

Parliament

PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Affairs

1. Business after the Recess

Nothing special. The Procedure Debate will be on the first Tuesday, 28 October. I gather, however, that Lord Soames is concerned about the prospects for the Local Government Bill in the House of Lords in the spillover, since the Second Reading early this week did not go all that smoothly. You might invite him to tell colleagues about his anxieties at this stage.

2. Business Today

Cabinet will need to endorse the arrangements for business today, at least as far as statements are concerned.

Several of the announcements that might have been made orally in the House (such as teachers' pay, Scottish colleges of education and so on) have now been made by Written Answer, and the fishing industry aid decision will be announced in the Fishery Debate late tonight.

What remains for this afternoon, therefore, is:

- (i) Business Question
- (ii) Civil Defence (Home Secretary)
- (iii) Members' Pay (Chancellor of the Duchy)

If Cabinet decides that the decision on shipbuilding compensation and privatisation merits an oral statement, then it will have to decide whether to add such a statement to this list or to drop one. From the point of view of the House itself, the best outcome would be to stick to the list above and to make the announcement about shipbuilding by Written Answer, but that will of course depend on what decision is reached.

3. Progress with the Legislative Programme

I am not sure whether you will want to say much about this week's events, but you could point out that if all goes smoothly in the next two days we ought to add five more Acts (Housing,

/Tenants'

Tenants' Rights, Health Service, Coal Industry and Consolidated Fund) to the 55 Government Bills which had received Royal Assent by the end of last week. That will leave outstanding only the Local Government Bill, Broadcasting Bill, Civil Aviation Bill, Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill, and a handful of consolidation measures. In other words, the Cabinet's target has been achieved - and the credit should go to the business managers.

4. Defence Cash Limits

The Chancellor will want to mention this briefly. Mr. Pym's minute to you is below.

MS

7 August 1980