

*Parliamentary
Legislation*

PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Affairs

Monday and Tuesday next week may be difficult. This is because there are several controversial statements and Written Answers to be given, in addition to the business itself. I have listed these announcements on the Business Note attached. What is more, we may have to take the Guillotine Motion on the Social Security (Contributions) Bill on Monday 15 December if we do not get the Bill through before the weekend.

All of the arrangements which have been made have been drawn up in close consultation with the business managers, and I do not * think there is any reason to query them. The Home Secretary, however, may wish to raise the question of his announcement on the Yellowlees Report which is at present scheduled as a Written Answer on Monday. He and the Secretary of State for Social Services have not yet reached final agreement about the terms of the Answer, and the Foreign Secretary has of course an interest in this matter as well.

You might perhaps also remind colleagues that in the present Parliamentary situation it is essential they should avoid, wherever possible, making important announcements on the last couple of days before the Recess, and that they should keep in touch with the business managers and the Paymaster General about the timing of announcements next week, since there may well be a fair number of minor announcements which Departments might want to make before Christmas.

MS

* The CDL is (late this evening) now arguing that the RSG statement should be oral, because of Opposition feelings at the moment. Mr Heseltine may be prepared to agree without difficulty, but we need to confirm whether or not
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Wales and Scotland will also make oral statements, and if so when.