

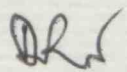
PRIME MINISTERSINGLE PAYMENTS

The question here is whether the announcement about single payments should be made on Wednesday or Thursday this week.

A further factor to be taken into account is the very poor unemployment figures on Thursday. This makes the announcement more difficult whether it is made on Wednesday or Thursday and I suggest that it is in fact a neutral point.

You will be aware from elsewhere in your box that Mr Younger would if necessary postpone his announcement of frigate orders until Thursday, though he is reluctant to do so.

Finally, there is a small point on the announcement outstanding between Mr Fowler and the Chief Secretary. The Chief Secretary will not be at your meeting, and the two of them can be left to sort it out. (The issue relates to the amount of savings to be looked for from the announcement, but the amount at stake is small.)



David Norgrove

14 July 1986