

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Butler's

PRIME MINISTER

Now finally
set for 16/9.
11.30 → mid
afternoon

SEMINAR ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY EXPENDITURE

see Goodwin's

This minute is to clear with you the lines on which we are arranging the seminar on health and social security policy for this Parliament. These are set out in Sir Kenneth Stowe's letter (attached), with which the Treasury are broadly content.

informed
about

X
A

Sir Kenneth Stowe is sending over the material which would have been presented to you orally about the structure of the social security system, so that you can read it on holiday.

I suggest that we have the seminar on Friday 16 September at 10 Downing Street, starting at, say, 10.30 in the morning and continuing after lunch if necessary. If you agree, we will lay on a buffet lunch.

X

The purpose of the seminar would be to identify a framework of policy objectives for DHSS programmes during this Parliament, taking account of the Government's other objectives for the economy, public expenditure, and incentives; and to identify particular subjects on which we might encourage academics and experts in the field to stimulate public debate in support of the Government's policies.

The attendance should be as limited as possible. I suggest the Secretary of State for Social Services, and perhaps his two Ministers of State, Sir Kenneth Stowe and one other DHSS official; the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Chief Secretary, accompanied by Mr. Middleton, Mr. Bailey and one other Treasury official; and Sir Robert Armstrong. From here, we would have Sir Alan Walters (if he is about), Mr. Mount, Mr. Scholar and myself.

Watson

We could add to this one or two very reliable academics, but we have not been able to think of anybody who is both expert and reliable over the whole field, and our feeling is that it might be better to bring in the academics at the stage when we have identified subjects on which to commission research. You asked me to remind you about inquiring the names of suitable academics from the Centre for Policy Studies: Mr. Fowler is consulting Sir Keith Joseph and Lord Harris.

/Sir Kenneth

Sir Kenneth Stowe and Mr. Bailey are arranging an annotated agenda (access to which will be confined to a couple of officials in the DHSS apart from Sir Kenneth Stowe himself). Sir Kenneth envisages that it might cover four broad categories which would provide the agenda for the meeting:-

1. The unemployed - what should the aims of social security be, at what cost and with what effects on incentives, poverty and administration?
2. The elderly - the demographic prospect, the present and future cost of pensions and of health and community care.
3. The sick, disabled and physically/mentally handicapped, current trends and costs covering both benefits and health and hospital community care.
4. The working population and their families - their contributions to benefits and services through National Insurance and taxation and their cash benefits and services.

Are you content that we should be setting up a seminar on Friday 16 September on these broad lines?

F.R.B.

3 August 1983

Tim/Willie

PRIME MINISTER

SEMINAR ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY EXPENDITURE

I dictated this minute after confirming with Mr Bailey that the Treasury were content with the proposals in Sir K. Stowe's letter of 2 August. Could you please carry forward the arrangements with DHSC and Treasury when we have the PM's reaction.

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Feb

3.8.

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AEB

3 August 1983