



Ref.A083/1974

PRIME MINISTER

Legislative Programme 1983-84
(C(83) 19 and 20)

BACKGROUND

FLAG A

The Lord President's memorandum C(83) 19 reports the conclusions of The Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee (QL) on the legislative programme for the current Session. To a large extent the proposed programme, which is based on that which the Cabinet provisionally approved in April, settles itself: the essential Bills must be enacted this Session; and the list of programme Bills consists almost entirely of Bills which fell at the Dissolution or which were promised in The Queen's Speech.

FLAG B

2. QL consider that the programme they recommend is a very heavy one, and that room cannot be found for any additional Bills. QL had in mind, among other things, the point you made at Cabinet on 16 June (CC(83) 19th Conclusions, Minute 4) that in the second Session of this Parliament the Bill to abolish the Greater London Council and the Metropolitan County Councils should be introduced right at the start; and that it would be desirable to avoid a spillover in the autumn of 1984, so that the 1984-85 Session might start earlier than usual. But a number of Ministers are still pressing for Bills to be added to the programme; their views are summarised in paragraph 4 of C(83) 19. Details of the Bills in the proposed programme, and of the other Bills whose claims are still being urged, are in C(83) 20.

FLAG C

HANDLING

3. You will want the Lord President to introduce his memorandum. The Lord Privy Seal and the Chief Whip may then wish to give their assessment of the weight of the proposed programme, and of the scope, if any, for adding further Bills to it.

4. Before considering individual Bills, you may wish the Cabinet to consider the overall size and balance of the proposed programme. Do they agree that the number of Bills is about right, and does anyone wish to comment on any of the Bills recommended by QL?

5. You may then wish the Cabinet to look at the individual Bills which are not in the proposed programme but which Ministers continue to press for. They are listed in paragraph 4 of C(83) 19.

(a) Dock Work Regulation

A short Bill to relieve the Secretary of State for Employment of the obligation to bring forward a new Dock Work Labour Scheme has been drafted, and QL would have recommended its inclusion in the programme if it could have been introduced in July. The Secretary of State for Employment and the Secretary of State for Transport can explain why that is not possible, and why they wish a place to be found for the Bill later on. The Secretary of State for Transport has said in correspondence that the scope of the Bill may have to be extended. If the scope of the Bill is still not known, the Lord President and the Lord Privy Seal may argue that there can be no question of including it in the programme. Perhaps it could be reconsidered later in the year, in the light of its content as then envisaged and of the position then reached on the rest of the programme.

(b) Crown Land (Planning Permission)

Can the Secretary of State for the Environment say whether any Private Member has taken up this Bill? The Secretary of State for Social Services may also wish to argue that it should be included in the Government's programme if no Private Member does take it up. It is short and uncontroversial. Would the Lord President and the Lord Privy Seal be prepared to accept it on a contingency basis?

(c) Industrial Development

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry will wish to argue the case for this Bill. He has suggested in correspondence that it might be combined with the Co-operative Development Agency Bill. But according to C(83) 20 Industrial Development is not expected to be ready for introduction until January. The Lord President and the Lord-Privy Seal are likely to argue that it should wait until next Session. The Chancellor of the Exchequer may have views.

(d) Development of Inventions

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry may wish to argue for this Bill too. But we understand that he may accept that it should be postponed, and that seems the sensible course.

(e) British Airways and National Bus Company

The Secretary of State for Transport will wish to explain the urgency he attaches to making progress with these privatisations. The Chancellor of the Exchequer may support him. The Lord President and the Lord Privy Seal are likely to argue that the inclusion of this legislation, which although fairly short would be controversial, would overload the programme.

(f) Tourism (Overseas Promotion) (Scotland)

The Secretary of State for Scotland would accept that legislation should be deferred if it is to be on a Great Britain basis, but if it is decided that there should be legislation for Scotland alone he would like it introduced this Session. A Scottish Bill would be very short, uncontroversial, and suitable for introduction in the House of Lords and for Scottish Grand Committee. Could the Lord President and the Lord Privy Seal not accept it on that basis?



CONCLUSIONS

5. Subject to any points made in discussion, you may wish to guide the Cabinet:-

- (a) to approve the recommended legislation programme for 1983-84 as set out in the Annex to C(83) 19, with or without modification;
- (b) to invite all Ministers concerned to maintain and where possible improve on the timetables for the preparation of their Bills as set out in C(83) 20.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

6 July 1983

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION(i) Second Reading

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation)

Prevention of Terrorism

Tenants' Rights, etc (Scotland) Amendment

(ii) Standing CommitteeHousing and Building ControlTelecommunications(iii) Report and Third ReadingPetroleum Royalties (Relief)

(iv) <u>Orders and Regulations</u>	<u>Date Laid</u>	<u>Whether Controversial</u>	<u>Date Required</u>
* Agriculture and Horticulture (2 Orders)	30/6	No	A.S.A.P.
* Bicycles (2 Orders)	8/7 + 19/7	No	By Summer Recess
Civil Defence (2 Orders)	12/7	No	After Summer Recess
Civil Defence (Scotland) (2 Orders)	12/7	No	After Summer Recess
Code of Local Government Audit Practice	11/7	No	For debate 28/7
Development Bank (2 Orders)	8/7	No	Early November
* International Carriage	5/7	No	By Summer Recess
* Iron Casting Industry	22/6	Yes	By Summer Recess
* Job Release	12/5	No	By Summer Recess
Ministerial and other salaries	21/7	No	For debate, 26/7
RSG Reports (England) (2 Reports)	4/7	Yes	For debate, 26/7
* Sheep and Goats	13/5	No	Non-urgent
Sheep Variable Premium	15/7	No	No deadline
Social Security and Housing (7 Orders)	7/7 + 8/7	No	For debate 27/7
Traffic Areas	12/5	Maybe	For debate, 28/7
Welsh RSG Reports (2 Reports)	7/7	No	For debate, 26/7

*S.I. Committee

Lords

Data Protection (L)

Finance

Foreign Limitation Periods (L)

∅ Foster Children (Scotland) (L)

Local Authorities (Expenditure Powers)

∅ Medical (L)

Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Provisions) (L)

Occupiers' Liability (L)

∅ Value Added Tax (L)

Awaiting Royal Assent

∅ Car Tax (L)

Companies (Beneficial Interests)

International Monetary Arrangements

∅ Consolidation

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION(i) Second Reading

- ∅ Car Tax (L)
 ∅ Medical (L)
 Prevention of Terrorism
 Telecommunications
 Tenants' Rights, etc (Scotland) Amendment
 ∅ Value Added Tax (L)

D

18/7

(ii) Standing Committee

- Housing and Building Control
 Petroleum Royalties (Relief)

(iii) Orders and Regulations

	<u>Date Laid</u>	<u>Whether Controversial</u>	<u>Date Required</u>
Agriculture and Horticulture (2 Orders)	30/6	No	A.S.A.P
Bicycles (2 Orders)	8/7	No	By Summer Recess
British Shipbuilders	22/6	Yes	For debate 18/7
Civil Defence (2 Orders)	12/7	No	After Summer Recess
Civil Defence (Scotland)(2 Orders)	12/7	No	After Summer Recess
Code of Local Government Audit Practice	11/7	No	By Summer Recess, if possible
Development Bank (2 Orders)	8/7	No	Early November
Equal Pay	6/7	Maybe	For debate, 20/7
Housing (N.I.)(3 Orders)	7/7	No	For debate, 20/7
International Carriage	5/7	No	By Summer Recess
International Jute Organisation	29/6	No	By Summer Recess
Iron Casting Industry	22/6	Yes	By Summer Recess
Job Release	12/5	No	By Summer Recess
Ministerial and other Salaries	13/7	No	For debate, 19/7
Rate Reduction (Scotland) (4 Districts)	7/7	Yes	For debate, 21/7
Redundancy Payments	6/7	No	By Summer Recess
RSG Reports (England)(2 Reports)	4/7	Yes	By Summer Recess
Sex Discrimination	22/6	No	By Summer Recess

(iii) Orders and Regulations (continued)

	<u>Date Laid</u>	<u>Whether Controversial</u>	<u>Date Required</u>
* Sheep and Goats	13/5	No	Non-urgent
Social Security and Housing (7 Orders)	7/7 + 8/7	No	By Summer Recess
Traffic Areas	12/5	Maybe	Desirable before Summer Recess
* Weights and Measures (2 Orders)	28/4	No	By Summer Recess
Welsh RSG Reports (2 Reports)	7/7	No	By Summer Recess

* S.I. Committee

Lords

Companies (Beneficial Interests)

Data Protection (L)

Finance

Foreign Limitation Periods (L)

International Monetary Arrangements

Local Authorities (Expenditure Powers)

Occupiers' Liability (L)