

Mr F E R BUTLER

No action on this.

It would attract attention to change the draft and, whatever happens about the Rayner Unit, the statement that responsibility for the overall efficiency of the Service is discharged by the MPO could be defended.

RAYNER UNIT etc: FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

FERS  
10.9.

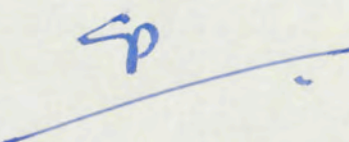
Following Sir Derek Rayner's meeting with the Prime Minister yesterday, I am on his instructions preparing a note for him to submit after his return from Canada on 20 September. If you have any advice in connection with this, I should be glad to have it.

2. But the main purpose of this minute is to draw attention to a potential embarrassment for the PM in the present draft reply to the Select Committee on the Treasury and Civil Service. Paragraph 38 of the draft which went to the PM in July says:

"Responsibility for the organisation, management and overall efficiency of the Service, and for policy on recruitment, training and other personnel matters rests with the Prime Minister as Minister for the Civil Service, and is discharged by the MPO. The MPO will continue to act in these matters with the authority of the Prime Minister."

3. In case the outcome of present thinking is as now appears likely, it would be better if the last sentence read:

"This responsibility will continue to be discharged on the authority of the Prime Minister."

  
C PRIESTLEY  
8 September 1982