

PRIME MINISTERMEETING WITH NORMAN FOWLER: SOCIAL SECURITY SAVINGS

The Treasury and DHSS are arguing about how much was promised when by whom. The Treasury interpretation of the learned texts is closer to the truth. But it misses the real issue. The real reason why Norman Fowler is trying to escape from the MISC 111 deal is his concern about losers. We saw his rough and ready assessment of gains and losses during the MISC 111 discussions. But if he has some new worries he should bring them out into the open by allowing us and the Treasury full access to his internal modelling of the effects of the MISC 111 decisions and of any revised proposals he may have. This is anyway bound to come up at MISC 111 on 15 October.

Please could you therefore ask Norman Fowler to instruct his officials to co-operate urgently and fully with the Treasury in assessing gainers and losers under the MISC 111 proposals. Summary tables aren't enough.

*David Willetts*

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30 September 1985