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Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

J Daniel Esq
Northern Ireland Office
Old Admiralty Building
Whitehall
London SW1

Pure Minutes:
The OVP want
to come back on
Select Committees. The
Chief Whip is reluctant
unless they are prepared
to play their part at
Westminster

24 April 1986

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28/4

Dear Jim,

I enclose a copy of a letter from Mr Molyneaux to the Chief Whip and a copy of a draft reply.

I should be most grateful for any comments which you and the other recipients of this letter may have on the draft as soon as possible.

I am sending a copy of this letter and enclosures to Tim Flesher at No.10., Alison Smith in the Lord Privy Seal's Office and to Michael Stark.

yours ever,

Murdo MacLean

(Murdo MacLean)

D R A F T O N L Y

To: J Molyneaux Esq;

Thank you for your letter of 22 April about the willingness of members of your Party to accept renomination to the position which they previously occupied on Select Committees and other bodies.

As you know, appointments to these committees are highly prized in the House and whilst I believe that it would provide for more orderly running of the committees if these vacancies were filled, I do not believe that the House would readily accept a situation whereby your Members were prepared to serve on these committees but not participate in the work of the Chamber itself. The Committees are, after all, only an extension of the Chamber.

Additionally, I note that in the "12 Point Package of Opposition to the Anglo-Irish Agreement" issued yesterday, you re-affirm your earlier decision not to revert to normal parliamentary practices. I just do not think that in the light of this the House should be asked to accept the apparent anomaly that renomination to the Committees would give rise to. There is already considerable pressure from other parties for their members to be appointed to the committees where the vacancies exist.

I will, of course, be very ready to discuss any of this with you if you think it would be helpful.



The Rt. Hon. James Molyneaux, JP., MP.
LEADER — THE ULSTER UNIONIST PARTY

House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA.

22 April, 1986.

Dear John

As there appears to be some doubts over the willingness of those Members of our Parliamentary Party to accept re-nomination to the position which they previously occupied on Select Committees and other bodies, I write to confirm that all would accept re-appointment.

I trust this information will be useful.

*Yours ever
Jim*

The Rt. Hon. John Wakeham, MP.,
Chief Whip's Office,
House of Commons.

