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From: R T J Wilson

14 October 1987

Prime Minister 2

DWS
15/10.

MR NORGROVE

ms

1987 SURVEY: SOCIAL SECURITY

1. In my minute of ^{14.10.} 29 September I mentioned that when Parliament resumed Mr Moore would have to make a number of announcements which might prove controversial.

2. As agreed, the Lord President has since held a meeting with Mr Moore and the business managers to consider the handling of these announcements. This led to the attached letter of 7 October from the Minister of State for Social Security to the Lord Privy Seal, the annex to which lists the announcements in detail.

3. I understand from the Lord Privy Seal's office that the Social Services Secretary of State had a discussion yesterday with Mr Robin Cooke about timing and that, subject to the approval of the Lord Privy Seal, the plan now is that:

(a) the Social Security Bill should be given a first reading on 22 October; (main interest: removal of benefit for 16-17 year olds and consequential)

(b) the uprating announcements should take place on ^{Tuesday} Monday, 27 October; (including child benefit for next year and possibly social fund budget)

(c) final decisions about income-related benefits should technically wait until three weeks after the start of consultations: that is, between 2 and 6 November. Mr Moore may nonetheless want to foreshadow those decisions on 26 October although he will need to be careful to avoid any statement which might pre-empt the consultation process and land him in legal difficulty. No decision on this has been

includes reductions in income support levels before the levels illustrated in the Green Paper.

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taken yet.

4. I am copying this minute to the Lord Privy Seal's Private Secretary who could keep you in touch if there are any later changes to the timetable.

R.T.W.

R T J WILSON

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