

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

S.M.2.

LIAISON COMMITTEE

Tuesday 12 February 1985

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence: Mr John Gummer (in North of England)
2. Mr Ingham's programme of forthcoming events

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

THE NEXT FORTNIGHT

The main events over the next 2 weeks are:

- Ponting, and the implications (debate, February 18)
- Coal strike - is the end yet in sight?
- Transport Bill 2nd Reading (tonight) *5amp Lt.*
- 'Phone tapping Bill published (Thursday, February 14)
- Spring Supplementary Estimates (Thursday, February 14)
- Prime Minister's visit to Washington DC (Meeting with President Reagan; address joint committee of House of Representatives - February 20)
- Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein, in Washington DC (at same time as the Prime Minister)
- Cardinal Glemp, Polish primate, visits UK (February 21-March 3)
- Viscount Tonypandy's book published (February 21)
- Index of Retail Prices (Friday, February 22)

Longer term issues between now and Easter:

- VE Day commemoration announcement
- Arms control negotiations
- Budget (March 19)
- Review of labour market policy, job support and enterprise culture
- Pay settlements
- DHSS reviews of Supplementary Benefit, housing benefit-children and young people's benefits and pensions
- prescription and dental charges
- settlement of restricted list of drugs supplied under NHS
- rate capping; GLC/MCC abolition
- White Paper on home improvement grants
- Urban programme allocation
- Heathrow/Stansted/airports policy
- BBC licence fee

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BERNARD INGHAM

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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FEBRUARY

12

European Parliament (all week)

NACODS executive meets

EC Political Co-operation Ministerial, Rome

First Session Belize/Guatemala talks open, New York

UN Secretary-General visits Australia (to February 15)

President Kaunda visits Greece (for 3 days)

Civil Servants lobby Parliament over closure of Skillcentres

Home Office media seminar on drugs

Universities' recurrent grant for 1985-86 announcement

Commission for Racial Equality report - operation of immigration control

NFU annual meeting

Pay negotiations: Further Education teachers in England and Wales

Second Reading, Buses Bill

Civil Aviation Bill, Committee Stage

10-minute Rule Bill - Independent complaints procedure against solicitors

Building Societies' monthly figures

Mr Heseltine visits British Aerospace, Woodford; later addresses London Business School

Mr Walker at press launch of Milton Keynes Energy Park

John Patten gives press conference on misuse of drugs

13

The Queen visits 'The Golden Age of Anglo-Saxon Art' exhibition, British Museum

Prime Minister attends National Union Executive Committee Dinner; makes presentations to winners of Hansard Society 40th Anniversary nationwide school radio competition

South Wales NUM delegate conference

Representation of the People Bill, Committee Stage, Commons

EC Dooge Committee, Brussels (to February 14)

Henley, Forecasting Centre conference on exchange rates

Adjournment debate on heating allowances in severe weather

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

FEBRUARY

13 (Cont'd)

Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on Ford restriction of licences to manufacture or sell replacement body parts.
Lords debate on public and professional anxieties about NHS and changes in the social security system

Home Secretary speaks at Queen Mary's College

Mr Heseltine in Glasgow University debate 'This House regrets the absence of greatness in politics'

Sir Keith Joseph opens Birmingham Headteachers' Association conference

Mr Jenkin addresses British Institute of Management dinner

Mr Younger meets Countryside Commission

Mr Ridley addresses Bus and Coach Council annual dinner

14

Prime Minister meets Signor Craxi

Representation of the People Bill, Committee Stage, Commons

Adjournment debate on British air transport policy

Ian Botham appears Scunthorpe on drugs charges

'Phone tapping bill published

'Politics and Power' conference, Central Hall

GMC meets on prescribing pill to girls under 16

Car and Commercial vehicle production (January)

Spring Supplementary Estimates

Defence Votes A, 1985/86

Pay negotiations: National Bus Co staff; Federation of London Bank Employers

Home Secretary at Press Association lunch

Mr Jenkin attends NFU dinner, House of Commons

BBC TV 1 "Question Time" with John Selwyn Gummer, George Robinson, Audrey Slaughter, Dipak Nandy

15

Prime Minister meets Spanish Defence Minister

Enoch Powell's Unborn Children (Protection) Bill 2nd Reading

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

FEBRUARY

- 15 (Cont'd) TUC youth conference, London
Prison Reform Trust report on 'Working their Time'
Home Secretary addresses Beaconsfield Conservative Association
Lord Young visits Bradford
Mr Heseltine visits British Hovercraft, Isle of Wight
Mr King visits Cheshire
Mr Walker speaks at the Joint Services Defence College, Greenwich; later Newspaper Conference lunch
Lord Gowrie at re-opening of Atkinson Art Gallery, Liverpool
Mr Younger hosts dinner for Principals of Scottish Universities, Edinburgh
BBC Radio 4 "Any Questions?" with Sir Clive Sinclair, Jonathan Porrit, Professor Richard Gregory, Jean Denton
- 16 Home Secretary begins visit to Italy (to 19 February)
Wales v England, Cardiff, and France v Scotland, Paris
- 17 CBS (US TV) broadcasts interview with Prime Minister
Commons Agriculture Select Committee begins visit to Spain and Portugal (to February 23)
No smoking ban on London underground stations introduced
- 18 EC Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels (to 19 February)
Completion of final phase of Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon
People's Europe Committee, Brussels (to February 19)
Mr Hurd appears on TV South "Questions" programme
BBC "Panorama" programme features AEW Nimrod
Mrs Fenner visits Moscow for Agro-industrial exhibition (to February 22)

FEBRUARY

- 19 Prime Minister departs for USA with Foreign and Defence Secretaries
- Peter Rees speaks at London School of Economics
- 20 "No Smoking Day"
- Prime Minister talks with President Reagan; addresses joint meeting of House of Representatives, Washington
- Three Local Authorities sue Department of the Environment
- Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein in Washington at invitation of ten Congressmen
- Len Murray introduced to Lords
- Average earnings; Capital expenditure (4th Q)
- Boundary Commission Report (England)
- Mr Jenkin addresses British Property Federation/National Association of Pensions Funds property conference
- 21 The Queen hosts reception for winners of Queen's Awards for Export and Technology
- Prime Minister in USA
- 11 Welsh miners before court on charges of criminal damage and endangering life
- Cardinal Glemp begins visit to United Kingdom (to March 3)
- Viscount Tonypany's Book "George Thomas, Mr Speaker" published
- Tom King on BBC-TV Question Time
- Mr Ridley Association of Consulting Engineers' dinner
- 22 Prime Minister returns from USA
- 2nd Reading, Copyright (Computer Software) (Amendment) Bill
- Retail prices index
- Overseas trade figures
- Sales and orders in engineering industries (November)

FEBRUARY

- 22 (Cont'd) Home Secretary visits Ackrill Newspapers, Harrogate
- Mr Jenkin visits the North East; addresses Kirklees and Wakefield Chamber of Commerce annual dinner, Leeds
- Mr Ridley meets local authority representatives on bus policy, Bristol
- 23 Soviet Army Day (Public Holiday USSR)
- 24 Caribbean Commonwealth leaders meet, Jamaica (to February 26)
- Group from Irish Forum, San Francisco, visit Ireland (to March 4)
- 25 EC Foreign Affairs and Agriculture Councils, Brussels (to February 26)
- National Assembly Elections, Pakistan
- First Session of newly elected Parliament, Singapore
- Dr David Owen presents British Association of Industrial Editors 'Communicator of the Year' awards
- 26 Prince of Wales addresses the Institute of Directors' annual convention, London
- Wakefield hospital food poisoning inquiry opens
- NAS/NUT teachers' half-day strike

To All Special Advisers

Stuart Sexton
Dept of Education & Science
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7 February 1985

URBAN AID PROGRAMME, TRADITIONAL URBAN PROGRAMME, INNER CITY PARTNERSHIPS

All applications from local authorities for funds under Urban Aid and related programmes go, in the first instance, to the DOE, which then forwards some of them through to the DHSS or DES for projects with which those Departments may be expected to have an interest.

All those coming to the DES are funnelled through myself for vetting, and it is my experience in vetting these for the past 3 years which has caused me to question with the Secretary of State, Sir Keith Joseph, what we are doing and why. Sympathetic to the concerns that I expressed to him, he asked whether I would find out "on my network" what other Departments thought of urban aid and so on.

Accordingly I am sending this note to all Special Advisers asking for an assessment of what views, if any, your Department and your Ministers have on the matters raised below:-

1. There is now a vast number of proposals from practically every authority, I believe about 10 times more than there is money to pay for them. The information provided on each proposal is minimal, hardly sufficient for any civil servant to be able to make an informed judgement. The tendency is thus to accept the order of priority which the local authority has given to them, and to spread the aid reasonably evenly over the perceived deprived parts of the country.

Given that we finish up with a very rough and ready allocation of "extra" money to many authorities with perceived need, has the time not come to scrap the whole system and merely to absorb the money into RSG and distribute it with RSG according to the GRE formula? At present a lot of bureaucracy is required for very little

2. If urban aid, inner city partnership, and so on, are to continue, in spite of my suggestion above, then at least can we not tighten up the rules such that far fewer applications are made, only those the local authority really supports, and such that each application has to have a more thorough description.

3. A very large number of applications in recent times have been to back, with public money, racial and religious minority groups.

To take 2 examples from this year's inner city partnership applications, public funds were requested for:-

- In Haringey
- Cypriot community centre.
- "Walk-in" centre for black people.
- "Drop-in" centre for Turks.
- Irish cultural centre.
- Chinese centre.

And in Berkshire:-

Pakistani community centre Reading.

West Indian community centre Slough.

Hindu temple Slough.

Asian girls' group Slough.

Indian women's centre Slough.

And for good measure the Slough multi-cultural information centre, (I should think they need one after all that!)

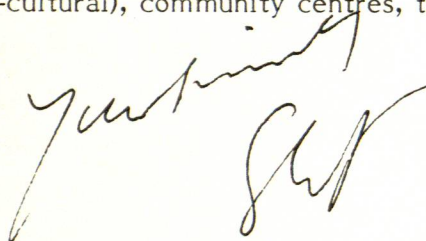
I said no to the lot, and the Secretary of State backed me.

It may well be right to channel public money to teacher "ethnic minorities" the English language; I believe it is, indeed I believe it to be a priority.

I do not believe it is right to spend public money to build and run Sikh temples, Hindu temples or Muslim mosques. We do not do it for minority Christian denominations such as the Quakers or the Spiritulists, nor do I expect us to. Why then does everyone assume we have to build non-Christian temples with public money?

4. In summary:-

- a. Do we need urban aid and the rest at all, anymore?
- b. If so, can we not reduce it to manageable proportions?
- c. Is it right anyway to promote a divided society with public money rather than a united one by funding all the "multi-cultural education" (which is not multi-cultural at all but mono-cultural), community centres, temples, and the rest?



STUART SEXTON