

PRIME MINISTER

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME NEXT SESSION

It will be difficult to refer to some of the bills in next year's programme which have not yet been announced without falling foul of the general rule that we do not anticipate The Queen's Speech but major Government legislation next session which has already been presaged includes:-

- the legislation to give effect to Norman Fowler's far reaching review of social security
- the legislation to privatise British Gas
- that to implement Tom King's announcement on Wages Councils
- the most extensive revision to public order legislation since the Public Order Act 1936 which will also take forward the Government's plans for dealing with football hooliganism
- the bill to take forward Nicholas Ridley's plans for privatising British airports.

Other subjects on which legislation is in the programme but which have not yet been announced include Royal Dockyards on which Michael Heseltine is due to make a statement next week and local government practices, on which outcome of Widdicombe is waited.

Tim Flesher
18 July 1985

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MAIN ISSUES 1985

This note sets out in tabular form the main issues over and above the legislative programme confronting the Government for the rest of this year. A diary of main events as they are so far known is at Annex I. A more detailed checklist of issues is at Annex II.

MAIN ISSUES

Economic

- Public expenditure, culminating with November statement
- New pay round (especially after local authority manuals offer)
- Teachers' pay (October 11 deadline)
- Unemployment
- Inflation (good news).

Local Government/Environment

- Rates reform (White Paper)
- Liverpool City Council finance; surcharging of councillors
- Urban programme (especially in light of Handsworth)
- Planning; Green Belt.
- Housing stock - maintenance condition

Social Security

- Social Security reform (White Paper and Bill).
- Warnock response

Privatisation

- British Airways.
- Legislation for British Gas, British Airports Authority, Water authorities

Law and Order

- Soccer violence
- Drugs.
- Prisons (capacity)

Northern Ireland

- Anglo-Irish agreement.

International

- Disarmament negotiations (Reagan/Gorbachev Summit, November 21-22)
- South Africa, sanctions (CHOGM, October 16-22)
- Africa, famine (RAF airlift continuation?)

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BERNARD INGHAM
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