



P1. file

Ref. A083/3458

PRIME MINISTER

You probably know this already; but I should report that the Lord Chancellor is very steamed up about conveyancing. I am told that he has been saying that, if the Cabinet were to agree in principle that the right to undertake conveyancing should be generally extended, or should be extended to banks and building societies, he would have to resign, because of his profound disagreement with that as a policy. His particular fear is that the loss of conveyancing work and the income derived from it would put many country solicitors out of business, and could easily mean that many towns found themselves without any local solicitors.

2. On my information the Lord Chancellor could live with a decision to consult about the principle of extending the right of conveyancing; but not necessarily with a decision to accept the principle and consult about method.

RCA

14 December 1983

ROBERT ARMSTRONG