

LOCAL GOVT: Relations.

MESSAGE FOR MR BUTLER FROM TURNBULL

YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HOUSE. LAST WEEK MR JENKIN LAID AN ORDER SETTING THE RATE LIMITS FOR FOURTEEN RATE CAPPED COUNCILS. UNDER PROTEST THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS WAS PRESSURED INTO CLEARING THEM QUICKLY SO THAT A DEBATE COULD TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY. YESTERDAY, HOWEVER, MR JENKIN WITHDREW THE ORDERS AND RETABLED THEM WITH A NEW FIGURE FOR HARRINGAY. THE OPPOSITION ARE COMPLAINING THAT A DEBATE TOMORROW LEAVES INSUFFICIENT TIME TO LOOK AT THE MODIFIED ORDERS. THE SELECT COMMITTEE IS ALSO PUT OUT.

IF THE GOVERNMENT TRY TO PROCEED WITH THE RATE CAPPING DEBATE TOMORROW THERE IS EVERY PROSPECT OF DISRUPTION. MR BIFFEN AND MR JENKIN HAVE THEREFORE AGREED TO CHANGE THE BUSINESS. THEY WILL TRY TO PUT RATE CAPPING ON THURSDAY AND BRING FORWARD DISCUSSION OF THE LRT BILL FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY.

ANOTHER BANANA SKIN FOR MR JENKIN I AM AFRAID.

MESSAGE ENDS
19 FEBRUARY