

PRIME MINISTER

NHS AND COMMUNITY CARE BILL

The Government suffered two defeats on the community care element of the Bill in the Lords tonight. The first would require the money available for community care to be ring-fenced within local authority budgets. The second would require the Secretary of State to delay implementation of the community care provisions until he was satisfied that local authorities had adequate funds next year and for the following four years to carry out the duties being imposed upon them.

In both cases, the defeats were caused by Government back benchers simply being out-numbered by Opposition and cross benchers. There were apparently very few Government-side rebels (though Lucy Faithful voted against the Government on both). Given the community care review and that it will be several weeks before the NHS Bill returns to the Commons neither defeat is as disastrous as it appears at first sight.

DM

(DOMINIC MORRIS)

8 May 1990

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