



Prime Minister ①
The Lord President was asked
to add Lord Young to QL. Agree
subject to caveat at X?

Ref. A085/653

MR TURNBULL

Yes no
AT. 13

The Prime Minister has asked for Sir Robert Armstrong's advice on whether the Minister without Portfolio should be added to the membership of The Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee (QL).

2. QL is a small Committee of Business managers, Law Officers, Treasury and one or two other heavyweight Ministers (at present the Home Secretary and the Lord Chancellor) under the chairmanship of the Lord President, whose job is to prepare proposals for Cabinet on (a) The Queen's Speeches on the Prorogation and Opening of Parliament, and (b) the Government's legislative programme session by session. Departmental Ministers, who would have axes to grind, are not members, though their views are of course known to the Committee.

3. Against this background, Sir Robert Armstrong considers that the Minister without Portfolio might be a useful addition to the Committee, provided that he does not use his position unduly to promote legislation in which he has a direct interest because of the initiatives he is running: to do so would not be fair on those Ministers who do not have access to QL's deliberations. Sir Robert notes that, with the addition of Lord Young, 5 of the 10 would be peers: if the Prime Minister and the Lord President are content with that, Sir Robert would not wish to object.

X
Not
unusually
for guidelines

4. I am sending a copy of this minute to Janet Lewis-Jones.

R P HATFIELD

1 March 1985