

CONFIDENTIAL

4 April 1982

Education

MR SCHOLAR

Prime Minister (2)

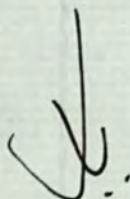
cc Mr Ingham
Mr Mower

Not good,

Mus 4/5

SCOTTISH TEACHERS' PAY

1. You, Bernard and Brian ought to be aware of another possible ingredient for the package of pay announcements on Thursday. I am told that the arbitration award for the Scottish teachers will become available at noon on either Thursday or Friday; and that it will be 6%.
2. The arbitration is not, of course, final, but the Government would need a negative resolution of the House of Commons to override it. It may be possible for Ministers to move fast enough to have an announcement by the Secretary of State for Education accepting the award, on the same afternoon as the other announcements. There is, however, no particular disadvantage in waiting a little.
3. At 6%, this award is a little higher than we would have hoped, given that Scottish further education teachers were awarded only 5.5% at arbitration, and we were hoping that English teachers could be settled well below 6%. But I am sure that Ministers will not want to make a case upon grounds of national economic circumstances for overriding.



JOHN VEREKER

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