

CC/BG



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Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

6 April 1987

The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd MP
Secretary of State for the Home Dept
Home Office
50 Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON
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NBM

Handwritten signature: Doug Hurd

BROADCASTING BILL - INDEPENDENT PRODUCERS

at-tras

I have seen Nigel Lawson's letter to you of 26 March.

I share Nigel's concern about the slow progress of discussions between the broadcasters and the independent producers, and the low percentage of airtime which the BBC and IBA have offered so far. When we considered the Peacock proposal at MISC 128 on 30 October we agreed that the fastest possible time-table should be followed. While I recognize that a 25 per cent target over a 4-year period raises a number of difficult issues for the broadcasters to consider, I hope that your own discussions with them can be drawn to a conclusion shortly so that MISC 128 can take an early decision on the next steps to be taken.

I accept the reasons for opposing Clement Freud's amendment to the Broadcasting Bill. However, like Nigel, I think it important that this should not be regarded by the broadcasters - or indeed the independent producers - as a lack of will on our part to legislate in due course should the need arise.

I am copying this letter to members of MISC 128 and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Handwritten signatures: Paul Channon and another signature

JF5BVK

PAUL CHANNON

BROADCASTING: Legislation PT2

