



Very good statement. With keeping for me  
as general answer to critics of new Proposals.

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# PRESS INFORMATION <sup>DW.</sup>

## TEBBIT PROPOSALS GOOD FOR BUSINESS AND FOR UNIONS SAY DIRECTORS

The package of measures for legislative reform of industrial relations announced by Employment Secretary Norman Tebbit today received an enthusiastic welcome from the Institute of Directors, which has played the leading role in campaigning for effective measures to redress the balance of power between unions and employers.

"Mr Tebbit's proposals are aimed at those areas of trade union activity which are in most urgent need of reform", said IOD Director General Walter Goldsmith. "They begin to bring unions within the framework of law that applies to the rest of society, invite them to undertake a long-overdue reform of their internal democracy and, above all, put some onus on trade union leaders to act responsibly in the interests of all their members".

"Our discussions with many other business bodies have reinforced the overwhelming desire of our members to equalise the balance of power in industrial relations. By starting to make unions legally accountable for the actions of their officials and members and by tightening up the law on the closed shop, irresponsible activity will be curbed and improvements in productivity made possible.

"Far from attacking trade unions, these plans give them an incentive to become more effective, and invite union leaders to join the rest of the community in working together for more competitive industry and commerce - the only way to make lasting reductions in unemployment. The unions still enjoy unique legal privileges, and it is now incumbent on the TUC to institute major internal reforms to ensure that those privileges are used in a responsible and democratic way.

"Mr Tebbit's proposals in no way undermine the basic rights of trade unionists - to organise, to assemble, to bargain, to picket or to strike. Nor do they 'plunder' union funds, as Len Murray has claimed. What they do is make the trade unions financially accountable if they break the law. And let us not forget that the law allows them considerably more scope than it allows anyone else in society".

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