

PRIME MINISTER

Backbench Constitutional Committee

1. Charlie Morrison, as Chairman of the Constitutional Committee, has written to say that his Committee suggests that the Government or the Party might establish a Commission or Committee to look into the following Constitutional issues, which Charlie thinks will occupy the political stage:-
 - (a) Reform of the House of Lords
 - (b) Electoral Reform
 - (c) A Bill of Rights
2. There is a view within the Parliamentary Party that if we were to set up a Committee composed of eminent figures within the Party to examine these subjects, that would enable us, at the next Election, to reply to the charge that we are Constitutional dinosaurs.
3. I do not, myself, agree with this view. However, I repeat that it is fairly widely held.
4. Charlie Morrison has already sent a copy of his letter to Francis Pym. I have sent copies to Willie Whitelaw and Michael Jopling, as you may like to discuss this at your meeting with them on 22nd February.

1. Reform Di (ed) - Committee
2. Talk with Francis.

16.2.82



IAN GOW