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have committed).

Mr Duguid



PRIME MINISTER

EMERGENCY POWERS LEGISLATION

17/3

In my note to E Committee (E(81)26) <sup>2.3.87.</sup> on the use of volunteers in industrial action, I said that I would report separately on the need and scope for changes in Emergency Powers legislation.

The Attorney General and I considered in 1979 whether any changes were desirable in this legislation on account of possible shortcomings we had identified when in Opposition. Our conclusion that no change was needed was accepted by colleagues.

... Since then officials have looked again at the coverage of the existing legislation, and their report - of which a copy is attached - has been considered at Ministerial level in the Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU). We agreed in CCU that officials had rightly identified three areas where the existing Powers are at least theoretically deficient.

- (a) A State of Emergency can be declared only if there is a threat to the life of the community in terms of the availability of food, water, fuel, light and the means of locomotion; but not in respect of eg protection against fire or public health hazards.
- (b) A State of Emergency cannot be declared to combat serious threats of economic or industrial damage to the community (eg if blast furnaces cool or mines flood).
- (c) A State of Emergency can only be declared if the threat is to at least a substantial part of the community; ie localised threats, however serious, are excluded (eg heating oil for the Charing Cross hospital)

We concluded, however, that new legislation would have only limited advantages for dealing with actual emergencies; and that since it would be controversial it could only be introduced at an opportune moment when a suitable emergency existed. As a precautionary measure, we were inclined to favour putting in hand on a contingency basis the drafting of possible legislation to remedy (a) above, and if possible also (b) above. But we were aware of the competing claims of other legislation; and the Chancellor of the Duchy, whom I have since consulted, takes the view that we should defer drafting until there is a clearly foreseeable need. He points out that legislation in respect of (a) could be drafted fairly quickly at the time; and that legislation in respect of (b) would be difficult to undertake when the circumstances it was designed to meet were still hypothetical. I personally think that we should accept this but the Financial Secretary remains of the view that we should do what contingency drafting we can now.

/CCU further agreed

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CCU further agreed that the implications of legislating in respect of (c) above require further study at official level. This has been put in hand.

I invite my colleagues to take note of the overall position on the Emergency Powers Legislation as set out above, and to consider the specific issue of contingency drafting in the light of the alternative views expressed. Perhaps colleagues could, after reflection, let me and the Chancellor of the Duchy have views on that point in correspondence. Unless you feel otherwise, there does not seem to be any need for collective discussion of the substantive issues in E Committee at this stage.

I am copying this to members of E Committee, Francis Pym, Norman Fowler, Michael Havers and Sir Robert Armstrong.

16 March 1981



17 MAR 1951



A circular red stamp is located in the center of the page. The stamp contains the numbers 1 through 9 arranged in a circle around a central point. The numbers are: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. The stamp is oriented vertically, with the numbers 1-9 appearing to be rotated 90 degrees clockwise relative to the page's orientation.



EMERGENCY POWERS LEGISLATIONREPORT BY THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN OF THE CIVIL CONTINGENCIES UNIT

## INTRODUCTION

1. Following the letter of 28 October from the Financial Secretary, Treasury, to the Home Secretary (the text of which is reproduced at Annex A), Ministers in the Civil Contingencies Unit instructed officials to examine the present scope of the Emergency Powers Legislation and the arguments for and against any change, and to report to Ministers as soon as possible (CCU(80) 9th Meeting, Item 1). An Official Group (MISC 50) under Cabinet Office Chairmanship and including representatives of all interested Departments was convened to undertake this review. The present report sets out their findings and has been endorsed by the Unit at official level. It is confined to methods of dealing with the consequences of an emergency. The Government have separately invited public comment on the possibility of changes in the law to restrict industrial action that could threaten the community (Green Paper on Trade Union Immunities, January 1981. Cmnd 8128). That aspect is not considered here.

## THE PRESENT LEGISLATION

2. The legislation governing the proclamation of a state of emergency is the Emergency Powers Act 1920, as amended by Section 1 of the Emergency Powers Act 1964. A copy of this is at Annex B. Section 1(1) of the Act stipulates two conditions, both of which must be fulfilled before a state of emergency can be proclaimed. These are that events must have occurred or be about to occur which:-

i) will interfere with the supply and distribution of food, water, fuel or light, or with the means of locomotion;

and will thereby as a natural and foreseeable consequence

ii) be likely to deprive the community or a substantial part of it of the essentials of life.

"Essentials of life" are not defined. It is a matter about which Ministers must form a view at the time, and in doing so they are entitled to take into



account the current conditions and perceptions of society. However, even if they are satisfied that there is, or is likely to be, deprivation of the "essentials of life" to a not-insubstantial portion of the community, a state of emergency cannot be declared if the test in (i) above is not also met. Conversely, not every interference with the specified items will enable a state of emergency to be declared; it must depend upon the scale and effect or likely effect of the interference.

3. Once a state of emergency has been proclaimed, emergency regulations can be made by Order in Council under Section 2(1) of the Act for securing the essentials of life to the community. These regulations may confer on Ministers, on Departments or on other Agents of the Crown any powers considered necessary not only for securing and regulating the supply of food, water, fuel and light and for maintaining the means of transit and locomotion, but also for securing the supply of any other necessities and for preserving the peace and for any other purposes essential to the public safety and the life of the community. The regulations therefore cover a wider range of circumstances than those which can give rise to a state of emergency. The only specific exclusions in the Act from the scope of emergency regulations are the imposition of compulsory military service or industrial conscription, and making it an offence to participate in a strike or peacefully to persuade others to do so. The Emergency Powers Act requires the recall of Parliament within 5 days following the proclamation of a state of emergency, and the affirmation by Parliament of emergency regulations within 7 days from the time when they are laid.

4. The powers available under the Emergency Powers Act have been used only very sparingly. On only 12 separate occasions since the passing of the Act have states of emergency been proclaimed (see Annex C). On 2 of these occasions the state of emergency lasted for less than a week, and on a further 4 a state of emergency was proclaimed to deal with the consequences of strikes in the energy industries which would probably now be dealt with under the Energy Act 1976. 5 were in the early 1970s, with the most recent example in 1974. Thus very rarely since 1920 have situations been judged sufficiently grave to warrant the declaration of a state of emergency. Moreover, it is not certain that the powers conferred by the proclamation of a state of emergency have actually been used in each case, and indeed it seems likely that in some instances the emergency proclamation may well



have been intended as a psychological measure to mobilise public opinion. In the recent past consideration has been given to the proclamation of a state of emergency as a result of industrial disputes mainly to provide the powers necessary to requisition specialist vehicles, such as oil tankers or grain transporters. But in the event, different approaches have been adopted and states of emergency have not been proclaimed.

5. There are a number of steps that can be taken without the proclamation of a State of Emergency. Servicemen can be used on "urgent work of national importance" under the Defence (Armed Forces) Regulations 1959, as made permanent by Section 2 of the Emergency Powers Act 1964. There are also emergency provisions in other legislation. Sometimes these give powers of regulation and sometimes they relax existing statutory obligations for the duration of the emergency. Briefly the main provisions are as follows. The Energy Act 1976 empowers the Secretary of State, following an Order in Council, to make regulations controlling the sources and availability of energy. The Post Office Act 1969 empowers the Post Office to interrupt, suspend or restrict in the case of emergency any services provided by it; and a similar power is proposed for British Telecommunications. The Weights and Measures Etc Act 1976 empowers the appropriate Minister to exclude or modify the statutory requirements governing the composition and labelling of food or the packaging of goods where it appears to him that any food or goods governed by such requirements are or are likely to be for a limited period of time in short supply or unavailable in any area, and that the alleviation of that situation is likely to be seriously hindered by those requirements. The Secretary of State for Social Services is considered to have sufficiently wide powers under the Social Security Act 1975 to maintain the payment of social security benefits. (However, consideration is currently being given by the Department of Health and Social Security to the preparation of contingency legislation allowing the payment of a flat rate allowance instead of unemployment benefit and supplementary benefit in the event of very large numbers of people being thrown out of work due to industrial disputes, where it might prove impossible to pay these benefits by the normal means to people temporarily unemployed). The National Health Service Act 1977 and the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 include the necessary powers for the relevant Secretaries of State to ensure the continued administration of the Health Services; the continued provision of medical services in the NHS requires no special



statutory powers, although should it prove desirable to requisition private ambulances or private hospital facilities, this would require that the Emergency Powers Act 1920 had been already invoked, (under present legislation this could only have been done for reasons unconnected with health care). Sponsor Ministers for the nationalised industries have powers to give direction to their industries of a general character as to the exercise and performance of their functions in relation to matters which appear to the Minister to affect the national interest, although whether such directions could be of any assistance in the context of an industrial dispute would depend on the circumstances. Finally, Section 19 of the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978 provides the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with general powers of entry and interference with rights of property and with highways, but only in connection with and in the special circumstances of the terrorist threat in the province.

#### THE SCOPE FOR CHANGES IN THE LEGISLATION

6. Officials have identified three ways in which the existing emergency powers legislation might, at least in theory, be extended. First, by broadening the items specified in Section 1(1) of the Emergency Powers Act 1920, the supply of which must first be disrupted before a state of emergency can be proclaimed. Second, by extending the scope of the existing legislation, either by amending the 1920 Act or through quite separate primary legislation, to encompass not only the continued provision of the essentials of life, but also grave industrial or economic damage. Third, by taking new and separate powers to deal with limited emergencies, which might threaten the essentials of life or give rise to grave industrial or economic damage, but which fail to meet the test of affecting a substantial proportion of the community. These possibilities are discussed in the following paragraphs.

(i) Extending the list of items specified in Section 1(1) of the Emergency Powers Act 1920

7. The point has already been made that while a state of emergency can only be proclaimed in the event of interruptions to the supply of food, water, fuel or light or to the means of locomotion, emergency regulations, which can only be made following the proclamation of a state of emergency, confer on Ministers any powers necessary to secure not only supplies of these but also to preserve the peace, to secure supplies of any other necessity, and for any other purpose essential to the public safety and life of the community.



Thus, while the powers available to Ministers are almost unlimited, the circumstances in which they can be invoked may now be thought to be too restricted. Ministers could not, for example, proclaim a state of emergency to deal with a firemen's strike, although the potential scope of the emergency regulations includes powers necessary for "any purposes essential to the public safety". There are also limitations on the circumstances in which a state of emergency might be proclaimed to deal with the consequences of a transport strike. Interference with freight transport so as to prevent distribution of essential supplies could clearly deprive people of the essentials of life. But the effects of a passenger transport strike are less clear cut. Travel in itself cannot be said to be an essential of life, and in modern society people are able, without public transport, to get to the means of distribution of food and other essential supplies. But a consequence of a passenger transport strike might be that workers could not get to work to produce or arrange for the distribution of the necessities of life. In these circumstances the time might come during a passenger transport strike when a declaration of a state of emergency would be justified, but this would depend on whether the two tests of the 1920 Act as set out in paragraph 2 were satisfied. Other examples of essential service to which the power to proclaim a state of emergency might reasonably be extended in modern circumstances are the means of telecommunication, the continuation of sewerage services, and the provision of health care.

(ii) Extending the existing legislation to encompass grave industrial or economic damage

8. Possible examples of industrial situations in which Ministers might feel that emergency powers to act in the interests of the wider community were desirable, would be to prevent severe damage to steel blast furnaces through cooling, or to mines as a result of flooding, or to secure supplies of industrial gases when non-availability could rapidly bring a wide range of industries to a halt. It would be impossible to foresee in advance all eventualities and draw up a comprehensive list, but there are undoubtedly many industrial situations which might be argued as constituting an emergency.

(iii) New powers to deal with limited emergencies

9. At present a substantial portion of the community must be affected by the disruption of essential supplies before a state of emergency can be proclaimed. But some emergencies can be very serious and yet localised.



The supply of heating oil to the Charing Cross Hospital is an example from the recent past of a serious local problem which carried the risk to life. In this case the Government of the day could not requisition a suitable specialist vehicle to deliver oil to the hospital because the necessary powers under the Emergency Powers Act were not available, (though of course other arrangements short of requisitioning might have produced a suitable vehicle, and in the event the dispute was in any case settled without serious consequences). Officials have given some thought to the form of possible limited emergency legislation to give formal powers in serious but localised circumstances; these would be concerned essentially with the temporary requisitioning of property.

Briefly, such legislation might give a power enabling Ministers [or their agents] to:-

- a. take possession of land or other property;
- b. detain any property or cause it to be moved;
- c. do any other act interfering with any public rights of property, including carrying out any work on any land of which possession has been taken under the Act;

if at any time it appears to them that it is immediately necessary to do so either for the preservation of life, or to prevent the destruction of essential national resources.

(This formulation covers both localised interruptions to essential supplies and to industrial processes, but the scope could of course be narrower if wished). Consideration would be needed of the steps that might be used to bring such powers into operation. It seems likely that for a serious local difficulty Ministers would not expect to use the full panoply of a Proclamation of Emergency involving as it does the Queen, and if necessary the recall of Parliament. But in granting wide-ranging powers for individual Ministers to intervene in individual emergencies Parliament would no doubt wish to impose safeguards to ensure that the powers would only be used in appropriate circumstances, and they would require some suitable arrangement for scrutiny. As with the general Emergency legislation it would be necessary to permit urgent action to be taken in advance of specific Parliamentary authority, and indeed any powers taken might well no longer be relevant



by the time Parliament was able to consider the matter. A workable arrangement for scrutiny after the event might be to seek confirmation within 5 days by affirmative resolution of both Houses of Parliament, when sitting, of any powers taken.

#### DISCUSSION OF THE CASE FOR CHANGES IN LEGISLATION

10. The following paragraphs discuss the advantages and disadvantages that might follow from adopting one or more of the possible ways of altering the Emergency Powers legislation identified above.

11. The extension of the existing legislation raises two important questions. Is it likely to be feasible in practice to use any such further powers effectively; and what would be the implications for the role of Government, and of its own agents, usually servicemen, in extending the legislation into areas in which it has not been used in the past?

12. In some cases, emergency powers would open the option to Government of requisitioning specialist vehicles or equipment. Existing contingency plans envisage that in an oil tanker drivers' dispute an Emergency would be proclaimed, and tankers would be requisitioned to allow essential supplies to be maintained. This is possible because the legislation happens to mention fuel. But Government could not in other circumstances requisition fire engines, even though they would meet a fairly restrictive definition of "essential services". And there is obviously no power to requisition vehicles to maintain deliveries of industrial supplies, presuming of course that stocks were available. But the lack of these powers is not necessarily a serious disadvantage. If there were no powers of requisition the oil tanker owners might well make them available voluntarily. The fire engines are owned by public authorities, with statutory duties. It is difficult to imagine that a power of requisition would be needed to force their release if that were required. If powers of requisition were held to be essential to obtain specialised vehicles or industrial supplies this suggests the existence of a dispute in the supplying industry. The effectiveness of Government intervention would then depend on the existence of a sufficient stockpile of the relevant materials, and on the willingness of workers in the receiving industry to continue working without "blacking" those materials



when supplied. Government action using powers of compulsion might harden attitudes in the dispute.

13. Widening the scope of the Emergency legislation would also raise the issue of the extent to which Government would wish to intervene directly in industrial disputes - other than to maintain life. The use of servicemen to maintain essential services and to avoid the risk to life has been publicly accepted for over 60 years. Provided the legislation was only extended to cover matters which would generally be acknowledged as "essential services" difficulties would be unlikely to arise. But if for example the Government sought to use servicemen to deal with a purely industrial dispute which carried no immediate threat to essential supplies, it could well be construed by at least some of the public as strike-breaking, even though the use of servicemen was confined to exceptional circumstances when particularly vital industrial establishments or supplies were involved. Clearly there is a question of degree here, and of the public perception of the Government's motives. But there is undoubtedly a risk that such action could call in question the role of the Armed Forces in society, with potentially serious implications for public belief in their political impartiality. Furthermore if this belief was weakened, it would undoubtedly damage service morale and therefore recruitment and retention.

14. Finally, Ministers will wish to consider the form and timing of any fresh legislation that they wish to contemplate. This will bear on the question of whether contingency drafting is now desirable in advance of a suitable legislative opportunity. Amendment to extend the list of items specified in S1(1) would be somewhat less controversial than the other changes considered. But even this would, in the words of Parliamentary Counsel, when consulted during an earlier review of Emergency Powers, "risk exposing an Act with peculiar and erratic drafting to further amendment during the passage of the amending Bill". The outcome of such a process is difficult to foresee. If Ministers favour going further and extending the existing powers to cover the "new" fields of grave industrial or economic damage there may well be good arguments for doing so through completely fresh primary legislation rather than by amending the Emergency Powers Act 1920. The controversy would undoubtedly be greater than for a limited amendment, but it might be better to face this directly rather than



attaching this controversy to the "essential services" concept of the existing Act. Both types of legislation could probably best be introduced, and passed urgently, under the stimulus of a particular emergency.

15. In the case of legislation to deal with limited emergencies, it would again be difficult to introduce this in the abstract without immediate examples in the public mind, which could be used to reduce controversy and argument about the Government's intentions. But by their nature local emergencies might well have arisen more quickly and been over - possibly with very damaging consequences - before Parliament could be persuaded to enact primary legislation. The best course might therefore be to introduce legislation immediately in the wake of an actual local emergency, making it clear that the powers were being acquired to deal with a recurrence of similar circumstances in the future.

#### CONCLUSION

16. This report has identified three possible types of amendment to Emergency Powers legislation:-

(i) Amendments to Section 1(1) of the Emergency Powers Act to cover additional specific types of disruption of service, namely fire protection; the means of telecommunications; the provision of sewerage services; the provision of health care.

(ii) Extension of legislation (either by amendment of the Emergency Powers Act 1920 or otherwise) to encompass grave industrial or economic damage.

(iii) Legislation to provide limited emergency powers to cope with serious but localised emergencies.

17. In respect of 16(i) and 16(ii) Ministers are invited to consider:-

- (a) whether legislation is desirable now;
- (b) if not, whether they can envisage circumstances which could lead them to introduce such legislation in future;



(c) if the answer to (b) is "yes", whether they wish to commit resources to contingency drafting now.

18. In respect of 16(iii), if Ministers feel that this is a concept worth pursuing further, officials recommend that more study would be needed of the possible content of legislation before a decision could be taken on the desirability of specific contingency drafting now.



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ANNEX A

Copy of a letter from Mr Nigel Lawson MP, Financial Secretary, Treasury  
to the Rt Hon William Whitelaw MP, Home Secretary, dated 28 October 1980.

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CIVIL CONTINGENCIES UNIT, 30 OCTOBER

I am sorry that I shall be unable to attend Thursday's meeting of the Civil Contingencies Unit. I therefore thought it might be helpful if I summarised my views on the narrow but important point of emergency powers.

I think there is fairly general recognition that the present emergency powers legislation imposes constraints which could severely handicap us in certain circumstances. I have two particular points in mind - there are no doubt others. - First, the definition of circumstances in which a state of emergency can be declared is both outdated and restricted to dangers to the 'essentials of life'. It does not allow for technological changes (eg the growth of telecommunications), nor for action where the dangers are purely economic - even though in modern circumstances these may be just as damaging as some of the dangers listed in the 1920 Act. Second, once a state of emergency has been declared, our ability to respond to it is limited because the powers that can be taken under regulations have to be 'essential'. For example, if we were faced with a strike of oil tanker drivers and concluded that we wanted (and had sufficient service manpower) to maintain supplies in full, this would be going beyond 'essential' and we could not use emergency powers to requisition the necessary vehicles. This is deliberately an extreme example, and there is no doubt elasticity in the meaning of 'essential'. But in some circumstances this might be a damaging constraint.

I am clear that if changes are to be made in the emergency powers legislation, this must be done at the time they are needed, so that they can be shown to be justified by the circumstances. But I do think we need to do our homework in advance. I suggest three things. First we must identify the possible problems arising. Second, we must decide on the solutions we should wish to adopt: there are dangers in trying to take unnecessarily wide powers, but we must be careful not to box ourselves in. Finally, I should like to see the legal

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drafting carried out on agreed changes on a contingency basis. If the changes are actually introduced, this will have to be done in a hurry, and there is always the risk of unforeseen difficulties appearing.

I am copying this letter to colleagues who will be attending CCU, and to Sir Robert Armstrong. . . .

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## TEXT OF EMERGENCY POWERS ACT 1920

(as amended by Section 1 of Emergency Powers Act 1964)

## Issue of proclamations of emergency

1—(1) If at any time it appears to His Majesty that there have occurred, or are about to occur, events of such a nature as to be calculated, by interfering with the supply and distribution of food, water, fuel or light, or with the means of locomotion, to deprive the community, or any substantial portion of the community, of the essentials of life, His Majesty may, by proclamation (hereinafter referred to as a proclamation of emergency), declare that a state of emergency exists.

No such proclamation shall be in force for more than one month, without prejudice to the issue of another proclamation at or before the end of that period.

(2) Where a proclamation of emergency has been made, the occasion thereof shall forthwith be communicated to Parliament, and, if Parliament is then separated by such adjournment or prorogation as will not expire within five days, a proclamation shall be issued for the meeting of Parliament within five days, and Parliament shall accordingly meet and sit upon the day appointed by that proclamation, and shall continue to sit and act in like manner as if it had stood adjourned or prorogued to the same day.

## Emergency regulations

2—(1) Where a proclamation of emergency has been made, and so long as the proclamation is in force, it shall be lawful for His Majesty in Council, by Order, to make regulations for securing the essentials of life to the community, and those regulations may confer or impose on a Secretary of State or other Government Department, or any other persons in His Majesty's service or acting on His Majesty's behalf, such powers and duties as His Majesty may deem necessary for the preservation of the peace, for securing and regulating the supply and distribution of food, water, fuel, light, and other necessities, for maintaining the means of transit or locomotion, and for any other purposes essential to the public safety and the life of the community, and may make such provisions incidental to the powers aforesaid as may appear to His Majesty to be required for making the exercise of those powers effective:

Provided that nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorise the making of any regulations imposing any form of compulsory military service or industrial conscription:

Provided also that no such regulation shall make it an offence for any person or persons to take part in a strike, or peacefully to persuade any other person or persons to take part in a strike.

(2) Any regulations so made shall be laid before Parliament as soon as may be after they are made, and shall not continue in force after the expiration of seven days from the time when they are so laid unless a resolution is passed by both Houses providing for the continuance thereof.

(3) The regulations may provide for the trial, by courts of summary jurisdiction, of persons guilty of offences against the regulations; so, however,



that the maximum penalty which may be inflicted for any offence against any such regulations shall be imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term of three months, or a fine of one hundred pounds, or both such imprisonment and fine, together with the forfeiture of any goods or money in respect of which the offence has been committed. Provided that no such regulations shall alter any existing procedure in criminal cases, or confer any right to punish by fine or imprisonment without trial.

(4) The regulations so made shall have effect as if enacted in this Act, but may be added to, altered, or revoked by resolution of both Houses of Parliament or by regulations made in like manner and subject to the like provisions as the original regulations; and regulations made under this section shall not be deemed to be statutory rules within the meaning of section one of the Rules Publication Act, 1893.

(5) The expiry or revocation of any regulations so made shall not be deemed to have affected the previous operation thereof, or the validity of any action taken thereunder, or any penalty or punishment incurred in respect of any contravention or failure to comply therewith, or any proceeding or remedy in respect of any such punishment or penalty.

3—(1) This Act may be cited as the Emergency Powers Act 1920.

(2) This Act shall not apply to Ireland.

#### TEXT OF EMERGENCY POWERS ACT 1964 (SECTIONS 2 AND 3)

2. The Defence (Armed Forces) Regulations 1939 in the form set out in Part C of Schedule 2 to the Emergency Laws (Repeal) Act 1959 (which regulations enable the temporary employment in agricultural work or in other work, being urgent work of national importance, of members of the armed forces of the Crown to be authorised) shall become permanent.

3—(1) This Act may be cited as the Emergency Powers Act 1964.

(2) Section 1 of this Act shall not extend to Northern Ireland.



## Emergency Powers Act 1920

Mr. Rooker asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times a state of emergency has been declared under the Emergency Powers Act 1920; and what were the dates on

which emergency was proclaimed, the length of time each emergency lasted and the nature of the industrial disputes which precipitated the taking of emergency powers in each case.

Mr. Whitelaw: The information is as follows:

<i>Date of Proclamation</i>	<i>Date state of emergency ended</i>	<i>Nature of dispute</i>
31 March 1921 ...	26 July 1921 ...	Coal miners' strike
* 28 March 1924 ...	1 April 1924 ...	Bus and tram strike in London
30 April 1926 ...	19 December 1926 ...	General strike and coal miners' strike
28 June 1948 ...	27 July 1948 ...	Dock strike
11 July 1949 ...	10 August 1949 ...	Dock strike
31 May 1955 ...	21 June 1955 ...	Rail strike
23 May 1966 ...	5 July 1966 ...	Seamen's strike
16 July 1970 ...	4 August 1970 ...	Dock strike
* 12 December 1970 ...	17 December 1970 ...	Electricity workers' strike
9 February 1972 ...	8 March 1972 ...	Coal miners' strike
3 August 1972 ...	2 September 1972 ...	Dock strike
13 November 1973 ...	11 March 1974 ...	Coal miners' and electricity power workers' disputes

\* less than 1 week