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12 September 1985

*John MacGregor*LONG TERM UNEMPLOYMENT*will request of reg.*

Tom King wrote to Peter Rees on 7 August setting out his proposals for extra fraud staff following discussion at E(A) on 23 July. We have not yet received a reply.

I am writing simply to say that I attach top priority to pursuing this exercise with urgency and vigour and I hope you can give immediate approval to the proposals Tom King put forward. In my view they are a minimum requirement and offer us a way of achieving a significant impact on the unemployment count and a saving of public expenditure at the same time. The fact that the extra staff costs fall on this Department and the much larger programme savings accrue to DHSS will not I hope delay your approval for the proposals.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister and Norman Fowler.

John MacGregor

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MANPOWER: Special employment measures: Pt 3

