

MR. TURNBULL

At the meeting on business this afternoon Peter Gregson reported on the progress of MISC 99. He said that arts and libraries and local authority capital had been settled outside the Committee. There had been meetings on energy, education and agriculture, which had resulted in a virtual agreement on agriculture but no agreement on energy and education. ^(though it had narrowed the gap) On the two latter it was probable that MISC 99 would make its own recommendations. The Lord President was going to have a meeting with Sir Geoffrey Howe on Tuesday and MISC 99 would take defence next week.

The aim is to get a report to the Prime Minister on Friday 4 November and Mr. Gregson is sure that it will ^{not} be possible to report earlier than this. Since the Prime Minister is out of London on Monday 7 November she will not be able to have any meetings herself before the report is circulated to Cabinet. If she has to take any meetings herself, this will mean postponing the public expenditure discussion on 17 November.

F.R.B.

27 October 1983