



Prime Minister:

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE

WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

The Business Managers propose:

the Commons to rise on 26 July
to return on 21 October 1985
to prorogue on 30/31 October

State opening on Wednesday 6 November.

HM The Queen is content with 6 November
for the state opening (and prefers it)

Agree to accept this timetable?

Dear Tim,

OK 4/7

Yes

I am writing to let you know that the Lord Privy Seal has recently discussed with the Lord President and the Chief Whips of both Houses the timetable for the remainder of this Session and the start of the next one.

There is still considerable work for both Commons and Lords this summer. Royal Assent is needed for both the Local Government and Social Security Bills, and Lords Committee stage must be completed on the Oil and Pipelines and Transport Bills. The Business Managers are confident that the Commons can rise by 26 July, though the Lords will need to run on until 31 or, preferably, 30 July.

The Party Conference is from 8 to 11 October, and it seems clear that the Lords - which will have most business to do in the spillover - ought to resume on the following Monday, 14 October. They will need to deal with Report, Third Reading and remaining stages of the Transport Bill, and amongst others will also have to take the European Communities (Finance) Bill and final stages of the Oil and Pipelines Bill. Nevertheless we expect that they will be able to rise on 30 or 31 October. The Commons can return a week later (21 October) and complete their business at the same time. This points to Prorogation on 30 or 31 October and State Opening on Tuesday 5 or Wednesday 6 November.

The State Opening is normally on a Tuesday and there is no reason why the fact that on this occasion it would be 5 November should make us seek to avoid it. However, I understand that the Queen will only have returned to the country from her tour abroad very late on 3 November and that, for this reason, State Opening on Wednesday 6 November would be more convenient

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T Flesher Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister

for her. In these circumstances the Lord Privy Seal recommends that the State Opening should be on Wednesday 6 November. If the Prime Minister is content with this timetable, you may wish to consult the Palace formally about the proposed State Opening date.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Lord President, the Lord Chancellor, both Chief Whips and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours,
David*

D R MORRIS
Private Secretary



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 July 1985

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 4 July about the timetable for the remainder of this Parliamentary Session and for the beginning of the next one. The Prime Minister is content with the arrangements proposed by the Lord Privy Seal and, as you know, Her Majesty The Queen has indicated that She is content that the State Opening of Parliament should take place on 6 November. No doubt you will let me know when this can be promulgated.

I am sending copies of this letter to Joan MacNaughton (Lord President's Office), Richard Stoate (Lord Chancellor's Office), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office), David Beamish (Government Whips' Office, House of Lords) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

TF

Tim Flesher

D.R. Morris, Esq.,
Lord Privy Seal's Office.

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