



Parliament

SUBJECT

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

21 July 1980

cc. Master set.

Dear Robin,

MEMBERS' PAY

When the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster called upon the Prime Minister this afternoon about another matter, he raised the subject of tonight's debate on Members' Pay.

The Prime Minister said that she had seen the amendments which had been put down. The most difficult one from the Government's point of view was the amendment put down by Mr. Willey and supported by Mr. du Cann which advocated increasing MPs' pay for pensions purposes by the full amount recommended by the Boyle Committee. If this amendment was carried, as it was very likely to be, this would mean that Members were treating themselves better for pensions purposes than senior civil servants whose salary for this purpose was the salary they were actually receiving and not the salary recommended by Lord Boyle. It would be important for the Chancellor of the Duchy to make this point in his speech.

Nor could the Government vote for the amendment seeking linkage between Members' pay and the pay of a specific grade in the Civil Service. Since this amendment did not specify what the Civil Service grade would be, it would not be an effective amendment. The Government should also stand by the decision taken by Cabinet last week that no undertaking should be given to have an annual pay review beyond that needed to update next year's third stage of the present award. The Government should also vote tonight against the motion on secretarial allowances.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office).

Yours ever,

Steve Whitman.

Robin Birch, Esq.,
Office of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.