

Mr. Jenkin is planning at present to publish the Bill on Friday. The problem is that the Bill cannot be introduced and therefore published until after the Business Statement and there would not be time for Mr. Jenkin to give a press conference and do television interviews before the 5 p.m. meeting. He does not want Mr. Baker to do all the television. You may like to raise with Mr. Jenkin. We could try

- 1. MR BUTLER
- 2. PRIME MINISTER

BILLS

We are in danger of doing ourselves no good presentationally in connection with the publication of the Local Government Abolition and the Representation of the People bills.

move the meeting with Sir J. Sainsbury to 1730.

There is a clear risk that the two will be published on Friday, November 23. Friday is a bad day in any case because there is limited room in Saturday newspapers.

FEBB
14.11.

I am not particularly concerned to secure publicity for the Representation of the People Bill. Its provisions are pretty well known and it is acceptable to publish it on a Friday.

It is not, however, acceptable to publish the GLC/MCC Abolition Bill on a Friday. This is throwing away an opportunity to maximise publicity for a decisive act of government which is to rid the public of spendthrift and largely useless local authorities.

We need therefore to ensure that the Abolition Bill is published on Thursday, November 22 no later than 4.30pm.

So far as I can see the only obstacle in the way of this is that you have a meeting at ⁵4pm on Thursday, November 22 with Patrick Jenkin. This is described as immovable and as such would prevent a publicity exercise to launch the Bill with a press conference at 4.30pm.

It is the meeting with Sir John Sainsbury and his group.

Agree that the Department of the Environment publish, with a press conference, no later than 4.30pm, and that your meeting with Mr Jenkin is rearranged?

BERNARD INGHAM
14 November 1984

NBPM



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

15 November 1984

Dear Robin,

The Lord President has seen Mr Ingham's minute of 14 November to you and the Prime Minister suggesting that the Local Government Bill should be published on Thursday 22 November rather than on the following Friday.

The Lord President strongly supports Mr Ingham's views and has commented that it would be highly undesirable to publish the main Bill of the Session on a Friday.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Bernard Ingham.

*Yours sincerely,
Janet Lewis-Jones*

JANET A LEWIS-JONES
Private Secretary

F E R Butler Esq

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PRIVATE COMMITTEE OFFICE

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