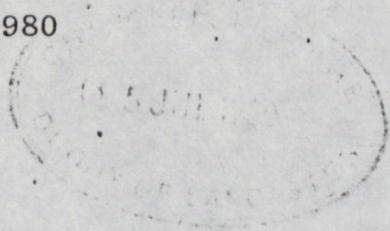




*Parliament*

Speaker's House Westminster London SW1A 0AA

14th July 1980



*attached*

Thank you for your letter of 10th July about Prime Minister's Questions.

I agree with you that the appearance of identical questions on the Order Paper is repetitive and time-consuming. Unfortunately however the Table Office are not empowered to refuse questions which, though possibly repetitive, are otherwise in order, and I have no authority to direct them to do so.

I fear therefore that the change which you propose is one that could only be made by the House. As soon as a Procedure Committee has been set up, this is probably one of the matters which they could usefully examine.

Speaker

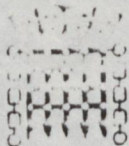
Frank Hooley Esq MP  
House of Commons.



with compliments

V  
MS

Private Secretary to  
CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER  
68 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS  
Telephone 01-233-7113



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

MR KENNARD  
TO file?  
24  
Parliament.

10th July 1980

Dear George,

On the Order Paper for Tuesday, 8th July, there <sup>we</sup> are 49 questions down to the Prime Minister of which 41 ~~are~~ are in identical terms.

This is a grotesque waste of time, labour and paper, since the whole world is aware that the P.M. will not be called upon to answer at the maximum more than five questions in the 15 minutes allotted to her.

Surely it must be possible for the House of Commons to set a slightly better example in terms of the waste of public money. Cannot the Table Office be instructed to decline to accept oral questions for the P.M. beyond the first 12 for any particular day.

Yours sincerely,

FH

Frank Hooley, M.P.

The Rt. Hon. George Thomas, M.P.,  
Speaker of the House,  
Speaker's House,  
Palace of Westminster,  
LONDON SW1A 0PW

✓ c.c The Rt. Hon. Norman St. John-Stevas, M.P.

Nick Sanders



with compliments

✓  
MS

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