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PROFESSOR GRIFFITHS

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CHANNEL FIVE

We have had a large number of letters, clearly co-ordinated by someone or other, complaining about an alleged delay in the launch of Channel 5 following decisions made on transmission. I attach the latest example from Rowntree Mackintosh (most letters have been rather longer than this but with the same essential points).

I have sent all these letters to the Home Office for their Ministers to deal with, but asked them first to let us have an note on the policy point at issue, so that I could check that the Prime Minister was content with the line being taken. This has now arrived in the form of Sara Dent's letter of 6 March attached. Could you cast your eye over it and let me know, within the next day or so please, whether you see any reason for the Prime Minister to object to this approach.

frec.

PAUL GRAY

7 March 1990

c:/economic/channel (kk)