

CONFIDENTIAL



HOUSE OF LORDS,
SWIA 0PW

15 April 1986

Dear Willie:

Education Bill: Amendments on Indoctrination

Education file with
MCA
(2 pp's)

Thank you for copying me your letter of 9th April 1986. I have also seen Keith Joseph's letter of 8th April and entirely agree with him and Patrick Mayhew on the dangers of involving the judiciary in political controversy by making the question of political indoctrination a justiciable issue.

You will remember that similar difficulties arose when we considered the provisions of the Local Government Bill on political advertising by local authorities. I suggest that the present issue is even less amenable to legislation. I also suspect that we may find there is little real consensus on any workable definition of what constitutes political indoctrination. For all these reasons, I very much doubt whether legislation is appropriate, and would prefer to see the matter dealt with by school governors and parents, as Keith Joseph suggests.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, the Secretaries of State for Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, the Lord Privy Seal, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General, both Chief Whips and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yrs.

FROM THE RT. HON. LORD VISCOUNT
OF ST. WHITELAW, CH. FRS. DCL.

The Right Honourable
The Viscount Whitelaw, CH., MC.

Edue; Gen Bhuu Pt 6

