



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

ELIZABETH HOUSE, YORK ROAD, LONDON SE1 7PH

TELEPHONE 01-928 9222

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

8 March 1984

Dear Sir,

EDUCATION (GRANTS AND AWARDS BILL)

During the Report Stage of the Education (Grants and Awards) Bill on Monday the Opposition parties carried against us by a majority of nine in a thin House a new clause which would make it impossible for any education support grants paid to local education authorities to be used in support of expenditure in grammar schools. None of our supporters voted for the amendment.

I need hardly say that this new clause, which is identical to one that was rejected by a majority of 86 during the Report Stage in the Commons, is not acceptable. I understand that it would be contrary to the conventions of the House of Lords for the Government to attempt to remove this new clause when the Bill has its third reading in the Lords on Tuesday 13 March. The Bill will therefore have to go back to the Commons for the new clause to be deleted and then back to the Lords again. No other amendments have been made to the Bill in the Lords and we will be resisting any amendments tabled at third reading.

I very much hope that the final stages in both Houses can be completed before the end of March so that we can begin the necessary statutory consultations with the local authority associations without delay. This being so, we shall complete the consultations in time for regulations subject to the affirmative resolution procedure to be debated in both Houses and made well before the Summer Recess.

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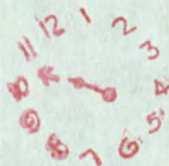
The Rt Hon John Biffen MP
 Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House
 68 Whitehall
 London SW1A 2AT

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Willie Whitelaw, Nicholas Edwards, John Wakeham, Bertie Denham and David Swinton who has been in charge of the Bill in the Lords.

Ken

Ken

8 MAR 1964





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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

14 March 1984

Dear Keith,

EDUCATION (GRANTS AND AWARDS) BILL

Thank you for your letter of 8 March in which you told me that you would want this Bill to come back to the Commons to reverse a new clause inserted by the Opposition in the House of Lords.

I quite understand the need for this and we shall try to complete all stages before the end of March, as you request. However I do not think that I can at this stage give you an absolute commitment. We shall do our best.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Willie Whitelaw, Nicholas Edwards, John Wakeham, Bertie Denham and David Swinton and also to Sir George Engle and Sir Robert Armstrong.

JOHN BIFFEN

Sir Keith Joseph MP
Secretary of State
Department of Education and Science

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4 MAR 1984

