

NOTE for the File

I have passed this
comment to the QL
Secretary. The Lord
Chancellor will
be chairing QL
this afternoon. WML 21/3

PRIME MINISTER

Legislative Programme 1983-84

We must have the
J. H. Bill in the short
session if it
does not have time
to get through.
Parliament
1
no.

QL have planned for:

(a) A short 1983/84 session, which would result if there were an election in, say, May 1984.

(b) A normal session which would result if there were a June or October election this year.

QL have concluded that the programme for a normal session would have to consist of the Bills chosen for a short session plus some additions. There is insufficient time, or resources, to prepare two completely different programmes.

At Flag A are QL's provisional conclusions on the Bills that should be included in a short session and the additions to make up a long session.

At Flag B is a list of further Bills. QL will consider whether any of these should be added to the programme for the short session.

QL will also consider whether any of the Bills at Flag C should be added to the programme for the normal session.

Have you any views that you want to feed in at this stage, or would you prefer to await discussion of QL's report to Cabinet? You will in particular note that QL have not so far agreed to include a trade union measure in the short session. Mr. Tebbit has accepted that there would not be room in a short session for a full trade union Bill, and the business managers are worried about the dangers and difficulties of attempting to carry any highly controversial Bills in a short session. Mr. Tebbit has however argued that the Government's supporters would as a minimum expect action on the rules for election to trade union offices.

WML