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THE PRIME MINISTER

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By 1981-2 the National Health Service will cost the tax-payer ten thousand million a year - over £150 for every man, woman and child - or for a married man with two children, the staggering sum of £500 - £600 per annum in direct taxation for a service, which at that price should be ££fficient, courteous and humane. It is patently clear to our group that the National Health Service now has none of these virtues. It is in our view, now a matter of urgency to explore alternative financing. We have the advantage of being able to study in detail what has been called a vast social experiment over more than 30 years and how it has been manipulated for political reasons by successive Governments and also how every other country has managed its health services in the same period.

As a result we first reiterate what was stated 10 years ago - so long as the present financial structure is maintained the government must impose further taxation or face a further deterioration in standards of medical care. The alternative is to accept the impossibility of financing the rising cost of healthservices from taxation if public expectations of rising standards are to be achieved. Restraints on personal consumption necessary to combat inflation as a basic aim of political policy can only be achieved if they are buttressed by an outlet for voluntary spending. There is a limit to the level of taxation which is either acceptable or compatible with a sound economy. Acceptance of this - on which your present administration is based - must inevitably lead to an acceptance of the principles upon which our proposed system is based. If the tax payer's burden is to be lightened the key is that individuals, given freedom of choice and opportunity, will spend more for themselves on health services under an insurance system than they would under a tax system - particularly if this is strengthened by tax relief. At the moment they are prevented from doing so - and the fact that people will pay more for higher quality if allowed to do so is a first principle both of economic and political experience.

Why should it matter where the money comes from - as long as it comes - and is spent as people want it to be spent - for better services.

We are not seeking to dismantle the National Health Service at the outset - but to ensure that it is put into competition - which is the only way of describing proper standards and making sure that resources are used efficiently and allowing it to concentrate in those particular areas where it is best - in other words - public goods rather than public bads - because the public is now at the mercy of a vast bureaucratic monopoly which - far from absorbing the generally quoted 6 - 7 per cent in administration, is gobbling up over 20 per cent - a gargantuan machine which now exists to feed upon itself and had come to dominate those it should serve.

As things now stand the national health service confronts collapse not by action from outside, but because from its very conception it carried the seeds of its own eventual destruction within it. To pursue reform we must first persuade people that reform is necessary and we need to inform and arouse public opinion to the urgency of that reform - because the longer it is left the more difficult will entrenched interests make it. To that end in April we publish a document which we believe will do much to influence this opinion in all sections of the community.

In addition, our initial discussions with the British Insurance Companies seem favourable and may be regarded with cautious optimism.

It would be sice to lan a halt frivice again in which the doctor bestern to the patient instead of the patient having whether to the doctor.

Duncan Burn - Energy Grp

The CPS Energy Study Group started work in June 1977. Professor Colin Robinson was chairman; most of its eight members had direct experience of energy industries from the inside or as administrators or consultants.

analyses, information and advice on which convictions could base decisions. The failures, sometimes disastrous, of Government intervention in energy industries since 1945 were legion, and the subject of many inquiries official inquiries, all/designed to find better means of intervention. The market solution was diement to lack cradible.

The group analysed instead what would happen if the energy market were freed.

Members contributed studies of topics on which they were expert. Criticisms that the market is not responsive to long term prospects, not suited to long lead times and high cost R and D, distorted by monopoly, and so on, (as though interventionist policies handled these well) were assessed.

The group concluded it would be better if energy industries were treated as ordinary industries, that in great measure post-war failures resulted inevitably from the motivation and mechanics of intervention (the machinery of appointments for example) and that much greater reliance on the market would be beneficial. There would be beneficial. There would be beneficial.

It would bring faster responsiveness to consumers' preferences and to real costs of supply, quicker introduction of new and cheaper sources of energy, more conservation, better protection of environment, less log rolling more open-ness, more international competitiveness.

In an interim report circulated at the end of 1978 (which you, Prime Minister, saw) the group set out in some detail, and for specific industries the steps whereby a competitive market could be restored and the risks minimised, and the important things the Government must continue to do - and do better.

We have had interesting reactions though we cannot as yet claim more.

The full committee did not meet after summer 1978, but a nucleus of three has been retained. I have been asked to write a report for publication whose focus will be largely on the transitional problems if it is ultimately decided to rely more on the market.

The nucleus can respond to inquiries related to the Group proposals. We can and do call in appropriate experts. We are just starting work with such aid on some nationalised industry problems raised in the Energy Lunch Group, to which I think Eric Sharp, Chairman of the Group, will refer.

Notes of Lord Vaizey's speech at the Centre for Policy Studies on Monday, 4 February 1980.

The national income accounts no longer reflect the reality - a reality which people sense.

In 1983-4 the government may be recorded in the accounts as having a poor performance while people <u>feel</u> better off.

Obvious political and intellectual significance.

Why is this?

The Keynesian theory on which national income accounts are based is out of date. So we are trying to formulate a system which more accurately reflects the complexity of life as it is lived -

Special pleading Albert Chirns and  $\frac{1}{2}$  time secretary now 153 people and £15 $\frac{1}{2}$  m.

V/AM

21 February 1980

- In seeking solutions to some of our energy problems, we have to recognise that the ground rules for the nationalised energy producing industries have been established by successive Labour administrations, culminating in the Energy Act of 1976 and the 1978 White Paper on the Nationalised Industries.
- The nationalisation statutes themselves reflect confusion of purpose and objectives, confusion of financial and commercial criteria, and confusion of statutory powers and responsibilities.
- The central question therefore confronting the Group is how relevant are the principles and practices of these nationalised industries to meeting our energy needs and requirements.
- 4. Consider the 1976 Energy Act with its statutory prohibition on development of supply sources independent of the British Gas Corporation and the monopsony powers of BGC in determining the price of gas it buys from North Sea developers and the monopoly rent extracted from use of its distribution system.
- We need coherent pricing policies from our energy nationalised industries which will ensure that energy resources are not misallocated.
- 6. We need to apply to these nationalised industries coherent and consistent financial and investment criteria, and in this context we need to examine relevance of cash limits to energy producing industries.

Continued....

We need to ensure that manufacturing industry are not put 7. at a disadvantage either in terms of price or supply compared with our Common Market competitors. Our task as an advisory Energy Group is to assist the 8. Secretary of State in developing a long-term energy policy consistent with our economic objectives. Eric Sharp ES.LEW. 22.2.80.

Α.

THIS GROUP WAS FORMED IN THE AUTUMN OF 1979 WITH TWO PURPOSES:-

- 1) To Make practical suggestions for the More efficient working of State owned enterprises.
- 2) To examine ways in which Nationalised Industries or parts of them can be returned to the private sector.

ITS EARLY MEETINGS HAVE CONCENTRATED ON EXAMINING, WITH THE HELP OF EXPERTS, HOW TWO NATIONALISED INDUSTRIES (SHIPBUILDING AND SHIPREPAIRING AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY) CAN EITHER BE RETURNED COMPLETELY TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR OR THEIR MONOPOLY POWER BE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED. WE HAVE ALSO DISCUSSED A PAPER ON THE USE AND LIMITATION OF CASH LIMITS AS A MEANS OF CONTROLING STATUTORY MONOPOLIES.

WITH REGARD TO BRITISH SHIPBUILDERS: WE DISCUSSED A PAPER SETTING OUT THE PRESENT POSITION WITH ITS PROSPECT OF EVER GROWING SUBSIDIES. IN RESPONSE TO THIS, THE GROUP CONSIDERED A PLAN FIRSTLY, TO SELL THE FIVE SHIPREPAIR YARDS AT PRESENT OWNED BY BRITISH SHIPBUILDERS TO FOUR DIFFERENT PROSPECTIVE BUYERS WHOM WE WERE ASSURED WERE AVAILABLE. THIS WOULD CUT OUT THE £22 MILLION PAID IN SUBSIDIES LAST YEAR AND RETURN A CAPITAL SUM TO THE TREASURY. SECONDLY WE DISCUSSED THE STREAMLINING OF THE SHIPBUILDING SIDE INTO FOUR REGIONS WHICH WOULD, IN EFFECT, COMPETE WITH EACH OTHER. WE CONSIDERED THE PRESENT MONOPOLY HAD LED TO WEAK MARKETING ESPECIALLY IN THE WARSHIP MARKET.

B. WITH REGARD TO THE <u>ELECTRICITY SUPPLY INDUSTRY</u>: THE PAPER WE CONSIDERED SET OUT THE INEFFICIENCIES WHICH WERE OCCURING DUE TO THE MONOPOLY ENJOYED BY CEGB IN <u>GENERATING</u> ELECTRICITY.

#### POLICY PROPOSALS INCLUDE:

- 1. SPLITTING THE CEGB INTO AUTONOMOUS AREA BOARDS WHICH WAS-ORIGINALLY PROPOSED TO THE PLOWDEN COMMITTEE.
- 2. MINISTERIAL CONTROL OVER INVESTMENT SHOULD END

  AND THE INDUSTRY HAVE ACCESS TO CAPITAL MARKETS.

  THE HERBERT COMMITTEE BACK IN 1958 WAS RECOMMENDING
  THIS.
- 3. CHOICE AND SOURCE OF FUELS SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE GENERATING BOARDS AND NOT DISTORTED BY SUBSIDIES OR TAX.
- 4. CHOICE OF TYPE OF PLANT SHOULD ALSO BE ALLOWED.
- 5. DESIGN OF PLANTS SHOULD BE INDEPENDENT OF THE PRODUCER.
- C. THE PAPER ON <u>Cash limits</u> for external financing of the <u>MationaliseD</u>

  INDUSTRIES SUGGESTED THAT THESE LIMITS SHOULD BE USED FOR TWO PURPOSES:
  - A) TO HELP REDUCE PUBLIC SPENDING
  - B) To HELP WITH FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE

THE OVERALL 1980-1981 FIGURE/ FOR 17 NATIONALISED INDUSTRIES IS £2.6

BILLION. THIS IS 15.5% UP ON 1979/1980 AND WAS CONSIDERED BY THE GROUP

TO BE TOO GENEROUS ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO THE ENERGY INDUSTRIES. WITHIN

THIS FIGURE TWO INDIVIDUAL TARGETS ARE LIKELY TO BE OVERSHOT - THOSE OF BRITISH SHIPBUILDERS AND BRITISH STEEL BECAUSE OF THEIR LARGER THAN EXPECTED LOSSES.

A MONOPOLY CAN ALWAYS AVOID COMMERCIAL DISCIPLINE GENERATED BY
THE MARKET PLACE AND ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE TARGETS ARE THEREFORE
NEEDED WHERE NO COMPETITION EXISTS. WE CONSIDERED FIVE RATIOS WHICH
COULD BE INTRODUCED AT ONCE AND REPORTED UPON ANNUALLY. THEY WOULD,
WE BELIEVE, ADD SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE EFFICIENCY OF THOSE NATIONALISED
INDUSTRIES CONCERNED. WHERE A NATIONALISED INDUSTRY IS IN DIRECT
COMPETITION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE POLICY SHOULD BE TO HAVE AS
LITTLE INTERFERENCE WITH DECISIONS AS POSSIBLE.

So much for our work up to now. We are at present evaluating the work already done in opposition by the study group convened by the Conservative Research Department and are commissioning papers on:

- . ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF FINANCING NATIONALISED INDUSTRIES.
- . Ways of returning nationalised industries

  To the PRIVATE SECTOR.
- . OPTIONS FOR PARTIAL DENATIONALISATION.
- . PAPERS ON SPECIFIC INDUSTRIES.