

PRIME MINISTER

(2)

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Parliament PT12 Legislation
National Health PT3
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Expenditure + Efficiency
9/4
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H Committee

At its meeting last week, H Committee considered two topics: fluoridation, and NHS recruitment advertising. Their conclusions ^{coincided} ~~agreed~~ with your views on both subjects, i.e., a power and not a duty to add fluoride, and an approach to the professional journals to try to persuade them to reduce advertising costs. The Committee agreed that if the latter tactic failed, the Secretary of State for Social Services should pursue the option of a national jobs register which would be put out to competitive tender among private publishing firms.

More parental influence over schools

At their meeting next week the Committee will be considering detailed proposals from the Education Secretary for increasing parental influence over schools. There are two main themes in his paper, a copy of which is at Flag A:-

- (i) Giving parents the right to elect a majority of governors from among their number.
- (ii) Legislating to define the respective roles of governing body, head teacher and LEA. Existing arrangements for church schools would not be affected.

If the Committee agrees, Sir Keith Joseph plans to publish his proposal as a Green paper in May with a view to legislation in 1985/86

Education support grants

The Committee will also be considering a paper summarising the Secretary of State's proposals for allocating education support / grants.

grants. He has £30 million to allocate. Nearly half would go towards the purchase of micro-computers and related staff training. Other main items will be the improvement of mathematics teaching, experiments in recording achievement for school leavers, and the provision of micro-electronic aids for handicapped children. Further details are in his paper at Flag B.

Dms

5 April, 1984.