

E.R.

Note: spoke to H Secretariat to convey PM's views on the Broads. They will report.

PRIME MINISTER

H COMMITTEE NEXT WEEK

cc ENV. AFFAIRS  
Arid Rain P3

2nd  
12/11

Home Affairs  
PA 25.7

Three issues come before H Committee next week.

Nuclear Waste Disposal

Lack of co-operation from ICI, together with local pressure, effectively rule out Billingham as a possible site for the deep disposal of nuclear waste. As foreshadowed at the meeting which you held earlier this year, Mr. Jenkin is now proposing to invite NIREX

- to investigate a total of six sites (three for a shallow facility and three for deep disposal):
- to authorise exploratory works at all six sites by special development order;
- to hold only two "second stage" public inquiries; one for each type of facility.

Even under this expedited procedure NIREX do not expect a shallow facility to be operational before the early 1990's - and deep disposal not much before 2,000. So speed is essential. But there is bound to be a row, not least in the House, as the special development orders go through.

The Norfolk Broads

The Broads Authority (who seem to twist DOE around their little finger) are demanding more money to do their job of preserving the Broads' landscape. Mr. Jenkin and Mr. Jopling are proposing to give to them, in the form either of 90% grant in aid for expenditure on management agreements, or a three year "grazing grant" for all Broads'

why?

E.R.  
farmers. The Policy Unit oppose this (see attached note).  
So too does the Chief Secretary, and you may prefer to leave  
it to him to make the running in H Committee.

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Scotch Whisky

The Minister of Agriculture proposes to offer to a  
Private Member a Bill to prohibit the sale of Scotch Whisky  
at a strength of less than 40%. This would be designed to  
protect the integrity of the finished product, against  
in-roads from lower strength spirits. The Scotch Whisky  
Distillers need as much help as they can get in retaining  
their traditional export markets.

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Duty Clerk

pp.

David Barclay

9 November 1984