

PERSONAL

PRIME MINISTER

ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AND THINGS TO BE DONE
SUBSEQUENTLY

I am afraid that what follows comes under the heading of counting chickens. But there are a few questions particularly about what happens next weekend if you are re-elected, which you might like to think about if you have a moment this weekend and, if it suits you, guide me on.

Reconstitution of the Government

There are three options:-

- a) Re-shuffle the Government over the weekend, i.e. produce a new list of the Cabinet at least by, say, Monday and of other Ministers in the course of the week.
- b) Re-shuffle in rather slower time, leaving existing Ministers in charge of Departments in the meantime.
- c) Carry on for a time with the Government as it was before the Election, and have a re-shuffle in due course, say, in the summer recess. You do not have to reappoint Minister for this purpose: the effect of the Government being re-elected is that they continue in office until you move them. There is something to be said for continuity - e.g. having the same Treasury team to put through the provisions dropped from the Finance Bill - but this option could be ruled out if someone was not re-elected or if, say, a senior member of the Cabinet was to be Speaker.

1. I think I should reshuffle on Monday - 2. That leaves me Sunday to consult with the reshuffle. I will phone with
Whichever option you adopt, we will have to make it clear to the press quickly on Friday or Saturday. Have you decided which option you might pursue?
this Wednesday,

Election of the Speaker

This is going to be difficult. There were wrangles over the procedure in 1951, 1959 and 1971. After 1971 a Select Committee was set up which largely accepted the view of the then Lord President that it was "clearly the duty of the Leader of the House in a matter of such importance to ensure that the soundings of opinion are as wide and as thorough as possible, not only among the Members of his own Party, but in the House as a whole". It will be very difficult to carry out these consultations between polling day and the following Wednesday when the election has to be made. The best way of handling it may be for you to have a meeting with your senior colleagues to decide on your nomination not later than Monday and then ask the Leader of the House to consult as best he can with the Government's backbenchers and to ask the Opposition to do the same with their own backbenchers. Again, this may be easier if you have the present Leader of the House and Chief Whip as before the Election to carry out the process for you.

Reappointment of Special Advisers

Special Advisers will have to be reappointed, and the rules require that your approval should be given in each case. I assume that you will want to reappoint Sir Anthony Parsons, ^{and Alan Walters} and ^{Yes} you ought to have an early word with Mr Mount about the reappointment of members of the policy unit. These matters can be left until the week after the Election, but we will need to sort it out quite early in that week.

Machinery of Government

Sir Robert Armstrong will have some points to put to you, e.g. about the future of the CPRS, and the Rayner Unit, and about the reconstitution of the Cabinet Committees. Again, these can wait until the week after the Election, but we will need to get on quickly, i.e. by the beginning of that week, with establishing

a committee to draw up The Queen's Speech.

There will also be some points to be settled about the constitution of your own office, e.g. the location of the Rayner Unit. I have established with Peter Taylor that it is practicable to get more accommodation by taking over the top floor of No 11: this would need to be negotiated with a new Chancellor if you are having a re-shuffle.

Diary

We shall need to go through your engagements which we cancelled when the Election was announced and decide which we reinstate and when. Again, it would be convenient if we can do this quite early in the week after polling day since people will start ringing up to try and rearrange them.

Dissolution Honours

We will have to think about a dissolution honours list, and consult the Opposition; but this is not urgent.

Domestic Matters

(a) Trooping the Colour

There will be the normal reception for Commonwealth Heads of Mission. Sue Goodchild tells me that there will be about 15 places for personal guests, and you may like on Friday afternoon to issue some invitations to personal guests. Do you want to think of names now?

Also, we have Sherry Warner standing by to lay on a lunch after the Trooping the Colour: do you want this? Who would you like to attend?

(b) Friday Evening

I have asked Sherry to stand by to provide a buffet for those who may be involved on Friday evening, in case you are doing any re-shuffling. Anyway, you and your personal staff will not want to think of having to provide food then.

Do you agree that we should ask Sherry to provide a buffet meal on Friday evening?

3 June 1983

F.R.B.