

cc Mr Holtzman
Mr Bergin

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister

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In view of your reservations,
do you want to hold a small
meeting before this is taken in
Cabinet. OR, can it go straight
to Cabinet? (If the latter, I
would of course warn the Ministers
of your reservations).

R. 3/12

PRIME MINISTER

STRIKERS AND SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT

While supporting the package of proposals for fulfilling our election
commitment on which the Secretary of State for Industry minuted you
on 28 November, I feel strongly that the question of when these proposals
should be made public should be discussed at Cabinet and not simply
cleared by correspondence, in view of the very delicate situation into
which we are getting with the trade unions. The TUC are calling a
conference of union executives for 22 January. Mr Murray and Mr Urwin,
at my meeting with TUC representatives on the forthcoming industrial
relations legislation, both stressed the importance of this conference
for the question of the whole future attitude of the trade union movement
towards the Government.

Supplementary benefit and strikers is a very sensitive area for the
trade unions and it is crucial that we should not cause them
unnecessary offence by mishandling our proposals. Fortunately we
now have room for manoeuvre both as regards the timing and the method
of implementing them. These are matters for collective decision
and I strongly urge that we should discuss them in Cabinet.

I am copying this to all Cabinet colleagues, Norman Fowler, Michael
Jopling and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Let it go straight
to Cabinet. J.P.

J P
3 DECEMBER 1979

See also Mr & Mrs Storer's minutes of
Flay A.

R. 3/12

3 = DEC 1979

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