

SUBJECT CC MASTER

SECRET AND PERSONAL

SWH

File



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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

9 February 1987

Joan

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

The Prime Minister discussed with the Lord President and the Lord Privy Seal this morning their minute of 6 February about the Local Government Bill. The Chancellor of the Duchy and the Chief Whip were present.

It was agreed that the Bill should be pruned as proposed in the minute, though the provisions listed in points 3-7 in the annex should if possible be retained. The public explanation for pruning the Bill would be that it was a difficult and complicated measure involving complex drafting which would have a chance of being passed this current Session only if the complex items, on local authority public contract conditions and competition, were dropped. It could be made clear to Government backbenchers, disappointed with the dropping of these provisions, that the worst possible course for the Government would have been to have brought forward the controversial clauses and for it to be found that they were not right.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Steven Wood (Lord Privy Seal's Office), Andrew Lansley (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office), and Robin Young (Department of the Environment).

Nigel Wicks

N L WICKS

Miss Joan MacNaughton,
Lord President's Office

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