

~~PRIME MINISTER~~

*ms.*

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A copy of the Report is attached.

It is not very helpful - see paras

EMPLOYMENT ACT - CODES OF PRACTICE 7-8 and 22 in particular.

*MS*  
*4/11*

BBC World at One carried a long item following the Employment Select Committee's Report this morning. The Chairman, John Golding, who described the Codes as a jumble of law, interpretation and advice, said that the majority of the Committee thought that it was constitutionally wrong to be putting such controversial matters into Codes of this sort.

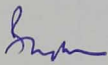
*ms.*

Parliament should not be presented with what is politically and industrially controversial on a take it or leave it basis. "In my view", he said, "there should be a clause by clause, line by line, examination."

He criticised on behalf of the majority the suggestion that closed shops should be periodically reviewed, and thought the suggested number of 6 in the picketing code was ambiguous.

Jonathan Aitken on behalf of the minority (did not say how many) pointed out that good industrial relations cannot be written into the law. He welcomed the Codes as sensible guidelines and drew a parallel with the role of the Highway Code.

In a Press Association report, Mr. John Gorst said that he would be voting against the Codes.



Bernard Ingham

4 November 1980