

CE NO



Prime Minister ①
Agree this issue is better
considered by Progress
Procedure Inquiry?

Yes not AT
20/1
1/2

PRIME MINISTER

MISC 109: EXTENDING THE COVERAGE OF DISQUALIFICATION OF
COUNCILLORS

At the meeting of MISC 109 on 12 February, I and the Attorney General were asked to consider the possibility of extending the provisions for disqualifying local councillors to cover not only their council membership but also any job held in another local authority, or body funded by a local authority (MISC 109(84)1st meeting, page 4 refers.)

You will recall that in my speech to the Party Conference and again during the Debate on the Address on 7 November, I referred to the problem of local authority employees holding office as councillors in other authorities without any recognition given to the conflicts of interest which inevitably arise. I believe that this is one of the principal issues which should be considered by the inquiry into local government practices and procedures, on which I minuted you on 31 December, and that it should be set in the general context of political abuses in local government which the inquiry will be investigating. As you know, the Chairman of the Committee of Inquiry will be receiving detailed guidance on the topics which I shall expect him to consider, of which the position of councillors employed by other local authorities or bodies funded by local authorities will be one. I am also making it clear that I expect the Committee to report within a year of starting work.

It is not clear from the terms reference.

I hope you will agree therefore that it would be premature at this stage to consider the issues separately in the MISC 109 context, and that we should decide on further action on this front in the light of the Committee's report.

CONFIDENTIAL



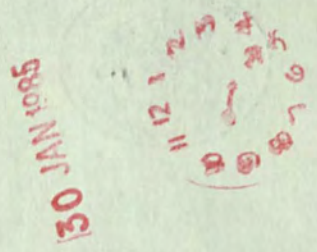
I am copying this letter to colleagues on MISC 109, and would be grateful to know whether you and they are content to proceed on this basis. A copy also goes to Sir Robert Armstrong.

PJ

P J

30 January 1985

Relative: LOCAL GOVT. P725.



GOVERNMENT