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From the Private Secretary

4 February 1985

This is just to record the main points which arose when the Lord President discussed the legislative programme with the Prime Minister today:-

- (i) The Prime Minister is not greatly attracted by the prospect of the Crown Agents Bill as a major element in the next legislative programme. She felt that it was insufficiently attractive as a privatisation measure to warrant such a central position.
- (ii) The Prime Minister thought that progress towards gas privatisation was highly desirable and in this context was politically more attractive than the proposed Petroleum Bill. The Lord President undertook to raise this in his forthcoming discussions with the Secretary of State for Energy.
- (iii) The Prime Minister agreed that the Local Government (Competition) Bill should form part of the legislative programme. She also considered that reform of town and country planning should if possible find a place in the programme and the Lord President undertook to look at the possibility of combining the two measures.
- (iv) The Prime Minister agreed with the Lord President that the evolution of housing policy was at too early a stage to warrant a firm place for a Housing Bill in next year's programme.

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- (v) The Prime Minister agreed to the inclusion in the programme of the Financial Services and Building Societies Bills. She also agreed that the Public Order, Shop Hours, and Animal (Scientific) Procedures Bills should be included.
- (vi) On the question of legislation to implement the Warnock Report, the Prime Minister said that it was her view that provided that there was early legislation on commercial surrogacy, other provisions in the report could wait.
- (vii) On the proposed Social Security Bill the Prime Minister noted that this would clearly have to await the outcome of the Cabinet discussion of the social security reviews. At this stage however the proposed timetable looked ambitious.
- (viii) The Prime Minister said that she was attracted by the inclusion of the Agriculture Bill in the legislative programme, all the more so since it proposed the saving of public money.
- (ix) The Prime Minister considered that the Consumer Goods and Services Bill was not a strong candidate for next year but might be considered for inclusion in one year nearer the end of the Parliament.

The Lord President undertook to take all these points into consideration in further discussions on the legislative programme.

Tim Flesher

Miss Janet Lewis-Jones
Lord President's Office.

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