

PRIME MINISTER

PRESENTATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Bernard Ingham and I have been racking our brains about how you might present the change in responsibility for presentation without giving offence to Mr. Biffen.

We think that the answer might lie in talking about "having a fresh eye to look at the problem". I attach a draft speaking note for Cabinet which uses this approach.

F.R.B.

30 November, 1983

Despite the risk of a leak, we recommend announcing on Friday so that Mr. Biffen is not questioned about the change at his lobby on ~~Friday~~ Thursday afternoon.

I have been thinking about presentation of Government policies.

We have not had a particularly good press since the Election. There are several reasons for that - the press don't like Governments with large majorities and try to set themselves up as sort of unofficial Opposition and so on. [It is certainly no criticism of John Biffen who handles these matters of presentation marvellously, as has been evident from the way in which he has handled my Questions in my absence].

But I thought that it would be useful to have a fresh eye to look at our arrangements for co-ordination and I have asked the Lord President, with his great experience and wisdom, to take this on. I am very grateful to him for doing this and I ask you all to give him your full co-operation.

Negotiating objectives in
Alters.

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No increase in own resources

Direct control over
expenditures.

Equal burden-sharing

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Wampston .

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