



Prime Minister to see  
— for information

Department of the Environment  
2 Marsham Street London SW1P 3EB  
Telephone 01-212 3434

26 February 1985

Dear Stephen,

EARLY WARNING - PLANNING IN THE SOUTH

(attended)

I thought I should draw your attention to Early Day Motion 435 which has gone down in the name of Conservative MPs, broadly from the Home Counties. 83 members have put their names to it in 2 days. The politics behind this are very sensitive. What they are in effect saying is that they do not want very much more, or in many cases no more, housing development in the South East. They want more sites brought into use in the North and Midlands.

This represents a considerable clash of interests. They are responding to constituency and local pressures which are very hostile indeed to wholesale development in the South East, and will thus have an impact upon the impending county elections.

The issues are also sensitive politically because Liberal and SDP Members will broadly take the same line.

(attended)

I would only contrast this with Early Day Motion 432 which is again in the names of Conservative Members but concentrates on housing and represents in an oblique way a different point of view. So far only 8 names have been put down in support.

I am copying this to John Wakeham and John Selwyn Gummer.

KENNETH BAKER

**435 DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

Mr Andrew MacKay  
Dr Alan Glyn  
Sir Gerard Vaughan  
Mr Michael McNair-Wilson  
Mr Michael Mates  
Mr Patrick McNair-Wilson

Mr Kenneth Warren      Mr Geoffrey Dickens

★ 85

That this House urges the Secretary of State for the Environment to reconsider the provision of land for housing in the South East to take account of the need to give a boost to economic activity in the regions, especially the North and Midlands, to increase the use of land lying waste in the conurbations, especially inner cities and to reduce the pressure for development on green field sites in the South East, where intense development is not welcome.

**436 NATIONAL HERITAGE**

Mr Stephen Ross  
Mr Andrew Faulds  
Sir Patrick Wall  
Mr David Gilroy Bevan  
Mr Tony Lloyd  
Mr Laurie Pavitt

Mr Alec Woodall

★ 8

That this House welcomes the news that Kedleston Hall, Weston Manor and Nostell Priory together with their contents are to be preserved for the nation and that an extra £25 million has been found for this purpose ; and now further hopes that a purpose-built extension to the National Gallery will be insisted upon of a style in keeping with its importance and that the proposal that it form part of a speculative office building will be abandoned.

★ The figure following this symbol gives the total number of names of Members appended, including those names added in this edition of the Notices of Questions and Motions.

430 RATIONAL SYSTEM FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF TICKETS FOR QUESTION TIME

Mr David Alton  
Mr Peter Bruinvels  
Mr Terry Lewis  
Mr John Home Robertson  
Mr Charles Kennedy  
Mr Michael Brown

★ 26

That this House believes that the present system of administering the distribution of tickets for the galleries is time consuming and inefficient ; and calls for a more rational system of distribution based on the principle of all requests for tickets being referred to the Admission Order Office and all requests being dealt with on a strict first-come first-served basis.

As an Amendment to Mr David Alton's proposed Motion (Rational System for the Distribution of Tickets for Question Time):

Mr Ian Grist  
Sir Anthony Meyer  
Mr James Tinn  
Mr David Maclean  
Mr David Gilroy Bevan  
Mr Charles Irving

★ 8

Mr Russell Johnston

Line 2, leave out from 'galleries' to end and add 'though not perfect, is a great deal better than a system based on the hit and miss of written applications or the boredom of queuing.'

434 OVERFISHING OF NAMIBIAN WATERS

Mr Michael Brown  
Mr Nicholas Winterton  
Sir Patrick Wall  
Mr David Gilroy Bevan  
Mr Michael Morris  
Mr Christopher Murphy

★ 8

Mr Neil Thorne

That this House deplores the environmental atrocity occasioned by the systematic over-fishing of Namibian coastal waters by the countries of the Eastern bloc ; and calls upon Her Majesty's Government to take whatever steps it can to end this illegal plunder of the natural resources of Namibia.

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EDM 432

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW HOUSING

- Mr Nicholas Winterton
- Mr Albert McQuarrie
- Mrs Elizabeth Peacock
- Mr Harry Greenway
- Mr David Gilroy Bevan
- Mr David Knox

★ 6 now 8

That this House welcomes the publication by the Building Employers Confederation of their report, *Spotlight on New Housing*; notes with concern its worrying conclusions that construction is lagging far behind any reasonable assessment of need, with only 198,000 houses being completed in 1984 compared to an average of 304,000 per annum during the 1970s, and that in 1984 only 152,000 new private houses were started by builders, some 15,000 fewer than in 1983; believes that a continuation of this trend will lead to an ever-worsening housing crisis; and calls upon Her Majesty's Government to do all in its power to stimulate new housing construction.

PROSECUTION OF CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

- Mr Edward Leigh
- Mr Andrew Mackay
- Mr Patrick Nicholls
- Mr Neil Hamilton
- Mr Martin Stevens
- Mr Ken Hargreaves

★ 9

Mr Peter Bruinvels                      Mr D. Gilroy Bevan                      Sir Patrick Wall

That this House notes with deep concern the request by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament to its supporters to state their willingness to engage in civil disobedience at RAF Molesworth; and calls on the Attorney General to initiate forthwith proceedings against this organisation for criminal conspiracy.

As an Amendment to Mr Edward Leigh's proposed Motion (Prosecution of Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament):

Mr Frank Cook

★ 1

Line 3, leave out from 'the' to end and add 'whole nation to rally to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament's support'.

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