



Civil Service Department
Whitehall London SW1A 2AZ
01-273 4400

From the Private Secretary

9 January 1981

Mike Pattison Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

*Prime Minister
The Lord President
seeks your support in
his continuing
argument with Mr Prior.
Do you wish to express
it?*

*I hope we will hit
there are 15 mths
Dear Mike, do go. no*

CIVIL SERVICE MANPOWER: ESTIMATES 1981-82

... I enclose a copy of the letter I have sent in reply to the Secretary of State for Employment's letter of today about this.

The issue turns on the change to voluntary registration proposed by the Rayner team; the Lord President quite accepts that if we cannot get this we cannot get the savings. But there is a very strong case for it; and I think that the Prime Minister, and other Cabinet colleagues, had taken the view that we should go for it. Mr Prior is understandably cautious about the mechanics, but we are not asking for more than half the potential savings at this stage. The Lord President is quite clear that we must press this saving as hard and as quickly as we can. It is the only way to reach the target agreed in Cabinet.

*MAD
9/1*

The Lord President hopes that the Prime Minister will agree.

*Yours sincerely,
Jim Buckley.*

J BUCKLEY



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From the Private Secretary

Richard Dykes Esq
 Private Secretary to the Secretary of State
 for Employment
 Caxton House
 Tothill Street
 LONDON SW1H 9NA

9 January 1981

Dear Richard,

The Lord President has asked me to write to you about your Secretary of State's letter of today.

In the Lord President's view we need two things very urgently. The first is a decision in principle to change to voluntary registration; the details can be settled later. The second is the lawyers' view about whether the legislation can be achieved quickly by tacking the necessary provision on to the Social Security Bill which is already on the stocks. Can not the first decision be taken straightaway? Lord Soames would also be grateful for Mr Jenkin's view on the second as a matter of urgency.

If the answer on both points is satisfactory, the Lord President feels that it should surely be possible to secure the additional savings of 1000 by 1 April 1982, given a concentrated effort by all concerned. Certainly, there is no other way of achieving the overall target the Government has set itself. Subject of course to confirmation of the two points, the Lord President is in no doubt that we should continue to assume that we shall be able to reach it.

Copies of this letter go to Mike Pattison at No. 10, Private Secretaries to Cabinet colleagues and to David Wright in Sir Robert Armstrong's Office.

*Yours sincerely,
 Jim Buckley.*

J BUCKLEY