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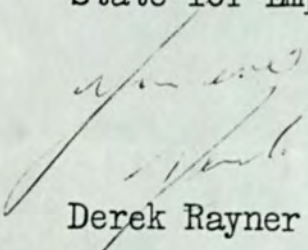
70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01- 233 8224

17 March 1981

The Rt Hon Francis Pym MC MP

SCRUTINY OF THE PAYMENT OF BENEFITS TO THE UNEMPLOYED

1. May I offer one thought in connection with getting appropriate legislative measures to secure the large savings of which Patrick Jenkin spoke in his letter to you of 6 March and on which you commented in your reply of 13 March?
2. It is just that in my view Ministers and officials who put a lot of effort into the analysis and consultation involved in getting such savings deserve very sympathetic support and consideration with regard to legislative machinery, should it be needed. If the idea gained currency that savings reliant on legislation were less graspable than others which were not, I suspect that some of the steam would go out of the Government's drive for administrative reform.
3. I am copying this to the Prime Minister, Home Secretary, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord President and Secretaries of State for Employment and Social Services.


Derek Rayner

18 MAR 1984

LABORATORY