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David Norgrove Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
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15 April 1986

Dear David

B/F is 10 days p.m.

DLN

15/4.

WORKFARE

You wrote to me on 8 April about the Panorama Programme on Workfare which was televised on 7 April.

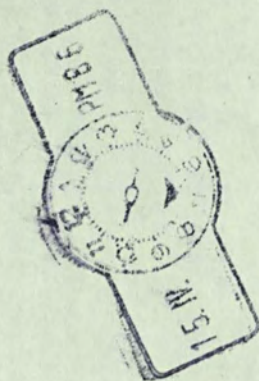
Professor Blaug of the University of Buckingham was commissioned last year to carry out research into the feasibility of introducing Workfare in this country. His report is due in the next few days. My Secretary of State will write to the Prime Minister as soon as he has had a chance to study the report's conclusions.

I am sending copies of this letter to Tony Lawrence (DHSS), Jill Rutter (Chief Secretary's Office) and Malcolm McHardy (DTI).

Yours
John

JOHN LAMBERT
Principal Private Secretary

MANPOWER SGMs P113



THE PWS (Public Works Service) is a branch of the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

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COMMUNICATIONS

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10 DOWNING STREET

8 April 1986

*From the Private Secretary**Dear John,***WORKFARE**

The Prime Minister saw the Panorama programme last night about "Workfare" in the US. She was impressed by the way it helped both the unemployed themselves - through the chance it gives them to keep in touch with the world of work, to get out of the house and to do something of value - and the taxpayer, through the work done in return for welfare payments. Many of the unemployed who were interviewed liked it; the cities liked it; the unions often at least did not object and some supported it.

The Prime Minister is aware that the adoption of "Workfare" in this country has been studied before. But the arguments for it are very strong. She has asked for an urgent report on whether and how it could be brought in here.

I am copying this letter to Tony Laurance (Department of Health and Social Security), Jill Rutter (Chief Secretary's Office) and to Malcolm McHardy (Department of Trade and Industry), because of Mr. Morrison's earlier involvement in studying this proposal.

David.

(DAVID NORGROVE)

John Lambert, Esq.,
Department of Employment.