

W/e Box

PRIME MINISTER

The attached letter from Nicholas Ridley asks whether you would attend a rally of all five Gloucestershire constituencies at Cheltenham race course in the Summer. I have discussed this at length with Derek and neither of us have strong feelings as to whether or not you should accept, except from the point of view of the diary. As you know, Derek has allocated a monthly regional tour for the whole of next year except the December date. If you felt very strongly that you wanted to accept this invitation to visit Gloucestershire, Derek suggests a one-off visit, perhaps at the beginning of August before you go on holiday. (You are due to go to Poole and the Isle of Wight on Thursday 16 July).

As you know I am anxious not to go on adding more and more things into your already overcrowded 1982 diary, but in this instance I think the decision has to be yours alone.

What are your views please?

es. Is it just a meeting or a large fund to raise money etc.
no

26 November 1981



From: Nicholas Ridley M.P.

16th November 1981.

R18

Dear Margaret

The Chairman of the Cirencester and Tewkesbury Conservative Association, Mrs Swinburne-Johnson, has an idea to organise a Rally of all the five Gloucestershire constituencies at Cheltenham Race Course. She has asked me to ask if you could find time to come and speak at the Rally. All five seats are Conservative but one of them is highly marginal, and two of them appear to be subject of heavy SDP penetration. If you could find the time I think it would be a wonderful thing to do and greatly help to secure this part of our base.

The race course is prepared to make their splendid new buildings available to us very cheap and I gather we can have it on the weekend of the 26th June, any weekend in July, August, or September excepting the 11th/13th. Thus you would be able to choose the date to suit you.

I do hope you will be able to come, and I know how very much it would be appreciated by everyone.

Yours

N Ridley

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP