

E.R.

PRIME MINISTER

As you know, the Opposition were pressing last week for a debate on public expenditure. The business managers resisted this. The outcome is that the Opposition have now made a formal request for a statement on public expenditure. The Chancellor is firmly against this, though the Lord Privy Seal is somewhat concerned that the Opposition may press their request and create trouble by making a Front Bench request for a SO10 debate if we refuse. I have told the business managers that I think you will wish to refuse the Opposition's request. After all, we cannot have a statement after every Cabinet. The Business managers will therefore refuse the Opposition's request for the time-being.

Agreed
 WJ
 sub.

22 July 1983