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Secretary of State for Industry

25 September 1980

The Rt Hon James Prior MP  
Secretary of State for Employment  
Department of Employment  
Caxton House  
London SW1

copies to  
PS/Other Ministers  
Secretary  
Mr Manzie  
Mr Croft  
Mr Leeming ICB  
Mr Solomon PT  
Mr Cochlin ICB  
(on file)

*Dear Sir -*

TRADE UNION POLICY: GREEN PAPER

I welcome Geoffrey Howe's contribution, in his letter to you of 17 September, to the list of proposals which might be covered by the Green Paper.

I particularly welcome the proposal, which I independently made to you in my letter of 28 May, that the Paper should discuss the practice of union labour only clauses in commercial contracts and the question of whether or not to outlaw them. However, I would ask that none of the options for legislation put forward in the Paper discriminate against nationalised industries as opposed to industry in the private sector. Naturally we can make clear to the chairmen of the nationalised industries the Government's views on this practice, as indeed I have already done. But since the management of those industries - including the conduct of labour relations - is the responsibility of their boards, any orders to them on this subject should be through legislation applying to industry generally.

I am sending copies of this letter to the other members of E Committee and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours,  
Kier*

14 OCT 1980

