

John Brabbs of Leicester
Mattresses, Divans, Upholstery, Convertibles

27 Bede Street Braunstone Gate Leicester

The Right Honourable Mrs. Thatcher M.P.
Prime Minister,
Downing Street,
London.

R 30/7

29th. July 1980

Dear Madame Prime Minister,

I sincerely hope that the contents of this letter are brought to your notice.

I am one of the thousands of small businessmen, who in spite of the utterances of "professional gloomsters", manages to keep my order books full and my workforce of 22 in full-time employment.

I make beds of quality and special sizes which large makers are reluctant to do and sell through my own show-rooms and to local authorities.

I am now busy enough to take on and train a few more young people.

Having seen last Sunday's headlines in two national newspapers that the Government may be considering a scheme whereby employers may be paid a sum equal to unemployment benefit if they take people from the register of unemployed, I find myself in a dilemma. If I engage people now and should the scheme be implemented, I would probably not qualify for benefit, having taken workers on before a starting date.

May I respectfully suggest that the Minister concerned be urged to make an early announcement.

Should the scheme be brought into being, I would engage four or five youngsters instead of two or three as originally planned.

Multiply my case by the hundreds of similar placed businessmen, and the result could be dramatic.

Finally, may I wish your policies every success; it is hard work running a manufacturing business in the present climate but that same climate is making we in the private sector work and manage harder than ever before and success will come.

Your loyal servant,



John E. Brabbs