



Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

Prime Minister

The Chief Whip & the leader are both Lloyd's Members. Both sides of the House wish to suspend the Rule for the Lloyd's Bill, but the Business managers would like you to take the decision, to avoid any 'conflict of interest' accusation.

10 February 1982

Dear Mike,

OPPOSED PRIVATE BUSINESS

The First Deputy Chairman has asked if time could be found next week for a further debate on the consideration stage of the Lloyd's Bill. Mr Godman Irvine has also asked if the Government would table a motion to enable proceedings on the Bill to continue until any hour, so as to ensure that both groups of selected amendments can be dealt with.

Standing Order No 7 provides that Opposed Private Business shall be distributed as nearly as may be proportionately between Government days and Supply days. So far this session, the Government has provided two days for this purpose, and therefore the next allocation should come from Supply time.

There are many precedents for suspending the rule to dispose of private business, and I attach for information a list of the recent precedents. The Opposition Chief Whip is ^{also} likely to make a formal request to the Government for the rule to be suspended.

As you will know, Mr Weatherill, the Chairman of Ways and Means, is a member of Lloyds, and he has not been in the Chair for any of the proceedings of this Bill but rather left it to the Deputy Chairman. Equally, both the Leader of the House and the Chief Whip are members of Lloyds and they believe that it would be inappropriate for them to take a decision which could affect progress on this Bill one way or the other.

The purpose of this letter therefore, is to ask whether the Prime Minister

Yes no Agree that the rule should be suspended? MAF 10/2

Murdo

11 February 1982

Opposed Private Business

Thank you for your letter of 10 February, about the suspension of the rule to allow further time for the House to consider the Lloyd's Bill.

In the circumstances you describe, the Prime Minister is ready to authorise the suspension of the rule.

MAP

Murdo Maclean, Esq.,
Chief Whip's Office.

RM



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Chief Whip - To See.

PRIVATE BILL OFFICE
HOUSE OF COMMONS

9th February, 1982

Dear Mr Moore, 9/2.

You asked me for more information about the occasions in the last decade on which the Standing Orders have been suspended to allow Private Bills to be debated for longer than three hours in one evening. As you requested, I give you the title of the Bill, the length of the suspension and the amount of previous debate on the Bill. Please note that in the case of Second Readings with Instructions or Money Resolutions it was often the second motion in respect of which the suspension was moved.

1. 18 March 1971: Second Reading, Isle of Wight County Council Bill: till any hour: no previous debate.
2. 17 May 1971: Consideration of Chichester Harbour Conservancy Bill: till any hour: no previous debate.
3. 21 June 1971: Consideration of Mersey Docks and Harbour Bill: till any hour: previously debated on second reading at seven o'clock on 27 April.
4. 1 July 1971: Third Reading of Greater London Council (Money) Bill: till any hour: previous seven o'clock debate without suspension on second reading, 25 May.
5. 1 July 1971: Third Reading, Mersey Docks and Harbour Bill: till any hour: debated on ~~Second Reading and Consideration, with suspensions each time~~ (see item 3 above).
6. 28 February 1972: Second Reading of Milford Docks Bill: until any hour: no previous debate.
7. 20 May 1974: A motion to suspend until 11 p.m. on an Instruction relating to the Greater London Council (Money) Bill and until any hour on consideration of the British Transport Docks Bill was negatived. It would have been the first appearance at seven o'clock of either Bill.

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8. 1 May 1975: Second Reading and Instruction on Greater London Council (Money) Bills: one hour: no previous debate.
9. 14 June 1976: Consideration of Greater London Council (General Powers) Bill: to any hour: previous seven o'clock debate on second reading, without suspension.
10. 15 June 1976: Second Reading of London Transport Bill: to any hour: no previous debate.
11. 2 August 1976: Second Reading of Cromarty Petroleum Order Confirmation Bill: to any hour: no previous debate.
12. 25 October 1976: Resumed Consideration of Cromarty Petroleum Order Confirmation Bill: to any hour: as well as the Second Reading debate mentioned above (item 11), there had already been a seven o'clock debate on consideration, without suspension.
13. 9 March 1978: Second Reading British Railways (Selby) Bill: to any hour: no previous debate.
14. 6 February 1979: Second Reading and Instruction, West Midlands County Council Bill: to 11 p.m.: no previous debate.
15. 21 June 1979: Second Reading and Instruction, Cheshire County Council Bill: to 10.45 p.m.
16. 28 June 1979: Consideration (re-committal Motion), West Midlands County Council Bill: to 10.45 p.m.: previous Second Reading Debate (with suspension) (see item 14 above).

A case on 25 July 1972 mentioned in Mr. Willcox's letter to Mr. Grant appears not to be relevant.

*Yours sincerely,
Alda Milner-Barry*

Alda Milner-Barry
A Senior Clerk

P. Moore, Esq.,
Office of the Government Chief Whip.