

Home Affairs: Sunday opening
Civil service: long term

Note: Spoke to Chris Beasley
re X. The Lord President
will report to Cabinet by
minute, for consideration
on 24 Jan.

Dub
21/1

CONFIDENTIAL

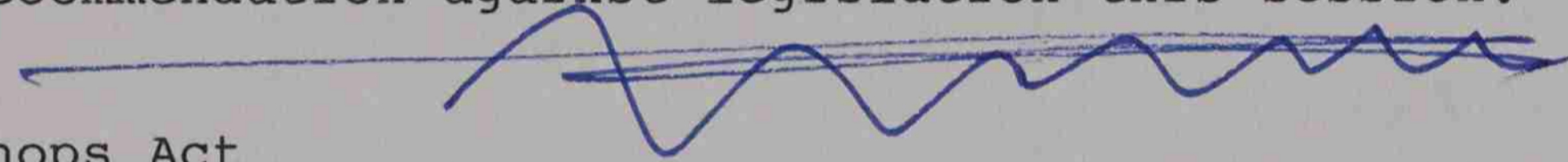
PRIME MINISTER

H COMMITTEE LAST WEEK

Surrogacy

The Committee considered Norman Fowler's recommendation for legislation this session to outlaw commercial surrogacy. On the whole, they thought his reaction rather hasty, with the moral arguments less than clear-cut, and the boundary between commercial and non-commercial surrogacy difficult to draw. The Lord President will report the issues to Cabinet, with a recommendation against legislation this session.

X/



As no

Shops Act

H endorsed the Home Secretary's proposals for repeal of Sunday trading restrictions. They invited him to consult Mr. King about the relationship with his review of Wages Councils.

Ethnic Monitoring in the Civil Service

The Committee supported Lord Gowrie's proposals for service-wide ethnic monitoring. They did consider your idea of sampling, but were advised that the number of people from ethnic minorities was so small that samples were statistically unreliable.

Dub

18 January, 1985.

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER (2)

ptc P.a.
Dms
10/1
COMMERCIAL SURROGACY

Norman Fowler has circulated a paper to H Committee today in the light of public concern about commercial surrogacy. The paper will not be considered by the Committee until next Wednesday.

Mr. Fowler recommends legislation this Session to deal with the Warnock recommendations on surrogacy only. The legislation would thus make the creation or operation of commercial surrogacy agencies a criminal offence, as well as making all surrogacy arrangements (whether or not commercial) illegal contracts.

Mr. Fowler is proposing a second Bill next Session to deal with the remaining Warnock recommendations, on the establishment of a licensing authority, and the regulation of research on human embryos.

If the Committee backed Mr. Fowler's request for legislation this Session on surrogacy, he would make clear the Government's intention at the Second Reading of the Private Member's Bill sponsored by Mr. Enoch Powell. He envisages a free vote, both on Mr. Powell's Bill, and on the Government's Bill.

Dms

9 January 1985