THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME

At its final meeting before making its recommendations to Cabinet, QL (minutes attached) discussed the main outstanding issues.

On privatisation there was strong political pressure to include gas privatisation in the programme but resistance on the grounds that policy was still vague and there was no guarantee that the Bill would be ready for introduction before January 1985. The Committee was clearly split between the inclusion of gas and public transport and agreed to offer Cabinet the choice.

The other major debate in the Committee was on the proposal of the Secretary of State for the Environment to transform his Assured Tenants Bill into a Rent Bill to introduce an element of deregulation into private rented housing. Mr. Jenkin is very much in favour of including this Bill in the next Session, but the Committee was sceptical that DOE could handle this Bill as well as the GLC and MCC Bill. I am sure that Patrick Jenkin will return to this in Cabinet.

The Policy Unit have a number of views on the legislative programme. In particular they think that it is over-weighted with relatively uncontroversial Bills, e.g. four Scottish Bills. They favour the Gas Privatisation Bill as well as the Public Transport Bill, rather than in its place. They also have considerable reservations about the Pollution Bill proposed by MAFF.

Agree that I should ask the Policy Unit to provide a brief for the Cabinet discussion of the legislative programme on 1 March?

N

MR FLESHER

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME FOR 1984-85

QL is still only recommending one privatisation Bill in the draft programme it is considering tomorrow. It would be preferable if gas, public transport and civil aviation were all put through in the 1984-85 session. This would necessitate dropping two of the other Bills: the most obvious would be Law Reform (Miscellaneous provisions Scotland) and Family Law

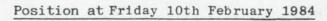
It would be desirable to have the Private Rented Housing Bill as any changes to make the private rented sector work would need several years before the disruption of a General Election to be given a fair chance. This could replace one of the two Treasury Bills in the programme.

(Financial provisions Scotland). This would remove a substantial and medium Bill from the programme and still leave Scotland with

two programme Bills, one medium and one long.

The Pollution Bill proposed by Agriculture is still not an ideal Bill (see David Pascall's previous note on this subject). A general Bill on pollution would be desirable. Two medium Bills Enduring Power of Attorney and Transport Goods Vehicle 'O' Licensing could be dropped and would free more time even though they are uncontroversial.

JOHN REDWOOD





GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

COMMONS PRIMARY

i.	Awaiting Second Reading on the floor	
	Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill (L)	

Thursday 16 February

ii.	Second Reading Committee	Earliest date for referral to Committee	Date of Committee		
	Fosdyke Bridge (L) (Hybrid)	13 February	Wed 22 February		
	Somerset House (L)	13 February	Wed 29 February		
	Foreign Limitation Periods (L)				

iii.	Standing Committee	Start Date
	Police and Criminal Evidence	17 November
	Trade Union	22 November
	London Regional Transport	17 January
	Rating and Valuation (Amendment) (Scotland)	17 January
	Health and Social Security	24 January
	Ordnance Factories and Military Services	26 January
	Rates	26 January
	Data Protection	7 February
	Co-operative Development Agency and Industrial Development	14 February

iv. Awaiting Committee on the Floor

V.	Awaiting	Report	and	Third	Reading
	Merchant	Shippin	ng (1	۲)	
	Occupiers	Liabi	litv	(I.)	

Mon 20 February

COLUMNS SECONDARY LEGISLATION 1) Affirmative Orders laid

Title	Date Required By	Opposition approached re referral to Committee	Date of debate Floor/Committee
Medicines (Cyanogenetic Substances) Order 1983			Wed 8 February Committee 1
Grants to Redundant Churches Fund Order 1984			Wed 8 February Committee 1
Aberdeen and District Milk Marketing Scheme (Application to Banff) Revocation Order 1984		Approach deferred pending laying of	
		associated order.	
Local Loans (Increase of Limit) Order 1984			Wed 15 February Committee
Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income) (Sweden) Order 1984			Floor?
Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income) (Luxembourg) Order 1984			Floor?
Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income (New Zealand) Order 1984			Floor
Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income) (Falkland Islands) Order 1984			Floor
Agricultural (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1984			
Air Navigation (Noise Certification) Order 1984			Floor
Public Records (Commission for the New Towns) Order 1984			Floor?
Public Records (British Railways Board) Order 1984		,	Floor?
Supplementary Benefit (Requirements) Amendment Regulations 1984 2			Tues 14 February Floor
Motor Vehicles (Variation of Speed Limits) Regulations 1984			Floor
Carriage by Air Acts			

^{1.} Awaiting referral to the floor

(Application of Provisions)(Overseas Territories)(Amendment)Order 1984

^{2.} To be associated with 4 prayers, see EDMs 459,460,476 and 477.

COMMONS SECONDARY LEGISLATION

ii. NE GATI VE Annulment

EDM	Title	Party praying	Expiry of praying time	Date for debate Ctte/ Floor
439	Motor Vehicles (Dim-Dip Lighting Devices) Regulations 1983 (S.I. 1983 No.1859)	Lib	18 Feb	
441	Scented Erasers (Safety) Order 1984 (S.I. 1984, No. 83)	Con	18 Feb	
459	Housing Benefits Amendment Regulations 1984	Lab	16 Mar	Tues 14 February Floor
460	Housing Benefits Amendment (No.2) Regulations 1984	Lab	16 Mar	Tues 14 February Floor
476	Local Government (S.I. 1984, No.110)	Lab	18 Mar	Tues 14 February Floor
477	Local Government (S.I. 1984, No. 111)	Lab	18 Mar	Tues 14 February Floor

Revocation

LORDS PRIMARY

Agricultural Holdings (L) Animal Health and Welfare (L) Cable and Broadcasting (L) County Courts (L) Education (Grants and Awards) Foster Children (Scotland) (L) Housing and Building Control Inshore Fishing (Scotland) (L) Mental Health (Scotland) (L) Prevention of Terrorism Registered Homes (L) Repatriation of Prisoners (L) Roads (Scotland) (L) Telecommunications Tenants' Rights, Etc. (Scotland) (Amendment) Town and Country Planning

Third Readings planned for week beginning Monday 13 February 1984
Tourism (Overseas Promotion) (Scotland) (L) 13 February

Third Readings planned for week beginning Monday 20 February 1984

GOVERNMENT PRIMARY LEGISLATION

1. Awaiting Royal Assent

					DATE			9
TITLE	1717				41	40 hu	Tanda	26/1/84
Restrictive Tra	de Practices	(Stock	Exchange)		Agreeu	to by	LOTUB	211/1/01
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11. Received Royal Assent

my my 12	DATE
TITLE	26/7/83
Car Tax (Lords)	26/7/83
Companies (Beneficial Interests)	26/7/83
Consolidated Fund (Appropriation)	26/7/83
Finance	26/7/83
International Monetary Arrangements	
Local Authorities (Expenditure Powers)	26/7/83
Medical	26/7/83
Value Added Tax	26/7/83
Oil Taxation	1/12/83
British Shipbuilders (Borrowing Powers)	21/12/83
	21/12/83
Coal Industry	. 21/12/83
Consolidated Fund	21/12/83
Petroleum Royalties (Relief)	