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PRIME MINISTER

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE CABINET

The Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Chief Secretary have split between them the task of lobbying most Members of Cabinet about the public expenditure discussions at next Thursday's Cabinet. They do not, however, want to take on the task of approaching the Lord Privy Seal, Mr. Fowler and Mr. Baker.

You could have a few minutes with the Lord Privy Seal after a meeting in which he will be involved on Monday morning. Agree to do so?

There are risks in seeing Mr. Fowler and Mr. Baker. They would press their claims with you and it could be difficult for you to avoid making some form of commitment, however weak, that their claims will be looked at sympathetically during the Survey. Thus armed, they might push their claims harder than they would otherwise. For you to see them would also increase their sense of importance in this Survey. On the other hand, they are likely to get something extra from the Survey in any event, and they are among the higher risks to a successful outcome from the Cabinet. I recommend against seeing them.

Agree? *Yes*

I doubt that it would be right for the Lord President to see them in view of his Star Chamber role. Would you wish the Chief Whip to do so?

You might discuss this with the Lord President before Cabinet tomorrow if there is time.

no

pp. DAVID NORGROVE
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