

Quint 2

PRIME MINISTER

You were interested in the cost of running Parliament. I attach figures for 1981/82 to 1985/86. As you suspected, this demonstrates clearly that the cost of running Parliament has considerably outpaced inflation. Between 1981/82 and 1984/85 the House of Commons' vote has increased by 41 per cent compared with inflation over that period of about 16 per cent; the administration of the House of Commons has increased by 24 per cent; the House of Lords' vote has increased by 40 per cent; and the total cost of running Parliament by 38 per cent. Moreover, in 1985/86 the cost of Parliament is expected to increase by a further 10 per cent - still well ahead of inflation for this year.

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Also for Monday morning mt

19 April 1985

COSTS OF RUNNING PARLIAMENT

	1981/82	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85 (provisional)	1985/86 (estimate)
H of C Vote*	21.528	22.987	28.067	30.441	33.013
Admin Vote*	13.830	15.094	15.481	17.142	20.605
Lords Vote**	6.206	6.976	7.382	8.700	9.888
HMSO Vote¥	8.327	9.026	8.920	11.4	12.700
CCTA Vote¥	.381	.346	.521	.561	.9
PSA Vote¥	<u>6.0</u>	<u>9.1</u>	<u>9.3</u>	<u>9.5</u>	<u>8.5</u>
Total	56.272	63.529	69.671	77.744	85.606
%age increase over previous year.	-	11.2	9.7	11.6	10.1

* House of Commons only

** House of Lords only

¥ Both Houses

All figures are in £M and in cash terms, without adjustment for inflation. The percentage increase between 1981/82 and the estimate for 1985/86 is 52.2.

The figures do not include rates on Government buildings or the payments from the Consolidated Fund for eg the Speaker's salary. It seems unlikely that these would have significant effect on the trend.