

PRIME MINISTER

THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME

At its final meeting before making its recommendations to Cabinet, QL (minutes attached) discussed the main outstanding issues.

On privatisation there was strong political pressure to include gas privatisation in the programme but resistance on the grounds that policy was still vague and there was no guarantee that the Bill would be ready for introduction before January 1985. The Committee was clearly split between the inclusion of gas and public transport and agreed to offer Cabinet the choice.

The other major debate in the Committee was on the proposal of the Secretary of State for the Environment to transform his Assured Tenants Bill into a Rent Bill to introduce an element of deregulation into private rented housing. Mr. Jenkin is very much in favour of including this Bill in the next Session, but the Committee was sceptical that DOE could handle this Bill as well as the GLC and MCC Bill. I am sure that Patrick Jenkin will return to this in Cabinet.

The Policy Unit have a number of views on the legislative programme. In particular they think that it is over-weighted with relatively uncontroversial Bills, e.g. four Scottish Bills. They favour the Gas Privatisation Bill as well as the Public Transport Bill, rather than in its place. They also have considerable reservations about the Pollution Bill proposed by MAFF.

Agree that I should ask the Policy Unit to provide a brief for the Cabinet discussion of the legislative programme on 1 March?

Yes please mb

JA

20 February 1984

MR FLESHER15 February 1984LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME FOR 1984-85

QL is still only recommending one privatisation Bill in the draft programme it is considering tomorrow. It would be preferable if gas, public transport and civil aviation were all put through in the 1984-85 session. This would necessitate dropping two of the other Bills: the most obvious would be Law Reform (Miscellaneous provisions Scotland) and Family Law (Financial provisions Scotland). This would remove a substantial and medium Bill from the programme and still leave Scotland with two programme Bills, one medium and one long.

It would be desirable to have the Private Rented Housing Bill as any changes to make the private rented sector work would need several years before the disruption of a General Election to be given a fair chance. This could replace one of the two Treasury Bills in the programme.

The Pollution Bill proposed by Agriculture is still not an ideal Bill (see David Pascall's previous note on this subject). A general Bill on pollution would be desirable. Two medium Bills Enduring Power of Attorney and Transport Goods Vehicle 'O' Licensing could be dropped and would free more time even though they are uncontroversial.

JOHN REDWOOD

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

COMMONS PRIMARY

i. Awaiting Second Reading on the floor

Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill (L)	Thursday 16 February
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ii. Second Reading Committee

Earliest date
for referral
to Committee

Date of
Committee

Fosdyke Bridge (L) (Hybrid)	13 February	Wed 22 February
Somerset House (L)	13 February	Wed 29 February
Foreign Limitation Periods (L)		

iii. Standing Committee

Start Date

Police and Criminal Evidence	17 November
Trade Union	22 November
London Regional Transport	17 January
Rating and Valuation (Amendment) (Scotland)	17 January
Health and Social Security	24 January
Ordnance Factories and Military Services	26 January
Rates	26 January
Data Protection	7 February
Co-operative Development Agency and Industrial Development	14 February

iv. Awaiting Committee on the Floor

v. Awaiting Report and Third Reading

Merchant Shipping (L)	
Occupiers Liability (L)	Mon 20 February

COMMONS SECONDARY LEGISLATION

1) Affirmative Orders laid

Title	Date Required By	Opposition approached re referral to Committee	Date of debate Floor/Committee
Medicines (Cyanogenetic Substances) Order 1983			Wed 8 February Committee 1
Grants to Redundant Churches Fund Order 1984			Wed 8 February Committee 1
Aberdeen and District Milk Marketing Scheme (Application to Banff) Revocation Order 1984		Approach deferred pending laying of associated order.	
Local Loans (Increase of Limit) Order 1984			Wed 15 February Committee
Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income)(Sweden) Order 1984			Floor ?
Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income) (Luxembourg) Order 1984			Floor?
Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income (New Zealand) Order 1984			Floor
Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income) (Falkland Islands) Order 1984			Floor
Agricultural (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1984			
Air Navigation (Noise Certification) Order 1984			Floor
Public Records (Commission for the New Towns) Order 1984			Floor?
Public Records (British Railways Board) Order 1984			Floor?
Supplementary Benefit (Requirements)Amendment Regulations 1984 2			Tues 14 February Floor
Motor Vehicles (Variation of Speed Limits) Regulations 1984			Floor
Carriage by Air Acts (Application of Provisions)(Overseas Territories)(Amendment)Order 1984			

1. Awaiting referral to the floor

2. To be associated with 4 prayers, see EDMs 459,460,476 and 477.

COMMONS SECONDARY LEGISLATION

ii. NEGATIVE

Annulment

EDM	Title	Party praying	Expiry of praying time	Date for debate Ctte/ Floor
439	Motor Vehicles (Dim-Dip Lighting Devices) Regulations 1983 (S.I. 1983 No.1859)	Lib	18 Feb	
441	Scented Erasers (Safety) Order 1984 (S.I. 1984, No. 83)	Con	18 Feb	
459	Housing Benefits Amendment Regulations 1984	Lab	16 Mar	Tues 14 February Floor
460	Housing Benefits Amendment (No.2) Regulations 1984	Lab	16 Mar	Tues 14 February Floor
476	Local Government (S.I. 1984, No.110)	Lab	18 Mar	Tues 14 February Floor
477	Local Government (S.I. 1984, No. 111)	Lab	18 Mar	Tues 14 February Floor

Revocation

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LORDS PRIMARY

Agricultural Holdings (L)
Animal Health and Welfare (L)
Cable and Broadcasting (L)
County Courts (L)
Education (Grants and Awards)
Foster Children (Scotland) (L)
Housing and Building Control
Inshore Fishing (Scotland) (L)
Mental Health (Scotland) (L)
Prevention of Terrorism
Registered Homes (L)
Repatriation of Prisoners (L)
Roads (Scotland) (L)
Telecommunications
Tenants' Rights, Etc. (Scotland) (Amendment)
Town and Country Planning

Third Readings planned for week beginning Monday 13 February 1984

Tourism (Overseas Promotion) (Scotland) (L) 13 February

Third Readings planned for week beginning Monday 20 February 1984

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GOVERNMENT PRIMARY LEGISLATION

1. Awaiting Royal Assent

TITLE

Restrictive Trade Practices (Stock Exchange)

DATE

Agreed to by Lords 26/1/84

11. Received Royal Assent

TITLE

Car Tax (Lords)

Companies (Beneficial Interests)

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation)

Finance

International Monetary Arrangements

Local Authorities (Expenditure Powers)

Medical

Value Added Tax

Oil Taxation

British Shipbuilders (Borrowing Powers)

Coal Industry

Consolidated Fund

Petroleum Royalties (Relief)

DATE

26/7/83

26/7/83

26/7/83

26/7/83

26/7/83

26/7/83

26/7/83

26/7/83

1/12/83

21/12/83

21/12/83

21/12/83

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