



Caxton House Tothill Street London SW1H 9NF

Telephone Direct Line 01-213.....6400

Switchboard 01-213 3000

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw CH MC MP
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
68 Whitehall
LONDON SW1

3rd June 1985

Don Wilkie

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1985/86

I was most surprised to receive your letter of 28 May. I must resist most strongly the suggestion that the Wages Bill should be deleted from the programme for the next session.

will request if req.

I published a Consultative Paper in March setting out the alternatives of either abolition or reform of Wages Councils. Nigel specifically referred to it in his Budget speech, and the setting of a short period (now concluded), for consultation, was on the clear basis that we proposed early action. It is on this understanding that I shall be putting proposals to colleagues shortly.

This is an issue of considerable interest on our backbenches, we have emphasised the contribution that could be made to more employment by action in this area, and it would therefore not be credible if there were no place available in the 85/86 programme.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and Cabinet colleagues.

Don Wilkie

53 JUN 1005

11 12 1
10
9
8