

10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

1. I lunched at the Institute yesterday. The others present were:

Ralph Harris  
Arthur Seldon  
John Wood  
Rhodes Boyson

2. These three are, as you know, the most enthusiastic supporters for the market economy. Last month they had Callaghan and Healey to lunch!
3. Ralph would very much like you to go to lunch there on a Wednesday of your choice. The lunch would last from 12.45 until 2.15 p.m. I know that they would appreciate a visit from you enormously, and I think that they would like you to go to them, if you can manage it.

*Yes*

May I please ask Caroline to arrange a date? There is nothing magic about a Wednesday, except that this is probably the easiest for you.

4. All three were in the most splendid and robust form and long for you to cut public expenditure at least by the 8.5% which the Labour Government managed over the two years 1976/77 and 1977/78. You have no more ardent admirers than these three musketeers.

5. AT THE PROPOSED LUNCH, THERE WOULD ONLY BE THREE OF THEM, PLUS YOU THREE.

Ian Gow  
4.12.79

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