

PRIME MINISTER

1) Mr Maynt : To see. I have
spoken to DTS.
2) Pa

CONVEYANCING FOR REWARD

JMS
13/12

The Lord President has now circulated a paper on conveyancing for discussion at Cabinet this Thursday. (Flag A).

The paper sets out the three options considered by H Committee:

- (i) The status quo;
- (ii) Extension to employed solicitors;
- (iii) Extension to people without legal qualifications, subject to suitable safeguards.

The Lord President judges that the majority of H Committee would favour going as far as option (ii), but probably not as far as option (iii). You will recall, however, that Mr. Tebbit's impression of the meeting was that support for option (iii) was very substantial.

Since the Lord President circulated his paper, the Lord Chancellor has written again to colleagues. (Flag B). He has moved slightly from outright opposition to any change in the status quo, but only as far as suggesting a consultation exercise on option (ii). This is unlikely to satisfy opponents of the existing monopoly.

You left it with Mr. Tebbit that you would have a word with Lord Whitelaw before giving him guidance on how far you would like him to press the case for option (iii) in Cabinet. Unfortunately, Lord Whitelaw will not be back from Kenya until early on Thursday morning. Is there any guidance which you would like to offer Mr. Tebbit meanwhile about your preference between the three options?

JMS

Go as far as (ii) - but
do not press (iii) unless
others first raise it.
MS.

12 December 1983