

MR WHITMORE

National Heritage Fund

The Chancellor of the Duchy has sent the Prime Minister a manuscript minute, asking her to reconsider her decision in favour of Prime Ministerial appointments to this body. I attach the minute, a typed copy and the original submission.

The Chancellor of the Duchy has not copied his minute to Mr Heseltine, the other Minister concerned.

Of the Chancellor's two arguments, I find (1) very odd, the suggestion that the Lords will make less difficulty if their amendment is totally rejected than they would if the Government offers them the half-way house of Prime Ministerial appointments.

I am not able to comment on (2).

You may feel Sir Ian Bancroft, or Sir Robert Armstrong, ought to be asked to take a quick grip on this question, and to give the Prime Minister advice. A fairly quick decision is needed, because of the Parliamentary timetable.

*If there are practical difficulties with an attempt to reduce P.M. trustee - don't Prime Minister those same difficulties arise if we put back the*

*The CSD take the view that these appointments should be made by the two Ministers concerned rather than by you or by the Crown, but they point out - rightly - that the choice is really a political one.*

20 March 1980

*Chancellor of the Duchy? I would gladly let him do it but why should it change the Chancellor of the Duchy?*

*I think that, despite the Chancellor of the Duchy's plea, you would be right to stick to your decision that you should make the appointments. Do you agree?*

*Members I personally am quite happy to let the 2 Ministers do it. I suggest we had better arrange a quick meeting with Mr Sir John Storer and Mr Heseltine.*

*AMJ 20:22*