

PRIME MINISTER

I attended the Environment Backbench Committee which was addressed by Nick Ridley on the subject of the Community Charge. As he stated at your meeting the previous evening, he was mainly listening to other people's views.

The meeting was attended by approximately 70 Members of Parliament and three Peers. Questions were asked by approximately 20, and all but 5 made it clear that they would like to see Community Charge brought in as soon as possible.

Those that were against were Philip Goodhart, who said the whole thing was an administrative nightmare anyway, and wanted it phased. Bill Shelton was concerned about the effect for Lambeth, and said that it should either be introduced very early <sup>in 1989</sup> or otherwise phased and that we stood to lose 12 London seats if it came in too quickly. Patrick Cormack is totally against the whole thing, and wants to see it run in Scotland for 2 years before it is introduced in England. Robert Adley is against the whole thing and Hugo Summerson, of Walthamstow, said that he would be slaughtered if it were introduced in 1990 at £365 a head. He wanted to see it phased in.

George Young and John Biffen, who are well-known antis, were there, but did not speak.

What seemed to emerge from the meeting was that London presents its own special problems.



ARCHIE HAMILTON

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ENVIRONMENT 29/10

Tammara not dual  
running

70

3 years.

Stem

Huge sums and we will be slaughtered  
in 1990 £305 / head. Wants c.c.  
phase in

Nelson

one go a.s.a.p. Marland - no dual running  
against C.A. view.

- Goodhart comm change claim rightmost  
phase

London  
?

J. Brown crunch it now - no C.A. of L

but in pr

- Shelton <sup>Full</sup> comm change in Lambeth disastrous

Into in 1989. has 12 In. beds seats

H. Army - quickly

Parrey - -

G. Young } silent  
J. Britton }

Kenny - "

Mills - "

- McCormack - 2 yrs in Scotland 1st

Hages - no safety net

N. Bennett - based comm change for low-off most areas.

McLoughlin - straightaway - if not councils of the 10

Sims - no phasing - cost

so quickly

- Adley - against