



*Parker*

CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01- 233 8550

cc Mr Rickett  
Mr Colman (with Mr Larsen's)  
File  
Float

C A Larsen Esq  
Treasury & Civil Service Committee  
House of Commons SW1

30 October 1981

*See Tony*

ENQUIRY INTO EFFICIENCY & EFFECTIVENESS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE

Thank you for your letter of 22 October, which I have shown to Derek Rayner. *will regret regret.*

He is grateful for the Sub-Committee's invitation to comment on the replies it has received from Departments in response to its questionnaire, but it is not one that he can accept. Picking up your own questions to me, he does not think that - given all the demands on his time and attention - it is feasible for him to slog his way through the several pounds of paper you have received from Departments. Nor, even if he were able to do that, would he think it appropriate to offer comments without checking his impressions with the Departments whose answers are now before you. He thinks that it would serve the Sub-Committee, the Government and himself ill if he were to parade as an instant expert on business of which he has no first-hand knowledge and experience. To seek to go behind Departments' answers would be time-consuming for them and for him and he thinks that the Sub-Committee would be better served in this respect by its own advisers and by direct discussion with the Departments concerned.

I am however to offer you Derek Rayner's assurance that he will gladly, as before, submit evidence in writing or in person on matters with which he is more directly concerned.

*Yours sincerely,*

*C. Priestley*

C PRIESTLEY

13 OCT 1987

