

T081

Should there be an English Parliament?

Mrs Louise Ellman MP (letter, 4 June 1999) dismisses the idea of an English Parliament without advancing any arguments. It is, she says, 'spurious'. The 'real way' to further English interests is to set up regional assemblies.

It is surely not sensible to reject an English Parliament without first analysing the issues. The spur for Scottish and Welsh devolution has been that these are countries and nations rather than regions. England too is a country and a nation. On a truly comparative basis it too should have its national Parliament. We cannot now return to the Anglo-Saxon realms of Wessex, Mercia, Northumbria and so forth. They have no present reality.

In the wake of Scottish and Welsh devolution the logic of Britain's place in a European Union growing steadily more federal is that each of our nations should have its own national assembly and government.

That would dispose of the West Lothian question and similar conundrums and it would give the English what in the new Millennium we have just as much right to as the Scots and the Welsh.¹

¹ *The Times*, 10 June 1999.

© F A R Bennion

www.francisbennion.com