

CONFIDENTIAL AND APPOINTMENTS IN CONFIDENCE

PRIME MINISTER

SCOTTISH TEACHERS' INQUIRY

You may want to have my comments when considering Malcolm Rifkind's proposals about the chairman and members of the Scottish Inquiry.

2. I do not think that we should exclude a retired Lord of Appeal as chairman, because such people have great incisiveness and intellectual capacity to bring to bear on matters of this kind. So if a retired Lord of Appeal is to be further considered then perhaps Lord Roskill should be considered alongside Lord Fraser. While he does not have the Scottish connection I understand that he might drive harder. Certainly he would be more transferable to an England and Wales inquiry, should that prove necessary, than would Lord Fraser. But I accept that his lack of Scottish connection is a substantial disadvantage from Malcolm's point of view.

3. On the other hand I should be very content to see either Sir Donald Maitland or Sir Peter Main appointed as chairman. I believe that either would be eminently suitable for an England and Wales inquiry later. As regards Malcolm's reserve choice, Sir Duncan McDonald, I rather feel that his Northern/Scottish base and the apparent narrowness of his experience (as compared with the other candidates) rather count against him. I would find it difficult to see him as chairman of a follow-on England and Wales inquiry and must counsel against him, on that score alone.

4. So far as the proposed members are concerned, I have no in-depth knowledge to contribute. However, it seems to me that the one-plus-four pattern proposed has advantages - big enough to avoid undue prominence for a minority view, should such emerge, yet small enough to be manageable. As regards the balance, I am not convinced of the case for an academic: some of them might tend to subscribe rather uncritically to present arrangements for organising and managing the profession. Should we consider instead a tough-minded industrial or commercial personnel manager who would be able to contribute usefully about the specification and enforcement of contract?

5. I am sending copies of this minute to Malcolm Rifkind, John MacGregor and Sir Robert Armstrong.

KJ

13 March 1986

Department of Education
and Science

EDUCATION: TEACHERS PAY: PL6.

