

Chancellor of the Duchy  
of Lancaster

Privy Council Office  
Whitehall, London SW1A 2AT

March 20 1980

PRIME MINISTER

I am grateful for your view on the Lords Amendment on appointments of the Trustees of the Heritage Fund. In the original bill the appointments were to be made by the Ministers concerned (myself + DOE). The Lords Amendment substitutes appointment by the Crown on Prime Ministerial advice. You now suggest a third course, appointment by the Prime Minister.

Unfortunately this would cause us considerable parliamentary difficulties.

- 1) We would have to send the amendments disagreed with back to the Lords and another amendment (new) (yours) which they would then have to consider. This could well be disagreed with and it would come back to us again. The date for the Royal Consent would slip - and we would breach our pledge of April 1.
- 2) The arts people in the party in the Commons would not like the compromise and this would cause difficulty to the Chief Whip on which he has commented. They are not easy to control.

Might I ask therefore if you would be kind enough to reconsider your advice to me, and indicate your preference between:

- 1) Ministerial appointment
- 2) Crown appointment on Prime Ministerial advice.

/I do not

I do not feel the issue is a crucial one but I prefer the Ministerial appointment as the Trustees are spending money coming from my budget and that of the DOE and appointment enables one to influence them better in the discretionary use of the money - indirectly of course.

So sorry to bother you with this.

Norman



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE  
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 the Heritage Fund. In the original bill  
 the appointments were to be made by the ministers  
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Amendment substitutes appointment by the crow  
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Unfortunately this would cause us  
 considerable practical difficulties.



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- 2) The arts people - the party in the Commons would not like the compromise and this would cause difficulty to the Chief Whip or whom he has nominated. They are not easy to control.

Might I ask the favour if you would be kind enough to reconsider your advice to me, and indicate your preference between:

- 1) Ministerial appointment
- 2) Crown appointment - and ministerial advice.



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