

Answer LPS  
reps

PRIME MINISTER

You undertook to have a look at the paper which Sir Trevor Skeet et al presented during your meeting on Thursday. A closer look at what they propose does nothing to improve my view of the proposal. I really do not see why Members of Parliament need an in-House source of scientific advice. Once we accept the case for this we would have to accept the case for a whole range of other advisory bodies, no doubt at very considerable public expense.

This is of course not formally a matter for you and I do not know whether you will wish to follow up your meeting with a letter to Sir Trevor. If you think you should do so I have asked the advice of the Lord Privy Seal on the question of whether we might say that while taxpayers' money was unlikely to be available they might follow up their suggestion of using some of the massively increased research allowances which Members have just voted themselves.

*J*

*I think this is the only way to follow it up.  
ml*

Tim Flesher

18 July 1986