

PRIME MINISTER

Ind Pol.

NEB Chairmanship

The media coverage of Sir Arthur Knight's resignation, as you will have seen, has so far not been too bad. However, Sir Keith believes that he now needs to make a statement as soon as possible. He will be speaking in the second reading debate on the Industry Bill on Monday afternoon, and provided by then he has established that the other NEB Board members will go along with having Sir John King as acting Chairman, he proposes to announce in his speech that Sir John will take over temporarily.

I have told Industry that I am sure you will be content with this. But I thought I should mention it to you. Content?

Yes excellent.

As a matter of formality, I am also ensuring that CSD are aware of what is going on.

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S.J. Pike

pp TIM LANKESTER

Tola Ellison (Dor)

29 November 1980

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CHARLTON END
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28th Nov 1980

Dear Keith

Peter Casey will have told you of our conversation on Tuesday of this week when I said that, for personal reasons, I wish to give up the N.E.B. chairmanship as soon as convenient - preferably by the end of the year but continuing till the end of February if this will help.

We agreed to keep this confidential whilst Peter looks at possible succession arrangements. I have told my Bowd colleagues in confidence

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I will write formally later.

Yours

Arthur Knight