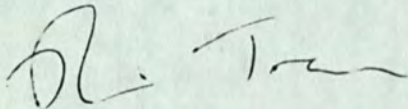


01 211 6402

The Rt Hon Tom King MP  
Secretary of State for Employment  
Caxton House  
Tothill Street  
LONDON SW1

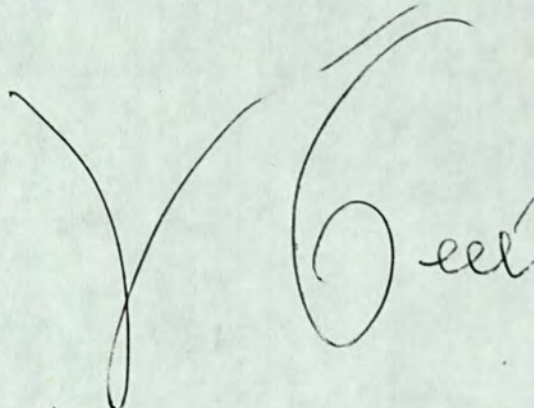
4 June 1984



STRIKE BALLOTS

I was shocked when the media contacted me over the weekend for my views on your pronouncement in Birmingham about majority voting in pre-strike ballots.

Obviously this has stirred things up a great deal in the Trade Union movement. Given its potential impact on attitudes in the coal dispute I believe it is precisely the sort of issue that colleagues collectively should have been able to discuss in MISC 101 before any kind of public pronouncement was made. I certainly wish I had been consulted beforehand about your intentions. As you may know, I have to spend a good deal of time briefing the press on the coal dispute. To have them, out of the blue, raising questions about major changes in employment legislation, on which I was completely unsighted, was highly embarrassing, as I am sure you will appreciate.



PETER WALKER