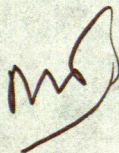


27th March 1980



I am just writing to acknowledge your letter of 27th March together with enclosures regarding ~~the~~ kidney machine story.

I will ensure that the Prime Minister sees this as soon as possible, *on the weekend.*

Richard Ryder  
Political Office

Gordon Reece Esq

Ach Wfe Box.

## Conservative and Unionist Central Office

32 Smith Square Westminster SW1P 3HH Telephone 01-222 9000 Telegrams Constitute London SW1

Chairman of the Party: THE RT HON THE LORD THORNEYCROFT

Deputy Chairman: R. ALISTAIR McALPINE

Vice Chairmen: SIR FRANK MARSHALL  
SIR ANTHONY ROYLE KCMG MP  
THE BARONESS YOUNG

27th March, 1980

Mr John Riddell

I enclose a draft letter that I hope Dr. Gerry Vaughan will send to the Editor of the Sunday Mirror.

For your information I am enclosing the page 1 kidney machine story that stimulated our donor's generosity.

This <sup>will</sup> enable us to obtain page 1 publicity in the Sunday Mirror (circulation around 5 million, readership 12½ million) for our philosophy.

In confidence, the name of the donor is Mr. Garry Weston. He does not want any publicity and asks that we should respect his privacy in this matter.

Yours

Gordon Reece

Gordon Reece

The Rt Hon Angus Maude, MP.,  
David Wolfson, Esq.,  
Richard Ryder, Esq.,  
Bernard Ingham, Esq.,  
Alistair McAlpine, Esq.,

Robert Edwards, Esq.,  
Editor,  
The Sunday Mirror

Dear Robert Edwards,

You are right when you say it is horrifying that about 1,000 patients died in this country last year from kidney failure because treatment was not available. You are also right in ascribing the main difficulty to the lack of medical staff to nurse the sufferers, run kidney machines and teach patients how to use them.

"This staff shortage", you allege, "is caused SIMPLY by shortage of money". True, to the extent that there will never be enough money, under any system of health care, to finance all the techniques for the alleviation of human suffering which medical science makes possible.

It is not, however, a matter of the morality of politicians who could find the cash easily if they had the will. The only way a Government can find cash is by taxing its citizens regardless of whether they want to pay - in other words, by compulsion.

Like you, I believe there are wonderful kindness and compassion in this country. There are individuals who, especially when the burden of direct taxation has been appreciably reduced, are minded to spare something for others less fortunate.

LET US TOGETHER TRY TO TAP THIS SPIRIT OF GOODWILL

May I appeal to "Sunday Mirror" readers to help foot the bill for the kidney patients? I have been assured that a private source is willing to match pound for pound, up to a limit of £100,000, the amount which can be raised from your readers.

Perhaps the "Sunday Mirror" would consider making a similar offer of £100,000 so that a reader's £1 would become £3?

This is an opportunity for all of us to give practical meaning to the expression you used: "I am my brother's keeper, and if I can help I must".