



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

25th October, 1976

I shall not be at this afternoon's meeting of the Steering Committee because I am due to speak in the Walsall By-Election.

This letter is, therefore, intended to express my general agreement with the proposals contained in the note submitted by Angus and yourself.

On paragraph 8(a) you will receive my separate note about the need for Kenneth Baker's group to return, as a matter of urgency, to the subject of public sector pensions. In addition, you will remember that he and Douglas Hurd are considering, for the Economic Reconstruction Group, the relevance (not least to paragraph (c)iii of your note) of the German experience with concerted action.

I have also mentioned in a separate note my view that it is urgent for Patrick Jenkin now to take a lead in the establishment of a group on tax credit on which the Treasury team is anxious to be represented. It is my own view that we must continue to make use of the good-will now built up for this particular approach but that we should probably need to proceed towards its implementation only on a step-by-step basis - hence the need for working out the method.

Rates too (paragraph 8(e) require urgent study under Tim Raison's leadership along the lines that you and I have discussed with him.

I regard law and order (paragraph 8(j) as another area where we need to sharpen up our approach. Today's report by Ted Gardner's Committee points the way.

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Clearly I endorse what you say in Paragraph 11 about the value of private enterprise policy work, not least as a means for encouraging the attention of some of those who are otherwise to be found in the "awkward squad". Willie Whitelaw knows my thinking about this.

My final point is to emphasise the need to be continuously developing the public and political presentation of the six or seven main points of policy, placing increasing emphasis on the need to divide union leaders from the great mass of their supporters who should be our own.

I am sending a copy of this to Margaret Thatcher, Willie Whitelaw and Angus Maude.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Keith Joseph Bt., M.P.