

MEETING WITH MR. WALKER

I understand that Mr. Walker, in the margins of tomorrow's meeting on electricity privatisation, will himself raise NIREX and the issue of the CEGB Chairman's salary.

NIREX

Mr. Walker envisages that low level waste would, for the foreseeable future, be stored at the Drigg site near Sellafield. (Intermediate waste would presumably remain at the originating sites.) He thinks that the chairmen of the CEGB, NIREX and BNFL would agree, but he may suggest to you that you should convene a meeting of these chairmen, plus himself, to give them a push towards this solution.

If this approach was agreed, a statement would be made very soon that this possibility was under consideration. The NIREX site investigations would still continue, but the MPs concerned would have the opportunity for making the point locally that the pressure was off their constituencies since the eventual decision would no doubt be to store the low level waste at Drigg.

This is an interesting possibility for removing the "blight" over the NIREX constituencies. But I recommend that before agreeing to any meeting with the chairmen (which must be kept strictly confidential), the views of Mr. Ridley (nuclear inspectorate etc.) and Lord Whitelaw (effects on Conservative politics in the North West) should be sought.

CEGB Chairman's Salary

Mr. Walker may return to the argument that if Lord Marshall is to receive £95,000, Sir Philip Jones, Chairman of the Electricity Council, should receive the same salary.

N.L.W.
(N.L. WICKS)

27 April 1987

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10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

You may want to take the opportunity of Mr. Walker's presence to ask him, after the Chancellor has left the meeting, how he would propose that the NIREX matter should be played for a General Election.

(N. L. WICKS)

27 April 1987