

FROM:

THE RT. HON. LORD HAILSHAM OF ST. MARYLEBONE, C.H., F.R.S., D.C.L.



HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

Prime Minister

HOUSE OF COMMONS SELECT COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURE

1. I have seen the Lord Privy Seal's draft Memorandum for the Select Committee on Procedure and his accompanying minute of 26th October 1984. ✓
2. As the best use of Parliamentary time must always be at the root of the legislative process, I strongly support the approach he proposes to adopt in giving evidence to the Select Committee.
3. His concern is with the time which can be taken in Committee over controversial Bills, but I believe that there is also room for improvements in procedure on technical Bills including those on law reform other than consolidation Bills. The improvements I have in mind might include such matters as the provision of more thorough explanatory and background material and improving the opportunities for making technical and professional evidence available to Committees.
4. As these matters are quite distinct from those to be taken by the Lord Privy Seal, I propose to prepare a note on them for our consideration and for possible submission to the Select Committee very shortly.
5. I am copying this minute to Cabinet colleagues, the Paymaster General, the Deputy Chief Whip and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

H. of S. M.

30 October 1984

Parliament: #1 Common Procedure Pt 6

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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A2AT

2 November 1984

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Dear Quentin,

HOUSE OF COMMONS SELECT COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURE

In your minute of 30 October to the Prime Minister you refer to proposals dealing with procedures on technical Bills, which you had in mind for possible submission to the Select Committee on Procedure. I very much welcome this suggestion.

It occurs to me that it might be helpful if the note you propose were to be circulated in the first instance to the members of Legislation Committee.

I am copying this letter to Cabinet colleagues, the Paymaster General, the Deputy Chief Whip and Sir Robert Armstrong.

John Biffen

JOHN BIFFEN

Rt Hon the Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone CH FRS DL
Lord Chancellor

HK Procedure; PARLIAMENT A6.

2 NOV 1984

