



Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

PERSONAL

Jan.
Can you let me know
please whether you agree with
this as a result of the
Cabinet Ministers' meeting with the
Chief Whip last night.

4 June 1980

AKS
S.vi.

Dear Sir,

The Chief Whip had a meeting with the Prime Minister last night at which Ian Gow was present. I understand from the Chief Whip that the following main points were raised:-

1. Political Honours Scrutiny Committee

The Chief Whip is arranging a meeting with Lord Thorneycroft and Lord Carr to discuss the new certificate. This has now tentatively been arranged for 6.00 pm on Tuesday 10 June.

2. TSRB

The Chief Whip expressed a certain amount of disquiet which I understand the Prime Minister shares about the level of settlement Boyle may recommend on MPs' pay. A number of Cabinet colleagues are concerned that, although an 18% recommendation would come at the end of the present round of pay claims, there is a danger that this could set the tone for the next round. The Chief Whip is proposing to have a quiet word with Lord Boyle as soon as possible.

3. European Commissioners

As you may know, the Chief Whip had a word some days ago with the Foreign Secretary about these appointments when it was agreed that he would discuss the matter further with the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister agrees that Christopher Tugendhat should be invited to stay on and she would see merit in making such an announcement at an early opportunity.

With regard to the Labour side, the Prime Minister feels that she ought, as a courtesy, to ask the Leader of the Opposition to suggest some names, but making it quite clear that at the end of the day the Government has the discretion over the appointments. She has very serious reservations about two of the names

already canvassed, Dickson Mabon and Joel Barnett. Two possibilities would be David Owen and Eric Varley. The Prime Minister, however, is more attracted to the idea of asking Roy Jenkins if he would like to stay on and she would not be averse to offering him a (hereditary) peerage as a consequence. I understand that there is a precedent for a former President continuing as a Commissioner. Perhaps we could have a word about how this should be further pursued.

4. Paintings

The Prime Minister has agreed that the Chief Whip should have one on the Romneys from No.10. She would, however, like to have a replacement picture which has some connection with No.10, e.g. a former Prime Minister, perhaps Disraeli. The Chief Whip and I will pursue this as a matter of urgency!

yours ever,
Maclean
(M MACLEAN)

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