

PRIME MINISTER

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT GROUP: VALUE FOR MONEY

Sir Robin Ibbs' minute attached suggests a scrutiny of the Employment measures, except for YTS which is being revised. The main one of these is the Community Programme.

I have discussed this recommendation with Mark Addison, who has a direct knowledge of Employment's programmes and Oliver Letwin. Both Mark and Oliver think that the present moment is a good one for a scrutiny of the YTS. It is going through an upheaval as a result of the change-over from a one-year to a two-year scheme, but much of the management will remain the same and the structure will be largely unchanged. Both Mark and Oliver therefore think that it would be a good moment to carry out a scrutiny of the YTS before the new arrangements get set in concrete.

Mark and Oliver have different views, however, about the Community Programme. Mark recalls that there was a scrutiny of the Community Programme which was completed just over a year ago, and he feels that a further scrutiny now would be premature. Oliver thinks that a further scrutiny now would be unlikely to do any harm and may do some good.

If you agree, before writing to the Department of Employment we will discuss with the Efficiency Unit these two comments, namely that there should be a scrutiny of YTS and that they should consider whether it is too soon to have a further scrutiny of the Community Programme. We will then come back to you with an agreed recommendation.

Agree?

*To the Public mind
it will seem a
strange line to have
a scrutiny of YTS. You have
no confidence in it - why have we
doubled it. not
FERS.*

18 July 1985