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FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE
HOUSE OF LORDS

Pomie Pinto²

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20 January 1986

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Dear Douglas

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Roskill Report: Early Debates

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Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 20 January to John Biffen about the arrangements for debates in both Houses on the proposals of the Fraud Trials Committee.

Lord Roskill has already been to see Bertie Denham about the arrangements for the debate in the Lords. I understand that Monday 10 February is a date which Lord Roskill could manage, and we are accordingly proceeding with arrangements for a debate that day. Quintin Hailsham has agreed to open the debate, and Simon Glenarthur will wind up.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, the Lord Privy Seal, the Chief Secretary, the Chief Whips in both Houses and Sir Robert Armstrong.

John Biffen

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QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

20 January 1986

Ronnie Nisbet 2

Dear John.

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ROSKILL REPORT: EARLY DEBATES

Following the statements in both Houses on 14 January, I thought it would be helpful if I wrote to you about the arrangements which I hope can be made for debates in both Houses before Easter on the proposals in the Frauds Trial Committee Report published on 10 January.

As you know my intention is to include in the Criminal Justice Bill for 1986/87 all those proposals which we accept and which fall within the scope of the Bill. My aim would be to put a paper to colleagues in H before Easter seeking policy approval for these proposals; naturally I would wish to take account of what is said in Debate on these matters. This does not give us much time and our room for manoeuvre is further limited by the fact that Lord Roskill is not available from 14 February to 5 March. I see considerable advantage in arrangements being made for a debate in the Lords to take place before his departure so that he can answer his critics. It would be helpful if the debate in the Commons could follow as soon as possible afterwards so as to allow a little time for policy clearance on specific proposals with the many interested Departments.

I realise that time is extremely short but I would be most grateful if you and the Lord President found it possible to agree to debates in both Houses next month. I had in mind a Take Note Motion in the Lords and a half day debate on the adjournment in the Commons.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord President, the Lord Chancellor, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, the Chief Secretary, the Chief Whips in both Houses and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours,
Douglas.

The Rt Hon John Biffen, MP

