

PRIME MINISTER

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

The Opposition have opted for a debate on law and order for the Supply Day. It will be a whole day, with Messrs Hattersley and Archer speaking for them. This could lead to some Cabinet discussion.

On Lords' business, I understand that the Chancellor of the Duchy wants to raise the position on the Canada Bill. I attach the letter we had last weekend. There has been some progress, and Lady Young will bring colleagues up to date.

You may want to arrange for colleagues to be informed about the state of play on President Reagan's visit to Parliament, following your pre-Cabinet meeting tomorrow. You could do this yourself, or invite the Lord President to do so.

It may just be worth mentioning that the Speaker will tell the House tomorrow of the forthcoming retirement of the Serjeant at Arms.

*I have also just learned that Naman Fowler is concerned about an opposition amendment to the Social Security & Housing Benefits Bill, seeking to reinstate the 1980 5% cut back in unemployment benefit. He will be sending you a minute late tonight, and Cabinet discussion may be necessary.*

*MA*

17 March 1982