

E.R.

CCB/WP

PRIME MINISTER

The only substantial item which the Lord President wishes to raise with you is the progress of the legislative programme.

Under this heading you might:

- (i) congratulate him upon the splendid victory in the Lords yesterday when the Peers voted by a majority of 73 to retain intact an important provision concerning extradition in the Criminal Justice Bill. It had been thought that the Government would be in difficulties in the vote on this clause;
  
- (ii) enquire about Lord Whitelaw's plans for taking the three flagship bills through the House of Lords. Presumably Lord Belstead will play a major role in piloting through the Housing and Community Charge Bills. It is thought that Lady Hooper, as PUSS at DES, will be in charge of the Education Bill. You might ask Lord Whitelaw whether Lady Hooper, good as she is, can cope with this demanding task in view of the likely opposition, not so much from the Opposition front bench but by the powerful vested interests of the churches, the universities etc. Is there any possibility of strengthening his team for steering the Education Bill through the Lords?

N.L.W.

N.L. WICKS

18 November 1987

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