

Prime Minister

VALE OF BELVOIR

1. Nigel has spoken to Michael Heseltine.
2. Bearing in mind the Attorney General's Minute to you dated 28th July 1971, I asked the Attorney General whether it would be [redacted] for me to show Michael Heseltine Nigel Lawson's Memorandum to you dated 27th June. The Attorney General advised that it was proper to do so.
3. With Nigel Lawson's approval, I saw Michael Heseltine this afternoon and showed him Nigel's Memorandum, the subject matter of which, I repeat, had been discussed earlier between the two.
4. You authorised me to discuss this matter with Michael Latham. His views, to which I attach great importance, are as follows:-
 - (a) Hose must be rejected outright. If Hose was to be approved, there would be a most serious explosion from Michael Latham (and from the Party).
 - (b) Michael would prefer the rejection of Hose and Saltby and mining at Asfordby alone, but if there is to be a mine at Asfordby, there must be remote tipping.
 - (c) He would acquiesce, most reluctantly, to any mining at Saltby and Asfordby if, and only if:-
 - (i) there was remote tipping at both pits, and the Secretary of State reserved for himself final decisions and environmental safeguards;
 - (ii) a start was to be delayed for 4 years as, apparently, the NCB itself has suggest [redacted]

(2)

(iii) Lincolnshire would provide the houses for Saltby and Leicestershire would provide the houses for Asfordby.

5. If we can achieve our purpose with Asfordby alone, with remote tipping, that would, in my mind, be the best solution.
6. Michael Heseltine has asked if he could have a meeting with you next week, with no officials present, and I have asked Caroline to arrange this.