

CONFIDENTIAL

6th July, 1981

Thank you so much for your  
letter of 2nd July.

I was most interested in what  
you had to say, and am grateful to you  
for having taken the trouble to write.

IAN GOW

W.J. Hopper, Esq. M.E.P.  
23 Great Winchester Street,  
London EC2

b.c.c. The Rt. Hon. Lord Thorneycroft CH  
The Rt. Hon. Michael Joplin, M.P.

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23 GREAT WINCHESTER STREET

LONDON EC2P 2AX

01-588 4545

From: W. J. HOPPER

Member of the European Parliament

MS.

2nd July 1981

Ian Gow, Esq., M.P.,  
10 Downing Street,  
Whitehall,  
London S.W.1.

Dear Ian,

Dick Taverne QC, who is an old friend of mine, remarked to me last week that, although a member of the steering committee of the Social Democrats, he was "really much closer to the Conservatives". He then expressed great admiration for various members of the Cabinet, including a couple whom I admire less than somewhat!

I did not pursue the point with him at the time, and do not know quite what he meant. However, I thought it just worth reporting the matter to you. He is due to retire as Director General of the Institute for Fiscal Studies soon and will be somewhat underemployed. Quite apart from his innate ability, he is, as you know, quite a popular TV star and would be quite a catch.

Yours,

Will Hopper