

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11am

date: 6.2.80

Prime Minister's Day

Meeting of Ministers at 0900 hours. Present: Prime Minister, Secretary of State for Trade and Energy, Foreign Secretary, Chancellor of the Exchequer. Meeting lasted about one hour.

At 1215 hours, Prime Minister was to receive a £10,000 cheque from Jimmy Savile (see Press Notice Bulletin of 5 February for details).

There was the possibility of a ministerial meeting this afternoon.

At 1900 hours, the Prime Minister was due to receive the Freedom of the Borough of Barnet (Town Hall Hendon).

In the House

Statement: Foreign Secretary/Lord Privy Seal - Rhodesia.

Substantive answer: Secretary of State Education: fees in higher and further education, 1980/81.

Steel

We had no information to offer on any new pay offer in the steel dispute. We also had no guidance on any proposals for financial restructuring (but we are chasing).

Rhodesia

Today's statement was expected to be an updating report with details of the Governor's new election ordinance.

Olympics

Asked about our response to the Mexico City decision by national Olympic committees, we talked about the encouraging news from France and Germany! The next EEC action would be a meeting of Foreign Ministers in Rome on 19 February. The aim would be to co-ordinate an EEC position. It was clear that more countries were now moving towards the UK/US position. We were glad to have Schmidt and Giscard aboard. But, as was said after the Cossiga visit, we needed to improve liaison within the Community and between the Community and the US.

/Money Supply

Money Supply

We acknowledge concern about the banking figures.

Employment Bill: we still did not know when the Consultative Paper would be published. We thought it was likely to be discussed in Cabinet; but we did not know to what depth. We pointed out Secretary of State Employment was going to talk to the 1922 committee at his own suggestion. HMG remained cool, calm and deliberative.

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time: 4.00 date: 6.2.80

The morning Lobby was repeated.

We said that a meeting of Ministers had started at 4 p.m.
Those present were:

Prime Minister

Home Secretary
S/S for Employment
S/S for the Environment
S/S for Energy
S/S for Industry
Min. of State for Agriculture

Chief Secretary, Treasury
Lord Chancellor
Paymaster General
Chancellor of the Duchy
Solicitor General

Expected to attend:

Foreign Secretary
S/S for Trade

Chancellor of the Exchequer

The Lobby could assume that the consultative document was being discussed and was also likely to be raised at Cabinet tomorrow.

JL