

# LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11.00 date: 11.2.80

## PRIME MINISTER'S DAY

A meeting of Ministers had begun at 10 a.m. Present:

	Prime Minister	
S/S for Employment		Minister of State, Industry
Chief Secretary, Treasury		(Adam Butler)

The meeting, which lasted about 35 minutes, was to take stock of the steel situation.

Later this morning the Prime Minister would be paying an informal visit to the Department of Trade.

At 1600 hours the Prime Minister would have tea with the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, who was here on a private visit following the recent Socialist International in Vienna. This evening the Prime Minister would present an award to the MP who raised the most money at a recent sponsored "swim in" in aid of research for Spina Bifida. For further details, contact Miss Judy Kay (388-1382) who is the PRO for ASBAH (Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus).

## IN THE HOUSE

At 1530 there would be a statement from Mr. Adam Butler on the steel situation. (Sir Keith Joseph is in South Wales on a Ministerial visit).

One PNQ was running:

Andrew Faulds to the Lord Privy Seal asking if he will make a statement on the arrest of Garfield Todd.

Press Notice: Cabinet Office Report on Climatic Change - published 1030 today.

We also drew attention to a reply from the Treasury to Mr. Len Murray which would be issued about 12 noon today on coking coal imports. For further details, correspondents should contact the Department of Energy and/or NCB.

## STEEL

Correspondents could assume that at this morning's meeting the Prime Minister had received a report on the settlement with steel unions (reported yesterday) - with the exception of ISTC and NUB - the Hadfield situation and ACAS' efforts to get in touch with Mr. Sirs and Mr. Smith. The Government could be described as being a little more hopeful but, of course, ISTC and NUB were the two important unions. We could throw no light on a court of inquiry. Yesterday's settlement seemed to rule out the need for one.

We could not confirm whether or not Sir Geoffrey Howe had consulted colleagues on the speech he made in Taunton at the weekend.

## EMPLOYMENT BILL/IMMUNITIES

We confirmed that the working document was expected at the end of this week/early next week.

JL

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The morning Lobby was repeated.

On coking coal imports we said that the reply from the Treasury was now expected to be Wednesday and not this afternoon, as indicated at this morning's Lobby.

### STEEL

We said it was for ACAS to bring the two sides together - not for the Prime Minister.

### WATER

We had no comment to offer. There was no contingency action at present.

### CORRIE BILL

No Government time would be given for a debate on the Bill.

### STATEMENTS

We could give no firm dates but some were likely shortly.

JL