

Housing 4
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PRIME MINISTER

H Committee: Second Homes

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H Committee discussed (minutes attached) the question of whether planning restrictions could be used by the Lake District authorities to prevent the development of second homes. Mr. Heseltine wished to disapprove the relevant provisions. The Solicitor General said that while the present proposals were not legally acceptable, some form of restriction was possible and so was an experiment along these lines in the Lake District. The Secretary of State for Wales, however, was strongly against the use of planning powers in this way which had obvious implications for Wales. The Home Secretary and Chief Whip, with their constituency interests, pointed to the sensitivity of the second home issue in the Lake District. The Committee concluded that in general terms planning restrictions should not be used to restrict second homes but that, if a legally acceptable experimental scheme could be devised, it might be introduced. If it could not, the proposals should be rejected.

IS

8 December, 1982

PRIME MINISTER

H COMMITTEE: SECOND HOMES

Attached is a note by the Secretary of State for the Environment setting out a rather difficult planning issue. The Lake District Planning Authorities wish to restrict planning permission for new homes to those employed or living locally; their proposal is supported at least on a trial basis by the Home Secretary and Chief Whip both of whom, of course, have constituency interests. Mr Heseltine concludes that the proposal is an illegal extension of planning powers and would be extremely difficult to contain to one area. He proposes that it should not be allowed.

The legal point
must be sorted out by
the Ad

TF.

2 December, 1982

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