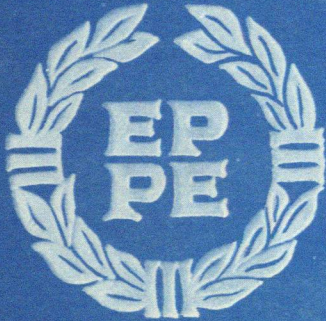


EUROPEAN



PARLIAMENT

EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC GROUP

BRITISH CONSERVATIVES, DANISH CONSERVATIVES,
ULSTER UNIONIST.

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British Conservatives in the European Parliament had 'no choice' but to vote against proposals to temporarily 'freeze' Britain's budget refund for 1983, said their leader, Sir Henry Plumb today.

He said in an explanation to the Parliament in Strasbourg "As you know, my Group sees this rebate not as a privilege, not as a favour, not as a concession, but as the irreducible minimum which Community solidarity requires to mitigate the arbitrary operations of the Community's budgetary structure .

"Even though we understand the motives which have today led our colleagues, honourable and conscientious men, to the position they have adopted in voting for this, it is the fear of my Group that the Parliament without in any way wishing to discriminate against the United Kingdom, without probably viewing itself as discriminating against the United Kingdom, may use at the end of this year and at the beginning of next, the British budgetary rebate as a means to put pressure on the Council to find some solution to the normal budgetary argument.

"While my Group will always play its full part in the institutional development of the Parliament's relations with the Council, we should regard as illegitimate such a means of pressure. My Group therefore voted against amendment 563."

End

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