

Prime Minister
In the mass of papers Policy Unit suggest
concentrating on three points on E(A)(83)20
Mr King proposes to take both papers
together.
PRIME MINISTER AT 12/12

12 December 1983
Policy Unit

YTS AND UNEMPLOYED 17-YEAR-OLDS IN 1984/5

The provision for 16-18-year-olds is now incredibly complicated: including YTS, Unemployment Benefit, Supplementary Benefit, Child Benefit and the Young Workers' Scheme. At present rates, Supplementary Benefit can be a more attractive prospect than staying on at a bad comprehensive school, and offers only a little less than the YTS allowance.

We suggest three central points which might come out of your meeting on Tuesday.

1. We do want to work towards a position in which unemployment is not an option for any 16-18-year-old.
2. But we do not want to widen the scope of YTS or introduce still more make-work schemes. MSC should simply be given a flexible commission to squeeze the 90,000 unemployed 17-year-olds into some kind of occupation by 1985.
3. We could then announce that SB would be withdrawn from 16-18-year-olds in 1985.

Guide Post

RP FERDINAND MOUNT

NB Not all members of E(A) know about the NTC scheme. If, for example, delaying the White Paper is suggested, you should oppose it, but not mention that this is to stop the NTC leaking.

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