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9 March 1983

MS

D. Wallace,

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1983/84

Thank you for your letter of 2 March about the preliminary view that QL Committee took of my bids for the legislative programme 1983/84. I will, as invited, attend the meeting on 14 March.

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I must press for a Trade Union Bill to be included in the programme for a session starting in October or November if there has been no Election by then. Although I accept that the most controversial aspect of the current Green Paper on Democracy in Trade Unions, political funding, would have to be left over to a post-Election session because of the likely reaction of the Official Opposition, we should bring forward a Bill dealing with, at the very least, elections in trade unions. I see clear electoral advantages in such an approach, and I am reluctant to lose the momentum of union reform by a delay of a year or more between the current Green Paper and legislation.

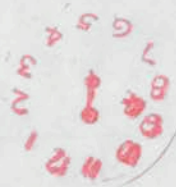
I must press also for a Bill to repeal the Dock Work Regulation Act 1976 to be included in the programme for the first session after an election. We should not now close off the option of making this very sensitive change at what may prove to be the optimum time. The Bill would be only three clauses long.

I accept that my bids for a Protection of Wages Bill and a Charging for Work Permits Bill will have to wait.

I am copying this to Members of QL and E Committees, First Parliamentary Counsel and Sir Robert Armstrong.

[Handwritten signature]

Pam: Leg Prog Pt 10



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