

Subject: Home
Affairs: Review of the
law on Public
Order Pt 2.

cc Home Affairs
Football Hooliganism

6 December 1985

MR ADDISON

HOME SECRETARY'S MINUTES:

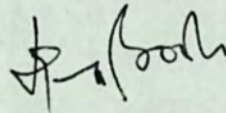
1. THE STRATEGIC VIEW OF CRIME (3 December)
2. EXCLUSION ORDERS (4 December)

1. The Strategic View of Crime takes a bold stand on our record, and correctly decides to "tell the story". There is one great danger in this approach which the paper only partly reflects. Paragraph 3 refers to "realism". Yes, we must be realistic and not claim too much. But the reality is that, on all indicators known to us, the public is deeply disturbed by crime, and needs some evidence that this Government is engaged not just on policing, imprisoning and statistic dispensing, but is also prepared to think about the deeper issues of crime. The Government has some answers here, too, and we must not leave this stage to the Archbishop's Committee.

In the Prime Minister's response, it would be most helpful if the Home Secretary was encouraged to think more widely than this minute suggests. We cannot allow the public to believe that crime is caused by unemployment or police brutality. We must show that the Government's message of hope on crime is not just statistic-based, but is optimistic because we are tackling central social issues such as personal responsibility and individual involvement in the property-owning democracy.

2. The paper on Exclusion Orders follows previous minutes from this office, except that it now omits reference to the hope that football clubs should do more to improve their own security. Instead, clubs are resisting even the 50% membership agreement.

This is not good enough, and the Prime Minister should point this out in a letter to the Home Secretary. At the very least, we must have 50% membership cards - hopefully to be extended; and also the clubs must improve the quality of their stewards. They still intend employing mostly pensioners. This is hopeless.



HARTLEY BOOTH

File

1053

PRIME MINISTER

FOOTBALL: EXCLUSION ORDERS AND MEMBERSHIP CARDS

You agreed that the Home Secretary should include in the Public Order Bill a power to introduce exclusion orders, and that he should give further consideration to the timing of their introduction. Our concern was that they should not be introduced before as much as possible had been squeezed out of the League on membership cards.

The Home Secretary, on reflection, considers it right to introduce exclusion orders regardless of the progress on membership cards. He is worried that the clubs are being reluctant to introduce cards; to link exclusion orders to them might be to throw away a useful legal weapon in the struggle against the hooligans. (This view depends on membership cards being only a helpful, but not a necessary, contribution to the effective enforcement of exclusion orders). Also, the Police do not like them. The Home Secretary says he will, however, keep up the pressure on clubs to introduce cards covering up to at least 50 per cent of the ground.

Exclusion orders themselves will no doubt be helpful. But an effective and comprehensive card system might be even better. Introducing exclusion orders willy nilly therefore carries some risk. But it is the Home Secretary's considered judgement that holding back on exclusion orders to use them as a bargaining lever is no longer worth the bargain they may be able to secure.

Agree that:

- (i) the Home Secretary should bring in exclusion orders regardless of the position on membership cards, and that he should take the line as set out in his minute; and that

(ii) you should say you remain convinced of the value of cards in their own right, and as a means of effectively enforcing exclusion orders. You believe that the Home Secretary and the Environment Secretary should maintain every pressure on the League and the clubs to prevent them sliding away from the commitment they gave.

Mark Addison

6 December 1985

JALAFM