

(PPS returned to OL)
1/10

PRIME MINISTER

EDUCATION SEMINAR

You may like to glance at the attached paper prepared by Oliver for the Education Seminar on Wednesday, together with a list of invitees. Two further points:

(i) the press have got hold of the fact that Ray Honeyford is attending and no doubt this will appear in the weekend's papers. The only real surprise is that it has taken so long.

(ii) As to layout for the Seminar, would you be content to have senior ministers seated on one side of you, discussion leaders on the other and junior ministers together with other participants in the Seminar facing you in two or three rows?

IT

Y
L
S
R

TIM FLESHER

27 September 1985

EDUCATION SEMINAR

The seminar is scheduled to begin at 5.00 pm on Wednesday, 2 October. It will last about two hours, and be divided into three consecutive sessions with a one hour reception afterwards.

The programme is:

1. Your opening remarks, introducing Keith Joseph and the other Ministers, and explaining the purpose of the seminar. (A speaking note is attached at Annex A).
2. A session on higher education, beginning with a 5-10 minute introduction by Professor Kenneth Minogue. (Briefing is attached at Annex B).
3. A session on schools, with a short introduction from Mr John McIntosh. (Briefing attached at Annex C).
4. A session on vocational education, with a short introduction from Professor John Ashworth. (Briefing is attached at Annex D).
5. Your closing remarks.

As time will be fairly short, you may wish to act as a fairly strong Chairman, asking specifically for contributions from those members of the audience who are experts in each of the fields. Our Annexes list those with

expertise in each category. You may also wish to give Keith Joseph and other Ministers a chance to answer points at the end of each session, though the seminar will be wasted if it is mainly taken up with Ministerial speeches.

Ol Letwin

OLIVER LETWIN

PRIME MINISTER'S OPENING REMARKS: SPEAKING NOTE

1. Delighted to welcome this distinguished gathering, with representatives from higher education, further education, schools and educational administration.
2. Purpose of the seminar: to enable yourself and other Ministers to understand better how sensible people who are actually trying to teach and run educational establishments view the present arrangements and the Government's policies.
3. Participants have been invited because it is known that they share the Government's concern for standards. No need, therefore, to discuss everything from first principles. The point is, rather, to talk about the means which Government should adopt in achieving those ends.
4. The Government is aware that, despite improvements in some quarters, there is much yet to be done. Look forward to a stimulating discussion, in which participants will feel free to speak openly about their own problems and experiences.
5. Happy to welcome Keith Joseph, and his team from the Department of Education and Science - Chris Patten, Peter Brooke and Robert Dunn; and also Leon Brittan and David Young, whose responsibilities for Trade and Industry and Employment bring them into close contact with the world of education.
6. First 40 minutes will be devoted to discussion of higher education. Pleased to call on Professor Kenneth Minogue to lead that discussion.

Hyler Ltd
Professor Minogue

Stable - Deckerbach

Vocational Training - John
Shaw

HIGHER EDUCATION SESSION

The session will be led by Professor Kenneth Minogue. He is a Professor of Government at the London School of Economics, and a Director of the Centre for Policy Studies. He has written a number of interesting and important books on liberalism, nationalism, and the nature of university education. He has just completed a new book on the nature of ideology. Though by origin an Australian, he has been at LSE for many years and was a pupil of Professor Michael Oakshott. He is likely to speak about the unpopular reaction to the Government's Green Paper on Higher Education, and about the need for a much freer competitive market in higher education. LSE has done particularly well in attracting overseas students, and in living on private funding; he may use this as an example of the capacity of institutions of higher education to run themselves far more independently than the DES or the UGC usually allow.

Other participants with expertise in this area are:

Mr J R Bambrough St John's College, Cambridge
Lord Beloff House of Lords
Prof. Sir John
 Butterfield Downing College, Cambridge
Prof. F W Crawford Vice-Chancellor, Aston University
Prof. David Dilks Leeds University
Dr. D O'Keefe North London Polytechnic
Prof. Arthur Pollard ... Buckingham University
Lord Quinton Trinity College, Oxford
Dr. R Rickett Director, Middlesex Polytechnic

SCHOOLS SESSION

The session will be introduced by Mr John McIntosh. He is Headmaster of the London Oratory School, a Catholic voluntary-aided school. He has fought a sustained campaign against the ILEA, and runs what appears to be one of the few really good ILEA schools. He is likely to speak about the organisation of schools, the need for greater parental choice and more autonomy for the individual school, the extent to which voluntary-aided schools provide a model on which new developments could be based, and the need for less central controls.

In chairing the subsequent discussion, you will want to remember that one of the participants, Mr Ray Honeyford, the Headmaster of Drummond Middle School, is engaged in a fight not only with his LEA but also with some of his own parents and various agitators, due to his remarks about the education of black, Asian and white children. Mr Honeyford will no doubt wish to speak about his recent experiences, and these may well prove enlightening; but you will want to avoid any suggestion that you are taking sides in a case which may come before the courts again.

Other participants with special expertise in this field are:

Mrs V R Barrington	.....	Northolt Combined School
Mr C B Bayne-Jardyne	...	<u>Henbury Mixed School</u>
Mr C J Everest	.....	Drayton Manor High School
Mr D Fone	.....	<u>Northfield Upper School</u> - <i>Reds</i>
Mr C P J Fulford	.....	<u>Blackpool Collegiate School</u>
Mr A E W Green	.....	Judgemeadow School & Community College
Mrs Anne Jones	.....	<u>Cranford Community School</u>
Mr Bruce McGowan	.....	<u>Haberdashers' Aske's School</u>

Mr L J Norcross Highbury Grove School
Mr D Silk Radley College
Mr D A G Smith Bradford Grammer School

You may also wish to call on one or two of those with direct experience of administering Local Education Authorities. These include:

Mr D Esp Director of Education, →
Lincolnshire
Mr R J McCloy Director of Education, →
Kingston-Upon-Thames
Dr D J N Muffett Chairman of Education,
Hereford & Worcester
Mr D Naismith Director of Education,
Croydon
Mrs Peart Chairman of Education, Sutton
Mr B Sams Chairman of Education, Bexley

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION SESSION

The session will be introduced by Professor John Ashworth, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Salford. After his stint in Whitehall, he took up university administration with great energy and (following a huge reduction in the UGC's grant to Salford), he has transformed the place. He has taken a sleepy, second-rate institution and turned it into a dynamic new form of university providing high-level vocational educational training and consultancy, relying to a great extent on private funding of many different kinds. He is likely to speak about dangerous anti-vocational snobbisms in higher education, and about the need for more energetic and market-orientated vocational training. In particular, he will probably complain that the Government has not done nearly enough to link vocational education with satisfaction of the customer and the attraction of private funding.

Most of the participants in the seminar, whether from higher education or schools, have some connection with vocational education. In particular, you may wish call on:

- Sister Dorothy Bell Digby Stuart College
- Prof. Sir John
Butterfield Downing College, Cambridge
- Prof. F W Crawford Aston University
- Mr R J McCloy Director of Education,
Kingston-Upon-Thames
- Dr. R Rickett Director, Middlesex Polytechnic
- Mr D A G Smith Bradford Grammer School
- Cllr. M Venn London & South East Region
Advisory Council for Further
Education

You may want to call on Chris Patten, as the new Minister with special responsibility for further and continuing education, to reply to some of what is said. And David Young may well want to speak in this part of the seminar.