



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG  
01-233 3000

5 June 1984

The Rt. Hon. Tom King MP  
Secretary of State for Employment

*Tom King*

**EC LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL:  
DRAFT RECOMMENDATION ON THE REDUCTION AND  
REORGANISATION OF WORKING TIME**

I have seen a copy of your letter of 31 May to Geoffrey Howe. I have also seen Andrew Turnbull's and Norman Tebbit's letters of 4 June. *attached with AT?*

I agree that we should not accept this recommendation, even with the amendments which you will try to negotiate. The thrust and tone of the recommendation run counter to what we have said consistently since 1979 about pay negotiators' objectives. Although I appreciate you plan to take steps to limit the damage which subscribing to such a recommendation would cause in future pay negotiations, I fear the damage would remain, particularly in the public sector.

Although isolation is always uncomfortable, I do not believe we should shy away from it where there are sound reasons for resisting EC proposals. And there is no link between the refund regulations which govern how our budget refund will be paid, and this Council recommendation.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister, Geoffrey Howe, Norman Tebbit, Michael Jopling, Michael Havers, Malcolm Rifkind and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

NIGEL LAWSON

*Nigel Lawson*

05 JUN 1984

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