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Prime Minister (2)

11 September 1984

MR BARCLAY

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THE COMPUTER STRIKE AT DHSS NEWCASTLE

Good news. The management at the Newcastle computer centre have reassessed their need for extra staff to carry out the uprating of benefits in November. Although only about 15 strikers have gone back to work in the past week, management now think that with suitable redeployment of other staff already working, they will be able to carry out the uprating without recruiting new casual workers as "strike-breakers". This new attitude may be a response to the nervousness of Mr Fowler's ministerial colleagues.

When the strikers discover that they are not able to stop DHSS doing the uprating, they will realise they are in for a long struggle, and we hope that the drift back to work will continue.

David Willetts

DAVID WILLETTS

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