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AT 22/7

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

19 July 1985

The Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit MP
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

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THE EWBank REPORT

will request if required.

You wrote to me on 8 July about the Ewbank Report and follow-up to it. I very much agree with the course of action you propose and would simply make a few further comments.

I certainly think it would be useful for sponsor Departments to take the initiative with their nationalised industries, as you suggest, and hope that they will now do so. However, they will want to bear in mind that our end objective is to encourage the industries and the private sector to discuss constructively specific ways of making progress. We now need to place the emphasis on action: the general problems have already been analysed at length and in depth. As well as taking the initiative with those nationalised industries for which you are responsible, I also hope you will be able to use your wider industrial sponsorship role to encourage the private sector to respond positively to the project management issues, as appropriate.

I agree it would be helpful for Departments to make end-year progress reports and would therefore be grateful if sponsor Ministers could individually circulate them by 31 December to all who have received this exchange of letters. We can consider whether anything further needs to be done at that stage.

I too think it would be useful to make both the OPB and Steering Group Reports more widely available and should be grateful if your officials would clear with mine the text of the arranged PQ.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Secretaries of State for Energy, Defence, Scotland, the Environment, Social Services and Transport and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours
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NIGEL LAWSON

