

Parliament  
Jan 20

PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Affairs

Next week's business will be difficult, because of the problem of getting the Social Security (Contributions) Bill through the House.

You will see from the note attached that the plan is to take the Second Reading on Monday and all the remaining stages on Thursday. The Opposition have already formally requested the Government to change their minds about this, and there seems to be no real prospect of taking the Bill through all its stages - even, I would guess, if we were prepared to go on right through the weekend.

The plan is, therefore, to take a guillotine motion on the Bill at 7 o'clock on Monday 15 December and to follow that motion with all the remaining stages of the Bill, so that it will clear the House on 15 December. - or possibly on Tuesday 16 December, Murdo says now. MS

These tactics will of course affect the atmosphere of the House from now right through to Christmas, but we have no choice but to proceed in this way if we are to get the Bill through in time.

Members' Pay

The Chancellor of the Duchy's proposals are set out in the attached letter. I do not think that you need raise them with your colleagues at Cabinet, but we will let you know if there are any dissenting voices when they have all had a chance to read them.

MS

3 December 1980