



CABINET OFFICE

From the Minister without Portfolio

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The Rt Hon Lord Young of Graffham

Rt Hon Leon Brittan QC MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
Home Office
Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9AT

3 December 1984

Re Leon,

*W
4th*

COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE SHOPS ACTS

I have now seen a copy of your letter of 16 November to Willie Whitelaw about the Auld Report. *with request if required*

I think the subject matter of the report is clearly relevant to my interest in deregulation, and I would therefore be grateful for the opportunity to join H Committee when this is discussed. I have no wish to prejudge your paper or the discussion, but I would nonetheless like to say how welcome it is to find a Committee of Inquiry ready to argue the case for the full-scale removal of restrictions.

As regards the role of Wages Councils, I, like Nigel Lawson, find the Committee's case less than compelling, and I agree with his view that we should, if possible, isolate the issue from the others addressed by the report. I very much doubt whether we should be acceding to arguments for strengthening the hand of Wages Councils; rather the reverse.

Copies of this letter go to the recipients of yours.

*Leon
Lawson*