

PRIME MINISTER

CHEQUERS SEMINAR ON EMPLOYMENT: 6 & 7 SEPTEMBER

I attach the papers for next week's seminar. They are listed - all 22 of them - at Flag A. The agenda you approved this afternoon is at Flag B, together with Peter Gregson's handling brief (Flag C) and Ferdie Mount's comments (Flag D).

Those present will be:

Chancellor of the Exchequer
Secretaries of State for Education & Science
Energy
Environment
Employment
Trade & Industry

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
David Young
Sir R. Armstrong
Sir A. Walters
Ferdie Mount

Michael Alison

Should we start at, say, 1000 hours on Tuesday and go on until lunch; recommence after lunch and aim to finish between 1700 and 1800 hours? This would give people time to get home at a reasonable hour so that we can start again at 1000 on Wednesday. The Wednesday session might end after lunch (please see Peter Gregson's suggestions about how long the whole discussion might take), or again at 1700-1800 hours if we needed the whole day. Is this the kind of arrangement you have in mind?

Agree the attached seating plan for the lunches? *Yes not*

MCS

Michael Alison will also be attending.

2 September 1983

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DRAFT SEATING PLAN FOR LUNCHES AT CHEQUERS ON 6 AND 7 SEPTEMBER

Mr. Ferdie Mount

Mr. Robin Butler

Mr. David Young

Rt. Hon. Cecil Parkinson

Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit

Rt. Hon. Sir Keith Joseph

Rt. Hon. Nigel Lawson

PRIME MINISTER

Rt. Hon. Patrick Jenkin

Rt. Hon. Peter Walker

Sir Alan Walters

Rt. Hon. Lord Cockfield

Sir Robert Armstrong

Mr. Michael Scholar

Michael Scholar

ENTRANCE



FILE

135

RW

10 DOWNING STREET

2 September, 1983

From the Private Secretary

I attach, as promised, an agenda, approved by the Prime Minister, for the Chequers Employment Seminar on 6 and 7 September.

I would be grateful if you would guard its confidentiality in the usual way. I am writing similarly to the Principal Private Secretaries of the other participants at the Seminar.

M. G. SCHOLAR

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Identical letters sent to:-

- J. West, D/N
- Sir David Young, MSC
- A Galloway, CDL
- Mrs I Wilde, DES
- J. Ballard, D/E
- B. Shaw, D/M
- J. Spencer, DTI

J. Kew, HMI

MR HOWE
MR WALTERS

R. Hatfield, Esq.,

Cabinet Office

A

HM TREASURY

1. Regional Economic Policy: Redeployment of Resources
2. Public Expenditure and Employment
3. Opening up the Public Sector to Market Forces
4. "Passport for a Job" and Help for Those Starting up in Self-Employment
5. Portable Pensions
6. Employment in the United States
7. The Private Rented Sector
8. The Taxation System and Employment
21. Capping Benefits to the Unemployed

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT

9. Further Options to reduce Trade Union Power
10. Reducing Barriers to Employment
11. A general note on the Labour Market

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

12. Giving Workers and Managers the Skills and Enterprising Approach they require

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

13. Housing and Labour Mobility

MANPOWER SERVICES COMMISSION

14. A Minister for Policy?

CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER

15. Strategy for Unemployment -
16. A Passport for a Job -
17. A Scheme to help those starting up as Self-Employed -
22. The Nature of the Problem we face

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

18. Restrictions on Wealth Creation
19. Encouraging Growth

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY

Paper No.20

B

CHEQUERS SEMINAR ON EMPLOYMENT: 6 and 7 SEPTEMBER

A G E N D A

(Note: The questions listed below are intended as illustrative starting points for each discussion. They are not designed to limit the scope of the discussion in any way.)

* * * * *

1. INDUSTRIAL POLICY

- a. What taxation changes are needed to stimulate enterprise throughout the economy?

Paper 8 by the Chancellor of the Exchequer
(paragraphs 2 to 8)

Papers 18 (Section V) and 19 (paragraph 25)
by the Secretary of State for Trade and
Industry

Papers 15 (paragraphs 5 to 7) and
22 by the Chancellor of the Duchy of
Lancaster

- b. What can the Government do to assist the improvement of industrial performance, including better exploitation of new technology?

Paper 19 by the Secretary of State for Trade
and Industry

Paper 20 by the Secretary of State for Energy

(Papers 2 and 6 by the Chancellor of the
Exchequer are also relevant)

/ c.

- c. Can the resources currently devoted to regional policy be better deployed?

Paper 1 by the Chancellor of the Exchequer

(Paper 19 by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and

Paper 14 by the Chairman of the Manpower Services Commission are also relevant)

- d. What new policies, in addition to any general tax changes, are needed to encourage small firms and the self-employed?

Paper 8 by the Chancellor of the Exchequer (paragraphs 9 to 14)

Paper 18 by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Section VIII)

Paper 17 by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, together with

Paper 4 (paragraphs 9 to 16) by the Chancellor of the Exchequer

(Paper 14 by the Chairman of the Manpower Services Commission is also relevant)

- e. How can we further reduce the legislative and administrative burdens - including the constraints imposed by the planning system - on industry?

Paper 18 by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Section VI)

2. THE LABOUR MARKET

- a. What changes should be made, in trade union law and otherwise, to reduce trade union power to obstruct change, reduce labour mobility and generally damage employment prospects?

Paper 9 by the Secretary of State for Employment

- b. What changes are needed to reduce barriers to employment arising from employment protection legislation and the remaining statutory pay determination mechanisms (e.g. Wages Councils)?

Paper 10 by the Secretary of State for Employment

- c. What scope is there for schemes designed to bring wages to market-clearing levels, e.g. by

- (i) capping unemployment benefit

Paper 21 by the Chancellor of the Exchequer

or

- (ii) extending the Young Workers' Scheme to cover adults?

Paper 2 (paragraph 2) by the Chancellor of the Exchequer

- d. Should we take further measures specifically to encourage youth employment?

Paper 16 by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, together with
Paper 4 (paragraphs 2 to 8) by the Chancellor of the Exchequer

- e. Should the Government seek changes in pensions schemes, for example wider pension portability, to encourage greater labour mobility?

Paper 5 by the Chancellor of the Exchequer

(Paper 15 by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (paragraph 8) is also relevant)

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- f. What further changes in housing policy are needed to improve labour mobility?

Paper 13 by the Secretary of State for the Environment

Paper 7 by the Chancellor of the Exchequer

3. HOW CAN WE FURTHER OPEN UP THE PUBLIC SECTOR TO MARKET FORCES?

Paper 3 by the Chancellor of the Exchequer

(Paper 18, Section IV, by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and Paper 14 by the Chairman of the Manpower Services Commission are also relevant)

4. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

How can the efforts of schools, higher education, the MSC and industry be better deployed to give workers and managers the skills and enterprising approach they require?

Paper 12 by the Secretary of State for Education and Science

(Paper 15 by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Paper 11 by the Secretary of State for Employment and Paper 19, paragraph 23, by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry are also relevant)

5. CONCLUSIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

(iv) limit overall scale
of regional aid.

It is envisaged that these proposals could save £150m a year from 1986 onwards.

(b) Seek to discourage regional
better-your-neighbour
activities.

Mr. Tebbit trying to resolve with Territorial Ministers.

(c) Review Urban Programme as
complement to regional
policy.

Department of Environment is organising a two-year research effort to explore 'effectiveness' of urban programme.

Surely we could ask for a much earlier report (?June) since these projects are almost all supposed to be under constant DoE review.

6. Small Firms Policies

(a) Review and reduce number
and variety of schemes for
encouraging small busi-
nesses.

DTI Official Working Group to report in January. You'll probably need a further meeting to sort this out.

(b) Extend enterprise allowance
beyond unemployed - TK

DEm survey on effectiveness of scheme will be ready early next year.