

Soc Services

PRIME MINISTER

I have not given you any advance papers on the Rayner unemployment benefit scrutiny. The important points should be brought out in an interesting way in the presentation. It would be a pity to take the edge off this. But you might like to be aware of the names of the scrutiny team, and of their agenda for the presentation.

The team is headed by Mr Ian Johnston, an Assistant Secretary from Employment. He is supported by Mr Gerald Johnson, a DHSS Principal, and Mr Lee Lewis, an Employment Principal. The presentation will follow this format:-

- i) brief description of present system of delivering benefits and application of Rayner technique
- ii) examples of waste eg milk tokens, recovery of overpayments.
- iii) voluntary registration, review, and new availability test.
- iv) summary of main findings and estimates of public expenditure and staff savings for
 - a) procedural changes
 - b) registration, review and availability testing
 - c) common pay periods
 - d) control of fraud and abuse
 - e) one benefit office

If time permits, you may like to have a separate word with Derek Rayner after the meeting. He had asked for a session with you to discuss his future role, although you answered the major points last weekend, when you saw the submission below.

There is one important point outstanding. Derek would like to put in hand a White Paper on progress in the efficiency campaign, for publication early next year. He may ask whether you are content for this to be done.

31 October 1980