

PRIME MINISTER

H COMMITTEE: PLANNING POLICIES FOR SECOND HOMES

H Committee (minutes attached) discussed the dispute over planning policies on second homes between the Secretaries of State for the Environment and for Wales. Mr. King wanted to allow the Lake District Special Planning Board to impose restrictions on new homes which would limit their ownership to those already resident or working there for an experimental period. Mr. Edwards was against this, principally because it would have severe political repercussions in Wales. Other members of the Committee thought that the restrictions proposed by the Lake District were an illegitimate use of planning powers.

The majority view of the Committee was that the Government should not approve the scheme—which will probably cause a local fuss in the Lake District.

14 April 1983

*Douglas*

*MF*

PRIME MINISTER

Planning policies on Second Homes

This issue will be discussed at H shortly on the basis of the attached paper by the Secretary of State for the Environment. The Lake District Special Planning Board wish to limit the occupation of new dwellings to people who work locally. The Secretary of State for the Environment is willing to allow such a policy for a trial period. The Welsh Secretary, however, wants it forbidden altogether, since he is under pressure for similar controls from his own local authorities.

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While not a major decision in itself this could well be a live issue in the coming months in a number of rural areas where there are many second homes. Both the Chief Whip and the Home Secretary of course have constituency interests.

*DJ*

30 March 1983