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Education



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
ELIZABETH HOUSE, YORK ROAD, LONDON, SE1 7PH
TELEPHONE 01-928 9222
FROM THE MINISTER OF STATE

Mike Pattison Esq
Private Secretary
No 10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

4 September 1980

Dear Mike,

I am afraid I have had to delay a reply to your letter of 8 August about Sir Horace Cutler's letter to the Prime Minister on the ILEA inquiry because both Lady Young and I have been on holiday.

Lady Young would like the Prime Minister to know that when she saw Sir Horace at the Party weekend at Banbury a little while ago she told him how she was tackling the inquiry and he then seemed to be entirely content. He has recently written to her to complain about the delay, and she regrets that he has also complained to the Prime Minister.

... I enclose a copy of Sir Horace's letter and Lady Young's reply.

Lady Young feels that she should tell Sir Horace the outcome of the inquiry before the Secretary of State makes his promised statement in Parliament. Meanwhile, as her letter indicates, she is offering a talk with him, which would be in general terms and would not prejudice her Committee's report.

Lady Young hopes that her Committee will have formed a firm provisional view on what should be done about ILEA within the next few weeks, and wonders if she might then have a few minutes with the Prime Minister about the matter. That would also be an opportunity for discussing with the Prime Minister how best to involve Sir Horace Cutler.

Lady Young suggests that the Prime Minister might reply to Sir Horace on the lines of the attached draft.

Yours ever

Alex Stewart

MISS A J STEWART
Private Secretary

DRAFT REPLY TO SIR HORACE CUTLER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

As regards ILEA, I gather that you have also written direct to Janet Young about the timing of her study and have heard from her. When I asked her to look into this question with a number of ministerial colleagues, I made it clear that I wanted a thorough study of the problem, which is considerably more complex than we first thought. I am quite sure that neither she nor her colleagues are going to fall for Socialist propaganda, but will make their own judgement on the basis of the facts and the arguments presented, including the detailed papers issued by our supporters on ILEA.

From, SIR HORACE CUTLER, O.B.E.

LEADER OF THE GREATER LONDON COUNCIL

THE COUNTY HALL, SE17PB

Telephone 01-633 3304/2184

6 August 1980.

Baroness Young,
Minister of State for Education,
Department of Education and Science,
Elizabeth House,
York Road,
London, SE1 7PH.

Dear Janet,

FUTURE OF ILEA

When we met at Banbury you said that your report would be published before the summer recess and that you would talk to me about it prior to publication. I do not see how either of these events will now be possible and I must say that I am very disappointed.

*Yours ever
Horace.*

*ack'd.
14/8*



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
ELIZABETH HOUSE, YORK ROAD, LONDON, SE1 7PH
TELEPHONE 01-928 9222
FROM THE MINISTER OF STATE

Sir Horace Cutler OBE
Leader of the Greater London Council
The County Hall
LONDON SE1 7PB

3 September 1980

Dear Horace,

Thank you for your letter of 6 August, which seems to have been delayed in transit, as I did not receive it until August 14. As a result, I am only now able to reply to it on my return from holiday.

It had indeed been our hope to finish our consideration of the future of the ILEA, by the beginning of the Summer Recess and there is still good hope of finishing by the time it ends. I recognise that delay is regrettable. But the fact is that the issues are sufficiently difficult to require a good deal of time and effort for the comprehensive examination to which the Government is committed.

It is for this reason that I have not been in touch with you earlier, but I will do so when you return to London.

Yours sincerely

Janet

BARONESS YOUNG