

cc Mr Turnbull  
Miss Janet Lewis-  
Jones



10 DOWNING STREET

*File*

From the Press Secretary

22 May 1985

*Miss Janet,*

SOCIAL SECURITY REVIEW

I am most grateful to you for your letter of May 17 for I am concerned about the presentation of the above, as I know you are.

My initial concern is the timing - Monday, June 3 - since I am having my first break this year next week; I shall be in Yorkshire for the whole of the time. This means that I must take away the latest copy so that I can familiarise myself with it. In addition, I would much appreciate your getting over to me here on Friday, May 31, for collection by me that evening, the Q and A brief.

That is enough of the personal stuff.

To return to substance. I think our overall aim should be to secure the widest (and best) possible coverage for the Review. This being so, we have to operate at a variety of levels:

Ministers

I would hope that we could have a background note available for members of the Government, if not on Friday May 31, early on Monday, June 3.

MPs

I hope that members of all the Backbenchers associated with the Lord President's Economic and Social Policy presentation group could have the Ministers' background note early on Monday, if not before. (No doubt you are paying particular attention to your own DHSS Backbenchers.)

Mrs Janet Hewlett Davies  
DHSS

Press Offices

I wonder whether exceptionally there is not something to be said for giving Heads of Information the Ministers' briefing note on Monday morning, with a personal letter from you (or me) saying we think it important they are properly informed of a major policy development.

Press

I have already been the subject of Lobbying by correspondents who fear that there will be no CFRs. You told me on Monday that there would probably be CFRs on Sunday afternoon, with all the hassle that that entails. I think we must give a 24-hour embargo on this subject and the only problem I see about a Sunday afternoon issue is the story which says that the Government was bringing out the Review on a Monday, with CFRs on a Sunday, to stifle Monday morning stories previewing the Review, as it were. I do not take this seriously. But what I think we must take seriously, given the intention to publish on a Monday, is malicious and deliberately inaccurate stories in Monday's papers to condemn the policy statement in advance. You may well feel that things have gone so far down that road as to render any fears redundant.

Radio/TV

I think there is one single point to be made here: there should be maximum advocacy by Ministers at the highest level (with Mr Fowler's Cabinet colleagues weighing in wherever possible). This means that, with all the constraints, Mr Fowler should respond to as many requests as possible. But no doubt you will deploy your team, and especially Mr Newton, to advantage throughout the week.

Lobby

Mr Fowler will have three priorities:

- to get it right in the House;
- to get it right with the media;
- to get it right with his Backbenchers.

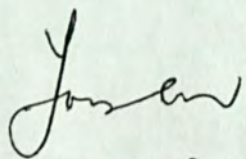
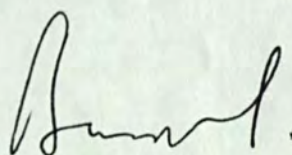
Since this is such a political issue, I think he would be well advised to see the Lobby if he thinks he can take the subject, by way of the Lobby, beyond what he would say on the record in an open press conference (which no doubt he intends to do).

Public Briefing

There is always the problem with major developments of Government policy that the Opposition get out highly prejudicial "facts" and information. Is there any possibility of preparing a neutral account which could be issued to all inquirers, whether by 'phone or letter?

I hope this is helpful. No doubt your Policy Advisers will be liaising with CCO. My concern is with what the Government does. The above sets out my views, with one exception: will you have available for weekly newspapers, through your regional press officers, an article for use under Norman Fowler's signature? I think this would be most helpful if you could so arrange.

Finally, none of the above deals with the substance. (I seldom, if ever, get to grips with substance these days.) I cannot do so until I see the Review and Q and A. I shall, if I can, write to you on substance when I can.

BERNARD INGHAM

SERPS:TRANSITIONAL PENSION PROVISIONS

Pension £ per week

Age	Full SERPS	SERPS Abolished (old scheme)	SERPS Abolished (new scheme)
50	56.80	-	-
49	57.20	49.60	56.30
45	58.50	55.10	50.65
40	60.20	53.40	52.66

	<u>Costs of SERPS</u>	£ billion	
	Full SERPS	SERPS Abolished (old scheme)	SERPS Abolished (new scheme)
2003/04	5.5	4.5	4.6
2013/14	11.2	5.6	6.1
2023/24	17.6	5.2	5.6
2033/34	25.3	3.2	3.4

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cc: Mr. Turnbull

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MR. INGHAM

SOCIAL SECURITY REVIEW: ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRESENTATION

The Prime Minister was asking today about the arrangements being made to put across the results of the Social Security Review. She referred in particular to a good brief for Ministers.

I imagine that a brief for Ministers will only be one element in what will clearly need to be a major exercise of presentation. I think that the Prime Minister would be reassured if you could keep a close eye on what the DHSS are preparing and also keep the Prime Minister informed about the plans.

17 May 1985