

CONFIDENTIAL

25 January 1985

MR FLESHER

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1985/86

It's early days, and there are far too many Bills on offer.

In our view, the central ones for the Programme are:

- a. Social Security to implement the Welfare Reviews.
- b. Nationalised Industries - it slipped from last year, and is important in the privatisation programme.
- c. Education - vital to the programme for improving standards, and may also need to include proposals for the middle way not yet covered in the scope of this Bill.
- d. Housing - for improvement policy and private rented sector.
- e. Town and Country Planning - but should also include results of current DoE review into simplifying and speeding up the planning process.
- f. Civil Aviation - BAA privatisation.

CONFIDENTIAL

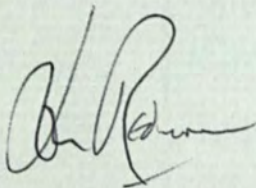
- g. A Home Office Bill which could include some of the matters covered in the Criminal Justice and Public Order proposals. *DP*
- h. Royal Dockyards.
- j. Wages - to deal with Wages Council system, which could also include any proposals arising out of the review of employment protection measures.
- k. Local Government - the statutory right to tender.
- l. Financial Services Bill to implement the White Paper.
- m. Agriculture - to introduce ADAS proposals.

This would give MOD, DES, Employment, Energy, DHSS, DTI, Transport, Treasury, Agriculture and the Home Office major Bills, and would give 2 Bills to DoE.

The most notable omission in the runners is any Bill to tackle the future of the gas industry, although something could be achieved if the Nationalised Industry Bill were put on the Statute Book. Energy's proposals for a Petroleum Bill is rather lacklustre - although we might need powers for a final solution to the BNOc problem, these are not

CONFIDENTIAL

included in this measure - and the proposal for an Atomic Energy Authority Bill will involve the Government in controversy without leading to any particular privatisation pay-off.



JOHN REDWOOD

CONFIDENTIAL

29 January 1985

MR FLESHER

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1985/86: JOHN BIFFEN'S PAPER

It's early days, and there are far too many Bills on offer.

We agree with John Biffen that the following Programme Bills are strong runners:

1. From Annex A (Bills Proposed for Inclusion):

Nationalised Industries - slipped from last year, and is important in the privatisation programme.

Education - vital to the programme for improving standards, and may also need to include proposals for the middle way not yet covered in the scope of this Bill.

Royal Dockyards.

Wages - to deal with Wages Council system; could also include any proposals arising out of the review of employment protection measures.

Local Government - contracting-out: the statutory right to tender.

Financial Services Bill - to implement the White Paper.

Building Societies. - *Greens*

2. From Annex B (Bills with a strong case for inclusion)

Social Security - to implement the Welfare Reviews.

Housing - for improvement policy and private rented sector.

Civil Aviation - BAA privatisation.

Agriculture - to introduce ADAS proposals.

We would add:

Town and Country Planning - should also include results of current DoE review into simplifying and speeding up the planning process.

Home Office Bill - could combine some of the matters covered in the Criminal Justice and Public Order proposals, which John Biffen rejects.

Another notable omission - not even mentioned in John Biffen's minute - is a Bill to tackle the future of the gas

industry. Something could be achieved for gas if the Nationalised Industry Bill were put on the Statute Book. But an additional Gas Bill would be far more satisfactory.

This would be better than the Department of Energy's lacklustre proposals for a Petroleum Bill which (though backed by John Biffen) do not even contain a solution to the BNOOC problem.

We are sceptical about the value of the Merchant Shipping and Latent Damage Bills. And the inclusion of three Scottish Bills is surely excessive.

Conclusion

We recommend the Programme Bills in Annex A and Annex B, minus Petroleum, Merchant Shipping, one of the Scottish Bills, and Latent Damage; but plus a Criminal Justice/Public Order, a Planning and a Gas measure.

John Redwood

JOHN REDWOOD