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Prime Minister 2
Civil service numbers
continue to reduce by about
5000 a quarter.

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The Prime Minister

MF

Gov
Jensen

CIVIL SERVICE NUMBERS

1. Departmental returns of staff in post at 1 January show a total of 675,400. This means there has been a reduction of 4,400 since October 1981. Of these reductions, 1,600 are non-industrials and 2,800 are industrials.
2. The main areas of reduction are Defence (3,200); Environment and Transport (1,000) and DHSS (500). There are offsetting increases of about 1,300. Most of these (1,100) are in the Employment Group. It has once again been necessary to recruit extra staff in the Unemployment Benefit Service, and there has also been an increase in the Manpower Services Commission to deal with special employment measures.
3. The progress made to date has been satisfactory. But there is still much to do. In examining the Estimates for 1982-83 my officials have paid particular attention to the need for the April 1983 targets to represent a credible point of departure for the final year's rundown to 1 April 1984. There will have to be continuing pressure to ensure that the rundown continues at the necessary rate.
4. The January figures will be announced by means of a Written Answer on Monday 8 February.

BH.

BARNEY HAYHOE

5 February 1982



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