

010

Dr Schuler

✓ No. 10



Prime Minister (2)

Private Secretary to Secretary of State MUS 26/1
for the Environment

Michael

Here is the Press
Notice we issued today.

The King has also given
interviews to BBC (radio
+ TV), ITN, and IRN.

All channels, newspapers,
radio stations have been
called and offered interviews
if desired.

David

26.1.83

Press Notice

27

26 January 1983

WATER DISPUTE

TOM KING URGES WATER WORKERS TO ACT RESPONSIBLY

Tom King, Secretary of State for the Environment, today urged water workers to go back to work in order to avoid further damaging effects through continuation of their strike.

Tom King said:-

"I very much hope that the water workers will accept the offer that has been made. This offer is based on the mediator's recommendation and arrived at after the most intensive discussion. It represents an immediate increase of 7.8% or £10 on present average earnings of £136 per week, at a time when the rate of inflation is down to 5.4% and when so many of their customers may only get very small increases. Furthermore, that increase would be backdated to 5 December.

I believe that the offer that has been made is one that should be accepted. I certainly believe that in the light of this level of offer, which people will consider to be fair, there can be no justification for continuing the disruption and distress which is being experienced in some areas.

Despite the difficulties, the water authorities are succeeding in keeping supplies going almost everywhere and in limiting the consequence of burst pipes and failure of treatment. Nevertheless, the continuing distress and inconvenience which these failures can cause to industry, to the public at large, in particular the old and the sick, must quickly be brought to an end."

Press Enquiries: 01-212 4682/3/5/6
Night Calls (6.30-8.00am)
Weekends and Holidays: 01-212 7071

Public Enquiries: 01-212 3434; ask
for Public Enquiry Unit

D - pl check: is this the whole of the interview?
Yes.

BREAKFAST TV - 26 JANUARY 1983

INTERVIEW WITH MR TOM KING

Announcer: The Government's decision to stay out of the dispute was explained by Tom King, the new Environment Secretary. He told John Sargent that using troops remains the last resort.

Mr King: The Water Authorities are seeking to maintain services, in the main they are doing extremely well. I have to say that for some people they are not able to maintain services and for some people there is at the moment very real hardship and very real difficulties.

Mr Sargent: And I hope that everybody can relieve the hardships that we are hearing about now.

Mr King: There is a problem about the use of troops because there is concern as to whether it changes the nature of the dispute and whether it causes more problems at this time. But at this stage, and make quite clear, we shall not impose the use of troops, we shall wait until the Water Authorities make clear to us that there are problems which they are not able to meet and in which they judge that the use of additional help whether in the form of troops will be the sensible way to proceed.

~~u Mr. Schuler ✓
u Mr Mount
u byham. (P)~~

Not my idea of a hard-hitting interview. Why get up early just to say this?

W.
27/1