

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING OF COLLEAGUES

Besides the normal business matters, I suggest the following for the agenda:

1. Mr. Jopling asked me yesterday to pass on to you his great anxiety about the position of beef and milk producers. Beef producers had already demonstrated in the streets, and he feared further disorder. One important problem was imports of Irish beef, stimulated by their advantageous green pound. Mr. Jopling said that at no time in the last two and a half years had he experienced such hostility from the farmers. The officers of the Backbench Agriculture Committee were refusing to support him.

The Lord President and the Chief Whip had a long talk with Mr. Jopling recently about matters agriculture and the politics of the farming vote. They can report on Mr. Jopling's anxieties and position.

2. Mr. Campbell-Savours has won the ballot for a Private Members Motion on Monday 15 December and has chosen the Security Services as the topic for his three hour debate. He has threatened to use that debate to expose all he knows about the Security Services, including, we suspect, naming current Security Service members on the Floor of the House. The Chief Whip is contemplating the following stratagem to deal with Mr. Campbell-Savours.

Some heavyweight Conservative backbenchers should table an Early Day Motion calling upon the Leader of the Opposition to stop Mr. Campbell-Savours putting national security in jeopardy by naming names etc in the debate. In a separate EDM backbenchers would call upon the Leader of the House to change the business if the Leader of the Opposition was unable to get an undertaking from Mr. Campbell-Savours that he would not raise sensitive security points. The Chief Whip would also

see his opposite number to express concern and the Lord Privy Seal would possibly talk to his opposite number Mr. Shore.

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Such tactics would give the Government "the high ground". If satisfactory assurance were not received from Mr. Campbell-Savours or the Leader of the Opposition and it looked as if he would proceed with the Statement, the Government would alter the business in some way so as to postpone this private business debate.

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Before definitely deciding tactics, the Chief Whip would like to talk them through with yourself and the business managers.

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N. L. WICKS

5 December 1986

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## Business of the House

3.35 pm

**Mr. Roy Hattersley** (Birmingham, Sparkbrook): May I ask the Leader of the House to tell us the Business for next week?

**The Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons (Mr. John Biffen)**: Yes, Sir. The Business for next week will be as follows:

**MONDAY 8 DECEMBER** — Second Reading of the Teachers' Pay and Conditions Bill.

Afterwards there will be a debate on EC documents on aid to shipbuilding. Details will be given in the *Official Report*.

Motion on the British Shipbuilders Borrowing Powers (Increase of Limit) Order.

**TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER** — Second Reading of the Abolition of Domestic Rates etc. (Scotland) Bill.

There will be a debate on a motion to take note of EC Document 8705/86 on food aid policy and management.

Afterwards there will be a debate on EC documents relating to air transport. Details will be given in the *Official Report*.

**WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER** — Remaining stages of the Teachers' Pay and Conditions Bill.

At Ten o'clock the House will be asked to agree the Civil and Defence Votes on Account and the Winter Supplementary Estimates.

**THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER** — Second Reading of the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill.

Motion on the draft Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978 (Continuance) (No. 3) Order.

**FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER** — Private Members' motions.

**MONDAY 15 DECEMBER** — Until seven o'clock, Private Members' motions.

Motion for the Christmas Adjournment.

Proceedings on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Mr. Speaker, the House will wish to know that it will be proposed that, subject to the progress of business, the House should rise for the Christmas Adjournment on Friday 19 December, until Monday 12 January.

*Monday 8 December*

*Debate on Aid to Shipbuilding*

*Relevant European Documents:*

- (a) 9470/86                      *Aid to Shipbuilding*  
9470/1/86

*Tuesday 9 December*

*Debate on Food Aid*

*Relevant European Documents:*

- (b) 8705/86                      *Food aid policy*  
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*Debate on Air Transport*

*Relevant European Documents:*

- (c) 5938/84                      *Air Transport policy*  
(d) 7932/1/86                      *Community air transport policy*  
(e) 8324/86                      *Community air transport policy*  
(f) 8109/86                      *Inter-regional air services*  
(g) 9132/86                      *Inter-regional air services*

*Relevant Reports of European Legislation Committee*

- (a) HC 21-xxvii (1985-86) para 3  
(b) HC 21-xxvii (1985-86) para 1 and HC 22-ii (1986-87) para 2

(c) HC 18-xxvii (1983-84) para 9 and HC 5-xxi (1984-85) para 1

(d) HC 21-xxviii (1985-86) para 4

(e) HC 21-xxviii (1985-86) para 4

(f) HC 21-xxviii (1985-86) para 3

(g) HC 21-xxviii (1985-86) para 3

**Mr. Hattersley**: I ask the Leader of the House two specific questions about next week. He will recall that a private notice question was recently asked concerning the Government's manipulation of the trade figures. The House was assured that the figures published on the day of the private notice question were accurate. We now know from the information available today that that was not so. I am sure that the Leader of the House will agree that the Minister in question has a duty to return to the House next week to clarify the position and correct the errors he made when answering the private notice question.

Will the Leader of the House confirm that the Government have already made up their mind to carry the Teachers' Pay and Conditions Bill through all its stages in three sittings of the House and have already promised to deliver it to the House of Lords immediately after Christmas? Does that not confirm the view of the right hon. Member for Cambridgeshire, South-East (Mr. Pym) that, given a large majority, the Prime Minister would certainly abuse it?

**Mr. Biffen**: I shall certainly look into the right hon. Gentleman's first point, with which I am not as familiar as he obviously is, and refer it to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. I accept that the right hon. Gentleman's second point is a matter of great substance. The House will understand the urgency in coming to a decision on these matters. With that in mind, I have tabled a motion which, if passed today, will enable amendments to be tabled to the Bill before Second Reading. I hope that the arrangements which I have outlined will prove to be helpful to the House. I note the right hon. Gentleman's point. I shall arrange for the matter to be considered further through the usual channels to ascertain whether a more acceptable day for the remaining stages can be found. We shall have to judge progress.

**Mr. Nicholas Budgen** (Wolverhampton, South-West): Will my right hon. Friend find time to allow the House to discuss the issue of the compulsory attendance of pupils at the teaching of Punjabi in a number of schools in the west midlands? In particular, will he provide such an opportunity for those who wish to express doubts on behalf of the parents of children at the Colton Hills School in my constituency, who find that, against their wishes and against the promises in the prospectus, they are obliged to attend lessons in Punjabi?

**Mr. Biffen**: My hon. Friend has raised a valid point which could have wider application in the future. Therefore, I would like to draw his attention to the opportunity that would be presented by proceedings on the Consolidated Fund Bill, when he might make the matters more extensible to the House.

**Mr. David Alton** (Liverpool, Mossley Hill): Is the Leader of the House aware that it is now nearly a year since the Leader of the Liberal party wrote to the Lord