

File

I agreed with OL that we would submit points
interim basis of the minutes of MISC 95

MR TURNBULL

30 July 1984

AT 3/7

GLC/MCC ABOLITION: MEETING OF MISC 95

The DoE papers submitted to MISC 95 are not very inspiring.

Lord Bellwin and his officials have still not identified the savings to be expected from abolition, and have not set any form of target. Instead, they are asking the Boroughs and Ministers on MISC 95 to produce 'estimates' by September.

The papers also fail to propose proper manpower controls on the new joint boards. Instead of a control on the number of staff, Lord Bellwin suggests complicated manoeuvres involving 'management schemes' and approval for the creation of top posts. These are likely to be extremely ineffective: the only way to bring about real and lasting savings is to control numbers. That is why the Treasury sets controls on manpower as well as on expenditure for central government departments.

We recommend that the Prime Minister should write to Patrick Jenkin, as Chairman of MISC 95 on the following lines:

"The Prime Minister has read Lord Bellwin's papers on MISC 95 with interest. She wonders whether it might be more appropriate for the Committee to set itself a target for savings, rather than waiting for estimates from Boroughs, Districts and Departments. She also wonders whether a control on the absolute number of joint board employees might be more effective than either of the options for manpower control suggested in paragraph 11 of MISC 95(84) 14."

Oliver Letwin

OLIVER LETWIN

JMHABW