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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Rt Hon Mark Carlisle QC MP
Secretary of State
Department of Education and Science
Elizabeth House
York Road
London SE1 7PH

10 April 1981

D. Mark,

STUDENT LOANS

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 8 April to Willie Whitelaw.

I am afraid I do not think your draft answer as it stands is entirely in accordance with H Committee's decision of 30 March, and I would therefore like to suggest a change in it.

The coupling of abolition of the parental contribution with the loans proposal reflects what is recorded in the Home Secretary's summing up. But the proposal to extend the scope of the mandatory system to cover the present discretionary area is quite separate. It does not feature in the summing up or, therefore, in conclusion three. If you feel that it must be mentioned, nonetheless, I would prefer it to come at the end of your answer. I therefore suggest that the relevant sentence should become the last sentence, but with a reference to the costs involved, as follows:

"I also considered, as part of my review, the desirability of extending a loans scheme to include those courses on which students have to rely on discretionary awards, but that would of course mean further additional costs."

In consequence, the present penultimate sentence should start:

"To make such a change....."

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, H Committee colleagues, and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Leon Brittan

LEON BRITTAN

10 APR 1961

