



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

PRIME MINISTER

TRADE UNION BILL

I may have some difficulty over the meeting of E(A) tomorrow (Thursday) as crucial amendments to the Paving Bill will be taken to a Division in the course of Thursday afternoon.

But if I am prevented from coming, or have to leave the meeting, there are two points I would make:

First I very much agree with the Lord President and the Chief Whip that there would be great difficulty in restoring the Bill to its original form. Many - if not most - of our supporters who voted for us did so out of loyalty rather than conviction.

Second If we proceed with a proposal on the lines I suggested to Tom King, it would be better to avoid the phrase "semi-postal ballot" which suggests "half a loaf". It is in fact a "postal ballot with distribution of ballot papers through the post or at the workplace". If we described it in these terms I would think it would be more acceptable to our own supporters.

I am copying this to the other members of E(A) and to the Secretary of the Cabinet.

A.C.

A C

27 June 1984

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S. G. W. N. I.

