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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

1-19 VICTORIA STREET

LONDON SW1H 0ET

TELEPHONE DIRECT LINE 01-215 5422
SWITCHBOARD 01-215 7877

PS/ Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

22 August 1985

R Watson Esq
QL Secretary
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
LONDON
SW1W 2AS

MBPM

Dear Richard,

THE QUEEN'S SPEECHES ON THE PROROGATION AND OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Thank you for your letter dated 9 August 1985.

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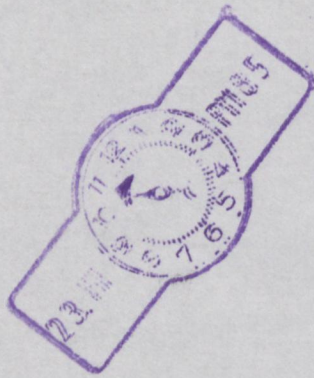
- 2 We are content with the amendments to our original submissions.
- 3 We would like to expand paragraph 5 at the end to read:
"They will within the Community and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade promote/pursue the conclusion of a further Multi-Fibre Arrangement and the opening of a round of multilateral trade negotiations."

4 I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to all Ministers in the Cabinet, to the Law Officers and to the Chief Whips of both Houses.

Yours sincerely,
Maureen Dodsworth

MAUREEN DODSWORTH
Private Secretary

JFLACX



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Caxton House Tothill Street London SW1H 9NF

Telephone Direct Line 01-213.....6460.....

Switchboard 01-213 3000



R Watson Esq
Cabinet Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1

NBPM

21st August 1985

Dear Richard,

THE QUEEN'S SPEECHES ON THE PROROGATION AND OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

with TF?
or will request.

Thank you for your letter of 9 August enclosing the first consolidated drafts of the Speeches.

My Secretary of State has asked me to let you know of his concern at the deletion of the reference to the repeal of the Truck Acts and the new provisions concerning deductions from pay which will form an important and potentially controversial part of the Wages Bill. He does of course recognise the need for brevity. But he believes that by restricting the statement in the Speech to the reform of Wages Councils the Government would be giving an inadequate and misleading idea of the scope of the Wages Bill and would be open to serious criticism on that score. He hopes therefore that the original wording can be reinstated.

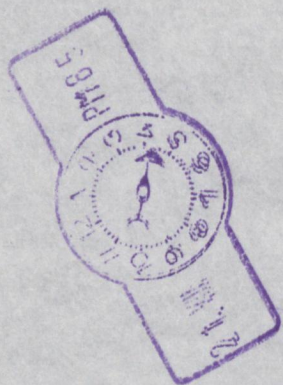
I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours sincerely,

Iain Mackinnon

IAIN MACKINNON
Private Secretary

PARLIAMENT: Queen's Speech: Pt 6.





HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

15 August 1985

NSM.

Den Richard

THE QUEEN'S SPEECHES ON THE PROROGATION AND
OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Thank you for your letter of 9 August enclosing copies of the drafts of The Queen's Speeches.

The Home Secretary is content with the changes made to our contribution on the Representation of the People Bill in the prorogation speech, but has asked me to record his concern at the deletion of the second half of the passage on the Shops Bill from the opening speech. While recognising that anything in square brackets - pending, as in this case, policy approval - constitutes an obvious editorial target, the reference to additional protection for existing shopworkers is of some political importance. Against a background of widespread fears about the effect on shopworkers of the removal of restrictions on Sunday trading, the Home Secretary gave a commitment during the debate on the Auld Committee report in May that he would "look sympathetically at the best way of ensuring that established shopworkers cannot be compelled to work on Sundays". As you will be aware, proposals aimed at meeting this undertaking were set out in the Home Secretary's letter of 1 August to the Lord President. This emphasised that without the protection provisions the passage of the Bill would be seriously hindered. The Home Secretary's view is that the omission of any reference to this in The Queen's Speech might be noticed and misinterpreted, so putting the Government on the defensive from the outset. He hopes, therefore, that the reference can be reinstated in the draft speech.

You will no doubt have seen a copy of the Home Secretary's letter of 13 August to the Lord President seeking QL's agreement to including a Bill on confiscation of drug traffickers' assets in next session's programme and suggesting a possible form of words for the opening speech. For ease of reference, I repeat this below:

"A Bill will be introduced to provide the courts with power to confiscate the proceeds of drug trafficking, and to penalise the handling of such proceeds."

Copies of this letter go to the recipients of yours.

Yours sincerely
William Pitt

W R FITTALL



01-992X942X 900X
233 7251

CABINET OFFICE
70 WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AS

9 August 1985

Dear Private Secretary

THE QUEEN'S SPEECHES ON
THE PROROGATION AND OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Thank you for your reply to Simon Hickson's letter of 21 June.

I enclose the first consolidated drafts of the Speeches. Wherever possible the editing has been designed to maintain the sense of the contribution, but it has been necessary, in the interests of limiting length, to remove some elements completely.

Editing is by no means complete because of the absence of a Treasury contribution. This will not be available until after 20 August and may well result in further changes, both to integrate it with the existing text and to shorten the latter still further if it is longer than expected.

The purpose of this first draft is to iron out minor problems and identify any major ones at this stage. Length is always a problem; we are expected to limit the Opening Speech in particular to about 1,000 words. The present drafts are still too long and I would welcome further suggestions for reductions.

The order of contributions is provisional at this stage. We have departed from precedent in not putting Scotland and Northern Ireland at the end. I should be grateful in particular for comment on their positioning.

QL Committee will meet to consider the drafts on 11 September. The Chairman will then circulate the texts to Cabinet colleagues for written comments. Revised drafts will be circulated in time for Cabinet discussion on 3 October. We would hope to circulate a final text for checking by mid October.

I would appreciate comments on the existing texts, bearing in mind the need to assimilate the Treasury contribution, by 21 August. If possible, I will circulate a revised version including the Treasury text very soon thereafter.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to all Ministers in the Cabinet, to the Law Officers and to the Chief Whips of both Houses.

Yours sincerely

R WATSON
QL Secretary

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT 1985

1. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

The Duke of Edinburgh and I were pleased to receive the State Visits of the Life President of Malawi in April and the President of Mexico and Senora de la Madrid in June.

2. We look back with much satisfaction on the State Visit to Portugal in March.

I have also visited Belize, and was in the Bahamas for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Our subsequent tour of Commonwealth countries in the Eastern Caribbean is still in progress.

3. My Government welcomed the decision of the Maldives and of St Vincent and the Grenadines to become full members of the Commonwealth.

4. My Government have maintained Britain's contribution to Western defence, and have played a full part in the Atlantic Alliance. They have enhanced the United Kingdom's own defences through the introduction of new and improved equipment and by strengthening the regular and reserve forces. They have continued to promote British and Western defence interests outside the NATO area.

5. My Government, with the United Kingdom's allies, have continued to work vigorously for agreements on verifiable arms control and on disarmament and to seek improved relations with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. They warmly welcomed the opening of talks in Geneva between the United States and the Soviet Union on nuclear weapons and arms in space and fully support the United States' efforts to reach concrete agreements. They have expressed the hope that the forthcoming meeting between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev will help this process.

6. My Government have signed the Treaty on the Accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Communities, and have signed and ratified the third Convention of Lomé. An Act has been passed implementing the Fontainebleau Agreement on the future financing of the European Communities, including the correction of the British budgetary contribution.

7. My Government share the widespread public concern for the victims of the famine in Africa. They have continued to provide substantial emergency assistance both directly and through the European Community.

8. My Government welcomed the wide measure of agreement on economic and political issues reached at the Bonn Economic Summit in May.

9. My Government have continued fully to honour their undertakings to the people of the Falkland Islands, while taking positive steps to seek more normal relations with Argentina. The Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong was signed last December and an Act consequent upon the terms of the Joint Declaration was passed. My Government have reached agreement with Spain on the implementation of the Lisbon statement concerning Gibraltar.

10. My Government have supported efforts to restore the independence and non-aligned status of Afghanistan. They have urged peaceful change in South Africa and the early independence of Namibia. They have continued to support United Nations efforts to reach a settlement of the Cyprus problem.

11. My Government welcomed to the United Kingdom in June the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China. The great importance my Government attach to their relations with the countries of South East and South Asia was marked by the Prime Minister's visit there in April.

12. Members of the House of Commons

I thank you for the provision which you have made for the honour and dignity of the Crown and for the public service.

13. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

[Treasury contribution]

14. An Act has been passed to increase competition in the provision of local bus services in Great Britain and to enable the operations of the National Bus Company to be transferred to the private sector.

15. Legislation has been enacted to make new provision for the payment of deficit grants to the National Coal Board and to abolish the British National Oil Corporation.

16. Legislation has been enacted to remove the statutory levy on cinema admissions, to provide for alternative financial assistance for film production and to reduce the regulatory burden on the film and cinema industries.

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17. An Act has been passed for the better protection of food and the environment.

18. An Act has been passed to establish in England and Wales a Crown Prosecution Service independent of the police, and to enable time limits to be imposed on criminal proceedings.

19. An Act has been passed giving the right to vote at Parliamentary and European Parliament elections to many British citizens resident abroad, and extending postal and proxy voting to electors who cannot reasonably be expected to vote in person.

20. Legislation has been passed to establish a comprehensive statutory framework governing the interception of communications.

21. An Act has been passed to deal with the problem of drunkenness at designated sporting events.

22. Considerable advance has been made in the consolidation of our statute law; provision has been made to apply international Conventions on child abduction and for the administration of justice.

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23. An Act has been passed to abolish the Greater London Council and the Metropolitan County Councils on 1st April 1986 and to transfer most of their functions to the borough and district councils.

24. In Northern Ireland, my Government has given the highest priority to the maintenance of law and order. They have encouraged the constitutional political parties in Northern Ireland to seek ways in which responsibility can be returned to a local administration, on a widely acceptable basis. In supporting the economy, particular attention has been given to creating the conditions for an expanding private sector. My Government has sought to maintain and develop a more solid working relationship with the Government of the Republic of Ireland.

25. For Scotland, measures have been passed to introduce a rebate scheme following rating revaluation, to establish trustee bodies to manage certain Scottish institutions, and to make a number of reforms in Scots law.

26. Legislation has been passed to reform insolvency law in England and Wales, and in Scotland.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT 1985

1. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

I look forward with great pleasure to receiving His Highness the Amir of Qatar, [their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain] and [the President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Frau von Weizsaecker] on State Visits during the next 12 months.

2. I also look forward to paying a State Visit to Nepal in February, followed by visits to New Zealand and Australia and [to paying a State Visit to China and visiting Hong Kong in October].

3. My Government's highest priority remains the maintenance of national security and the preservation of peace with freedom and justice. They will accordingly continue to play a full and active part in the Atlantic Alliance and maintain their programme of strengthening the United Kingdom's own defences. They will continue their vigorous efforts to combat international terrorism.

4. With their allies, my Government will work for progress in arms control and disarmament negotiations. They will continue to strive for greater cooperation and trust between East and West.

5. My Government will introduce a Bill on the Accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Communities and looks forward to welcoming these two countries to full membership. My Government will continue to work for the further development of the European Community, for reforms in the Common Agricultural Policy which have a proper regard to the interests of our farming and food industries, for the early completion of the common market in goods and services, and for close cooperation on foreign policy and security issues.

6. My Government will continue fully to honour their undertakings to the people of the Falkland Islands while continuing to seek more normal relations between the United Kingdom and Argentina. [They still look to Argentina for a constructive response]. My Government will also continue to discharge their obligations to the people of Hong Kong; and will propose provisions to implement the nationality arrangements arising from the Sino-British Joint Declaration on the question of Hong Kong.

7. My Government will continue to seek peaceful change in South Africa, including a settlement in Namibia. In the Middle East they will work for the restoration of peace and stability in Lebanon, and for solutions to the conflict between Iraq and Iran and to the Arab/Israel dispute. They will seek the restoration of an independent and non-aligned Afghanistan and a settlement of the Cyprus problem. They will support the efforts of the Contadora Group to resolve peacefully the tensions in Central America.

8. My Government will give full support to the Commonwealth, and play a constructive role at the United Nations. They will continue to maintain a substantial aid programme, to play their part in the relief of famine and other disasters and to encourage investment in developing countries.

9. [A Bill will be introduced to give effect to an Australian request to terminate certain remaining constitutional links between the United Kingdom and the Australian States].

10. Members of the House of Commons

Estimates for the Public Service will be laid before you.

11. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

[Treasury contribution].

12. In line with its policies of freeing industries from unnecessary state intervention, my Government will introduce a Bill to permit the transfer of all the assets of the British Gas Corporation to the private sector. A Bill will be introduced to enable the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority to operate as a Trading Fund from 1 April 1986.

13. Legislation will be brought forward to introduce private capital into the British Airports Authority, to require sizeable local authority airports to be formed into companies, and to regulate certain airport activities.

14. It is my Government's intention to introduce commercial management to my Naval Dockyards, as a significant contribution to encouraging a commercial approach and securing value for money in its spending on Defence. Legislation will be introduced to give effect to this.

15. Legislation will be introduced to facilitate industry funding of agricultural research, advice and related services; and to implement the European Community arrangements to protect areas of particular environmental sensitivity.

16. A Bill will be introduced to establish a new regulatory framework for the financial services industry, which will enhance its efficiency and competitiveness and provide greater safeguards for the interests of investors.

17. Legislation will be brought forward to restrict the operation of Wages Councils.

18. A Bill will be introduced to regulate certain practices in local government.

19. Legislation will be introduced to encourage the sale of public sector flats to their tenants and the privatisation of council housing estates, and to improve the planning system.

20. For Scotland, Bills will be introduced to extend the rights of public sector tenants and to facilitate the privatisation of public sector housing stock, to improve legal aid arrangements, and to reform the law relating to parents and children in the light of the Scottish Law Commission report on illegitimacy.

21. In Northern Ireland, my Government will continue to support fully the security forces' efforts to enforce the law and eradicate terrorism. They will seek widely acceptable arrangements for devolving powers to the elected representatives of Northern Ireland's constitutional parties. They will seek to improve further their cooperation with the Government of the Irish Republic. Renewed efforts will be made to create and sustain employment, particularly by the encouragement of the private sector.

22. Legislation will be introduced to strengthen the powers of the police to prevent disorder and to modernise and codify the common law public order offences.
23. A Bill will be introduced to remove all statutory restrictions on shop opening hours.
24. A Bill will be introduced to reform social security in line with my Government's published proposals.
25. Legislation will be introduced to improve the management of schools and to promote the professional effectiveness of teachers.
26. Other measures will be laid before you.
27. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.

27. My Government have published proposals to improve the quality of school education, the effectiveness of teachers and the development of higher education into the next decade.
28. My Government have conducted a fundamental review of the social security system and published proposals for radical reform.
29. In addition, my Government have protected the real value of the retirement pension and other related benefits, and passed an act to improve employees' rights under occupational pension schemes, and to extend statutory sick pay.
30. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons
- I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may attend you.