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WALKER'S HOPES FOR HESELTINE

ENERGY SECRETARY PETER WALKER SAID TODAY HE HOPED FORMER DEFENCE SECRETARY MICHAEL HESELTINE WOULD SOON BE BACK IN THE GOVERNMENT.

HE TOLD REPORTERS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN LEEDS: 'I REGARD MR HESELTINE'S DEPARTURE AS THE DEPARTURE OF A GOOD, PERSONAL FRIEND AND A GOOD MEMBER OF THE CABINET.

'I HOPE IT WILL NOT BE TOO LONG BEFORE HE IS BACK.'

MR WALKER WAS ASKED HOW DAMAGING HE BELIEVED MR HESELTINE'S RESIGNATION HAD BEEN AND HE REPLIED: 'THE GREAT THING IN POLITICS - THE ONLY THING THAT I AGREED WITH HAROLD WILSON ABOUT - IS THAT A WEEK IN POLITICS IS A LONG TIME.'

MR WALKER WAS IN YORKSHIRE TO INAUGURATE THE YORKSHIRE ELECTRICITY BOARD'S INITIATIVES IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY YEAR.

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