

E. R.
PRIME MINISTER

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ABOLITION OF THE GLC: A VOICE FOR LONDON

Alan Greengross's proposal is an abomination. It should be resisted at all costs - including, if necessary, delayed enactment of the Abolition Bill.

Philip Goodhart's proposal is far more sensible. The question is one of timing. You could:

- either do nothing at this stage, and offer a compromise on Goodhart lines if there is sufficient pressure in the Lords;
- or offer to discuss a Goodhart compromise now, in the hope that this will steal the Opposition's thunder.

We believe that the scales are evenly balanced. If you take the initiative now, you may win round enough backbenchers in the Lords to defeat the Greengross proposals; but the business managers in the Lords think that this tactic is unlikely to work. If you do nothing now, the back-benchers may be so alienated by the time of the vote, that even a compromise will prove insufficient to satisfy them; but you may get by without any concessions at all.

We recommend that, whatever is decided about the Goodhart proposals, the Government should announce that proposals on Greengross lines are (and always will be) unacceptable to the Government since they, in effect, undermine the Manifesto commitment.

Oliver Letwin

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