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Mr. Letwin

Have you a  
view please?

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1. MR. TURNBULL <sup>AF 15/7</sup>
  2. MR. BUTLER <sup>FEB</sup>

FEB

16.7.

**DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT GROUP: VALUE FOR MONEY SEMINAR**

You asked for comments on Sir Robin Ibbs' minute of 11 July, suggesting there should be a scrutiny of the management and delivery mechanisms for the Department of Employment and MSC special measures.

I take Sir Robin's point that YTS is now going through an upheaval following a changeover from a one year to a two year scheme. But I expect much of the management of the scheme will remain largely unchanged, and certainly the new structure will replicate the old, fundamental Mode A/Mode B distinction - with very different delivery mechanisms and funding arrangements. Though MSC have set up their own YTS evaluation procedures, these can get bogged down in detail, and it is often difficult to see the wood for the trees. So I should have thought a wider look at YTS aims, objectives and administration would be timely.

Another reason for focussing on YTS rather than on CP, is that, as I recall, there was a major scrutiny of the latter programme only about a year ago, whose recommendations I expect are still being implemented.

So if it is concluded that YTS should not be looked at now, I think there is a good case for not embarking on a major scrutiny of CP either at this stage. It is worth remembering that Peter Morrison has ministerial responsibility for CP as well as YTS, and that both are managed, at least from the Department, with a firm hand. There may, however, be something to be said for looking at the smaller MSC programmes (e.g., the voluntary projects programme, which seems to be working well), and seeing how far

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any lessons can be learned from these, and applied to their bigger brothers.

I think Oliver Letwin's views should also be sought.

*Man Adhutor*

MEA

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