

Prime Minister ②
On X, the outline draft Green Paper which the King
is preparing is expected in September.
AT 9/17

PRIME MINISTER

9 July 1984

TRADE UNION REFORM: JOBS AND THE LABOUR MARKET

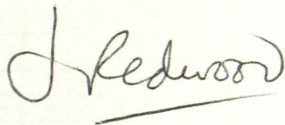
Charles Hanson has in the past been to see me and given me thoughts on trade union law. He is a lecturer at the University of Newcastle, and an adviser to the Institute of Directors. He has also had contacts with the Adam Smith Institute.

His knowledge of the subject and his proposals are well based. He wishes to see:

- X |
1. The elimination of trade union immunities in essential services and for all secondary action.
 2. The exemption of small firms with less than 100 employees from many labour law obligations.
 3. The consolidation and simplification of British labour law, which has become incomprehensible and complex in view of the fundamental reforms and changes of the last 12 years.

It is also interesting to see in today's Times editorial support both for a further Trade Union Bill, and a statement that the crucial strategy is to reduce public monopoly power:

"The Government should go further by reducing the areas in which there is a public monopoly from within which coercive trade union power could emerge to threaten society. In the aftermath of the coal strike, whenever that is, Ministers should certainly consider some splitting up of the NCB, followed by privatisation of its resulting sectors. Such an attitude could then be applied more widely throughout the public services so that monopoly provision is kept to an absolute minimum, and with it the threat of coercive trade union power."

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J Redwood". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

JOHN REDWOOD