



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

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18 July 1980.

My dear Marguerite, —
I have sent you an official minute about the event in the House on Thursday. I feel as we are such old friends that I should send you a private note to tell you of my feelings over the whole matter.

As you know I am completely loyal to you and our MPs pay him back to put my loyalty to you & the government before my own views and my pledged word. Now over procedure I am being asked to go back on a pledge again — which I made in plain of an explicit pledge as the line of conduct I outlined to you in



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2

my minute of October 1st.

I have managed to get things like
the unit and most economical legs to the
programme since 1945 with a major row
because I have secured the goodwill of
the Home. They trust me because while they
know I will be loyal to the government I do my
best for them as well. All that has now
been put at risk and we are denying the
Home an opportunity which we promised
them.

I had spent weeks on a flat
Cabinet paper - closing up all the loop holes



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3

in order to protect the government position
and it was swept aside with any
discussion. Ask that in the House there was
that planned question for Mr. Nicholl
on the 2 topics discussed in Cabinet. What am I
to make of all this? I know the Chief Whip's
position - it is that of any business manager & I
take it fully into account but I have to
consider longer & wider issues. If we go on
like this we will be forced into a much
worse position by the House. The issues will
continue to plague us and we will be goodwill
and thrust on future Legation programme.
Yours etc. N.