

From: The Rt. Hon. James Callaghan, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

29th December 1979

Dear Prime Minister,

It now seems too late to avert the national steel strike that is due to begin next Wednesday but I am writing to urge very strongly the need for Parliament to be recalled next week to discuss ways and means of averting the serious damage that a stoppage will do to the heavy engineering industry, motor cars, ship building, construction, steel consumers of all kinds as well as to the steel workers themselves.

Whatever the merits of your general policy, I cannot accept that the Government will be right to continue to stand aside now that the industry has reached its present impasse. The responsibility now falls upon the Government to seek ways to end this dispute through conciliation. Otherwise attitudes will harden even further as the dispute continues.

Parliament should be recalled immediately to discuss these important issues.

Yours sincerely,

pp Jim Callaghan

Dictated by James Callaghan:
signed for him at his request.

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.