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 Prime Minister:

Mr Jenkin gives notice  
 of his intention of raising his  
Rent Bill in Cabinet, on the grounds  
 that Ian Gow, who will run the Bill  
 will not be involved in the Govt + MCE  
 Bill

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My ref:

Your ref:

27 February 1984

Dear Willie,

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1984/5

Thank you for your letter of 23 February informing me of the recommendations on my bids for the 1984/5 legislative programme that QL will be making to the Cabinet.

As you know from the arguments that I put forward at the second meeting of QL, I feel very strongly that the 1984/5 programme should include a major Rent Bill, which would deregulate new lettings and, subject to the Chancellor's agreement, marginally extend the assured tenancies approach to former public sector property. I am sorry that it was not possible to include all these proposals in our original bid for the 1984/5 programme. However, the policy is now much more developed and I am arranging for a paper for H Committee to be circulated today for discussion early next month.

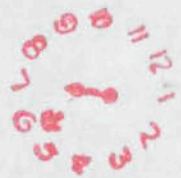
As you say, the opposition are almost certain to commit themselves to the repeal of these changes. It is precisely because of this that I believe we need to legislate early this session, so as to give as long as possible before the next election for the real effects to show through.

I agree that the Abolition Bill and the 2 essential Bills will impose a major load on my Department. However, Ian Gow would carry the main load arising from the Rent Bill, and he and the officials concerned will not be significantly involved in the other legislation. Inclusion of the Bill would, therefore, not have any effect on the timetable for the Abolition Bill.

I shall be arguing for inclusion of the Rent Bill in the 1984/5 legislative programme at the Cabinet's discussion of QL's recommendations, and am therefore copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Cabinet colleagues and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever  
 Patric

PATRICK JENKIN



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