



WAB
PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

26 September 1985

Dear Douglas

N 307

THE QUEEN'S SPEECHES ON THE PROROGATION AND OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Thank you for your letter of 24 September about the outcome of QL's further consideration of the programme. I do, of course, understand what you have in mind on the Drugs Bill; but I have to say that the imbalance of the programme is such that there is a real risk that some Bills could not be got through the Lords at all unless there is more business for our House in the earlier part of the session. I am sorry therefore that I must ask you to accept that this Bill should be introduced in the Lords.

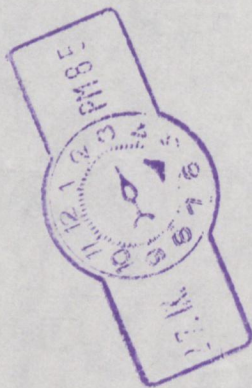
I can see the risk of Peers making difficulties with what I entirely accept will be a complex piece of legislation. But, wearing my Leader's hat, I think I would only say by way of reply that if this risk is a real one it might be better to tackle the problem earlier on. Besides, it is more than possible that Peers who have experience in these areas might actually contribute to getting some of the difficult legal aspects right before the Bill is taken in the Commons.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of QL, Sir Robert Armstrong and to the QL Secretariat.

Yours in
W.H.H.

The Rt. Hon. Douglas Hurd, MP.

Queens Speech: Parliament P 6





QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

24 September 1985

Dear Willie,

N 25/9

THE QUEEN'S SPEECHES ON THE PROROGATION AND OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

I am extremely grateful for the fact that QL has agreed to add to the legislative programme Bills dealing with the confiscation of proceeds of drug trafficking and scientific experiments on animals. I am particularly appreciative of the support which you and others have given for the inclusion of the latter Bill. I am sure this is the right decision; and we will do everything we can to ensure that progress on the preparation of the Bill is kept up.

Can I just add one further thought on the Drugs Trafficking Bill[?] I see that it has been selected for introduction in the House of Lords. I fully understand the timetable considerations which no doubt lie behind that. I do wonder, however, if some of the political impact of the Bill may be lost if it is not introduced in the Commons, particularly if individual Peers make difficulties with what is bound to be, I am afraid, a pretty complex piece of legislation.

Finally, on the draft speech itself, with which I am otherwise entirely content - we would prefer, on balance, the deletion of the square bracketed word in the reference to the Shops Bill in paragraph 23.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of QL, Sir Robert Armstrong and to the QL Secretariat.

Yours,

Douglas

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw, CH, MC