



PRIME MINISTER

FROM THE PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE
AND THE CHIEF WHIP

Contact?

MS

9/7

9 July 1980

Dear Nick,

The Executive of the Independent Unionist Peers have arranged to see the Lord President tomorrow afternoon to discuss House of Lords reform. They are likely to seek the Lord President's approval to set up a small working party to consider the need for a second Chamber. They will hope to make a short report shortly before or immediately after the Labour Party Conference in September.

Since the proposed working party will not be concerned with reform in general but with the dangers inherent in abolition of the Lords, the Lord President is minded to go along with the proposal and offer any necessary assistance from Central Office. He was anxious, however, to obtain the approval of the Prime Minister to this approach.

I apologise for the short notice. The meeting, which was only arranged today, is at 3.30 pm tomorrow, Thursday 10 July. If I have not heard from you before I will, of course, warn the Lord President.

Yours sincerely
Michael Pownall

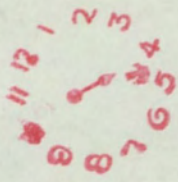
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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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LONDON

Parliament

10 July 1980

Thank you for your letter of 9 July about the proposed meeting between the Lord President and the Executive of the Independent Unionist Peers. The Prime Minister has seen your letter and is entirely content that the Lord President should go ahead as he proposes.

N. J. SANDERS

M.G. Pownall, Esq.,
Government Whips' Office,
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WJ