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The Rt Hon Edward Heath MP MP  
PERSONAL AND PRIVATE

PRIME MINISTER

Reshuffle

The Chief Whip's further thoughts are attached.  
The Chancellor of the Exchequer would, I know, like to think in terms of moving in due course; but was himself inclined to wait at the Treasury until after the 1973 Finance Bill. Then I think he would like to do something that brought him more into the public relations field.

On this basis a possible combination would be:

- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Lord President     | Prior or Pym (or Howe?) |
| Trade and Industry | Walker                  |
| Environment        | Rippon                  |
| Duchy of Lancaster | Davies                  |

Godber could then go to Agriculture (but he did it before). I suppose Pym could do Agriculture. I do not know who could replace Pym as Chief Whip.

RA



Government Chief Whip

12 Downing Street, London SW1

PERSONAL AND PRIVATE

PRIME MINISTER

Following our talk this morning I put up a suggestion for your consideration. You may feel it is too radical but it is inspired by two thoughts: (1) the paramount need to strengthen our public relations capability within the framework of the existing system, and (2) the need to find a new post for Geoffrey Rippon.

Lord President and Leader of the House	Barber
Chancellor of the Exchequer	Walker
S. of S Environment	Joseph
S. of S Health and Social Services	Howe
Duchy of Lancaster	Davies
S. of S DTI	Prior or Channon or Jenkin or Heseltine or Gilmour
Attorney General (in the Cabinet)	Rippon

As Leader of the House it will be possible for you to use Tony Barber in a wider capacity and he would be exceptionally good in charge of our public relations.

I do not know who you may have in mind to be the next Chancellor of the Exchequer, but Peter Walker would seem to me to be capable of it.

Keith Joseph was Minister of Housing in the last Conservative Government and therefore knows the background

Geoffrey Howe has both the detail and the politics of Health and Social Security at his fingertips. Moreover, he could well cope with the Department's heavy prospective legislation programme.

John Davies is obviously equipped for a European role.

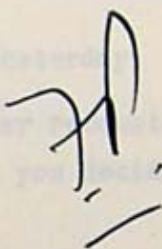
DTI is more difficult: the politics of it are extremely important and from this point of view Patrick Jenkin is probably the least well equipped.

The last time the Attorney General was a member of the Cabinet was in 1928 (The present Lord Chancellor's father).

/Contd

Jim Prior is well placed as he is in his dual capacity, and you may feel inclined to promote a younger man, provided you are satisfied as to his political ability. If you decide to move Jim, he could be replaced by Godber.

I have not yet thought through the best way of handling the consequential changes that would be necessary, but if you feel there is merit in changes in the Cabinet on this scale, I will immediately put up a suggestion for adjustments at a lower level.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J.P.' or similar, written over a faint, illegible typed name.

25th September 1972