



MP

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY
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From the Secretary of State for Social Services

The Rt Hon Francis Pym MC MP
Leader of the House
Privy Council Offices
LONDON SW1

6 March 1981

Dear Francis,

JOINT DHSS/DE SCRUTINY OF BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED

Thank you for copying to me your minute of 25 February to Willie Whitelaw. I am content to preserve the proprieties by change on the lines you suggest in the published response.

You will be aware, however, that we shall need a Social Security Bill at the beginning of next Session to deal with Statutory Sick Pay, and there are other significant though lesser, matters to be dealt with on the same sort of timetable. I am sure colleagues will wish to secure the large savings envisaged by the registration change discussed in the Rayner study, and will therefore be sympathetic to the argument for including this item in the ESSP Bill; and it is with this in mind that I accept the gist of your amendment.

In view in particular of the comments from Christopher Soames, I propose to amend the text to say that we aim for early 1982 subject to availability of Parliamentary time. This makes our target clear, but acknowledges that this item has to be considered in the wider legislation context you mention.

Copies as for the earlier correspondence.

You are
Pat

6 MAR 1981

