



Prime Minister²

QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

17 May 1989

Dear John,

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS - FRIDAY, 19 MAY:
ROGER GALE'S MOTION ON DOMESTIC AND
SATELLITE BROADCASTING

Roger Gale is first order on 19 May with a Motion.

"to call attention to further developments in domestic terrestrial and transfrontier satellite broadcasting; and to move a Resolution."

As you know, Roger Gale played a prominent part in the Home Affairs Committee's inquiry into the future of broadcasting last year, and takes a close interest in developments in broadcasting technology and policy, particularly on the European front. He is sympathetic to the general thrust of our recent Broadcasting White Paper, but may be critical of its specific proposals on such topics as the BBC night hours and subscription technology. The debate itself is likely to attract considerable interest: the White Paper has elicited over 3,000 responses; and other Members have interests in, and are lobbied on, a wide range of broadcasting topics.

We do not yet know the terms of the Resolution, but given Roger Gale's previous interest in the subject it is unlikely to be hostile and there will be no need to oppose it. Tim Renton will be taking the debate and he intends to concentrate in his speech on developments on the European front, and on our proposals for broadcasting ownership (subject to agreement having been reached by Friday on the terms of the proposed announcement).

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of L Committee, Sir Robin Butler and the Secretaries to L Committee.

Yours,

Dwyer

The Rt Hon John Wakeham, MP.

