, as you suggested. It seems that the best way out would be for me to announce that, where a police authority was eligible for the special payment announced on 11 May, its total share of the approved additional expenditure incurred up to 30 June would be limited to the product of a penny rate. From 30 June, the special payment of 40 per cent, in addition to the normal 50 per cent police grant, would continue to be paid on any further gross approved additional incurred above the product of a penny rate. The effect of such an announcement would be to demonstrate that police forces in a position like Nottinghamshire's will receive substantial further assistance, but it would, of course, not reveal our final plans. For that reason I would hope you can now agree to the proposals contained in my letter of 18 June.

...

I enclose a draft of an arranged Parliamentary Answer which I should like to give tomorrow. I would be most grateful if you would let me know as soon as possible whether you are content.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, other members of MISC 101, George Younger and Patrick Jenkin, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Leon Brittan

The Rt Hon Peter Rees, QC, MP

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DRAFT ARRANGED PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION AND ANSWER

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he will give further assistance, in addition to that which he announced on 11 May in reply to a Question by the hon Member for Sherwood, to those police authorities which are incurring additional expenditure as a result of the miners' dispute: and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT REPLY

The measures which my rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Environment and I announced on 11 May will be of substantial assistance to those police authorities which have had to incur the greatest additional expenditure as a result of the miners' dispute. Under those arrangements, police authorities' share of the approved additional expenditure up to the product of a penny rate will be 50 per cent. Above the product of a penny rate, police authorities' share will be 10 per cent.

I recognise that even under those arrangements some police authorities would have to bear very heavy additional costs. I have concluded, in the light of representations made to me, that where a police authority is eligible for the special payment I announced on 11 May its total share of the approved additional expenditure incurred up to 30 June should be limited to the product of a penny rate. Thus in the case of Nottinghamshire, for example, whose penny rate product is £1.2 million, an increased special payment will be made, equal to the difference between £1.2 million and the police authority's share of the approved additional expenditure up to 30 June. From 1 July I shall continue to pay the special payment of 40 per cent, in addition to the normal 50 per cent police grant, on any further approved additional expenditure incurred above the product of a penny rate. I shall continue to keep the position under review.

NI: Coal