

* I now attach his comment!



And

(2)

10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister.

Mr Walker uses some very
'loaded' language in his brief
minute. No-one is suggesting
that you should agree to "platitudes
& meaningless phrases" on the
budget - still less that you should
pay a price for them.

I would be more impressed by the
ferocity of Mr Walker's advocacy of a
"no concessions" stance now if I thought
he would stand equally firm when it
came to the price fixing in the Spring.
I have the unworthy feeling that Mr
Walker is more devoted to the interests
of the ^{U.K.} farm lobby than of the ordinary
consumer (& to his interests rather than yours).
I imagine the Foreign Secretary will reply.*
And



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON SW1A 2HH

From the Minister

CONFIDENTIAL

25 November 1981

PRIME MINISTER

K.G. Hunt
Ronnie Minister

(2)

Hunt

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Further to our discussions yesterday, I have today seen the revised draft handling brief and a further draft fall-back text, covering chapter 2 of the Mandate Document.

I do wish to strongly confirm my view that it would be a great mistake to make any concessions in this chapter unless we were certain of obtaining very important concessions on the budget. I would be very much opposed to any concessions on the CAP in return for platitudes and meaningless phrases on the budget.

Indeed at this stage, if others are showing no willingness to do a clear and firm deal with us on the budget issue, we should be highlighting the price that would need to be paid if we were to make any movement on the CAP.

I am sending a copy of this minute to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Kate Timmins

for

PETER WALKER
Approved by the Minister
and signed in his absence