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C(83) 20

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30 June 1983

CABINET

SUMMARY OF BILLS PROPOSED FOR THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1983-84

Note by the Lord President of the Council

My memorandum C(83) 19 contains recommendations for the legislative programme for 1983-84. In considering these recommendations colleagues may wish to refer to the attached summaries of the Bills listed in the Annex to C(83) 19 and of the Bills which the Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee (QL) does not recommend for inclusion in the programme but for which colleagues wish a place to be found.

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Privy Council Office

30 June 1983

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ANNEX

I. BILLS RECOMMENDED BY QL FOR INCLUSION IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1983-84

(L) = suitable for introduction in the House of Lords

Essential Bills (7)

1. Coal Industry
2. Social Security
3. Shipbuilding
4. Co-operative Development Agency
5. Companies
6. Merchant Shipping (L)
7. International Monetary Arrangements

Contingent Bills (7)

8. Insolvency Payments
9. Housing (Defects)
10. Australia
11. Territorial Sea
12. Stock Exchange
13. Export Guarantees
14. London Transport Executive

Programme Bills (17)

15. Agricultural Holdings (Amendment) (L)
16. Royal Ordnance Factories
17. Education (Grants to Local Authorities)
18. Trade Union
19. Petroleum Royalties (Relief)
20. Local Government (Rating and Expenditure)
21. Local Government (Greater London and Metropolitan Counties)
22. Housing and Building Control.
23. Local Authorities (Expenditure Powers)
24. Police and Criminal Evidence
25. Data Protection (L)
26. Prevention of Terrorism
27. Cable and Satellite Broadcasting (L)

28. Matrimonial Causes (L)
29. Telecommunications
30. Public Transport (London)
31. Public Services Transfer of Functions

Scottish Bills (4)

32. Local Government Valuation and Rating (Scotland)
33. Housing (Scotland)
34. Roads (Scotland) (L)
35. Inshore Fisheries (Scotland) (L)

Second Reading Committee Bills (9)

36. Animal Health and Welfare (L)
37. Somerset House (Management Powers) (L)
38. Repatriation of Prisoners (L)
39. Foreign Limitation Periods (L)
40. Family Law Reform (L)
41. Occupiers' Liability (L)
42. Insurance Law Reform (L)
43. Fosdyke Bridge
44. Pensions Commutation

II. BILLS NOT RECOMMENDED BY QL

45. Dock Work Regulation
46. Crown Land (Planning Permission)
47. Development of Inventions
48. Industrial Development
49. Transport
50. Civil Aviation
51. Tourism (Overseas Promotion) (Scotland)

| BILL               | DEPARTMENT                               | PURPOSE  | LENGTH                           | TIMING ETC  |
|--------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Coal Industry   | Energy                                   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To increase the limit on the borrowing power of the NCB.</li> <li>2. To extend the period during which the Secretary of State may make certain grants and payments under previous Coal Industry Acts, and to raise the limits on some of such grants and payments.</li> <li>3. To repeal s.13(9) of the Coal Mining (Subsidence) Act 1957, which gives the NCB powers of entry.</li> </ol> | Short<br>(7 to 10 clauses).      | <p>Royal Assent essential by 31 March 1984, when existing borrowing and grant-making powers expire, and desirable by January/February 1984, when the existing limit on expenditure under the Redundant Mineworkers Payments Scheme could be reached. Counsel has instructions on all but the dates and figures; final policy approval for these will be sought in July. Bill ready for introduction October 1983. Not a Money Bill. Not intrinsically controversial, but debate is likely to range widely, covering Government's coal policy rather than Bill's detailed provisions. Increase in NCB's borrowing power will give rise to payments into and from the National Loans Fund, and charges on votes will arise in respect of grants to the NCB and other payments. No manpower implications. Consistent with ECSC Treaty.</p> |
| 2. Social Security | Department of Health and Social Security | To amend social security legislation to comply with the EC Directive on equal treatment for men and women in social security; to make essential amendments to that legislation; and to make various technical amendments.  | 12 clauses<br>and<br>3 schedules | <p>One remaining policy issue on equal treatment is currently under consideration. The other amendments have been approved and drafting is nearly complete, so that the Bill could be ready for introduction in July. Royal Assent necessary before June 1984 to enable the necessary changes to be brought into operation before the end of 1984, as the EC Directive requires. Probably controversial:</p>  |

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 ESSENTIAL (continued)

| BILL            | DEPARTMENT                       | PURPOSE   | LENGTH                      | TIMING ETC   |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|
| 3. Shipbuilding | Department of Trade and Industry | To increase British Shipbuilders' borrowing limits. | Very short (1 or 2 clauses) | <p>the Opposition is likely to press the Government to go further. Particular interest in the Lords. The cost will be up to £22m in a full year if it is not possible to construct a nil cost package. If the Bill is not secured, the cost of having to apply the EC directive to the present legislation would be about £250m in a full year from 1984-85 onwards. About 40 staff will be needed to implement the proposed changes, from within the DHSS allocation. Depending on the timing of the progress of the Bill, it may be appropriate to add in later provision for the restoration of the measure lost in last Session's Health and Social Services and Social Security Adjudication Bill relating to the change of status of Family Practitioner Committees in the NHS.</p> <p>Uncontroversial. Policy approval in July; instructions August, ready for introduction October 1983. Royal Assent needed by April 1984. Increase in BS borrowing limit assumed in PES provisions. No manpower implications. EC Commission must be formally notified but is not expected to object.</p> |

| BILL                               | DEPARTMENT                       | PURPOSE  | LENGTH                     | TIMING ETC  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|
| 4. Co-operative Development Agency | Department of Trade and Industry | Depending on outcome of review in July 1983, either:<br>a. to extend the life of the CDA;<br>or<br>b. to close it down.  | Short (probably 5 clauses) | Statutory funding of CDA expires August 1984; legislation essential whether or not CDA continues. Policy approval end July; instructions end August; Bill ready for introduction November 1983. Closing down the CDA would be strongly opposed by the Opposition parties and some Government backbenchers. If the CDA continues, public expenditure will be £200,000-£300,000 a year. No manpower or EC implications. |
| 5. Companies                       | Department of Trade and Industry | To amend the Companies Acts to validate retrospectively and prospectively some transactions by pension and employee share schemes involving shares in their parent companies. Without the Bill, legal title to such shares would not be valid.   | Short                      | Bill needed urgently because lack of valid title to shares (only recently identified) could disrupt financial markets; Royal Assent needed as soon as possible for the same reason. Policy approval obtained in May and Bill already drafted. Should be wholly non-controversial and generally accepted as an urgent necessity. No manpower, expenditure or EC implications.  |
| 6. Merchant Shipping               | Transport                        | i. To specify the tonnage to be used by courts for limitation of liability purposes.<br>ii. To remedy a gap in the enforcement powers available under the Merchant Shipping Acts. Would provide powers similar to those available under Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 enabling DoT inspectors to serve Prohibition or Improvement Notices | Short                      | Necessary to continue to comply with provisions of two international conventions as far as i. is concerned. ii. has previously been offered as a Private Member's Bill, but not taken up. Both items should be uncontroversial and have no public expenditure, manpower or EC implications. Policy clearance has been gained, instructions sent; ready for introduction late July.                                    |

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 ESSENTIAL (continued)

| BILL                                   | DEPARTMENT | PURPOSE  | LENGTH | TIMING ETC  |
|--|------------|--|--------|---|
| 7. International Monetary Arrangements | Treasury   | <p>where serious personal injury or marine pollution might otherwise result.</p> <p>Requirements arising from<br/>                     (a) increase in UK's IMF Quota;<br/>                     (b) revision of the General Arrangements to Borrow;<br/>                     (c) provision of guarantees to the Bank of England with respect to participation in transactions of the Bank for International Settlements.</p> | Short  | <p>Introduced 23 June.<br/>                     Royal Assent required by the end of 1983. Unlikely to be politically controversial, but thought unsuitable for Second Reading Committee. A Money Bill. Minor PSBR implications. No manpower or EC implications.</p> |

| BILL                   | DEPARTMENT                    | PURPOSE  | LENGTH                    | TIMING ETC   |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| 8. Insolvency Payments | Department of Employment      | To amend the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 in order to avert the consequences of Court of Appeal judgment on insolvency notice payment.   | Short - - up to 6 clauses | Policy clearance to be sought end-July; complete instructions and Bill ready for introduction by November. Royal Assent desirable by April 1984. Possibly Special Standing Committee or Lords introduction. Unlikely to be controversial. Not to legislate might result in increased payments from Redundancy Fund of over £20 million a year, but would save up to 100 staff. Bill would maintain status quo. No EC implications. |
| 9. Housing (Defects)   | Department of the Environment | To place a duty on local authorities to repurchase, or give repairs grants in respect of, dwellings sold by public authorities at prices which can now be seen to have been excessive because of defects or potential defects in the structure; and to permit Exchequer contributions. | Very short                | Policy clearance July, instructions early September, introduction November. Royal Assent by Spring 1984 desirable. Not controversial. Total cost estimated at about £90 million. No significant manpower and no EC implications.   |



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CONTINGENT

| BILL          | DEPARTMENT                      | PURPOSE   | LENGTH          | TIMING ETC   |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| 10. Australia | Foreign and Commonwealth Office | To give effect to a request by the Australians for legislation to terminate most of the remaining constitutional links with the UK. | Short to medium | <p>The Australians have shown the FC0 their drafts of the legislation, but there are still unresolved difficulties within Australia. They have expressed a strong wish for the legislation to come into effect on 1 January 1984, but their timetable might slip. Suitable for Lords introduction. The Australians have said that they intend to proceed by agreement within Australia and that they will not expose the Government to the sort of difficulties encountered with the Canada Bill. The Bill ought therefore to be uncontroversial but it cannot be ruled out that some Members might wish to raise questions on certain aspects of Australian policy, eg Aboriginal rights. No public expenditure, manpower or EC implications.</p> |

| BILL                | DEPARTMENT                        | PURPOSE  | LENGTH         | TIMING ETC  |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--|----------------|---|
| 11. Territorial Sea | Foreign and Commonwealth Office   | To extend the territorial sea of the UK to 12 nautical miles, and to make consequential amendments eg. to customs and continental shelf arrangements.  | Short          | <p>Policy has been agreed interdepartmentally at official level. Draft instructions are being circulated to Departments. Timing of introduction not yet agreed interdepartmentally, though in 1981 the Government indicated its intention to make this extension at some time in the light of the results emerging from UNLOSC. Suitable for Lords introduction. Probably non-controversial in party terms, but could give rise to discussion of wider Law of the Sea issues. Implications for public expenditure and manpower are thought to be negligible. Changes in the waters available for EC fishermen could lead to controversy within the Community.</p> |
| 12. Stock Exchange  | Department of Trade and Industry. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To exempt the Stock Exchange from the jurisdiction of the Restrictive Practices Court, which is due to hear a long case against it; and/or</li> <li>To implement three EC Directives on restrictive trade practices.</li> </ol> | Not yet known. | <p>The Director General of Fair Trading is obliged to bring a case against the Stock Exchange; it could go on for months. It is hoped that the Exchange can be persuaded to withdraw the bad elements of its anti-competitive practice (eg. minimum commissions). If not, it will be necessary to exempt the Stock Exchange (like insurance interests) from the jurisdiction of the Restrictive Practices court because the long action would be harmful to the interests of the Stock Exchange. If the Bill is needed, policy clearance would be sought and instructions and a draft Bill prepared</p>   |

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CONTINGENT (continued)

| BILL                           | DEPARTMENT                       | PURPOSE   | LENGTH          | TIMING ETC  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| 13. Export Guarantees          | Department of Trade and Industry | <p>1. To raise statutory limits on the commitments which the ECGD can undertake, without which it might have to close down; <u>and possibly</u></p> <p>2. To give wider powers in relation to investment insurance and make certain technical adjustments.</p>  | Short to medium | <p>very urgently, and would have to be passed quickly. Bill not expected to be hybrid. Withdrawal of case from RTP court would be controversial with the Opposition and might cause concern among some Government back-benchers. No expenditure or manpower implications.</p> <p>Royal Assent desirable by April 1984; will become essential in 1984/85 if not enacted earlier. Need for Bill depends on rate of increase in ECGD business; could be ready for introduction October/November 1983. Unlikely to be controversial. No expenditure, manpower or EC implications.</p> |
| 14. London Transport Executive | Transport                        | <p>To make the exercise of the GLC's powers in relation to London Transport subject to Secretary of State. This is an interim measure:</p> <p>a. to forestall obstruction by the GLC during the preparation of legislation for a London Regional Transport Authority;</p> <p>b. to enable a start to be made on preparations for the new authority.</p> | Very short      | <p>This Bill, if needed, would have to be introduced in July. Instructions could be given to Counsel almost immediately. Unlikely to go ahead unless GLC create a crisis. This Bill will be regarded as a provocative gesture. There are no public expenditure, manpower or EC implications.</p>  |

| BILL                                  | DEPARTMENT                                  | PURPOSE  | LENGTH                    | TIMING ETC   |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------|--|
| 15. Agricultural Holdings (Amendment) | Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food | <p>To implement a package of proposals agreed between the National Farmers' Union and the Country Landowners' Association for changes in the agricultural holdings legislation. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) the family succession provisions of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 should not apply to future lettings;</li> <li>ii) a revision of the statutory formula for fixing farm rents;</li> <li>iii) a large number (nearly 100) of less important but necessary amendments.</li> </ul> <p>It is also proposed to rationalise the legislation relating to smallholdings with the aim of eliminating central Government involvement.</p> | Short - but Long Schedule | <p>Early implementation required to arrest further decline in the landlord tenant system in agriculture. Manifesto and Queen's Speech commitment. Farmers' Union of Wales does not support agreement. Likely to be welcomed by Conservatives, but Labour opposed to changes to family succession provisions. Not suitable for Lords introduction. No expenditure manpower or EC implications for tenancy legislation, but smallholding legislation will have minor public expenditure implications arising from the commutation of annual payments to capital sums. The latter has been agreed with the Treasury. Instructions have already gone to Parliamentary Counsel and drafting has begun. Introduction early Autumn.</p> |
| 16. Royal Ordnance Factories          | Defence                                     | To create a Companies Act company to run the business of the Royal Ordnance Factories.   | Medium                    | <p>Implements public commitment by Secretary of State on 20 May 1982. Opposition will be muted if factories are kept together in one group, but official Opposition is likely to oppose the Bill. An important element of the Government's privatisation programme. No significant effect on public expenditure. ROF employees would be taken out of Civil Service manpower but would still be public sector employees. No EC implications if the Public Services Transfer of Functions Bill precedes it into law. Instructions to Counsel not yet sent. Royal Assent desirable Summer 1984.</p>   |

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PROGRAMME (continued)

| BILL  | DEPARTMENT            | PURPOSE   | LENGTH            | TIMING ETC   |
|---|-----------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| 17. Education (Grants to Local Authorities) | Education and Science | To empower the Secretary of State for Education and Science to make provision by regulations for the payment by him of grants to local education authorities where he judges that such expenditure is needed for national educational purposes. | Short - 5 clauses | Recommended in last Session by Education, Science and Arts Committee, but opposed by local authority associations. Consultations with the associations on details will be completed by end of July. No public expenditure increase; some small manpower increase; no EC implications. Policy clearance given in January. Bill mentioned in Queen's Speech; Counsel have prepared first draft and it should be ready for introduction before end-July; Second Reading as soon as Parliament reassembles. Royal Assent desirable as early as possible in 1984. |

PROGRAMME (continued)

| BILL                             | DEPARTMENT | PURPOSE   | LENGTH            | TIMING ETC   |
|----------------------------------|------------|---|-------------------|--|
| 18. Trade Union                  | Employment | To require secret ballots for the election of governing bodies of trade unions; to make trade unions' legal immunity to organise industrial action dependent on consulting the members concerned in a secret ballot; and to require unions with political purposes and funds periodically to ballot their members about whether they should continue. | At least medium   | Instructions sent. Ready for introduction immediately after summer adjournment. Royal Assent by end of Session. High political priority. Highly controversial. Minimal public expenditure and manpower and no EC implications.   |
| 19. Petroleum Royalties (Relief) | Energy     | To exempt holders of petroleum production licences from liability to pay royalty on production from offshore fields in the North Sea (except the Southern Basin) approved for development on or after 1 April 1982.   | Short (2 clauses) | This was announced in the Budget Statement last April; the Bill is linked to certain provisions of the Finance Act 1983. It was introduced on 21 April but fell at the Dissolution. Welcomed by oil and gas industry. Opposition likely to question it and to urge that royalty should instead be remitted in appropriate cases. No manpower or EC implications, and only minimal financial implications until production from the fields affected becomes a significant proportion of total production. |

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PROGRAMME (continued)

| BILL   | DEPARTMENT  | PURPOSE   | LENGTH      | TIMING ETC   |
|--|-------------|---|-------------|--|
| 20. Local Government (Rating and Expenditure)                            | Environment | To establish alternative forms of direct control (selective and general) over rate poundages set by local authorities. To amend the rating system (each of the main tiers of local government to provide each ratepayer with a separate statement of its rate requirement; council tenants to receive annual rate statements; local authorities to consult industry and commerce before setting rates; abolition of local authorities' discretion to rate empty industrial property; and possibly other changes). | Substantial | Cabinet has approved the broad outline but work remains to be done on the substance. A White Paper may be published before the Summer Adjournment. Consultation during the summer may be needed. Complete instructions should be ready by October. Bill expected to be introduced in January. Royal Assent required July/August 1984, because the administrative operation of the scheme should start in the summer preceding the first financial year of control (1985-86). The Bill is designed to secure lower aggregate expenditure by local government. Abolition of empty industrial property rating will cost local authorities an estimated £50m annually. If no more than 15 authorities are controlled under the selective scheme, about 20 staff in central and 50-50 in local government would be needed. The general control scheme might require 100 or more central and perhaps 300-500 local government staff. No EC implications. |
| 21. Local Government (Greater London and Metropolitan Counties) (Interim | Environment | In anticipation of the abolition of the Greater London Council and the Metropolitan County Councils, to provide (i) for the deferral of the May 1985 local elections and for the continuation of existing councillors in office and for by-elections; (ii) for special controls over any irresponsible activities by the authorities to be abolished.   | Short       | Policy decisions not yet taken. Provisions on elections straightforward and could be drafted quickly. Counter-obstruction measures should be prepared by November. To deal only with elections the Bill need not be introduced until late in the Session, and there would be advantage in leaving introduction until as late as possible so as to keep open the choice of any response to be employed to any particular obstructive action. But some   |

be abolished.

response to be employed to any particular obstructive action. But some

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PROGRAMME (continued)

| BILL                             | DEPARTMENT  | PURPOSE  | LENGTH                     | TIMING ETC  |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--|----------------------------|---|
| 22. Housing and Building Control | Environment | <p>i) to extend the right to buy to tenants of leasehold properties, to increase the maximum discount from 50% to 60%, to give a right to shared ownership, to increase eligibility and to strengthen the enforcement provisions in various ways; to give public sector tenants a right to repair and to information on communal heating charges.</p> <p>ii) to provide for private certification of compliance with the building regulations as an alternative to local authority building control and for a system of approved guidance documents on the requirements of the building regulations.</p> | 50 clauses and 9 Schedules | <p>forms of obstruction might require the Bill to be introduced and passed urgently as soon as they become evident. Not clear how controversial it will be. Overall it would attract extensive discussion of the principle of abolition on which the attitude of other parties remains ambivalent but potentially hostile. Not holding the elections would save £9m. Other measures would have no significant effect on manpower or expenditure, though any intervention in local government processes would require a few additional staff. No EC implications.</p> <p>Introduced. Was introduced in 1982-83 but fell at the Dissolution. Early enactment highly desirable. Controversial in parts. Increased sales of say 20,000 a year would generate immediate capital receipts of about £50m with combined capital and current savings of £75m in the fifth year. Small increases in central and gradual decreases in local government staff as a result of private certification of compliance with building regulations.</p> |



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PROGRAMME (continued)

| BILL  | DEPARTMENT         | PURPOSE  | LENGTH             | TIMING ETC   |
|---|--------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| <p>23. Local Authorities<br/>(Expenditure Powers)</p> | <p>Environment</p> | <p>To ensure that local authorities have the power under S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (and the Scottish equivalent) to make grants for the purchase of land or the carrying out of works on any land; and to ensure that any local Acts do not restrict the power of local authorities to make grants under Section 137.</p>   | <p>Very short</p>  | <p>Introduced. Fell at the Dissolution. Royal Assent required as soon as possible, because some Urban Development Grant projects which require the use of Section 137 are already being held up. The Bill was proposed for Second Reading Committee last time but SDP could not agree. Was supported by the Labour Party but its passage was delayed because it was linked by Mr George Cunningham to the wider issue of alleged abuse of powers by Islington Council. No significant expenditure or manpower implications and no EC implications.</p> |
| <p>24. Police and Criminal Evidence</p>               | <p>Home Office</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To implement Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure recommendations on crime investigation powers (eg arrest, detention and questioning of suspects).</li> <li>2. To make amendments in the law of criminal evidence.</li> <li>3. To reform procedures for complaints against the police.</li> <li>4. To improve consultation between the police and the community.</li> </ol> | <p>Substantial</p> | <p>Was introduced in the 1982-83 Session but fell at the Dissolution. Highly controversial. Re-introduction November in the Commons.</p>   |

## PROGRAMME (continued)

| BILL                                 | DEPARTMENT  | PURPOSE  | LENGTH                 | TIMING ETC   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|--|------------------------|--|
| 25. Data Protection                  | Home Office | To safeguard the privacy of information about identifiable individuals held on computers in both the public and the private sectors thus enabling the UK to conform with the standards adopted by other European countries and to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Data Protection 1980.                   | Substantial            | Introduced. Was introduced in the 1982-83 Session but fell at the Dissolution. Moderately controversial.   |
| 26. Prevention of Terrorism          | Home Office | To implement the recommendations in Lord Jellicoe's recent review of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1976, repealing and re-enacting the 1976 Act with some changes.  | Medium                 | Instructions have been sent. Final policy approval shortly. Will be ready for introduction in July. Royal Assent desirable before March 1984 to avoid renewal of the 1976 Act, but not essential. Controversial: Labour Party will oppose, though without enthusiasm on some Members' part. Alliance should support. Might possibly be suitable for Lords introduction, but Commons introduction would probably be convenient for Home Office Ministers. No manpower or EC implications. Public expenditure implications very small, if any. |
| 27. Cable and Satellite Broadcasting | Home Office | To set up a Cable Authority and provide a framework of rules within which cable systems can develop (possibly making consequential adjustments to broadcasting and telecommunications legislation) and to give franchising powers, probably to the IBA, for commercial channels of direct broadcasting by satellite. | Medium/<br>Substantial | White Paper was published in April. Parliamentary debates shortly. Final policy clearance soon after these debates. Instructions July. Should be ready for introduction by late November. No special date for Royal Assent. Moderately controversial politically. A Cable Authority would require start-up finance of about £2 million a year, but would eventually be self-financing. No EC implications.   |

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PROGRAMME (continued)

| BILL                   | DEPARTMENT         | PURPOSE  | LENGTH  | TIMING ETC   |
|------------------------|--------------------|--|---|--|
| 28. Matrimonial Causes | Lord Chancellor's  | <p>i) to amend statutory guidance to the courts on the making of financial provision orders on divorce (8 clauses, 2 Schedules);</p> <p>ii) to change the discretionary 5 year time restriction on the presentation of petitions for divorce to an absolute restriction of one year and relax the one year bar in relation to certain nullity petitions (4 clauses);</p> <p>iii) to provide for financial relief in Great Britain for parties to foreign divorces (20 clauses for England and Wales; 5 more for Scotland) and</p> <p>iv) to improve the distribution of family business between the High Court and county courts (2 or 3 clauses).</p> | Substantial -<br>about 40<br>clauses and<br>4 Schedules | <p>Policy approval for i, ii and iii has been given and clauses drafted. Policy approval for iv is to be sought. Royal Assent required by end of Session. Suitable for introduction in Lords. i is distinctly controversial, ii is less so and iii not at all. iv is a small step in the direction of a Family Court. i may lead to a small increase in the work of the courts and claims for social security benefits. ii will lead to small saving in legal aid and court time. iii will result in small increase in legal aid, more than saved in lower social security payments. iv has not yet been assessed. No EC implications.</p> |
| 29. Telecommunications | Trade and Industry | <p>To establish the Office of Telecommunications as a new regulatory body for telecommunications; to abolish British Telecom's exclusive privilege and to allow it to be privatized and to make new provision for licensing the running of telecommunications systems. To replace the Telegraph Acts 1863-1916 by a new code; to amend Wireless Telegraphy Acts 1947-1967; and to provide for the licensing of cable programme services.</p>   | Long<br>(94 clauses,<br>7 Schedules)                    | <p>The Bill was introduced in the last Session but fell at the Dissolution. Controversial. On reintroduction, it is likely to be strongly opposed by all Opposition parties, by BF trade unions, and others. Likely to be strong House of Lords interest in consumer, environmental and privatisation aspects.</p>   |

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PROGRAMME (continued)

| BILL  | DEPARTMENT | PURPOSE  | LENGTH                                   | TIMING ETC  |
|---|------------|--|--|---|
| 30. Public Transport<br>(London)                | Transport  | To transfer the GLC's responsibilities for London Transport to a London Regional Transport Authority. Initially the LRTA is to be formed from a reconstituted London Transport Executive. It will run the LT Bus and Underground Services, allocate grant to them and arrange with independent operators to provide services. Subsequently subsidiary bodies will take over the running of the buses and the Underground and the LRTA will take over responsibility for the financial support of British Rail's commuter services. It will become the strategic authority for all London's public transport. | Substantial                              | A Manifesto commitment. Very controversial; will be seen as the first step to abolish the GLC (even though justified as a separate measure). Policy approval given; instructions to Counsel early July; introduction mid-October. Royal Assent desirable by July 1984. Possibly hybrid. Broadly neutral in FES terms. Savings in GLC manpower will outweigh possible increases in London Transport or Departmental manpower. No EC implications.  |
| 31. Public Services<br>Transfer of<br>Functions | Treasury   | To prevent payment of redundancy compensation in certain circumstances to civil servants and employees of the NHS when functions are transferred to the private sector, and to give powers to make payments to buy out detriment to terms and conditions of service.   | Short to<br>Medium<br>(10-15<br>clauses) | Required because of risks to privatisation programme and to public expenditure if not enacted. Policy approval obtained. Opinion of Law Officers on implications of the Acquired Rights Directive obtained. Discussions with Brussels probably needed before instructions can be finalised. It is hoped that the Bill could still be introduced by the end of the year. Royal Assent desirable as soon as possible, but no specific target date. Likely to be opposed by all those opposed to the privatisation programme, including Civil Service & NHS unions, but actual provisions may be less controversial. No manpower implications. |

| BILL   | DEPARTMENT      | PURPOSE  | LENGTH      | TIMING ETC  |
|--|-----------------|--|-------------|---|
| 32. Local Government Valuation and Rating (Scotland) | Scottish Office | To enable the Secretary of State to set a general limit to rate increases, to relate general abatements of rate support grant to an individual authority's level of overspending and to limit the rate fund contribution to the housing account. To streamline the procedure for taking selective action to reduce rates or rate support grant of individual authorities. To remove anomalies in valuation for rating to improve the valuation appeal system and to make other improvements in valuation and rating legislation. | Substantial | Policy approval July, instructions September, introduction December/January. Royal Assent by June 1984 to enable new general abatement power to operate on 1984-85 local authority budgets and to enable subsequent subordinate legislation to be operational before revaluation in April 1985. Suitable for Scottish Grand Committee but Opposition may object. Highly controversial. Could lead to a small increase in central Government manpower. No EC implications. |
| 33. Housing (Tenants' Rights) (Scotland)             | Scottish Office | To give effect to Manifesto commitments to public sector tenants in Scotland in respect of improvements in the right to buy and of the right to repair.  | Very short  | In preparation for immediate introduction. Royal Assent desirable no later than for English Bill. Suitable for Scottish Grand Committee but Opposition may object. Controversial. Possibly some very unfavourable expenditure implications because of reduced public sector receipts. Effect on public sector manpower expected to be neutral. No EC implications.  |

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SCOTTISH (continued)

| BILL                             | DEPARTMENT      | PURPOSE  | LENGTH | TIMING ETC   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--|--------|--|
| 34. Roads (Scotland)             | Scottish Office | To re-enact in modern form the roads provisions in the Burgh (Scotland) Acts 1892 and 1903 and equivalent local Acts; to implement certain recommendations of the Stodart Committee; to enact for Scotland several provisions already available in England and Wales; and to re-enact certain old provisions to prepare for consolidation of Scottish roads legislation. | Long   | Introduction November. Royal Assent by November 1984. Lords introduction and Scottish Grand Committee. No EC implications.   |
| 35. Inshore Fisheries (Scotland) | Scottish Office | To amend the outdated and complex legislation governing sea fisheries in Scottish inshore waters.  | Short  | Introduction October/November. Lords introduction and Scottish Grand Committee. There is strong pressure for the legislation, which Ministers have promised as soon as possible. Measures to prevent damage to one fishing method by another would be controversial, but might be left to subordinate legislation. No public expenditure or manpower implications. Would need to be notified to the European Commission for clearance. |

| BILL                                   | DEPARTMENT                                  | PURPOSE  | LENGTH     | TIMING ETC  |
|--|---|--|------------|---|
| 36. Animal Health and Welfare          | Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food | <p>i. Animal Welfare: to amend the Slaughter of Poultry Act 1967 to implement Farm Animal Welfare Council recommendations.</p> <p>ii. Animal health: to amend the Animal Health Act 1981 (including extending powers of entry) and the Medicines Act 1968.</p> <p>iii. Livestock improvement: to repeal statutes on bull and stallion licencing and to provide powers to control new techniques in cattle breeding and to charge for certain Ministry costs.</p> | Medium     | <p>Largely uncontroversial, although failure to act on (i) may attract adverse criticism. Powers of entry in (ii) may be sensitive. Charging provisions of (iii) might not be welcomed. Policy clearance given and instructions with Counsel; introduction early autumn. Suitable for Second Reading Committee. Possibly suitable for Lords introduction. Item (ii) will save £100,000 a year and item (iii) will save £200,000 a year. No significant manpower or EC implications.</p> |
| 37. Somerset House (Management Powers) | Dept of the Environment                     | <p>To clarify the Secretary of State's existing management powers in respect of Somerset House and to remove a restriction limiting its use to public offices and buildings.</p>   | Very short | <p>Policy clearance now being sought. Instructions have been sent. Royal Assent required as soon as possible. May be hybrid. Suitable for Lords introduction. The Courtauld Institute have announced their interest in Somerset House and the Bill is a prerequisite of the conclusion of negotiations and grant of a lease. No public expenditure, manpower or EC implications.</p>  |

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SECOND READING COMMITTEE (continued)

| BILL                           | DEPARTMENT                   | PURPOSE  | LENGTH                                    | TIMING ETC  |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 38. Repatriation of Prisoners  | Home Office                  | To enable implementation of Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons and any other such agreements, by empowering the Secretary of State to authorise the transfer of foreign prisoners from the UK to complete their sentences in their own countries, and the imprisonment of British prisoners transferred from other countries to complete their sentences in UK prisons. | Short                                     | Policy approval to be sought very shortly. Instructions July/August, introduction December. Suitable for Lords introduction. Likely to receive all-party support. No manpower or EC implications, but about £100,000 a year would have to be met from existing PES provision.   |
| 59. Foreign Limitation Periods | Lord Chancellor's Department | To provide that where under English rule of private international law a foreign law is applied in proceedings in England, the provisions of that law relating to limitation of actions should also apply, and not (as now) the provisions of English law.  | 7 clauses                                 | Uncontroversial; suitable for introduction in Lords and Second Reading Committee procedure in Commons. No public expenditure, manpower or EC implications. Already drafted and ready for immediate introduction.  |
| 40. Family Law Reform          | Lord Chancellor's Department | To remove provisions of the law which discriminate against those born out of wedlock, and to give the courts wider powers to make orders for the maintenance of such children and as to the rights (custody, access and otherwise) of the parents.   | Substantial about 42 clauses, 5 Schedules | Uncontroversial; suitable for introduction in the Lords and Second Reading Committee Procedure. Policy approval to be sought in June; draft Bill in Law Commission Report. Some increase in expenditure in courts, offset by shifting burden of maintenance of illegitimate children from the State to the parents. No EC implications. |



## SECOND READING COMMITTEE (continued)

| BILL                     | DEPARTMENT                       | PURPOSE   | LENGTH               | TIMING ETC   |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------------|--|
| 41. Occupiers' Liability | Lord Chancellor's Department     | <p>1. To clarify the legal duties of an occupier to persons who come on to his land without permission (Parts I to IV of Law Com. Report No. 75 of 1976), and</p> <p>2. To put recreational visits to the countryside (camping, mountaineering, pot-holing, etc) outside the protection of the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977, as regards injuries caused by the state of the premises.</p> | Short -<br>4 clauses | Very largely uncontroversial. Suitable for introduction in Lords and Second Reading Committee procedure. No public expenditure, manpower or EC implications. Drafted and ready for introduction.   |
| 42. Insurance Law Reform | Department of Trade and Industry | To reform the law on non-disclosure and breach of warranty in relation to consumer insurance contracts, as recommended by the Law Commission in October 1980.   | Medium               | Policy already approved; Bill drafted by Law Commission and instructions for amendments already with Counsel Introduction October 1983; Royal Assent by end of Session. Not controversial in political terms, but insurance lobby may say goes too far, consumer lobby not far enough. Suitable for Lords introduction and probably Second Reading Committee procedure. No manpower, expenditure or EC implications. |

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SECOND READING COMMITTEE (continued)

| BILL                     | DEPARTMENT | PURPOSE  | LENGTH     | TIMING ETC  |
|--------------------------|------------|--|------------|---|
| 43. Fosdyke Bridge       | Transport  | To repeal those provisions of a private Act, the Fosdyke Bridge Transfer Act 1870, which require the Fosdyke Bridge to be constructed so as to allow river traffic to trade up the River Welland. The existing swing bridge is coming to the end of its life and is increasingly expensive to maintain. Building a new fixed bridge will save operating and maintenance costs. | Very short | Policy clearance and instructions July; introduction end of Summer Adjournment. Royal Assent by end of 1983/4 Session desirable. Hybrid. Suitable for Second Reading Committee. Should be uncontroversial and apolitical. Will allow removal from the trunk road programme of the Fosdyke Bridge bypass - £1.4 million (1978 prices) and replacement by a regional scheme - £0.8 million (1980 prices). No manpower or EC implications. |
| 44. Pensions Commutation | Treasury   | To dissolve Pensions Commutation Board and transfer its functions to Departments.  | Short      | Policy approved; Bill already drafted and ready for introduction. No special date for Royal Assent. Expected to be wholly uncontroversial. Suitable for Second Reading Committee. Some minimal manpower savings expected. No EC implications  |

| BILL                                 | DEPARTMENT         | PURPOSE  | LENGTH                              | TIMING ETC  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| 45. Dock Work Regulation             | Employment         | To repeal provisions of the Dock Work Regulation Act 1976 which require the Secretary of State to bring forward a new Dock Work Labour Scheme which might be extended to new work. Provisions constituting the National Dock Labour Board as a body corporate and those relating to loans to the NDLB would remain.  | Very short (2 clauses)              | The Bill has policy clearance and has been drafted. It was to have been taken in the 1982-83 Session but the timing of its introduction must take account of the possible industrial repercussions. Royal Assent by end of Session. Highly controversial. Negligible public expenditure and manpower and no EC implications.  |
| 46. Crown Land (Planning Permission) | Environment        | To enable the Crown and other persons to obtain planning permission in respect of Crown land prior to its disposal. To enable the Crown to make temporary use of land without necessarily conferring permanent permitted use rights for that purpose on others. To remedy the situation whereby unauthorised development undertaken on Crown land is immune from enforcement action. | Short                               | Policy clearance not yet obtained. No special date for Royal Assent, but the impossibility of obtaining planning permission prior to disposal of Crown land is resulting in failure to realise its full value. Likely to be received by Parliament as a sensible measure: Opposition not expected to oppose. There would be an unquantifiable increase in receipts from disposal of surplus land. No manpower or EC implications. |
| 47. Development of Inventions        | Trade and Industry | To set up a new body to stimulate transfer of new technology into British industry and to take over assets and liabilities of British Technology Group (NEB and NRDC).   | Medium (15-20 clauses, 2 Schedules) | Detailed policy clearance end July; instructions 5-6 weeks later; introduction January 1984; Royal Assent end of Session. Some Government supporters may question need for new body; others are likely to welcome dismantling of NEB. New body should lead to administrative savings of £1-2m a year compared with NEB and NRDC. Contents of Bill to be notified to EC; no problems expected.                                     |

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PROGRAMME (continued)

| BILL                       | DEPARTMENT         | PURPOSE   | LENGTH                              | TIMING ETC  |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| 48. Industrial Development | Trade and Industry | To amend the Industrial Development Act 1982 to make the regional development scheme more job related by reducing the grant payable on capital intensive projects, introducing an additional job grant for labour intensive projects; and to abolish Industrial Development certificates. | Short<br>(4-5 clauses, 2 Schedules) | Policy approval July; instructions end October 1983; introduction early January 1984; Royal Assent by end of Session. Early publication of White Paper should help to reduce controversy. Bill will attract attention from Members representing Assisted Areas. Cost depends on extent of designated areas and rate of grant, but substantial savings should be possible. Some manpower increases (up to 160). Bill will facilitate EC commitment to introduce change by end 1984.  |
| 49. Transport              | Transport          | To permit transfer of the National Bus Company to the private sector.   | Short                               | A manifesto commitment was made to introduce substantial private capital into the NBC. Policy approval to be sought soon, after which consultation will be necessary with NBC managers and pension fund managers. The Bill should be ready for introduction immediately after the Summer Adjournment. Royal Assent desirable, but not essential, by summer 1984. Likely to be opposed by all Opposition parties and by local authorities; some Conservative backbenchers may be concerned about effects on rural transport. Privatisation will produce £100-150m in year of sale, offset by reduction in scheduled loan repayments in subsequent years. Local authority revenue support may increase by about £150m a year. 50,000 NBC employees will transfer to private sector. No EC implications. |

| BILL   | DEPARTMENT      | PURPOSE   | LENGTH   | TIMING ETC  |
|--|-----------------|---|--|---|
| 50. Civil Aviation                               | Transport       | To enable the capital reconstruction of British Airways to take place prior to privatisation. The legislation would enable the Government (i) to pay sums to British Airways so that they can pay off outstanding debts; and (ii) to write off outstanding loans to British Airways from the National Loans Fund. A number of other Civil Aviation measures might be included if Parliamentary time permits, including powers to enable the Secretary of State to regulate the number of aircraft movements at the London airports and a number of other miscellaneous airport and air safety provisions. | Very short if confined to British Airways, otherwise medium. | An element in the privatisation programme; will be resisted by the Opposition and possibly by some Conservative members, stimulated by private airlines. Policy clearance for BA measures only early July; for longer Bill September. Instructions to Counsel July for BA, October for longer Bill. Introduction late-July for BA, December for longer Bill. Royal Assent by March 1984 would be highly desirable enabling a capital reconstruction to take place by the end of the financial year. Effect on PSBR broadly neutral (apart from some relatively minor implications arising from pre-payment of debts etc.). No significant manpower implications. Necessary to consult EC Commission formally; they are unlikely to oppose |
| 51. Tourism (Overseas Promotion) (Scotland) Bill | Scottish Office | To extend the powers of the Scottish Tourist Board under the Development of Tourism Act 1969 to include promotional activity outside the United Kingdom.  | Very short   | Manifesto commitment; during the Election campaign Ministers indicated that the legislation could be brought in within a few months. Policy clearance July, instructions early September, introduction early November. Royal Assent desirable by end of 1983 to enable the 1984 cycle of overseas promotion to proceed on the basis of extended powers. Suitable for Scottish Grand Committee. Unlikely to be controversial. May involve £200,000 extra a year. No EC implications.   |