

# LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11.00 am date: 5 FEBRUARY

## PRIME MINISTER'S DAY

10.45 am: Prime Minister received call from Dr Alois Mock, Leader of Austrian Peoples Party and Chairman of the European Democratic Union. He is in London for an EDU meeting.

The Prime Minister will be in the House for Questions. At 16.00 hrs she will address the Association of Independent Unionists Peers. At 17.15 hrs she meets BISPA, accompanied by the Secretary<sup>ies</sup> of States~~s~~ for Industry and Employment.

## In the House

There would be an answer of substance from DES at 4 pm: Q 103 - "To ask the Secretary of State what new arrangements he proposes to make for the financing of student unions and if he will make a statement".

## Press Notices

... On Prince Michael of Kent's appointment as President of the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation.

... On ACARD's Report on Computer Aided Design and Manufacture (publication Wednesday, 6 February, 1030 hrs: Press Conference at 1030 hrs, Treasury, Room 36, Sub-Ground).

## Broadcasting Bill

To be published 0930 hrs Wednesday, 6 February. Home Office is trying to arrange a briefing with Home Secretary at 1200 hrs for TV correspondents. Lobby welcome. Details from Home Office.

## Command Paper

The Agriculture Review, 1979, will be published on Friday, 8 February at 1100 hrs. CFR<sup>s</sup> at 1600 hrs Thursday, 7 February. MAFF non-attributable briefing 1100 hrs Friday, 8 February.

/Urban Development Corporations

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## Urban Development Corporations

The Secretary of State for Environment will hold a Press Conference at 6 pm to introduce "shadow" chairmen of the Urban Development Corporations for Dockland and Liverpool. The Secretary of State expected to announce names during second reading of debate on Planning and Local Government Bill.

## Employment Bill: Consultative Document

In answer to questions we said we had not yet got a time for the publication of the expected Consultative Document. The Secretary of State for Employment would be in committee today and was expected to talk about immunities. HMG would be bringing forward its proposals soon. We did not think the document would be long delayed and we did not know whether or not it would be considered by Cabinet before publication, though this was possible. We did not expect a change of attitude by HMG, which was concerned to get it right. HMG was aware of impatience but wanted to deal with the issue deliberately and carefully. HMG did not intend to ram through legislation in the middle of a dispute. We had no knowledge of any suggestion that the Employment Bill would be speeded in committee with more sittings (but we would check).

We dismissed suggestions that the Government would intervene, or try to speed up negotiations in the steel strike, following the threat of safety men to allow the ovens to cool down. We pointed to a suggestion in one newspaper today that management might be able to cope with that issue.

*HG*

PRIME MINISTER'S DAY, ETC.

We repeated the morning briefing.

Jimmy Savile

We trailed Jimmy Savile's call at No. 10 at 1215 tomorrow (Wednesday, 6 February).

Employment Bill

We covered, broadly, the same ground as at the morning briefing, with the addition of some textual analysis following PM's Questions. We left the impression that Ministers would want to take an overall look at the subject of immunities and that the Consultative Document would not necessarily appear this week. [The Secretary of State for Employment spoke on the record later, after the meeting with BISPA and the Lobby will give out a further briefing.]

Outstanding Questions

We undertook to find out the latest state of play on:

- (i) Plans to reorganise the payment of Social Security benefits by cheque, rather than through the Post Office:
- (ii) Proposal to help poor families pay increased fuel charges;
- (iii) The likely timetable for the laying of immigration rules.

