

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

RESTRICTED



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

10 January 1984

see NO

*n bpm
JMS
10/1*

Dear Michael,

CABLE BILL - RESERVE MINISTERIAL POWERS

Your Secretary of State wrote on 28 November in response to the Home Secretary's letter of 4 November to suggest that our respective legal advisers should discuss whether the Energy Act 1976 contains sufficient powers to enable the Secretary of State to regulate the transmission hours for cable television in time of emergency.

I understand that it has now been concluded that the Energy Act powers could be used for that purpose and that, should the situation arise, there would in principle be advantage in dealing with the broadcasters in the same way rather than under the Broadcasting Act and the BBC Licence and Agreement. This appears to meet the objectives of our two Departments.

Copies of this letter go to the Private Secretaries to the Prime Minister, the Lord President of the Council, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretaries of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Defence, Northern Ireland and Trade and industry and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Your sincerely

Michael Heseltine

M J GILLESPIE

M F Reidy, Esq

energy

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Broadcasting : Cable Pt 4

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10 JAN 1984

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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY
THAMES HOUSE SOUTH
MILLBANK LONDON SW1P 4QJ

01-211 6402

The Rt Hon Leon Brittan QC MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
Home Office
Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1

November 1983

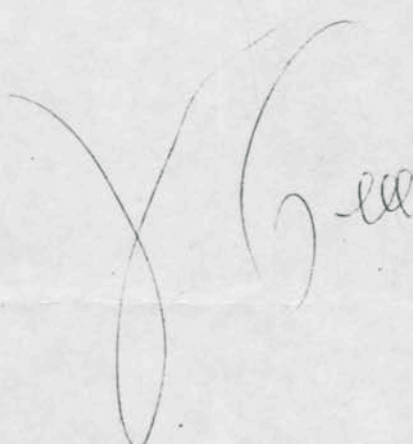
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CABLE BILL - RESERVE MINISTERIAL POWERS

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to
Michael Heseltine of 4 November.

I sympathise with your reluctance to take powers specifically
to regulate transmission hours for cable television. But I do
not wholly share your confidence that the Energy Act 1976
already contains adequate powers for this purpose. I have
asked my legal advisers to discuss the details with yours.

I am sending copies of this letter to the recipients of yours.



PETER WALKER

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Broadcasting : Direct Broadcasting / Cable . A4

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