

(D)

Confidential Filing

Procedure for the Eve of Parliament  
Dinner

PARLIAMENT

May 1979

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
<del>15.5.79.</del>							
<del>24.10.80</del>							
<del>19.11.80</del>							
<del>11.3.81</del>							
<del>3.11.81</del>							
<del>20.6.83</del>							
23.6.87							
<p>PREM 19/2381</p>							

TWA  
11/56  
25/8/15

MR. WICKS

Pome Minutes

Are you content with the  
seating plan?

EVE OF SESSION DINNER  
WEDNESDAY, 24 JUNE

N.L.U.

23.6

I attach:

1. The Procedure for Eve of Session Dinner (Flag A)
2. The list of guests attending the dinner (Flag B)
3. The list of refusals (Flag C)
4. The draft seating plan for the State Dining Room, Small Dining Room and Pillared Room (Flag D)

Sue Goodchild

23 June 1987

## PROCEDURE - EVE OF SESSION DINNER

Towards the end of drinks before dinner, which are held in the White and Blue Drawing Rooms, you take up your position between the Blue and White Drawing Rooms, with The Speaker, Chief Whip, the Secretary of the Cabinet, your Parliamentary Private Secretary and your Principal Private Secretary flanking you, and you instruct the Chief Whip to guard the doors. The waiters serving the drinks withdraw.

You then briefly welcome your colleagues, propose the <sup>Loyal</sup> ~~Lord~~ Toast and invite the Secretary of the Cabinet to read out The Queen's Speech. After than you welcome The Speaker, who replies briefly. You then lead the Speaker and the Mover and Seconder of the Address in the Lords and Commons into dinner and the other guests follow.

At dinner there are no toasts.

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LIST OF GUESTS ATTENDING THE EVE OF SESSION DINNER TO BE GIVEN  
BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON WEDNESDAY, 24 JUNE 1987 AT 7.30 PM FOR  
8.00 PM BLACK TIE

The Prime Minister

Rt. Hon. The Speaker

Rt. Hon. Baroness Young

Mover of the Address in the Lords

The Lord Strathclyde

Seconder of the Address in the  
Lords

Mr. Winston Churchill, MP

Mover of the Address in the  
Commons

Mr. Andrew Stewart, MP

Seconder of the Address in the  
Commons

Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit, MP

Chairman of the Conservative  
Party

**HM Government**

Rt. Hon. Viscount Whitelaw

Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP

Rt. Hon. Nigel Lawson, MP

Rt. Hon. Lord Havers

Rt. Hon. Douglas Hurd, MP

Rt. Hon. Peter Walker, MP

Rt. Hon. George Younger, MP

Rt. Hon. Norman Fowler, MP

Rt. Hon. Tom King, MP

Rt. Hon. Nicholas Ridley, MP

Rt. Hon. Lord Young of Graffham

Rt. Hon. Kenneth Baker, MP

Rt. Hon. Kenneth Clarke, MP

Rt. Hon. John MacGregor, MP

Rt. Hon. John Moore, MP

Rt. Hon. John Wakeham, MP

Rt. Hon. John Major, MP

Rt. Hon. Lord Cameron of Lochbroom

Sir Nicholas Lyell, MP

Rt. Hon. David Waddington, MP

Rt. Hon. Richard Luce, MP  
Mrs. Lynda Chalker, MP  
Mr. Christopher Patten, MP  
Mr. David Mellor, MP  
The Lord Glenarthur  
The Hon. Peter Brooke, MP  
Rt. Hon. Norman Lamont, MP  
Mr. John Patten, MP  
Mr. Timothy Renton, MP  
The Earl of Caithness  
Mr. Wyn Roberts, MP  
Mr. Ian Stewart, MP  
The Lord Trefgarne  
Mr. John Cope, MP  
Rt. Hon. John Stanley, MP  
Rt. Hon. Lord Belstead  
Mr. Michael Howard, MP  
The Hon. Alan Clark, MP  
Mrs. Angela Rumbold, MP  
Rt. Hon. John Gummer, MP  
Mr. Ian Lang, MP  
The Lord Sanderson of Bowden  
Mr. Antony Newton, MP  
Mr. Nicholas Scott, MP  
The Hon. Peter Morrison, MP  
The Baroness Trumpington  
Mr. Donald Thompson, MP  
Mr. Roger Freeman, MP  
The Hon. Archibald Hamilton, MP  
The Baroness Hooper  
Mr. Robert Jackson, MP  
Mr. John Lee, MP

Mr. Patrick Nicholls, MP  
Mr. David Trippier, MP  
Mr. Christopher Chope, MP  
The Hon. Colin Moynihan, MP  
Mrs. Marion Roe, MP  
Mr. Timothy Eggar, MP  
The Lord Skelmersdale  
Mrs. Edwina Currie, MP  
Mr. Michael Portillo, MP  
The Hon. Douglas Hogg, MP  
The Lord Lyell  
Mr. Richard Needham, MP  
Dr. Brian Mawhinney, MP  
Mr. Peter Viggers, MP  
Lord James Douglas-Hamilton  
Mr. Michael Forsyth, MP  
Mr. John Butcher, MP  
The Hon. Francis Maude, MP  
Mr. Robert Atkins, MP  
Mr. Peter Bottomley, MP  
The Lord Brabazon of Tara  
Mr. Ian Grist, MP  
Mr. Peter Lilley, MP  
Mr. David Hunt, MP  
The Hon. Robert Boscawen, MP  
Mr. Tristan Garel-Jones, MP  
The Hon. Timothy Sainsbury, MP  
Mr. Michael Neubert, MP  
Mr. Tony Durant, MP  
Mr. Peter Lloyd, MP  
The Hon. Mark Lennox-Boyd, MP  
Mr. David Lightbown, MP  
Mr. Richard Ryder, MP

Mr. Kenneth Carlisle, MP  
Mr. Alan Howarth, MP  
Mr. David Maclean, MP  
Rt. Hon. Lord Denham  
The Viscount Davidson  
The Viscount Long  
The Lord Beaverbrook  
The Lord Hesketh  
The Earl of Dundee  
The Earl of Arran  
Sir Robert Armstrong  
Mr. Nigel Wicks

EVE OF SESSION DINNER  
REFUSALS

Rt. Hon. Malcolm Rifkind, MP	family wedding
Rt. Hon. Paul Channon, MP	attending European Council of Ministers in Luxembourg
Rt. Hon. Cecil Parkinson, MP	attending UDM Conference in Weymouth
Rt. Hon. Sir Patrick Mayhew, MP	appearing in the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg
Mr. Peter Fraser	
Mr. Robert Dunn, MP	prior commitment
Mr. Michael Spicer, MP	longstanding personal commitment
The Hon. William Waldegrave, MP	Opening the Exhibition, 'Best made in the Countryside' in Bristol
Mr. David Mitchell, MP	prior commitment



STATE DINING ROOM

TABLE A

**THE PRIME MINISTER**

Mr. Winston Churchill  
Rt. Hon. Viscount Whitelaw  
Sir Robert Armstrong  
Rt. Hon. Lord Havers  
Mr. Andrew Stewart  
Rt. Hon. The Speaker  
Rt. Hon. Baroness Young  
Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit  
Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe  
Rt. Hon. Nigel Lawson  
The Lord Strathclyde

TABLE F

RT. HON. TOM KING  
Mr. Wyn Roberts  
Rt. Hon. Lord Denham  
Lord James Douglas-Hamilton  
Rt. Hon. David Waddington  
The Lord Sanderson of Bowden  
Mr. Nigel Wicks  
Mr. John Lee

TABLE B

RT. HON. DOUGLAS HURD  
Rt. Hon. Norman Lamont  
Mr. Peter Bottomley  
The Lord Skelmersdale  
Rt. Hon. John Wakeham  
The Hon. Alan Clark  
Mr. Peter Lloyd  
Mr. David Trippier

TABLE C

RT. HON. PETER WALKER  
Mr. John Patten  
The Lord Brabazon of Tara  
Mr. Michael Portillo  
Rt. Hon. John Major  
Mrs. Angela Rumbold  
The Hon. Mark Lennox-Boyd  
The Baroness Hooper

TABLE D

RT. HON. GEORGE YOUNGER  
Mr. Timothy Renton  
Mr. Ian Grist  
Mrs. Edwina Currie  
Rt. Hon. Lord Cameron of Lohbroom  
Rt. Hon. John Gummer  
Mr. David Lightbown  
Mr. Robert Jackson

TABLE E

RT. HON. NORMAN FOWLER  
The Earl of Caithness  
The Lord Lyell  
Mr. Peter Lilley  
Sir Nicholas Lyell  
Mr. Ian Lang  
Mr. Richard Ryder  
Mr. John Butcher

**SMALL DINING ROOM**

**TABLE G**

RT. HON. NICHOLAS RIDLEY  
Mr. Ian Stewart  
Mr. David Hunt  
The Hon. Archibald Hamilton  
The Earl of Dundee  
Mr. Richard Needham  
Rt. Hon. Richard Luce  
Mr. Antony Newton  
Mr. Kenneth Carlisle  
The Earl of Arran  
The Lord Hesketh  
Mr. Patrick Nicholls

**TABLE M**

RT. HON. JOHN MOORE  
Mr. Michael Howard  
Mr. Tony Durant  
Mr. Robert Atkins  
The Hon. Peter Brooke  
Mr. Roger Freeman  
The Lord Beaverbrook  
The Hon. Douglas Hogg

**PILLARED ROOM**

**TABLE H**

RT. HON. LORD YOUNG OF GRAFFHAM  
The Lord Trefgarne  
The Hon. Robert Boscawen  
Dr. Brian Mawhinney  
Mrs. Lynda Chalker  
Mr. Nicholas Scott  
Mr. Alan Howarth  
Mr. Christopher Chope

**TABLE J**

RT. HON. KENNETH BAKER  
Mr. John Cope  
Mr. David Maclean  
Mr. Peter Viggers  
Mr. Christopher Patten  
The Hon. Peter Morrison  
Mr. Tristan Garel-Jones  
The Hon. Colin Moynihan

**TABLE K**

RT. HON. KENNETH CLARKE  
Rt. Hon. John Stanley  
The Viscount Davidson  
Mr. Michael Forsyth  
Mr. David Mellor  
The Baroness Trumpington  
The Hon. Timothy Sainsbury  
Mrs. Marion Roe

**TABLE L**

RT HON. JOHN MACGREGOR  
Rt. Hon. Lord Belstead  
Mr. Michael Neubert  
The Hon. Francis Maude  
The Lord Glenarthur  
Mr. Donald Thompson  
The Viscount Long  
Mr. Timothy Eggar

PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Butler.

Eve of Session Dinner - Tuesday, 21 June

I attach the list of guests attending the Eve of Session Dinner and the list of refusals.

The draft seating plan is at Flag A. Are you content with it?

Last year the procedure for the Eve of Session Dinner was as follows. Towards the end of drinks before dinner, which were held in the White and Blue Drawing Rooms, you took up your position between the Blue and White Drawing Rooms, with the Speaker, the Chief Whip, the Secretary of the Cabinet, your Parliamentary Private Secretary and your Principal Private Secretary flanking you, and you then instructed the Chief Whip to guard the doors. The waiters serving the drinks withdrew.

You then briefly welcomed your colleagues and invited the Secretary of the Cabinet to read out The Queen's Speech. After that you welcomed the Speaker, who replied briefly. You then said that you would lead the Speaker and the Mover and Seconder of the Address in the Lords and Commons into dinner and that the other guests were to follow.

At dinner there were no toasts, not even the Loyal Toast.

I suggest that you follow the same procedure this year.

Agree?

F.R.B.

20 June 1983

LIST OF GUESTS ATTENDING THE EVE OF SESSION DINNER TO BE GIVEN BY  
THE PRIME MINISTER ON TUESDAY, 21 JUNE 1983 AT 7.30 PM FOR 8.00 PM  
BLACK TIE

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The Prime Minister

Rt. Hon. The Speaker

His Grace The Duke of Norfolk

Mover of the Address in the Lords

The Baroness Airey of Abingdon

Seconder of the Address in the Lords

Sir Peter Mills, MP

Mover of the Address in the Commons

Mr. Malcolm Thornton, MP

Seconder of the Address in the  
Commons

HM Government

Rt. Hon. Viscount Whitelaw

Rt. Hon. Lord Hailsham

Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP

Rt. Hon. Leon Brittan, MP

Rt. Hon. Nigel Lawson, MP

Rt. Hon. James Prior, MP.,

Rt. Hon. Peter Walker, MP

Rt. Hon. George Younger, MP

Rt. Hon. Nicholas Edwards, MP

Rt. Hon. Patrick Jenkin, MP

Rt. Hon. John Biffen, MP

Rt. Hon. Norman Fowler, MP

Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit, MP

Rt. Hon. Cecil Parkinson, MP

Rt. Hon. Lord Cockfield

Rt. Hon. Tom King, MP

Rt. Hon. Michael Jopling, MP

Mr. Peter Rees, MP

LAW OFFICERS

Attorney General	The Rt Hon Sir Michael Havers QC MP
Lord Advocate	The Rt Hon Lord Mackay of Clashfern QC
Solicitor General	Sir Patrick Mayhew QC MP
Solicitor General for Scotland	Mr Peter Fraser QC MP

MINISTERS NOT IN THE CABINET

Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury	The Rt Hon John Wakeham MP
Minister of State, Privy Council Office (Minister for the Arts)	Earl of Gowrie
Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office	The Rt Hon Baroness Young
Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Minister for Overseas Development	<del>The Rt Hon Timothy Raison MP</del>
Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office	Mr Malcolm Rifkind MP
Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office	Mr Richard Luce MP
Minister of State, Home Office	The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd MP
Minister of State, Home Office	Mr David Waddington QC MP
Financial Secretary, Treasury	The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP
Minister of State, Treasury	Mr Barney Hayhoe MP
Economic Secretary, Treasury	Mr John Moore MP
Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office	The Hon Adam Butler MP
Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office	Earl of Mansfield
Minister of State, Department of Energy	The Rt Hon Alick Buchanan-Smith MP
Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Ministry of Defence	Mr John Stanley MP
Minister of State for Defence Procurement, Ministry of Defence	Mr Geoffrey Pattie MP

Minister of State, Scottish Office	The Rt Hon Hamish Gray
Minister of State, Welsh Office	Mr John Stradling Thomas MP
Minister of State, Department of the Environment (Minister for Local Government)	Lord Bellwin
Minister of State, Department of the Environment (Minister for Housing and Construction)	Mr Ian Gow MP
Minister of State, Department of Health and Social Security (Minister for Health)	Mr Kenneth Clarke QC MP
Minister of State, Department of Health and Social Security (Minister for Social Security)	Dr Rhodes Boyson MP
Minister of State, Department of Employment	The Hon Peter Morrison MP
Minister of State, Department of Trade and Industry (Minister for Trade)	The Rt Hon Paul Channon MP
Minister of State, Department of Trade and Industry (Minister for Information Technology)	Mr Kenneth Baker MP
Minister of State, Department of Trade and Industry	<del>Mr Norman Lamont MP</del>
Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	The Rt Hon Lord Belstead
Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	Mr John MacGregor MP

#### JUNIOR MINISTERS

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD  
MINISTRY OF

Parliamentary Secretary

Mrs Peggy Fenner MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Parliamentary Under-Secretary  
of State for the Armed Forces

Lord Trefgarne

Parliamentary Under-Secretary  
of State for Defence Procurement

Mr Ian Stewart MP

EDUCATION AND SCIENCE, DEPARTMENT OF

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries  
of State

The Hon Peter Brooke MP  
Mr Robert Dunn MP

EMPLOYMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries  
of State

Mr John Gummer MP  
The Hon Alan Clark MP

ENERGY, DEPARTMENT OF

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries  
of State

Earl of Avon  
Mr Giles Shaw MP

ENVIRONMENT, DEPARTMENT OF THE

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries  
of State

Mr Neil Macfarlane MP  
Sir George Young MP  
The Hon William Waldegrave MP

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

Mr Raymond Whitney MP

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY,  
DEPARTMENT OF

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries  
of State

Mr Antony Newton MP  
Mr John Patten MP  
Lord Glenarthur

HOME OFFICE

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries  
of State

Lord Elton  
Mr David Mellor MP

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries  
of State

Mr Nicholas Scott MP  
~~Mr Christopher Patten MP~~

SCOTTISH OFFICE

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries  
of State

Mr Allan Stewart MP  
Mr John MacKay MP  
Mr Michael Ancram MP

TRADE AND INDUSTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries  
of State

~~Mr John Butcher MP~~  
Mr Alexander Fletcher MP  
Mr David Trippier MP

TRANSPORT, DEPARTMENT OF

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries  
of State

Mrs Lynda Chalker MP  
Mr David Mitchell MP

WELSH OFFICE

Parliamentary Under-Secretary  
of State

Mr Wyn Roberts MP

TREASURY

Treasurer of the Household  
(Deputy Chief Whip)

Mr John Cope MP

Comptroller of the Household

Mr Carol Mather MP

Vice Chamberlain of the Household

The Hon Robert Boscawen MP

Lords Commissioners of the Treasury

Mr Alastair Goodlad MP  
Mr Donald Thompson MP  
Mr David Hunt MP  
Mr Ian Lang MP  
Mr Tristan Garel-Jones MP

Assistant Government Whips

The Hon Archibald Hamilton MP  
Mr John Major MP  
The Hon Douglas Hogg MP  
Mr Michael Neubert MP  
The Hon Timothy Sainsbury MP

GOVERNMENT WHIPS, HOUSE OF LORDS

Captain of the Gentlemen-at-Arms

The Rt Hon Lord Denham

Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard  
(Deputy Chief Whip, House of Lords)

Earl of Swinton

Lords in Waiting

Viscount Long  
Lord Lyell  
Lord Skelmersdale  
Lord Lucas of Chilworth

Baroness in Waiting

Baroness Trumpington

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Sir Robert Armstrong

Rt. Hon. Michael Alison, MP

Mr. Robin Butler



REFUSALS

Rt. Hon. Sir Keith Joseph, MP speaking engage-  
ment

Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP - Responding to  
Toast at Pilgrims Dinner

Mr. Norman Lamont, MP previous commitment

Mr. Christopher Patten, MP on duty in  
Northern Ireland

Mr. John MacKay, MP hosting a Reception  
in Scotland

Mr. John Butcher, MP previous engagement

DRAFT SEATING PLAN

TABLE A

Leading to State Dining Room

Rt. Hon. Nigel Lawson

Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe

Mr. Malcolm Thornton

His Grace The Duke of Norfolk

The Baroness Airey of Abingdon

THE PRIME MINISTER

Rt. Hon. Viscount Whitelaw

Rt. Hon. The Speaker

Rt. Hon. Lord Hailsham of  
St. Marylebone

Sir Peter Mills

Rt. Hon. Leon Brittan

Sir Robert Armstrong

Leading from Pillared Room

PILLARED ROOM

TABLE B

RT. HON. JAMES PRIOR  
Rt. Hon. Douglas Hurd  
The Hon. Archibald Hamilton  
Mrs. Lynda Chalker  
Rt. Hon. Michael Jopling  
The Lord Trefgarne  
Mr. Raymond Whitney  
Mr. John Stradling Thomas

TABLE C

RT. HON. PETER WALKER  
Mr. Antony Newton  
Mr. David Mitchell  
Mr. David Waddington  
Mr. Peter Rees  
Mr. Ian Stewart  
Mr. John Major  
The Lord Bellwin

TABLE D

RT. HON. GEORGE YOUNGER  
Rt. Hon. Nicholas Ridley  
Mr. Wyn Roberts  
Mr. John Patten  
Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Havers  
The Hon. Peter Brooke  
The Hon. Timothy Sainsbury  
Mr. Ian Gow

TABLE E

RT. HON. NICHOLAS EDWARDS  
Mr. Barney Hayhoe  
Mr. John Cope  
The Lord Glenarthur  
Sir Patrick Mayhew  
Mr. Robert Dunn  
Mr. Michael Neubert  
Mr. Kenneth Clarke

TABLE F

RT. HON. PATRICK JENKIN  
Mr. John Moore  
Mr. Carol Mather  
The Lord Elton  
The Lord Mackay of Clashfern  
Mr. John Selwyn Gummer  
Rt. Hon. Michael Alison  
Dr. Rhodes Boyson

STATE DINING ROOM

TABLE G

RT. HON. JOHN BUTTEN  
The Hon. Adam Butler  
The Hon. Robert Boscawen  
The Hon. Adam Clark  
Mr. Peter Fraser  
Mr. David Mellor  
Mr. Robin Butler  
The Hon. Douglas Hogg  
The Hon. Peter Morrison

TABLE H

RT. HON. NORMAN FOWLER  
The Earl of Mansfield  
Mr. Nicholas Scott  
Mr. Alastair Woodlad  
Rt. Hon. Lord Denham  
Rt. Hon. John Wakeham  
The Earl of Avon  
Rt. Hon. Paul Channon

TABLE J

RT. HON. NORMAN TEBBIT  
Rt. Hon. Alick Buchanan-Smith  
Mr. Donald Thompson  
Mr. Allan Stewart  
The Earl of Gorrrie  
Mr. Giles Shaw  
The Earl of Sinton  
Mr. Kenneth Baker

TABLE K

RT. HON. CECIL PARKINSON  
Mr. John Stanley  
Mr. David Hunt  
The Viscount Long  
Mr. Michael Antram  
Rt. Hon. Baroness Young  
Mr. Neil Macfarlane  
Rt. Hon. Lord Helstead

TABLE L

RT. HON. LORD COCKFIELD  
Rt. Hon. Hamish Gray  
The Lord Lucas of Chilworth  
Mr. Ian Lang  
Mr. Alexander Fletcher  
Mr. Richard Lowe  
Sir George Young  
The Lord Lyell  
Mrs. Peggy Fenner

TABLE M

RT. HON. TOM KING  
Mr. Geoffrey Pattie  
The Baroness Trumpington  
Mr. Tristan Garel-Jones  
Mr. David Trippier  
Mr. Malcolm Rifkind  
The Hon. William Waldegrave  
The Lord Skelmersdale  
Mr. John MacGregor

Parliament

LIST OF GUESTS ATTENDING THE EVE OF SESSION DINNER TO BE GIVEN  
BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON TUESDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 1981 AT 7.45 PM FOR 8.15 PM  
BLACK TIE

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The Prime Minister

The Rt. Hon. The Speaker

The Lord Bethell

Mover of the Address in the Lords

The Lord Fairfax of Cameron

Seconder of the Address in the Lords

Mr. Michael Shaw, MP

Mover of the Address in the Commons

Mr. Bob Dunn, MP

Seconder of the Address in the Commons

HM Government

The Rt. Hon. William Whitelaw, MP

The Rt. Hon. Lord Hailsham of St. Marylebone

The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP

The Rt. Hon. Sir Keith Joseph, MP

The Rt. Hon. Francis Pym, MP

The Rt. Hon. John Nott, MP

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP

The Rt. Hon. George Younger, MP

The Rt. Hon. Humphrey Atkins, MP

The Rt. Hon. Patrick Jenkin, MP

The Rt. Hon. John Biffen, MP

The Rt. Hon. David Howell, MP

The Rt. Hon. Norman Fowler, MP

The Rt. Hon. Leon Brittan, MP

The Rt. Hon. Baroness Young

The Rt. Hon. Nigel Lawson, MP

The Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit, MP

The Rt. Hon. Cecil Parkinson, MP

The Rt. Hon. Michael Jopling, MP

Mr. Timothy Raison, MP

The Hon. Douglas Hurd, MP

Mr. Richard Luce, MP

Mr. Jock Bruce-Gardyne, MP

The Lord Cockfield

The Hon. Adam Butler, MP

Mr. Peter Blaker, MP

The Lord Trenchard

The Lord Ferrers

Rt. Hon. Alick Buchanan-Smith, MP

Mr. John Stanley, MP

The Lord Mansfield

Mr. Kenneth Baker, MP

Mr. Norman Lamont, MP

Dr. Gerard Vaughan, MP

Mr. Hugh Rossi, MP

Mr. Hamish Gray, MP

Rt. Hon. Michael Alison, MP

Mr. Barney Hayhoe, MP

Mrs. Peggy Fenner, MP

Mr. Geoffrey Pattie, MP

Mr. Jerry Wiggin, MP

Dr. Rhodes Boyson, MP

Mr. William Shelton, MP

The Hon. William Waldegrave, MP

Mr. David Waddington, MP

The Hon. Peter Morrison, MP

Mr. John Moore, MP

Mr. David Mellor, MP

The Lord Bellwin

Mr. Giles Shaw, MP

Mr. Neil Macfarlane, MP

The Lord Trefigarne

Mrs. Lynda Chalker, MP

The Lord Elton

Mr. Geoffrey Finsberg, MP  
Mr. John Wakeham, MP  
Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Havers, MP  
Sir Ian Percival, MP  
Rt. Hon. Lord Mackay of Clashfern  
Mr. Nicholas Fairbairn, MP  
Mr. David Mitchell, MP  
Mr. John Patten, MP  
Mr. Nicholas Scott, MP  
Mr. Alexander Fletcher, MP  
Mr. Allan Stewart, MP  
Mr. Reginald Eyre, MP  
Mr. Iain Sproat, MP  
Mr. Kenneth Clarke, MP  
Mr. Michael Roberts, MP  
Mr. Wyn Roberts, MP

Whips (Commons)

Mr. John Stradling Thomas, MP  
The Hon. Anthony Berry, MP  
Mr. Carol Mather, MP  
The Hon. Robert Boscawen, MP  
Mr. John Cope, MP  
Mr. Anthony Newton, MP  
The Hon. Peter Brooke, MP  
Mr. John Selwyn Gummer, MP  
Mr. Alastair Goodlad, MP  
Mr. Donald Thompson, MP  
Mr. Nicholas Budgen, MP  
Mr. David Hunt, MP  
Mr. Ian Lang, MP

Whips (Lords)

Rt. Hon. Lord Denham

The Lord Sandys

The Lord Long

The Lord Lyell

The Lord Cullen of Ashbourne

The Lord Avon

The Lord Skelmersdale

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Sir Robert Armstrong

Mr. Clive Whitmore

Mr. Ian Gow, MP



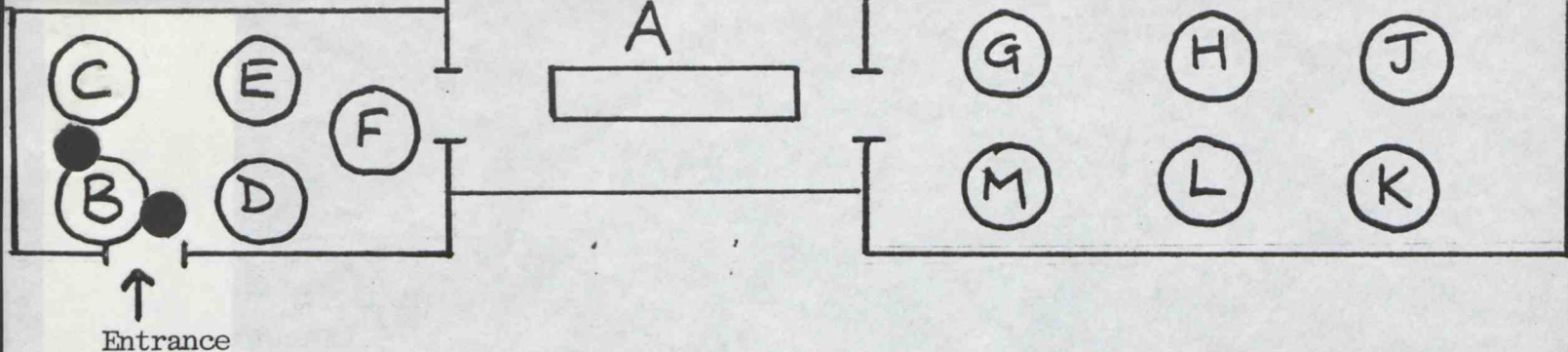


TABLE A

RT HON THE PRIME MINISTER  
 Rt. Hon. The Speaker  
 Mr. Bob Dunn  
 Sir Robert Armstrong  
 Rt. Hon. Sir Keith Joseph  
 The Lord Bethell  
 Rt. Hon. William Whitelaw  
 Mr. Michael Shaw  
 Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe  
 Rt. Hon. Francis Pym  
 The Lord Fairfax of Cameron  
 Rt. Hon. The Lord Hailsham  
 of St. Marleybone

TABLE E

RT. HON. HUMPHREY ATKINS  
 Mrs Lynda Chalker  
 Mr. John Stanley  
 Mr. Anthony Newton  
 Mr. Timothy Raison  
 Mr. Reginald Eyre  
 Mr. Jerry Wiggin  
 Mr. Nicholas Scott

TABLE J

RT. HON. NORMAN FOWLER  
 Mr. Norman Lamont  
 Mr. Michael Roberts  
 The Lord Cockfield  
 Mr. David Waddington  
 The Lord Avon  
 Mr. Donald Thompson

TABLE B

RT. HON. JOHN NOTT  
 Mrs Peggy Fenner  
 The Lord Trenchard  
 Mr. Nicholas Fairbairn  
 Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit  
 The Lord Bellwin  
 Mr. Carol Mather  
 Rt. Hon. Lord Denham

TABLE F

RT. HON. PATRICK JENKIN  
 Mr. Neil Macfarlane  
 Mr. Ian Gow  
 Mr. Jock Bruce-Gardyne  
 The Hon. Peter Brooke  
 The Lord Lyell  
 Dr. Rhodes Boyson  
 The Lord Mansfield

TABLE K

RT. HON. LEON BRITTAN  
 Mr. John Wakeham  
 Mr. Hamish Gray  
 Mr. John Moore  
 Mr. Nicholas Budgen  
 Mr. Geoffrey Finsberg  
 The Hon. Peter Morrison  
 The Lord Skelmersdale

TABLE C

RT. HON. MICHAEL HESELTINE  
 Mr. Barney Hayhoe  
 The Hon. Robert Boscawen  
 The Lord Sandys  
 Rt. Hon. Cecil Parkinson  
 The Lord Trefgarne  
 The Lord Ferrers  
 Mr. David Mitchell

TABLE G

RT. HON. JOHN BIFFEN  
 Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Havers  
 Mr. William Shelton  
 Mr. Kenneth Clarke  
 The Hon. Douglas Hurd  
 Mr. John Selwyn Gummer  
 Dr. Gerard Vaughan  
 Mr. Alexander Fletcher

TABLE L

RT. HON. BARONESS YOUNG  
 Sir Ian Percival  
 Mr. David Mellor  
 Mr. David Hunt  
 The Hon. Adam Butler  
 Mr. Allan Stewart  
 Mr. Wyn Roberts  
 Mr. John Stradling Thomas

TABLE D

RT. HON. GEORGE YOUNGER  
 Mr. John Cope  
 Rt. Hon. Alick Buchanan-Smith  
 Mr. John Patten  
 Rt. Hon. Michael Jopling  
 The Lord Long  
 Mr. Geoffrey Pattie  
 Mr. Giles Shaw

TABLE H

RT. HON. DAVID HOWELL  
 The Lord Elton  
 Mr. Kenneth Baker  
 The Lord Cullen of Ashbourne  
 Mr. Richard Luce  
 Mr. Alastair Goodlad  
 The Hon. William Waldegrave  
 Mr. Iain Sproat

TABLE M

RT. HON. NIGEL LAWSON  
 Mr. Hugh Rossi  
 Rt. Hon. Michael Alison  
 Rt. Hon. The Lord Mackay  
 of Clashfern  
 Mr. Peter Blaker  
 The Hon. Anthony Berry  
 Mr. Clive Whitmore ←  
 Mr. Ian Lang

Mr. Olive Whitmore

Mr. Whitman

PRIME MINISTER

Eve of Session Dinner: Tuesday, 3 November

I attach the list of guests for tomorrow night's dinner and the list of refusals.

The draft seating plan is at Flag A. Are you content with it?

Last year the procedure for the Eve of Session Dinner was as follows. Towards the end of drinks before dinner, which were held in the White and Blue Drawing Rooms, you took up your position between the Blue and White Drawing Rooms, with the Speaker, the Chief Whip, the Secretary of the Cabinet, your Parliamentary Private Secretary and your Principal Private Secretary flanking you, and you then instructed the Chief Whip to guard the doors. The waiters serving the drinks withdrew.

You then briefly welcomed your colleagues (who this year will include Lords Ministers) and invited the Secretary of the Cabinet to read out The Queen's Speech. After that you welcomed the Speaker, who replied briefly. You then said that you would lead the Speaker and the Mover and Seconder of the Address into dinner and that the other guests were to follow.

At dinner there were no toasts, not even the Loyal Toast.

I suggest that you follow the same procedure this year, modified only to allow for the fact that you will have the Mover and Seconder of the Address in the Lords present as well as the Mover and Seconder in the Commons.

Agree?

2 November 1981

LIST OF GUESTS ATTENDING THE EVE OF SESSION DINNER TO BE GIVEN  
BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON TUESDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 1981 AT 7.45 PM FOR 8.15 PM  
BLACK TIE

---

The Prime Minister

The Rt. Hon. The Speaker

The Lord Bethell Mover of the Address in the Lords

The Lord Fairfax of Cameron Seconder of the Address in the Lords

Mr. Michael Shaw, MP Mover of the Address in the Commons

Mr. Bob Dunn, MP Seconder of the Address in the Commons

HM Government

The Rt. Hon. William Whitelaw, MP

The Rt. Hon. Lord Hailsham of St. Marylebone

The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP

The Rt. Hon. Sir Keith Joseph, MP

The Rt. Hon. Francis Pym, MP

The Rt. Hon. John Nott, MP

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP

The Rt. Hon. George Younger, MP

The Rt. Hon. Humphrey Atkins, MP

The Rt. Hon. Patrick Jenkin, MP

The Rt. Hon. John Biffen, MP

The Rt. Hon. David Howell, MP

The Rt. Hon. Norman Fowler, MP

The Rt. Hon. Leon Brittan, MP

The Rt. Hon. Baroness Young

The Rt. Hon. Nigel Lawson, MP

The Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit, MP

The Rt. Hon. Cecil Partridge, MP

The Rt. Hon. Michael Jopling, MP

Mr. Timothy Raison, MP

The Hon. Douglas Hurd, MP

Mr. Richard Luce, MP

Mr. Jock Bruce-Gardyne, MP

The Lord Cockfield

The Hon. Adam Butler, MP

Mr. Peter Blaker, MP

The Lord Trenchard

The Lord Ferrers

Rt. Hon. Alick Buchanan-Smith, MP

Mr. John Stanley, MP

The Lord Mansfield

Mr. Kenneth Baker, MP

Mr. Norman Lamont, MP

Dr. Gerard Vaughan, MP

Mr. Hugh Rossi, MP

Mr. Hamish Gray, MP

Rt. Hon. Michael Alison, MP

Mr. Barney Hayhoe, MP

Mrs. Peggy Fenner, MP

Mr. Geoffrey Pattie, MP

Mr. Jerry Wiggin, MP

Dr. Rhodes Boyson, MP

Mr. William Shelton, MP

The Hon. William Waldegrave, MP

Mr. David Waddington, MP

The Hon. Peter Morrison, MP

Mr. John Moore, MP

Mr. David Mellor, MP

The Lord Bellwin

Mr. Giles Shaw, MP

Mr. Neil Macfarlane, MP

The Lord Trefgarne

Mrs. Lynda Chalker, MP

The Lord Elton

Mr. Geoffrey Finsberg, MP

Mr. John Wakeham, MP

Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Havers, MP

Sir Ian Percival, MP

Rt. Hon. Lord Mackay of Clashfern

Mr. Nicholas Fairbairn, MP

Mr. David Mitchell, MP

Mr. John Patten, MP

Mr. Nicholas Scott, MP

Mr. Alexander Fletcher, MP

Mr. Allan Stewart, MP

Mr. Reginald Eyre, MP

Mr. Iain Sproat, MP

Mr. Kenneth Clarke, MP

Mr. Michael Roberts, MP

Mr. Wyn Roberts, MP

Whips (Commons)

Mr. John Stradling Thomas, MP

The Hon. Anthony Berry, MP

Mr. Carol Mather, MP

The Hon. Robert Boscawen, MP

Mr. John Cope, MP

Mr. Anthony Newton, MP

The Hon. Peter Brooke, MP

Mr. John Selwyn Gummer, MP

Mr. Alastair Goodlad, MP

Mr. Donald Thompson, MP

Mr. Nicholas Budgen, MP

Mr. David Hunt, MP

Mr. Ian Lang, MP

Whips (Lords)

Rt. Hon. Lord Denham

The Lord Sandys

The Lord Long

The Lord Lyell

The Lord Cullen of Ashbourne

The Lord Avon

The Lord Skelmersdale

-----

Sir Robert Armstrong

Mr. Clive Whitmore

Mr. Ian Gow, MP

REFUSALS

Eve of Session Dinner 3 November 1981

Rt. Hon. Lord Carrington  
Rt. Hon. James Prior, MP  
Rt. Hon. Peter Walker, MP  
Rt. Hon. Nicholas Edwards, MP  
Mr. Patrick Mayhew, MP  
Rt. Hon. Neil Marten, MP  
The Hon. Nicholas Ridley, MP  
Rt. Hon. Paul Channon, MP  
Rt. Hon. Tom King, MP  
Rt. Hon. Sally Oppenheim, MP  
Mr. Peter Rees, MP  
Sir George Young, MP  
The Lord Belstead  
Mr. John MacGregor, MP  
Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, MP  
Lord Gowrie



DRAFT SEATING PLAN FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S TABLE IN THE SMALL DINING ROOM  
FOR THE EVE OF SESSION DINNER ON TUESDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 1981

---

ENTRANCE TO STATE DINING ROOM

Rt. Hon. Francis Pym

The Lord Fairfax of Cameron

Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe

Rt. Hon. Lord Hailsham of  
St. Marylebone

Mr. Michael Shaw

RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER

Rt. Hon. William Whitelaw

Rt. Hon. The Speaker

The Lord Bethell

Mr. Bob Dunn

Rt. Hon. Sir Keith Joseph

Sir Robert Armstrong

ENTRANCE FROM PILLARED ROOM

Table B

RT. HON. JOHN NOIT  
Mrs. Peggy Fenner  
The Lord Trenchard  
Mr. Nicholas Fairbairn  
Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit  
The Lord Bellwin  
Mr. Carol Mather  
Rt. Hon. Lord Denham

Table C

RT. HON. MICHAEL HESELTINE  
Mr. Barney Hayhoe  
The Hon. Robert Boscawen  
The Lord Sandys  
Rt. Hon. Cecil Parkinson  
The Lord Trefgarne  
The Lord Ferrers  
Mr. David Mitchell

Table D

RT. HON. GEORGE YOUNGER  
Mr. John Cope  
Rt. Hon. Alick Buchanan-Smith  
Mr. John Patten  
Rt. Hon. Michael Jopling  
The Lord Long  
Mr. Geoffrey Pattie  
Mr. Giles Shaw

Table E

RT. HON. HUMPHREY ATKINS  
Mrs. Lynda Chalker  
Mr. John Stanley  
Mr. Anthony Newton  
Mr. Timothy Raison  
Mr. Reginald Eyre  
Mr. Jerry Wiggin  
Mr. Nicholas Scott

Table F

RT. HON. PATRICK JENKIN  
Mr. Neil Macfarlane  
Mr. Ian Gow  
Mr. Jock Bruce-Gardyne  
The Hon. Peter Brooke  
The Lord Lyell  
Dr. Rhodes Boyson  
Lord Mansfield

STATE DINING ROOM

Table G

RT. HON. JOHN BIFFEN  
Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Havers  
Mr. William Shelton  
Mr. Kenneth Clarke  
The Hon. Douglas Hurd  
Mr. John Selwyn Gummer  
Dr. Gerard Vaughan  
Mr. Alexander Fletcher

Table H

RT. HON. DAVID HOWELL  
The Lord Elton  
Mr. Kenneth Baker  
The Lord Cullen of Ashbourne  
Mr. Richard Luce  
Mr. Alastair Goodlad  
The Hon. William Waldegrave  
Mr. Iain Sproat

Table J

RT. HON. NORMAN FOWLER  
Mr. Norman Lamont  
Mr. Michael Roberts  
The Lord Cockfield  
Mr. David Waddington  
The Lord Avon  
Mr. Donald Thompson

Table K

RT. HON. LEON BRITTAN  
Mr. John Wakeham  
Mr. Hamish Gray  
Mr. John Moore  
Mr. Nicholas Budgen  
Mr. Geoffrey Finsberg  
The Hon. Peter Morrison  
The Lord Skelmersdale

Table L

RT. HON. BARONESS YOUNG  
Sir Ian Percival  
Mr. David Mellor  
Mr. David Hunt  
The Hon. Adam Butler  
Mr. Allan Stewart  
Mr. John Moore  
Mr. John Stradling Thomas

Table M

RT. HON. NIGEL LAWSON  
Mr. Hugh Rossi  
Rt. Hon. Michael Allison  
Rt. Hon. Lord Mackay of Clashfern  
Mr. Peter Blaker  
The Hon. Anthony Berry  
Mr. Clive Whitmore  
Mr. Ian Lang

Parliament

11 March 1981

You wrote to Nick Sanders on 9 March 1981 about Mr. Robert Sheldon's letter about the cost of the Eve of Session Dinner.

The draft reply for Mr. Heyhoe to send is generally all right, but I think that it should make it clear that the cost which was met from public funds during the time of the last Government was the cost of the reception and not of a dinner. I suggest, therefore, that you amend the beginning of the second paragraph of the draft letter to read: "Under the previous Government the cost of the reception which it customarily held on the Eve of Session was met from public funds from 1976 onwards."

C A WHITMORE

J. C. Hawkins, Esq.,  
Civil Service Department.

B.

MR. WHITMORE

ML  
11/11

Eve of Session Receptions 1974 onwards

I have checked through my files  
and Eve of Session Receptions were held  
at No. 10 from March 1974 to October 1978  
inclusive.

Sue

11 March 1981



Minister of State

N J Sanders Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

*Red CF*  
*11/3/81*  
*AD*

Civil Service Department  
Whitehall London SW1A 2AZ  
Telephone 01-273 ~~3000~~ 3376

9 March 1981

*Dear Nick*

I enclose copies of correspondence about the cost of the 'Eve of Session' dinner, including a draft reply for the Minister of State to send to a letter of 20 February from Robert Sheldon.

I shall be grateful if you will let me know whether you have any comments to make on the draft (which has been approved by Sir Ian Bancroft).

*Yours Sincerely*  
*John*

J C HAWKINS  
Parliamentary Clerk

Mr P L Towers

EVE OF SESSION DINNER: MR SHELDON'S LETTER

It is not difficult to explain the background to the amusement occasioned when Ministers were asked to pay the cost of the dinner on the eve of the opening of Parliament in October 1980, but less easy to recommend a meaningful draft for the Minister of State to send in reply.

Prior to 1974 there is no record of meeting the costs of the Eve of Session entertainment (sometimes a Dinner but on other occasions a Reception) from public funds. Our files show that the 1973 occasion was paid by the Conservative Central Office (CCO), that of 1974, whilst undertaken by GHF, was paid for by Sir Harold (then Mr) Wilson's personal cheque. In 1975 I was asked by No 10 to meet the cost from public funds and after consulting your predecessor I wrote as in the copy letter attached (Flag A). There is no record of who paid the 1975 bill but it is sufficient to record that public funds did not do so.

In May of 1976 we were persuaded by No 10 to meet the cost of a similar function and agreed, albeit with some reluctance, and subsequent Eve of Parliament functions were met from public funds up to an including October 1978. Following the change of government, authority to meet the May 1979 Eve of Parliament function was received from No 10 in the usual way ~~but~~ later withdrawn, as I understand it on the instructions of the Prime Minister. The CCO paid for this function and, as Mr Sheldon's letter indicates, Ministers were asked to pay individually in October 1980.

I attach a draft reply which I suggest should be cleared with No 10.

R D H Baker  
FIN

4 March 1981

~~3~~  
1. PS. Permanent Secretary. *JMB 6/iii*

2. Parliamentary Clerk.

*I agree that the draft ought to be cleared with No 10.*

*R*  
*5/3/81*

DRAFT LETTER

The Rt Hon Robert Sheldon MP  
House of Commons  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

You wrote to me on 20 February 1981 about the financing of the Eve of the Opening of Parliament Dinner in October 1980. I believe the amusement was caused by the publicity given to the fact that on this occasion the cost was being met personally by Ministers.

*of the reception which is customarily held on the eve of session*

Under the previous government the cost<sup>h</sup> was met from public funds from 1976 onwards, but when we were returned in 1979 the Prime Minister considered it was inappropriate to continue this practice, so ~~The May 1979 function was paid for from Party funds.~~ *public funds were not involved either in May 1979 or in October 1980.*

Barney Hayhoe



From THE RT HON ROBERT SHELDON, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

20th February, 1981

Mr. Barney Hayhoe, M.P.,  
Minister of State,  
Civil Service Department,  
Whitehall,  
London SW1A 2AZ.

Mr. Towers  
M/S.

308

*Dear Barney*

There was much amusement occasioned by the payment of Ministers for the cost of their dinner at 10 Downing Street on the eve of the Opening of Parliament last year.

The impression was given that this was to prevent Government expenditure on such entertainments.

My impression was that this would always have been a Ministerial responsibility with no Government expenditure ever being involved.

I would be obliged if you could clarify the situation here.

*Yours ever*

*Rds.*



Civil Service Department

Alençon Link  
Basingstoke Hants RG21 1JB

Telephone 0256 (Basingstoke) 29222 ext 210

P Wood Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

Your reference

Our reference

Date

16 October 1975

*Dear Wood*

Thank you for your letter of 7 October 1975 about the financing of the reception which is traditionally held by the Prime Minister on the Eve of a New Session of Parliament.

By precedent and practice this function has, in the past, been financed from non-public funds. For example, on 29 October 1973 it took the form of a dinner which was paid for by the Conservative and Unionist Central Office, and on 28 October 1974 there was a reception in respect of which we received Mr Wilson's personal cheque.

The general rule on these matters is similar to that applicable to the entertainment of Crown servants, at least when such entertainment is provided exclusively for them, and in these circumstances departmental funds are not charged with the expenditure. There have of course been occasions when departmental funds have been used in what might seem to be an exceptional way, including the provision in each Department of a very small allowance for entertainment for management purposes. In a similar way at No.10 we have occasionally paid for a "working lunch" when quite exceptionally the Cabinet has been involved in an all-day session. The difficulty, as I see it, about accepting the cost of an Eve of Session reception on the departmental vote is that entertainment of this kind is the one most likely to attract criticism, and it could look to an unfriendly eye as if public money were being used to "sell" policies to Members of the Government and others who are closely involved. I think we would need to be able to advise our Accounting Officer that this hospitality could be convincingly defended as being in the public interest (or rather, since these things are impossible to prove, not being a matter of Party interest).

I am sorry if this letter seems to take rather a stuffy attitude but it would be unfortunate if the Prime Minister came under criticism, however unjustified, in a matter of this kind.

*Yours sincerely*  
*R D H Baker*

R D H Baker  
Finance Officer

Pauline



# DINNER

*10 Downing Street  
19th November, 1980*

Sancerre, Les Princesses, 1978

Château Lagrange, 1970

Cockburns, 1970  
Camus V.S.O.P.  
Liqueurs

Grilled River Trout  
Parsley Butter

Medallions of Veal  
Cream and Mushroom Sauce  
Selected Seasonal Vegetables  
Almond Potatoes

Whole Pears Poached in Mulled Claret  
Devon Clotted Cream

Sweetmeats

Coffee

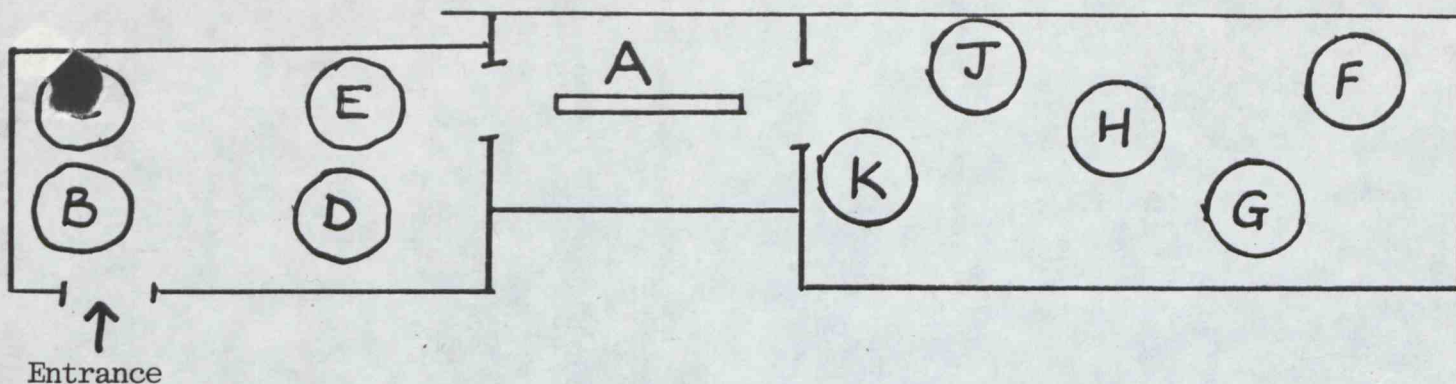


TABLE A

THE RT HON THE PRIME MINISTER  
 The Rt Hon The Speaker  
 The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe  
 The Rt Hon Peter Walker  
 The Rt Hon Sir Ian Gilmour  
 Mr. John Lee  
 The Rt Hon William Whitelaw  
 The Rt Hon Lord Thorneycroft  
 The Rt Hon Francis Pym  
 Sir Robert Armstrong  
 The Rt Hon James Prior  
 Mr William van Straubenzee

TABLE B

THE RT HON GEORGE YOUNGER  
 The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd  
 Mr Geoffrey Pattie  
 Sir George Young  
 Mr Reginald Eyre  
 Mr John Stradling Thomas  
 Mr Michael Marshall  
 Mr John Stanley

TABLE C

THE RT HON NICHOLAS EDWARDS  
 Mr James Lester  
 Dr Rhodes Boyson  
 Mr John Wakeham  
 The Rt Hon Norman Fowler  
 Mr John MacGregor  
 Mrs Lynda Chalker  
 Mr Michael Alison

TABLE D

THE RT HON HUMPHREY ATKINS  
 Mr Neil Marten  
 Mr Hugh Rossi  
 Mr Kenneth Clarke  
 The Rt Hon Michael Jopling  
 Mr Carol Mather  
 Mr David Mitchell  
 Mr Neil Macfarlane

TABLE E

THE RT HON PATRICK JENKIN  
 Mr Nigel Lawson  
 The Hon Nicholas Ridley  
 Mr Ian Gow  
 The Rt Hon Sir Michael  
 Havers  
 Mr Michael Roberts  
 Mr Philip Goodhart  
 Dr Gerard Vaughan

TABLE F

THE RT HON NORMAN ST JOHN  
 STEVAS  
 Mr Russell Fairgrieve  
 The Hon Robert Boscawen  
 Mr Wyn Roberts  
 The Rt Hon John Biffen  
 The Rt Hon Sally Oppenheim  
 The Hon Peter Morrison  
 Lord James Douglas Hamilton  
 Mr Norman Lamont  
 The Rt Hon Reginald Prentice

TABLE G

THE RT HON JOHN NOTT  
 The Hon Adam Butler  
 Mr John Moore  
 The Hon Peter Brooke  
 Sir Ian Percival  
 Mr David Waddington  
 Mr Alexander Fletcher  
 Mr Giles Shaw

TABLE H

THE RT HON DAVID HOWELL  
 The Rt Hon Paul Channon  
 Mr Peter Rees  
 Mr Spencer Le Marchant  
 Mr Nicholas Fairbairn  
 Mr Jerry Wiggin  
 Mr Marcus Fox  
 Mr Antony Newton

TABLE J

THE RT HON MARK CARLISLE  
 Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith  
 Mr Geoffrey Finsberg  
 Mr Malcolm Rifkind  
 Mr Timothy Raison  
 The Hon Anthony Berry  
 Mr John Cope  
 Mr Keith Speed

TABLE K

THE RT HON ANGUS MAUDE  
 Mr Barney Hayhoe  
 Mr Richard Luce  
 The Rt Hon Tom King  
 Mr Leon Brittan  
 Mr Clive Whitmore  
 Mr Hector Monro  
 Mr Norman Tebbit

*Duty Clerk*

LIST OF GUESTS ATTENDING THE EVE OF SESSION DINNER TO BE GIVEN BY THE  
PRIME MINISTER ON WEDNESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 1980 AT 8.00 PM FOR 8.15 PM AT  
10 DOWNING STREET  
BLACK TIE

---

The Prime Minister

The Rt. Hon. The Speaker

The Rt. Hon. Lord Thorneycroft

Sir Robert Armstrong

Mr. William van Straubenzee, MP                      Proposer of the Address

Mr. John Lee, MP    Seconder of the Address

Mr. Ian Gow, MP

Mr. Clive Whitmore

---

The Rt. Hon. William Whitelaw, MP

The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP

The Rt. Hon. Francis Pym, MP

The Rt. Hon. James Prior, MP

The Rt. Hon. Sir Ian Gilmour, MP

The Rt. Hon. Peter Walker, MP

The Rt. Hon. George Younger, MP

The Rt. Hon. Nicholas Edwards, MP

The Rt. Hon. Humphrey Atkins, MP

The Rt. Hon. Patrick Jenkin, MP

The Rt. Hon. Norman St. John-Stevas, MP

The Rt. Hon. John Nott, MP

The Rt. Hon. David Howell, MP

The Rt. Hon. Mark Carlisle, MP

The Rt. Hon. John Biffen, MP

The Rt. Hon. Angus Maude, MP

The Rt. Hon. Norman Fowler, MP

The Rt. Hon. Michael Jopling, MP

The Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Havers, MP                      Attorney General

Sir Ian Percival, MP    Solicitor General

Mr. Nicholas Fairbairn, MP

Solicitor General for Scotland

Ministers not in the Cabinet

Mr. Timothy Raison, MP	Home Office
Mr. Leon Brittan, MP	Home Office
The Hon. Douglas Hurd, MP	FCO
The Hon. Nicholas Ridley, MP	FCO
Mr. Neil Marten, MP	ODA
Mr. Nigel Lawson, MP	Financial Secretary, Treasury
Mr. Peter Rees, MP	Treasury
The Hon. Adam Butler, MP	Industry
The Rt. Hon. Paul Channon, MP	Civil Service Department
Mr. Alick Buchanan-Smith, MP	MAFF
The Rt. Hon. Tom King, MP	Environment
Mr. John Stanley, MP	Environment
Mr. Michael Alison, MP	Northern Ireland Office
Mr. Hugh Rossi, MP	Northern Ireland Office
Dr. Gerard Vaughan, MP	DHSS
The Rt. Hon. Reginald Prentice, MP	DHSS
The Rt. Hon. Sally Oppenheim, MP	Trade

Parliamentary Under Secretaries of State

Mr. Jerry Wiggin, MP	MAFF
Mr. Keith Speed, MP	Defence
Mr. Barney Hayhoe, MP	Defence
Mr. Geoffrey Pattie, MP	Defence
Dr. Rhodes Boyson, MP	Education and Science
Mr. Neil Macfarlane, MP	Education and Science
Mr. James Lester, MP	Employment
Mr. Norman Lamont, MP	Energy
Mr. John Moore, MP	Energy
Mr. Marcus Fox, MP	Environment

Mr. Geoffrey Finsberg, MP	Environment
Mr. Hector Monro, MP	Environment
Mr. Richard Luce, MP	FCO
Sir George Young, MP	DHSS
Mrs. Lynda Chalker, MP	DHSS
Mr. Michael Marshall, MP	Industry
Mr. David Mitchell, MP	Industry
Mr. Philip Goodhart, MP	Northern Ireland Office
Mr. Giles Shaw, MP	Northern Ireland Office
Mr. Alexander Fletcher, MP	Scottish Office
Mr. Russell Fairgrieve, MP	Scottish Office
Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, MP	Scottish Office
Mr. Norman Tebbit, MP	Trade
Mr. Reginald Eyre, MP	Trade
Mr. Kenneth Clarke, MP	Transport
Mr. Michael Roberts, MP	Welsh Office
Mr. Wyn Roberts, MP	Welsh Office

Whips

Mr. John Stradling Thomas, MP	Deputy
Mr. Spencer Le Marchant, MP	
The Hon. Anthony Berry, MP	
Mr. Carol Mather, MP	
The Hon. Peter Morrison, MP	
Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, MP	
Mr. John MacGregor, MP	
Mr. David Waddington, MP	

Assistant Whips

The Hon. Robert Boscawen, MP	
Mr. John Cope, MP	
Mr. Antony Newton, MP	
Mr. John Wakeham, MP	
The Hon. Peter Brooke, MP	



REFUSALS - EVE OF SESSION DINNER ON 19 NOVEMBER 1980

The Rt. Hon. Sir Keith Joseph, MP      Speaking at the  
Institute of Measurement Control  
Dinner

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP      Addressing the Society  
of Local Authority Chief  
Executives Annual Dinner

Mr. Peter Blaker, MP      Hosting Konigswinter Dinner

Mr. Cecil Parkinson, MP      abroad

Mr. Hamish Gray, MP

Mr. Patrick Mayhew, MP

P.R.

*N/A - The P.M. has discussed with the King Whips. IA.*

*M.S.*

*Parliament  
with committee  
with chief whips*

PRIME MINISTER

Eve of Session Dinner

I said that I would let you have some figures for the cost of the Eve of Session Dinner.

We are inviting a total of 92 people made up as follows:-

Cabinet Ministers (including for this purpose Mr Fowler and Mr Jopling)	21
Ministers of State	23
Parliamentary Secretaries, Whips	41
Others, including the Speaker and Lord Thorneycroft	7
	<u>92</u>

The total cost at about £21 a head is therefore £1,932. You had in mind that Cabinet Ministers should pay the full cost, Ministers of State part of the cost and Parliamentary Secretaries nothing.

If Ministers of State are assumed to pay £12 a head themselves and the cost for the non-Ministerial guests is borne by ~~public funds~~ <sup>me</sup> (£147) the Party would have to find £1,068, made up as follows:-

*We've enclosed for £1,068 (me & guests)*

Ministers of State - 23 x £9	= £ 207
Parliamentary Secretaries - 41 x £21	= £ 861
	<u>£1,068</u>

If you think that this is too big a sum for the Party to bear, we might charge Ministers of State £15 each and Parliamentary Secretaries £10. In that event we should be looking to the Party to find £589, say £600:-

Ministers of State	- 23 x £6	=	£138
Parliamentary Secretaries	- 41 x £11	=	£451
			<hr/>
			£589
			<hr/>

Last year the Party bore the full cost, which was much the same as this year, i.e. about £1,900.

Do you prefer the second formula? Or do you want to split the cost in some other way?

*J.W.*

24 October, 1980

NOTE FOR THE RECORDEve of Parliament Dinner

The Prime Minister reverted to "traditional" practice for the reading of The Queen's Speech to Ministers in the Administration on Monday 14 May. Procedure was as follows.

Ministers were invited to dinner (Black Tie), 1930 for 2000.

At 1955, towards the end of drinks before dinner, which were held in the White and Blue Drawing Rooms, the Prime Minister, having with her Mr. Speaker, the Chief Whip, Sir John Hunt, her Parliamentary Private Secretary and myself, standing at the junction of the Blue and White Drawing Rooms, commanded the Chief Whip to guard the doors. The waiters serving drinks then withdrew.

The Prime Minister briefly welcomed her colleagues and then invited Sir John Hunt, Secretary of the Cabinet, to read The Queen's Speech.

The Prime Minister then thanked Sir John Hunt and her Principal Private Secretary for the help which they had given to the Government since they had taken office. She then welcomed Mr. Speaker and complimented him on his distinguished service as Speaker of the House. The Speaker replied briefly. The Prime Minister then said that she would lead the Speaker and the Mover and Seconder of the Address into dinner and the other guests were to follow. The dinner was served at separate tables, each headed by a Cabinet Minister, spread over the State Dining Room, the Small Dining Room and the Pillared Room. There were no toasts, not even the Loyal Toast.

K.K.S

15 May 1979

Copy with Secretary for Invitations.

PRIME MINISTER

Eve of Session Dinner - Ceremonial

You agreed that the ceremonial (excepting the loyal toast) should take place immediately before you take your guests into dinner.

The precedent showed the following steps: reading of The Queen's Speech; Chief Whip guarding the door; Prime Minister proposing the toast "Mr. Speaker"; Mr. Speaker replying; the senior Minister present giving thanks to the Prime Minister and proposing her health; the Prime Minister replying.

Even if all speeches are marvels of brevity, this is a lot of standing and listening for 81 hungry people. Would you consider some shortening?:

- e.g. The Chief Whip is asked to guard the door;
- Someone (Secretary to the Cabinet?) reads The Queen's Speech;
- You ~~propose a toast to~~ <sup>welcome</sup> Mr. Speaker;
- He replies ~~if he wishes~~ <sup>if he wishes</sup>.
- You lead the way to dinner.

*MAP*

*We will do it as best as possible*

11 May 1979

*Copy to Secretary for Invitations*

PRIME MINISTER

EVE OF SESSION DINNER

I have now traced some papers dating from 1959 which record the tradition. I quote:

"The guests are all the Members of the Government in the House of Commons, the Speaker and the Secretary of the Cabinet. The Principal Private Secretary is in attendance on the Prime Minister. Also present are the Mover and Seconder of the Address.

The formal object of the Dinner is to acquaint all the Members of the Administration with the contents of the whole of The Queen's Speech. This is therefore read to the assembled company. When Sir Winston Churchill was Prime Minister this reading sometimes took place in the Pillared Room during the sherry period before Dinner. Subsequently it has become more customary to read it after the Dinner, and on the last two occasions at least the Speech has been read by the Secretary to the Cabinet.

The normal procedure is that after the Dinner the Prime Minister proposes the Loyal Toast. The Queen's Speech is then read. The Chief Whip "guards the door". The Prime Minister briefly proposes the toast of "Mr. Speaker". Mr. Speaker replies. The Senior Minister present gives thanks to the Prime Minister and proposes his health. The Prime Minister replies."

As I mentioned to you last night, the numbers now involved will make it difficult for speakers at the top table to be heard with clarity at all tables. Could we therefore revert to the procedure sometimes adopted in Sir Winston Churchill's time, and have the reading of The Queen's Speech in the "sherry period"? (The Pillared Room will be one of the dining areas, and guests will assemble in the White and Blue Rooms). Would it be appropriate for all the ceremonial, with the exception of the Loyal Toast, to take place immediately before you lead your guests into dinner: at the end of dinner, you could then simply propose the Loyal Toast from the table?

These notes also resolve the guest list. We have the Government, including the Whips, the Speaker, the Secretary of the Cabinet, the Mover and Seconder of the Address, and the Principal Private Secretary in attendance on you. Would you wish to include your newly appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary?

9 May 1979

Copy to Secretary for Invitations

Yes please  
and

MA



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